

Ocean Energy Forum

Workstream 3

Environment and Consenting

Chair: Phil Gilmour

Contents

1. Agreed topics to be covered by steering group
2. Shared experience
3. Lessons learnt
4. Project ideas

Agreed Topics

1. Procedural aspects – licensing and consenting
2. Strategic solutions – research, monitoring, SEA, EIA
3. Social aspects – highlighting success and good practice
4. Links to other groups and sectors
5. Integrated approach - regional and joint initiatives

Shared experiences - 1

- Scottish example: Licensing manual for wave and tidal energy developed, but found processing agreements should be given priority to set out timeframes for consenting
- Portuguese example: integrated approach via National Ocean Strategy. Connect knowledge via a common system and platform to integrate all data
- Atlantic Region example: developed an Atlantic Power Cluster to benchmark renewable energy development within the Atlantic arc region countries.

Shared experiences - 2

- Spanish example: in relation to wave and tidal devices the competent body is the central government. But bottlenecks mean projects often get stuck in the process.
- Dutch example: have a one stop shop in form of an online questionnaire to gather all information from nature conservation to building permits. But require all information up front which is very time consuming.
- Irish example: obtain outline planning permission for land based developments before committing to costs of development – is this possible for ocean energy?

Lessons learnt - 1

- Focus should not be on changing legislation, but setting out clear responsibilities – potential to develop MoUs between organizations to identify lead roles
- Ensure flexibility and common sense within the process to promote delivery e.g. continue monitoring in parallel with consent process
- Important that the costs of monitoring are understood, as it is often SMEs that are funding this.

Lessons learnt - 2

- National administrations have different approaches, but all recognize benefit of supporting ocean energy. Huge cost associated with changing these systems.
- Importance of single point of entry for developers – one stop shop or case officer i.e. a main point of contact for developer
- Potential to set out high level principles of what a permitting consenting process should look like.
- Importance of understanding roles and responsibilities within consenting process for each member state.

Project idea 1: Procedural aspects – licensing and consenting

- **Promoting an efficient consenting process**
 - Review processes and provide framework for best options
 - Focus on high level principles
 - Share lessons learnt
 - Goal to remove barriers specifically for ocean energy
 - To be developed by steering group and disseminated by the steering group
 - Short term timeframe
 - Based on Anne Marie's presentation. Use online tool (dropbox) to collate document and steering group comment and expand.

Project idea 2: Strategic solutions

- Strategic solutions for research and monitoring
- European wide monitoring and data collection of appropriate receptors
- Sharing knowledge and data e.g. GP wind
- Work in progress.....

Project idea 3: Social aspects

- **Create a public relations document highlighting social aspects of ocean energy**
 - Methodology for Social Impact Assessment currently underway by Edinburgh University
 - Communicating social success of projects e.g. employment in Orkney
 - Highlighting good practice and importance of job creation
 - Highlight opportunities and transposing skills e.g. diversification for commercial fishermen
 - Case studies of good practice that worked to overcome barriers e.g. communication & liaison with fishermen
 - Audience is the public – public engagement regarding benefits of ocean energy