

Offshore Wind Evidence + Change Programme

Programme Steering Group Meeting Wednesday 28th February 2024

Agenda

Timings	Events	Speakers
10:00 - 10:05	Welcome from Chair	Amy Ferguson, Programme Director - Offshore Wind Enabling Actions, Defra
10:05 - 10:10	Safety moment	Will Apps, OSW Strategy Director, The Crown Estate
EVIDENCE		
10:10 - 10:35	OWEC Programme overview	Mandy King, OWEC Programme Lead, The Crown Estate
	Offshore Wind Evidence and Knowledge Hub update	Harriet Baldwin (Insights Manager) and part of the OWEKH team, The Crown Estate
10:35 - 10:50	Feedback on the results from recent Stakeholder and Network Analysis for the PrePARED project	Bill Turrell, Marine Directorate, Scottish Government
10:50-11:00	BREAK	n/a
CHANGE		
11:00 - 11:10	Offshore wind policy update	Trevor Raggatt, Head of Offshore Wind, DESNZ
11:10 - 11:20	Offshore wind policy update	Amy Ferguson, Ruth Stubbles, Programme Director – Offshore Wind Enabling Actions, Defra
11:20 - 11:30	MSPri update	Chloe Meacher, Head of Marine Spatial Prioritisation Programme, Defra
11:30 - 11:55	The Crown Estate updates:	Virtual demo from Grace King, MDE team, The Crown
	Marine Data Exchange updateQ&A	Estate
11:55 - 12:00	Chair's closing remarks	Ruth Stubbles, Defra





OWEC Programme Overview

Mandy King, OWEC Programme Lead
The Crown Estate

Programme Update

- ECOFLOW programme launch and website live <u>www.ecoflow.org.uk</u>
- RSPB's MOTUS tracking project from the 2021 project call is now underway
- Deployment of mattresses for the Cefas' Nature Inclusive Cable Enhancement) NICE project to take place imminently (weather dependent)

Key dates:

- 4 March full submissions due for 2023 project call
- 23 May next Programme Steering Group meeting (virtual)





OWEC Annual Report Launch

- Publication on 4th March 2024
- Welcome your support in amplifying the publication on your organisations' social media channels with the help of the social media 'tool kit'





Next Steps

OWEC mid-term evaluation:

- Impact and outcomes with Howell Marine Consulting Future directions





OWEC Programme Steering Group Recommendations

How researchers, policy makers and regulators can best align to ensure research outcomes are optimised to ensure project outcomes can deliver real world impact.

Available to download as an advice note on the SFTP / PSG Sharepoint site



Optimising Research Outcomes to Drive Impact

Recommendations from the OWEC Programme Steering Group





Offshore Wind Evidence and Knowledge Hub (OWEKH) launch

Harriet Baldwin (Insights Manager) and part of the OWEKH project team, The Crown Estate



OWEKH

Offshore Wind Evidence + Knowledge Hub

February 2024





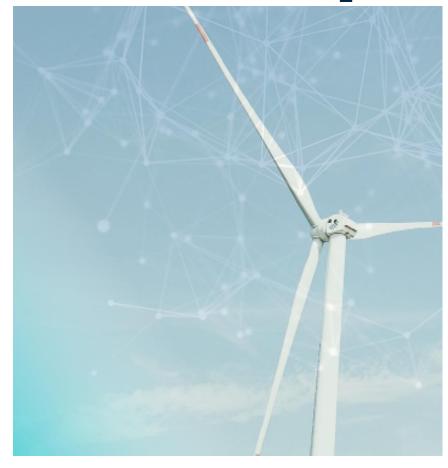






OffshoreWind IndustryCounci

OWEKH (recap)



Our mission is to support the consenting process for offshore wind projects by providing a sector-wide online portal supporting a single point of access to data and information including the latest guidance and best practice documents.

The portal and the governance associated with it will collectively connect stakeholders across the industry and facilitate the assimilation of data and information into knowledge tools (guidance or statements of understanding).

This coordinated approach will support impact assessments and consenting decisions by providing consistent and clear direction to support rapid high-quality consenting.

Our goal is to support sustained and accelerated sustainable growth in generation of offshore wind energy.



Development









Welcome to the Offshore Wind Evidence and Knowledge Hub

Supporting offshore wind consenting through industry expert collaboration and consensus.

Search by topic, tag or keyword

☐ Tags ∨



By clicking "Accept All Cookies", you agree to the storing of cookies on your device to monitor site usage. For more informa



OWEKH

OWEKH

fil Home

External Resources

Here you will find links to websites and data portals that contain useful information rela consenting and other marine data and information.

Key Data Portals

Key data portals collaborating with OWEKH.



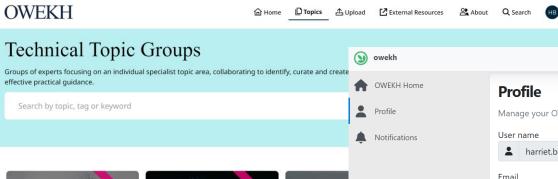
Marine Data Exchange (MDE)

The MDE holds the world's largest database of marine industry survey data, research and evidence and contains over 200 terabytes of survey data collected throughout the lifecycle of offshore projects in **England Wales and Northern**



MEDIN

The MEDIN data portal contains information about 17380 marine datasets from over 600 UK organisations.













Profile

Manage your OWEKH profile details below.

User name

harriet.baldwin@thecrownestate.co.uk

Email

harriet.baldwin@thecrownestate.co.uk

Full name

Harriet Baldwin

Organisation

The Crown Estate

Job Title

Marine Insights Manager (Whole of Seabed Programme)

☐ I am happy to be contacted about new updates to OWEKH.







Delete Account



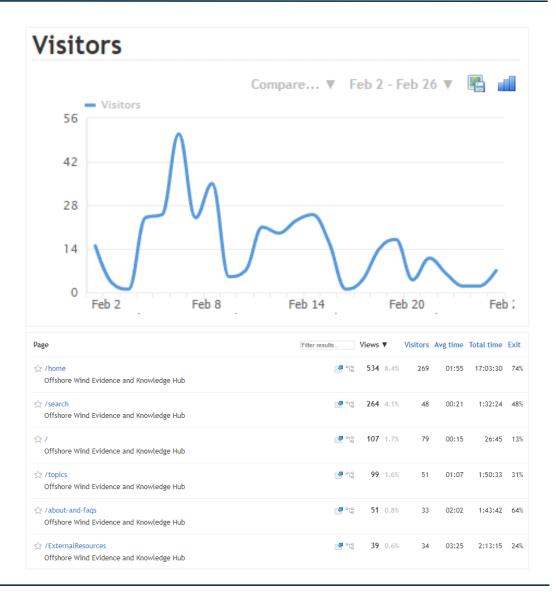


Website update

127 registered users (60% increase in last 24 days)

361 total visitors (in last 24 days)

- 302 unique visitors
- 74 returning visitors
- 06:30 average visit time
- 1,879 visitors since launch (avg. 40 visitors per day)





Progress

- Items that the Steering group said OWEKH needed in order to be a success on day one (all green except from PINS this is unavoidable at this point in time).
- Items that we've added since prioritisation that we've realised we need in OWEKH for OWEKH to be a success

Next steps:

OWEER integration + OWEC digital tools

MUST HAVE

OWEKH wouldn't work or wouldn't be a success without this.



Items that have crept into as we've begun development





OWEKH Timeline

OWEER integration

+ IA TTG developments



Summer 2022

Steering group and design team come on board

Early Autumn 2022

Initial stakeholder engagement

Autumn 2022

Development begins

September 2023

First IA TTG Workshop January 2024

Platform Launch

Planning for next financial year: Continued development of hub and Community



Community of Practice





□ Topics

EIA Coordination, Approaches to Assessment, & Changes to Policy

EIA Coordination, Approaches to Assessment, & Chang



About us

Information, rese associated with legislation and p

What We're Working On

Below you'll find updates on our Technical Topic Group.



Setting up the group

We are finalising the chair and members of this working group

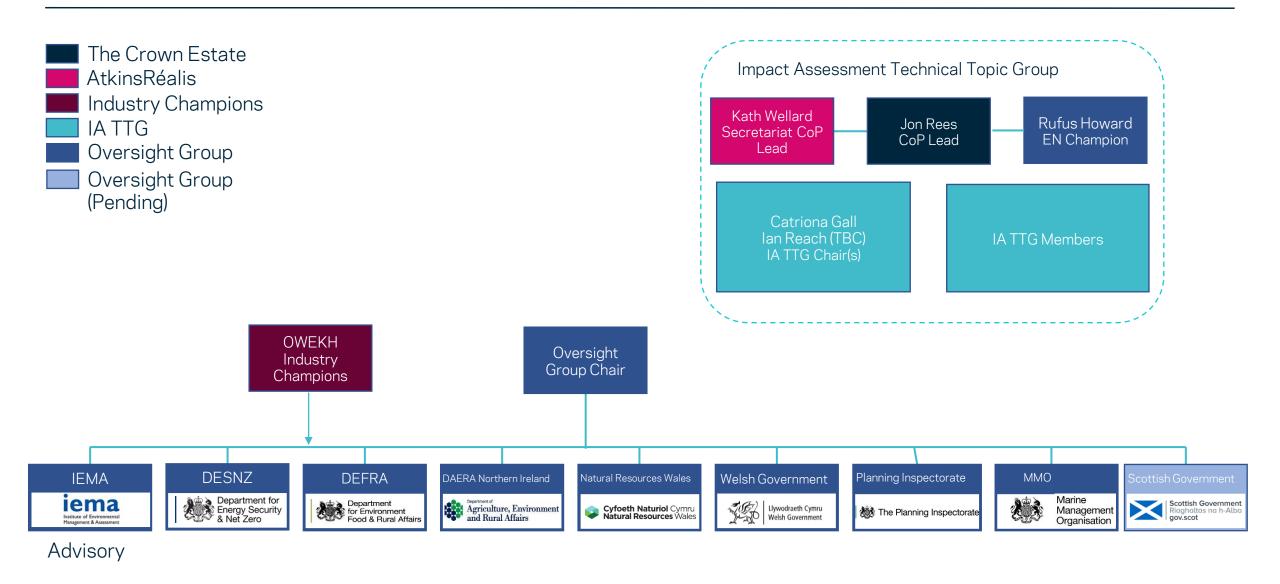


Adding external guidance

We are working to ensure external guidance from ot are available to view on this page.

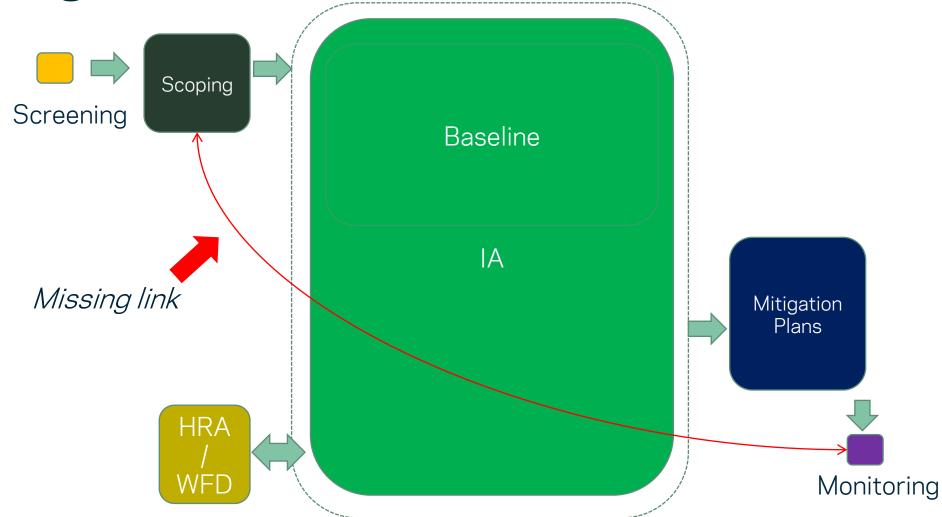
king "Accept All Cookies", you agree to the storing of cookies on your device to monitor site usage. For more information pleas





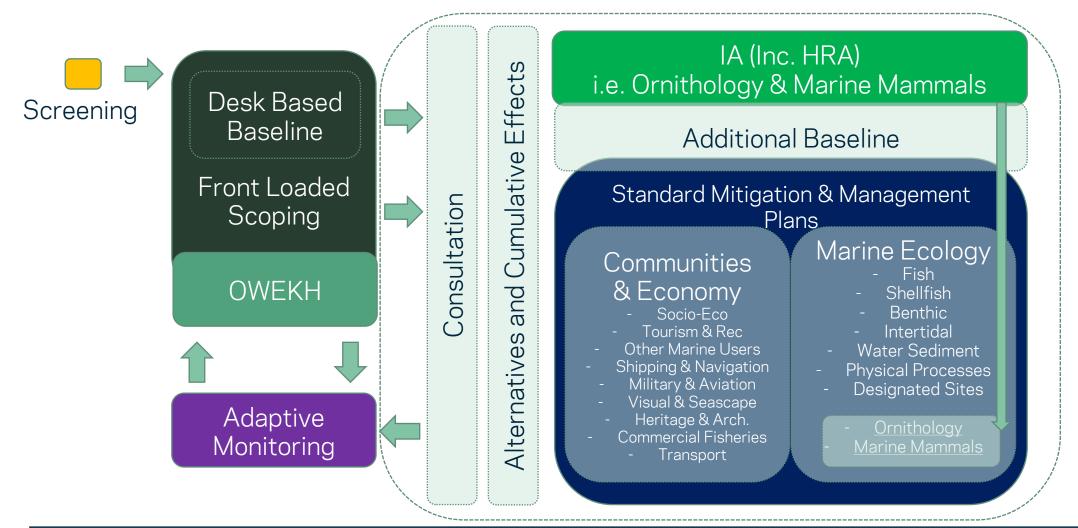


Existing model of IA





Future of Offshore Wind Assessment?





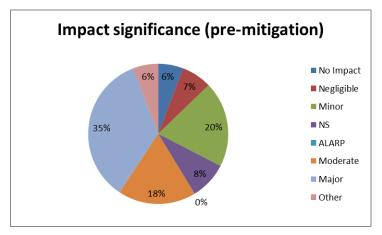
Focus Project: Evidence Notes

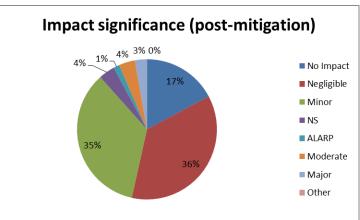
- Focus Project: Development of OWEKH Evidence Notes (EN)
- Aim of Evidence Notes: To support scoping and assessment reports with agreed published ENs to improve and refine the scope and standardize environmental assessments.
- Authorship: Each EN to be drafted by a team from IA TGG, OWEKH and key stakeholders.
 Supported by editing and rapporteur provided via TCE and Oversight Group.
- Consultation: Each EN will include consultation with key statutory bodies and stakeholders, be technical reviewed by the IA TGG, and approved by the OG.
- Goal: Develop and publish the first three EN by Q3 this year.



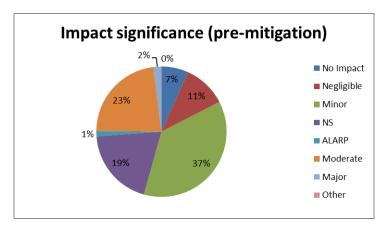
First three EN proposals

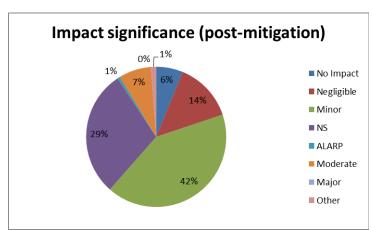
Marine Archaeology & Cultural Heritage



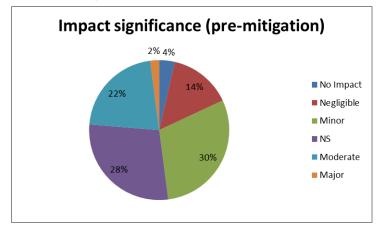


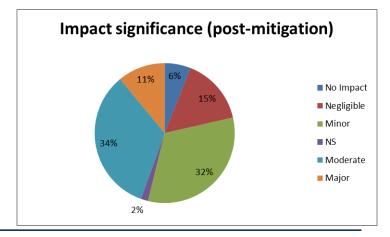
Shipping & Navigation





Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment







PrePARED project update

Bill Turrell, Marine Directorate, Scottish Government





















Funding





Year 1 – 2022 Data Collection

Year 2 – 2023 Data Collection

Year 3 – 2024 Analysis / Modelling

Year 4 – 2025 Synthesis

Year 5 – 2026 Dissemination

Prey

Sandeels Demersal Fish Pelagic Fish

Regional Scale

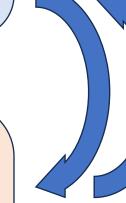
Trawl surveys
Acoustic surveys

Farm Scale

Baited cameras Acoustic tagging Fish traps



Operational sites v. control sites
Construction v. operation
Reef effects



Seabirds

Farm ScaleGPS tracking

In situ visual surveys

Predators

Marine Mammals

Regional Scale Farm Scale

Passive acoustic monitoring

Improvement of Impact Assessment Models

SeabORD, **iPCoD** and **DEPONS**Model testing/validation

Reducing uncertainty in assessment of cumulative effects

Short-term

EIA regulations

"likely significant effects of the development...resulting from...the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects"



Medium-term future

Enhancement of existing models

Improved methods for cumulative effects of multiple projects



Long-term future

Shaping the regulatory process to reflect emerging paradigms and evidence





Model development

Improved certainty in key model parameters

Novel data collection and products



Inclusion of predator-prey dynamics in existing approaches

Habituation

Shifting baseline

Multiple stressors

Knowledge sharing platforms

Project Initiation Plan

WP8: Development of a dissemination roadmap				
Task 8.1 Lead: Erica Knott	Stakeholder + network analysis and reporting			
(NatureScot)				
Task 8.2 Lead: PrePARED Production of a Communications Plan				
Project Officer (MSS)				

Scottish Government "Quick Tender" Process

Three consultancies invited to bid

Awarded to FastTrack / Institute for Methods Innovation Consortium

Research / Interviews

Delivery of Two Reports

PrePARED COMMS PLAN PART 1
Research Report

PrePARED COMMS PLAN PART 2
Comms Plan Support Report





Journal of environmental management 90 (5), 1933-1949



TITLE	CITED BY	YEAR
Stakeholder participation for environmental management: a literature review MS Reed Biological conservation 141 (10), 2417-2431	4888	2008
Who's in and why? A typology of stakeholder analysis methods for natural resource management MS Reed, A Graves, N Dandy, H Posthumus, K Hubacek, J Morris, C Prell,	3026	2009





Dr. Eric JensenCEO and

The problems with science communication evaluation

E Jensen

Journal of Science Communication 13 (1)

Zuydam

Research

and

Communications

Associate

Investigating science communication in the information age: Implications for public engagement and popular media

R Holliman, L Whitelegg, E Scanlon, S Smidt, J Thomas Oxford University Press



Lali van

3i framework for stakeholder analysis

1. Interest

- Who is already interested and what is the nature of their interest?
- Who would you like to be interested?
- 3) Who is currently uninterested?

2. Influence

- 1) Who has the power to facilitate development of positive or negative impacts?
- 2) Who has the power to block development of these impacts?

3. Impact

- 1) Who may benefit from this work?
- 2) What parties may be disadvantaged because of this work?

	Interest	Influence	Impact
Level 1	Stated interest and preferences	Explicit, hierarchical "power over"	Immediate benefits or negative impacts from initial engagement
Level 2	Underpinning values beliefs and norms	Implicit, <u>personal</u> and transpersonal "power with"	Longer term benefits or negative impacts

RESULTS – PRIORITY RANKED TARGET AUDIENCES



(RPOs - Research Performing Organisations)

For Each Target Audience:

- 3i analysis of each Target Audience
- Database of key contacts (national, regional, international)
- Recommended engagement style
- Recommended engagement format
- Set of recommended priority actions

Pros

- A systematic and documented review of the stakeholder environment
- An external, objective viewpoint
- Application of social science techniques
- Provided the context for an operational plan

Cons

- No major surprise
- Actions did not match resources
- Not an operational plan

The PrePARED Management Group

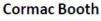


Jared Wilson



Paul Thompson







Matthew Witt



Kate Searle





Erica Knott



Esther Jones





Jacob Nabe-Nielsen

(Monthly)

PrePARED COMMS PLAN PART 1 **Research Report**

PrePARED COMMS PLAN PART 2 **Comms Plan Support Report**



PrePARED COMMS PLAN PART 3 Operational Plan



PrePARED Project Team

Lauren Donachie Bill Turrell

Publication policies (reports / peer-review)

Accessibility policies

Internal QA and review procedures

Web site content and policies

Social media policies

Meeting attendance / Engagement planning

Project resources (presentations, images, videos)

Output Summaries

PrePARED **PROJECT SUMMARY**

PrePARED Output Summary No. 1

What is PrePARED?

Prepared is a collaborative research project, funded by the Offshore Wind Evidence & Change (OWEC) Programme of the Crown Estate, and Crown Estate Scotland. It will concurrently study predator (seabird and marine mammal) and prev (fish) distribution and behaviour in and around offshore wind farms, providing critical insight into cumulative effects from large scale developments on key species.

Bringing together expertise from government, academia, nature conservation agencies and industry, PrePARED will address critical knowledge gaps that currently are barriers to sustainable offshore wind development, required to help meet the government's renewable energy targets and subsequently reach net zero emissions.

Background

Ambitious targets of 40 GW of installed offshore wind by 2030 in the UK require development at an unprecedented pace and scale. Uncertainties around environmental impacts from offshore wind farm (OWF) development on protected seabird and marine mammal populations currently constrain impact assessments and delay the planning process.

There is therefore an urgent need to better understand how seabirds and marine mammals respond to OWF development and the mechanisms underpinning these responses,

Project Team

The PrePARED project brings together experts who are leading research into environmental effects of OWF development from the Scottish Government Marine Directorate, University of Aberdeen, University of Exeter, the Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU), SMRU Consulting, Aarhus University, Biomathematics and Statistics Scotland (BioSS), the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UK-CEH), NatureScot and Natural England.



particularly changes to prey distribution.

Increased certainty on magnitude of cumulative impacts will facilitate deployment of OWF at the pace and scale needed.



















PrePARED

ASSESSING HARBOUR PORPOISE OCCURRENCE AND THE REEF EFFECT OF OPERATIONAL WINDFARMS



PrePARED Output Summary No. 3

Background

UK waters provide an enormous potential to meet climate change targets through the development of large-scale offshore windfarms. However, efforts to realise this potential must be balanced against the need to minimise impacts on protected wildlife populations. Assessments of these trade-offs remain constrained by limited information on whether offshore wind developments will have beneficial or detrimental effects on wildlife populations.

One protected wildlife species is the harbour porpoise. Porpoises are abundant and widely distributed across North Sea sites being considered for offshore wind developments. Little is known about the extent to which porpoises use operational windfarms or if they are attracted to structures, the so-called "reef effect". Developerfunded monitoring of porpoises is being conducted through the Moray Firth Marine Mammal Monitoring Programme. These data underpin ongoing work within the OWEC funded PrePARED project which investigates predator and prey distribution around offshore windfarms to address critical knowledge gaps hindering sustainable offshore wind development.



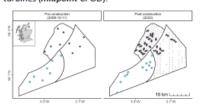
Harbour porpoises in the Moray Firth

Study Aims

- 1. Assess broad-scale changes in the occurrence of porpoises in relation to the operational windfarms in the Moray Firth comparing pre- and post-construction data.
- 2. Assess fine-scale reef effects around turbine foundations comparing pair of CPODs within the operational windfarms.

Data Collection

Echolocation click detectors were used to assess porpoise occurrence. A total of 103 CPODs were deployed throughout August 2009, 2010, 2011 (pre-construction) and 2022 (post-construction) across the operational windfarms at Beatrice and Moray East, and within reference sites in the Moray West development area where no structures are vet present. In 2022, devices were moored as pairs with one device located < 60 m from turbine foundations (structure CPOD) and the second device within the corridors between turbines (midpoint CPOD).



Black lines: Beatrice, Moray East (operational) and Moray West (reference) OWFs boundaries. Grey triangles: turbines. CPOD deployments: operational OWFs (black diamonds). reference site (blue diamond).



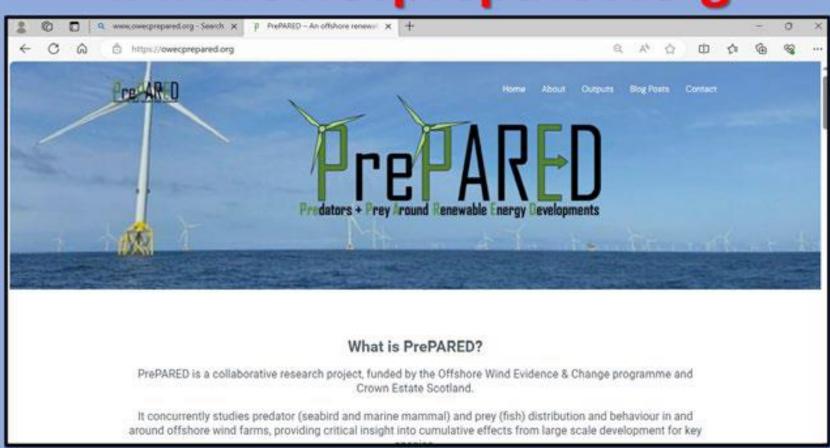








www.owecprepared.org



Offshore Wind Update, DESNZ

Trevor Raggatt, Head of Offshore Wind, DESNZ



Offshore Wind Policy Update, Defra

Amy Ferguson and Ruth Stubbles, Programme Directors – Offshore Wind Enabling Actions, Defra





Offshore Wind Enabling Actions Programme

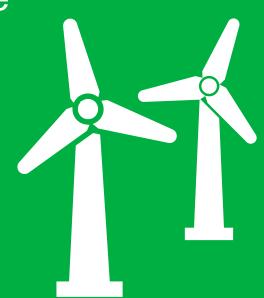
Offshore Wind Evidence and Change Programme 28th February 2024

Ruth Stubbles and Amy Ferguson Programme Directors









Addressing Environmental Impacts: The Offshore Wind Enabling Actions Programme(OWEAP)



OWEAP started in November 2020 after a successful bid to HMT's Shared Outcomes Fund for cross-government projects.



Delivered in partnership with Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, in collaboration with other relevant Government Departments, SNCBs, regulators and offshore wind developers.



Designed to increase understanding of the environmental impacts of offshore wind and find strategic solutions to manage/mitigate impacts to reduce barriers to the expansion of offshore wind in English waters.



Whilst focused on offshore wind, work on Marine Net Gain, tackling marine noise and better data all has relevance for wider domestic marine policy.

OWEIP Key Elements

Reform and streamline environmental assessments for offshore wind

Measures to compensate impacts at a strategic level

Set up a Marine Recovery Fund

Deliver Offshore Wind Environmental Standards

Deliver a strategic approach to environmental monitoring

OWEAP Key Elements

Marine Net Gain – leaving the environment in a measurably better condition

Underwater noise – reducing the impact (construction, UXO removal)

OWEIP workstreams update Strategic Compensation & COWSC Phase 2 Current position:

We have confirmed the first three measures for a 'library' of strategic compensation measures. These are:

- 1. For seabed (benthic) impacts: designation and extension of Marine Protected Areas in English waters.
- 2. For seabirds: Offshore Artificial Nesting Structures for kittiwake in English Waters and Predator Reduction.

Forward Look:

We are now redesigning COWSC for Phase 2, responding to feedback and lessons learnt from the first year of delivery to:

- Further analyse our likely compensation needs to 2030 and 2050.
- Work out the delivery detail needed to implement the measures agreed by Defra Secretary of State.
- Propose additional measures, where required.

OWEIP workstreams update Set up a Marine Recovery Fund Current position:

We have completed an assessment of the business model options following the Request for Information. On the basis of the responses received, we propose to operate the MRF within Government initially, with a review after three years.

Forward Look:

We have scheduled a **workshop with developers** for Thursday 7 March to discuss the costings structure of the MRF with industry and hear their views.

OWEIP workstreams - update Environmental Assessment Reform for Offshore Wind Current position:

Consultation on guidance launched 9 February and will close on 22 March. We are seeking feedback on policies to inform new guidance to ensure environmental assessments in MPAs are proportionate, compliant and robust, allowing us to meet both our dual net zero and biodiversity goals.

Consultation on policies to update guidance on Marine Protected Area (MPA) assessments.

We will be holding virtual workshops on 6th March.

Forward Look:

Once the consultation closes, we will be analysing responses. Using this feedback we will aim to publish updated **guidance** as soon as possible this year. We are working in parallel on proposals for legislative change and aim to consult later in 2024.

OWEIP workstreams update Offshore Wind Environmental Standards

Current position:

We are working with SNCB and regulatory representatives on the OWES Steering and Implementation Groups to refine and finalise draft OWES measures for our upcoming consultation due in Spring 24.

The consultation **Impact Assessment** is currently with the **Regulatory Policy Committee** until mid-March. Their informal rating on the quality of the evidence and analysis supporting our draft OWES measures will **guide our consultation questions**.

Forward Look:

Following feedback from our stakeholder workshop in November 2023, we will engage with offshore wind industry representatives leading up to and around the consultation launch. This will be through existing industry meetings (e.g. Offshore Consenting and Licensing Group) and dedicated Defra drop-ins (dates TBC).

OWEAP workstreams update Underwater noise

Current position:

We're designing a **piling noise standard**, part of the Offshore Wind Environmental Standards, with the primary aim to minimise the noise impacts from offshore wind construction within our marine environment.

We are **updating the Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) joint position statement** with support from all signatories to reflect the outcomes of DESNZ funded trials of quieter technologies. This is part of an ambitious package to support a robust and lasting policy that minimises such impacts.

In January this year, Cefas ran a **stakeholder engagement** session for Defra on **possible noise threshold values**. This was part of a wider desk study to evaluate the applicability of both **continuous and impulsive noise threshold** values across UK waters.

Forward Look:

By the **end of March**, we will have received the final **report from Cefas** evaluating the **feasibility** of introducing **noise threshold values** across UK waters.

In a separate project commissioned by Defra, **Cefas** will propose a **soundscape monitoring plan** within the Celtic and Irish seas, on the potential **impacts to marine mammals** and fish from future offshore wind developments.

OWEAP workstreams update Marine Net Gain

Current position:

The **Government response** to the MNG principles consultation was published on 9 December 2023 confirming the policy framework and intention for a mandatory approach subject to further consultation on the policy detail, costs and benefits. We're working with stakeholders to develop the policy detail and options for implementation. **Stakeholder engagement** is through individual evidence projects and a Policy Advisory Group.

Three evidence projects under way – 1. MNG **assessment framework** to measure losses and gains by Sep 2024, 2. marine irreplaceable habitats mapping by April 2024 and 3. **Marine Restoration Potential** (MaRePo+) refinement to include constraints, climate change and species, by March 2025. **Market analysis** and economic data project by March 2024 to inform an impact assessment.

Forward Look:

March to summer 2024 - stakeholder workshops on the MNG assessment framework project.

By early summer - developing pilot studies to test MNG methodology with stakeholders.

Longer term - further consultation and securing the legislation needed for mandatory implementation.

OWEIP/OWEAP workstreams update

Any questions?





MSPri Update, Defra

Chloe Meacher, Head of Marine Spatial Prioritisation Programme (Jobshare)
Defra



Marine Data Exchange (MDE) Update

Grace King, Marine Data Exchange team, The Crown Estate



Q&A and DISCUSSION





Thanks and Close

Ruth Stubbles, Programme Director - Offshore Wind Enabling Actions, Defra