

MSFD descriptor 11 / requirement for a Marine Noise Registry

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) 2008/56/EC was formally adopted by the European Union in July 2008. The Directive requires all Member States to work towards achieving 'Good Environmental Status' (GES) in their marine environment by 2020 and was transposed to UK legislation (the Marine Strategy Regulations 2010) in July 2010. Eleven high level descriptors of GES have been outlined in Annex I of the Directive, with Descriptor 11 relating to underwater noise: "Introduction of energy, including underwater noise, is at levels that do not adversely affect the marine environment"¹. Underwater noise generated by human activities can potentially affect marine organisms in a variety of ways, from masking sounds used to communicate with conspecifics and to find food, to physiological injury and even death. The indicators used to describe Descriptor 11 cover both low and mid frequency impulsive sound (e.g. seismic airguns, pile driving and explosives) and the frequencies of ambient noise dominated by shipping sound.

The UK option for monitoring impulsive sound (D11.1) is the development of the Marine Noise Registry database; this is a relatively coarse scale temporal and spatial record of activities producing low to mid frequency (10Hz to 10kHz) impulsive noise. The information gathered in this form will be used to fulfil this requirement - **instructions on how to fill in the sheets are given on the following pages, along with an example that can be used for reference.**

¹European Commission Decision: the measurement of underwater noise is a first priority for Descriptor 11 as additional scientific and technical progress is required to support further development of criteria related to this descriptor. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:232:0014:0024:EN:PDF>. Monitoring of ambient noise (D11.2) will not be covered by the noise registry.

Please enter the details below

ORGANISATION NAME	Aberdeen Harbour Board
CONTACT NAME	Katherine Harris
CONTACT NUMBER	01224 597000
CONTACT EMAIL	k-harris@aberdeen-harbour.co.uk
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WORKS	Marine impact piling to create quays for the Aberdeen Har

