

## Agenda

**Offshore Renewable Energy Steering Group  
Joint meeting of the Environmental and Infrastructure Working Groups  
24th July, 2018  
11:00-13:45  
SEAI, Wilton Park House**

**Attendees:** DCCAE: Bernie Comey (BC), Sinead Hart Moran (SHM), Deirdre Durnin (DD), Philip Mac Fadden (PMF), SEAI: Patricia Comiskey (PC), Declan Meally (DM), DHPLG: Jeannine Dunne (JD), Marine Institute: Terry McMahon (TMM), IMDO; Liam Lacey (LL), GSI; Sean Cullen (SC), Eirgrid: Mark Norton (MN), Maeve Flynn(MF)

**Apologies:** EPA: Tadhg O'Mahony (T'OM), Robert Wilkes(RW), DHPLG: Roger Harrington(RH), Robert Hickey(RHY), NPWS: David Lyons (DL), CRU: Gosia Sadowska, DTTAS: Peter Carney (PC)

**Guest Speakers:** Item 3 - Padraic Dempsey, DHPLG (PD)  
Item 4 – Paul Brewster, Pure Maine (PB)  
Item 5 – Anne Marie OHagan, UCC & Stephen O'Sullivan, Remtech (AOH,SOS)

1. Adopt Agenda – Agenda adopted
2. Minutes of Joint Env /Inf meeting on 11 April 2018 – Minutes were agreed
3. Presentation on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) – PD gave a presentation outlining the MSP process, aims and timelines. Under the EU MSP Directive an MSP must be finalised, published and notified to the European Commission by 2021. DHPLG will launch a public consultation on their initial MSP report in September 2018.  
**Action: PD to circulate presentation to the group.**
4. Update on finalisation of IPORES Report – LL and PB gave a presentation on the update to the 2012 IPORES report. Main findings are that Irish ports are ready to respond quickly to the demands of ORE but legislative uncertainty is a major risk to investment.  
**Action: Group to revert to LL with comments by Friday August 3<sup>rd</sup>.**  
**Action: LL to circulate presentation to the group.**
5. Proposed Process Map for the licencing and permitting of ORE Projects – AOH and SOS presented to the group on the timelines and steps proposed to develop the process map for developers. They will be looking at the full life cycle of a project

from planning to decommissioning and will produce a final report and process flow chart by November. They plan to issue a draft report before holding a workshop with stakeholders, which will be scheduled in late September/early October.

**Action: SOS to circulate doodle poll to group to agree date for workshop.**

6. Interim Review of the OREDP and updating of 2018 Environment and Infrastructure Work Plans to reflect the recommendations of the Interim Review – BC and PC introduced the updated 2018 work plans for the Environment and Infrastructure groups. It was agreed that Recommendation 22 would be replicated in the Infrastructure work plan and that progress on recommendations will be reviewed at all future working group meetings. It was further agreed that Recommendation 24 will form its own agenda item at the next joint working group meeting

**Action: Group to revert to PMF by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of August with any additional comments.**

7. Opportunity and Constraints Mapping Tool: Update on work of subgroup on OCM tool – SC and TMM have spoken to the Marine Institute who are aware of the tool and are potentially interested in working with it when it has been developed further. In the interim, GSI will take ownership of the tool to develop it with their in-house GIS expert with a view to preparing it for MSP.
8. Guidance on Marine Baseline Ecological Assessments and Monitoring Activities for Offshore Renewable Energy Projects – PC informed the group that since the reports were published a number of detailed comments were received. The reports will be updated to reflect these comments and published in the coming weeks.
9. Updates on industry and test site activity – PC gave an update on the state of play of the three test sites.
  - a. The lease for the test site at Galway Bay is subject to a judicial review to be heard in November. Activity to set up the site is ongoing.
  - b. A review of the AMETS test site has been completed and has concluded that the sites resources are more suited to both prototype technology and commercial technology. An increased grid connection or energy storage solution at the site may be required to facilitate demonstration of commercial technologies
  - c. The NOTF located in Cork is operating at a high level and is well regarded across Europe with multiple technology types from numerous countries being tested.

DM gave an update on the status of the ORE industry worldwide, noting that tidal generation is now almost at commercial scale. Wave generation is somewhat less developed and focus should be on technology convergence in order for a viable wave generation technology to become available in a timely manner.

10. MAFA Bill – JD and BC updated group on the development of the MAFA bill.

11. Date of Next Meeting – Mid November was suggested.

**Action: PMF to circulate doodle poll with suggested dates of next meeting.**

12. AOB – There was no further business.

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Electricity Policy Division

10/08/2018