

Meeting Notes

Project Name	Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group (FLOWW)
Meeting Venue	Held online via Zoom
Date & Time of Meeting	10.00am on Thursday 08 October 2020

Chair of the Meeting	Colin Warwick (CW)	
Names of the Attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sion Roberts (The Crown Estate) – Secretariat ▪ Matt Seal (The Crown Estate) ▪ Andrew Third (SFF) ▪ Harry Wick (NIFPO) ▪ Merlin Jackson ▪ Sol Judah (Scottish Power) ▪ Courtney French (Ørsted) ▪ John Hartley (Hartley Anderson) ▪ Roger May (Marine Scotland) ▪ Bruce Buchanan (Marine Scotland) ▪ Dale Rodmell (NFFO) ▪ Femke de Boer (SWFPA) ▪ Simon Matson (XceCo) ▪ Mark Pearce (Puissance) ▪ Martin Goff (Equinor) ▪ Matthew Frow (Seafish / Kingfisher) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kirsty Wright (Marine Scotland) ▪ Chris Willey (ESCA) ▪ John Wrottesley (ESCA) ▪ Iain McMyn (SSE) ▪ Claire Gilchrist (NNG) ▪ Sophie Hartfield Lewis (Ørsted) ▪ Sean Evans (Blue Gem Wind) ▪ Paul Carter (RWE) ▪ Liam Leahy (ORJIP OSW / The Carbon Trust) ▪ Sarah Edwards (Ocean Winds) ▪ Steve Dawe (Vodafone) ▪ Samuel Winchester (UKHO) ▪ Chris Jenner (Transmission Investment) ▪ Chris Leamon (Vattenfall)

Item	Notes	
1.0	<p>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone; a review of actions from the previous meeting (June) was undertaken. One action, see below Action 2020/01, was agreed to be ongoing.</p> <p>The attendees discussed frequency of the meetings. Although previously 3 per annum had been suggested, with the advent of online communications it was agreed that 4 meetings but with shorter agenda may be more appropriate.</p>	
ACTION 2020/01	Table further discussion on SOV operations and safety zones for next FLOWW meeting; seek input from BEIS, Marine Scotland, developer perspective (for context see meeting minutes from 02/06/2020).	The Crown Estate
2.0	<p>BPG REVIEW UPDATE</p> <p>Roger May (Marine Scotland) presented an update on progress made so far with the Best Practice Guidance update (see slides attached), followed by a brief discussion. In summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The update to the BPG seeks to incorporate all guidance into a single document; incorporating FLO Liaison, Compensation, Cables and Notice to Mariners. • The BPG has been broken down into modules for review and update, and is available on a government fileshare system, which maintains records of all changes and versions. If any further FLOWW members wish to view, they can contact either Roger May or Rhys Potter. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The next meeting is due to be 09/10/2020 with a following meeting in November 2020 (date TBC). Following the November meeting, the sub-group will report back any issues for wider discussion at the next FLOWW meeting. The Chair (CW) noted that he is in the process of drafting a 'mission statement' and an action was raised (Action 2020/02) to share this with the FLOWW membership for comment. It was noted that there are areas of the FLOWW website that appear to be outdated, and that it would be good to hold the contacts list within the website as any contacts list within a document would quickly become obsolete and require constant updating. An action was raised on The Crown Estate to review and identify the process for updating and re-working the website (Action 2020/03). 	
ACTION 2020/02	FLOWW Chair (CW) to share the draft mission statement with the FLOWW membership for comment.	Colin Warwick
ACTION 2020/03	The Crown Estate to review the process for managing the FLOWW website	The Crown Estate
3.0	<p>THE CROWN ESTATE – OFFSHORE WIND AND EVIDENCE CHANGE PROGRAMME</p> <p>SR provided an update on the progress of the Offshore Wind and Evidence Change programme being initiated by The Crown Estate followed by a brief discussion. In summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The programme now has a website that is available at: https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/en-gb/what-we-do/on-the-seabed/energy/a-sustainable-future-for-offshore-wind/ The programme is expected to be formally launched in the coming months. The first programme steering group was convened on 7th September 2020 and projects are beginning to be considered for progress. The programme recognises that Fisheries is a significant area for consideration, and will draw from the ScotMER project (discussed later) to identify potential projects. A proposal is currently under consideration to extend the ScotMER evidence gaps project to be UK wide to support this. The Chair raised a concern that there is not specific FLOWW representation in the steering group. This has been recognised by The Crown Estate and there will be a process developed to engage with the FLOWW group. 	
4.0	<p>MARINE SCOTLAND – SCOTMER PROGRAMME</p> <p>KW provided an update on the progress of the ScotMER programme (slides attached), specifically the Fish & Fisheries Strategic research group. In summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strategic research group met on the 16th September 2020, to discuss feedback on updates to the evidence map and identify priorities (see slides for details). A contract has been let to Brown & May Marine to undertake a literature review of current research and databases containing fish and fisheries data, identify evidence gaps and propose strategic research projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is currently Scotland focussed, but The Crown Estate are considering funding extending the project to UK waters. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is an opportunity for FLOWW members to provide input to the project during a consultation phase, (dates TBC) and there will be active engagement with NatureScot, fishing industry and other stakeholders. • A further contract is to be let to produce a literature review and best practice guidance document on fisheries displacement. More information will be available at a later date. • MSS and MASTS hosted the Marine Renewable Energy Forum Floating Wind Workshop 6-7th Oct 2020 aimed at improving the understanding of the environmental and socio-economic implications of floating offshore wind. The outputs include updated evidence maps, a workshop report and collaboration on project ideas to be taken forwards. 		
5.0	<p>NOTICE TO MARINERS – BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE</p> <p>Following on from a number of discussions, it has been identified that although a best practice guidance document (attached to the agenda, please contact SR if you would like another copy) was prepared in 2017/18 it has not been formally signed off or published.</p> <p>It was noted that the desire is to integrate this document into the updated BPG documentation.</p> <p>UKHO and MCA representatives identified that there are areas of the document that they feel warrant update, including a need to differentiate between a formal Notice to Mariners and ‘weekly updates’ on ongoing activities.</p> <p>The following actions were therefore raised to comments (Action 2020/04) which The Crown Estate will integrate into the documentation (Action 2020/05) for review by the BPG sub-group.</p>		
ACTION 2020/04	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">All FLOWW members to review and provide any comments on the Notice to Mariners BPG documentation to The Crown Estate (SR) by 30/10/2020</td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">FLOWW Membership</td> </tr> </table>	All FLOWW members to review and provide any comments on the Notice to Mariners BPG documentation to The Crown Estate (SR) by 30/10/2020	FLOWW Membership
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6.0	<p>KINGFISHER BULLETIN</p> <p>Matthew Frow from Seafish introduced the new Kingfisher bulletin to the group. The bulletin is used to identify / chart new offshore industry activities, hazards and news, and fills the gaps between the issuing of updated kis-orca datasets or charts to fisherman.</p> <p>The update to the bulletin was driven by feedback from the fishing industry that it could be improved as it had become somewhat content heavy and thus a new interactive website and app has been developed.</p> <p>The updated website was presented. It gives users opportunities to view all new alerts / search by location or activity type, set up an alert for a specific area and submit notices to the system. It was noted that the updated system was a great advancement, with positive comments from those on the call, but there is a need to engage more with fisheries, a process which has been somewhat interrupted by COVID-19.</p> <p>Data that is accessible on the system is retained until either it is no longer relevant or until new kis-orca data or charts are released (with a period of overlap).</p>		
7.0	<p>CABLES DOCUMENT – BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE</p> <p>Following issues noted at the previous meeting approximately 5 meetings have been held to discuss the wording of the cables document, leading to the current wording which has been reviewed by all parties, including checked with the MCA and UKHO.</p>		

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	<p>It now reflects both the position of ESCA and will incorporate a link to the SFF and NFFO position. Given the differences in the position it was noted that some wording has been included to recommend that developers should make it clear what their expectations are.</p> <p>The next step is for the document to be incorporated into the wider BPG documentation and should be signed off alongside the rest of the documentation (Action 2020/06) (although it was recognised that all parties are generally happy with the guidance). Given that SFF were not present at this meeting, it was requested that they respond to agree that they are similarly happy with the document (albeit not a formal sign off at this point) (Action 2020/07).</p> <p>Following on from this process the FLOWW membership would like to extend their warmest thanks to Dale Rodmell from the NFFO for his effort in coordinating the documents.</p> <p>A separate, but linked, point has been raised by industry members who have queried a point regarding how to determine the safety of overtrawling of cables without opening HSE / Liability issues.</p> <p>SR (The Crown Estate) identified that there may be benefit in applying an ALARP approach to the issue, and that this may link into consideration of gear penetration depths (raised by MS as a priority for the Fish and Fisheries research group).</p> <p>Fisheries representatives identified that the clearest route to reduce risk would be to include fisheries within the route planning.</p> <p>It was noted that depending on where snagging risk is identified in an EIA often changes the approach taken. If it is approached in the Navigational Risk Assessment then an ALARP consideration is generally applied. However, if it is considered within the impact on fisheries it tends to be a more qualitative approach. It was therefore considered that including snagging risk within the Navigation chapters is likely to be more appropriate.</p>	
ACTION 2020/06	Marine Scotland (RM) to integrate the cables document into the wider BPG	Marine Scotland
ACTION 2020/07	SFF to comment on their view of the cables document	SFF
8.0	<p>OUT OF USE CABLES</p> <p>The Chair (CW) identified that there is some confusion regarding responsibility for out of use cables in the marine environment. In discussions with The Crown Estate, it has been identified that the original cable owner retains responsibility in the case of a snagging incident. However, where corporations are no longer in existence it is difficult if not impossible to identify a responsible organisation.</p> <p>It was identified that the majority of cables in this situation currently are Telecommunication cables, and thus beyond the scope of FLOWW. Thus CW in collaboration with ESCA will raise this at the next MSG meeting at which there will be greater telecoms representation. Any members who would like to feed into this discussion are asked to contact CW.</p> <p>However, with regards to future out of use cables, it was identified that there is a query as to how decommissioning of offshore wind or OFTO cables will be approached. MS identified that they have a presumption that cables will be removed, unless there is a clear case for not doing so but it is perceived there is less clarity in the position of English authorities (MMO / BEIS). An action was therefore raised to approach MMO and BEIS for a clarification on their current position regarding decommissioning of cables (Action 2020/08).</p>	
ACTION 2020/08	The Crown Estate to approach the MMO / BEIS to seek clarification on their decommissioning approach.	The Crown Estate

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8.0	<p>AOB / NOTICEBOARD</p> <p>Additional points raised in AOB are as follows:</p> <p><u>European Fisheries letter</u></p> <p>The group discussed the letter produced by the European Fisheries regarding their concerns over offshore wind development. It was noted and agreed that European Fisheries are in a different position to UK fisheries as they are not permitted to fish within Windfarms.</p> <p>However, it was identified that a number of their concerns can be read across into UK waters (and worldwide) and thus cooperation will be needed going forwards to ensure coexistence of industries and that earlier engagement, particularly during planning stages, is key to a more harmonious relationship.</p> <p>The Chair noted an ongoing project in the USA by which a 'virtual windfarm' is being developed in cooperation with the fishing industry. It will be interesting to see how this will differ from conventional windfarm layouts.</p> <p><u>ORJIP Offshore Wind</u></p> <p>Liam Leahy (The Carbon Trust), joined the meeting to present ORJIP OSW. Going into year 2 ORJIP OSW has undertaken a second prioritisation process, during which fisheries and the effect of underwater cables have been identified as priority areas. Thus, during this year there will be a process of project identification and prioritisation to progress relevant projects.</p> <p>It was identified that FLOWW input into this process would be valuable both by proposing scopes of work to be brought into the process and during prioritisation.</p> <p>Members identified that with regards to cables, there is a key question regarding the balance between less intrusive laying methodologies (and thus less ecological impact) but with potentially higher safety risk. A key question could address how to balance these issues?</p> <p>It was agreed that ORJIP OSW will stay in close touch with the FLOWW Secretariat (The Crown Estate) who will distribute information to members. In addition, where topics are included on the agenda which are of relevance to the ORJIP OSW programme, they will be approached for inclusion.</p> <p><u>FLOWW Secretariat</u></p> <p>It was identified that there is likely to be funding for a secretariat in FY21/22, and that The Crown Estate will begin procurement in the coming months. It was agreed to ensure to keep all parties in the loop to ensure that there are no objections on the basis of impartiality of a preferred candidate.</p> <p><u>Next meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting will be in approximately 3 months, a doodle poll is to be distributed as before, to identify suitable dates.</p> <p>It was requested that there is a Floating Offshore Wind focussed session within the next meeting, with opportunities for different parties to contribute. It was suggested that ORE Catapult could be approached (Action 2020/09, alongside updates from The Crown Estate, Marine Scotland and fishing federations.</p>
	With thanks to all that attended the meeting was closed.

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Summary of Actions

Reference	Action	Responsible organisation	Due Date
ACTION 2020/01	Table further discussion on SOV operations and safety zones for next FLOWW meeting; seek input from BEIS, MS, developer perspective (for context see meeting minutes from 02/06/2020).	The Crown Estate	Next Meeting
ACTION 2020/02	FLOWW Chair (CW) to share the draft mission statement with the FLOWW membership for comment.	Colin Warwick	November 2020
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ACTION 2020/06	Marine Scotland (RM) to integrate the cables document into the wider BPG	Marine Scotland	November 2020
ACTION 2020/07	SFF to comment on their view of the cables document	SFF	November 2020
ACTION 2020/08	The Crown Estate to approach the MMO / BEIS to seek clarification on their decommissioning approach.	The Crown Estate	Next Meeting
ACTION 2020/08	The Crown Estate to approach ORE catapult to seek contributions on Floating Offshore Wind for the next meeting.	The Crown Estate	Next Meeting