

Minutes

Offshore Renewable Energy Steering Group
Joint meeting of the Environmental and Infrastructure Working Groups
13th November, 2018
11:00-13:00

SEAI, Wilton Park House.

Attendees: **DCCAIE:** Sinead Hart Moran (SHM), Deirdre Durnin (DD), Philip Mac Fadden (PMF), SEAI Patricia Comiskey (PC) **Eirgrid:** Maeve Flynn (MF), Arthur Moynihan (AM), **DHPLG** Jeannine Dunne (JD), **CRU** Amber Raut (AR), **EPA** Terry Mc Mahon (TMM), **IMDO** Edel O'Connor

Apologies: **IMDO:** Liam Lacey (LL), **EPA** Tadgh OMahony (TOM), **SEAI** Declan Meally (DM), **GSI** Sean Cullen (SC), **NPWS** David Lyons.

Guest Speakers: **GSI** Trevor Alcorn (Item 6 only)

1. **Adopt Agenda-** The agenda was adopted
2. **Minutes of Joint Env /Inf meeting on 24th July 2018** – The draft minutes were approved.
3. **Update on finalisation of IPORES Report (IMDO)** - The updated IPORES report is ready to be launched. After discussion it was suggested that the report be launched at either the Eirwind event in Ringaskiddy on November 29th or an offshore wind event on December 4th/5th.

Action: PMF to revert to EOC with most suitable date as soon as possible.

4. **Proposed Process Map for the licencing and permitting of ORE Projects (SEAI)** – This piece of work is being progressed to analyse the current consenting process for Offshore Renewable Energy and to identify any gaps or issues that need to be resolved in the new regime.
5. **Drafting of 2019 Work Programmes (DCCAIE/SEAI)** – PC led discussion on potential updates to the Environment Work Programme for 2019.
 - i. Action 12 was discussed and it was agreed that this must be progressed as an integral part of the development of the marine spatial plan.
Action: JD to discuss adding a member of the DHPLG MSP team to the Inf/Env Group.

- ii. Action 13 is shared with between both groups. There was a brief discussion of the optimal way to progress the action.

Action: To invite a representative from the Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaetacht to the next meeting to discuss the development of the National Seascape Character Assessment.

6. Opportunity and Constraints Mapping Tool – Update on work of subgroup on OCM tool (GSI/SEAI) – Trevor Alcorn gave a presentation outlining the current state of the OCM tool.

7. Guidance on Marine Baseline Ecological Assessments and Monitoring Activities for Offshore Renewable Energy Projects – Update (SEAI) – Updated documents taking into account comments that have been received regarding basking sharks have been uploaded onto the DCCAE website.

8. Updates on industry and test site activity (SEAI) – PC gave a presentation highlighting the following

- i. The Prototype Development Fund will be slightly realigned to meet industry needs. Large projects can continue to apply in the usual manner. Smaller projects applications will be dealt with through shorter calls with defined start and end dates.
- ii. A trial pre commercial technology fund will commence following an SBIR model in early 2019. Initially the focus will be on small scale projects such as moorings or safety systems.
- iii. SEAI has been awarded 3 EU projects which will commence in 2019
 - OPIN – To set up support network and business development tools for ORE sector in Europe
 - AFLOWT- To investigate the possibility of testing floating wind at AMETS.
 - OCEANSET – To support SET plan innovation.

9. MAFA Bill - Update (DHPLG) – Draft advice on how to proceed is now with the AG. Once AG publishes his advice there will be a clearer path forward.

10. MSP - Update (DHPLG) – MSP development is continuing. A number of local workshops have been held around the country.

11. Date of Next Meeting – Mid February suggested.

Action: PMF to circulate doodle poll to select most suitable date.

12. AOB

Electricity Policy Division

05/11/2018