

## **Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm (AOWF): Second meeting of the EOWDC Scientific Research and Monitoring Panel**

**Meeting date:** 03 May 2016  
**Venue:** Marine Laboratory, Victoria Road, Aberdeen

**Participants:** Ian Davies (Marine Scotland Science) (Chair)  
Frank Grant (FGDS Ltd)  
Roger May (Marine Scotland Licensing and Operations Team)  
Catarina Aires (MS-LOT)  
Helen Jameson (Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm Limited)  
Jesper Kyed Larsen (Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm Limited)  
Erica Knott (Scottish Natural Heritage)  
Ian Francis (RSPB Scotland)  
Alexander Downie (Scottish Environment Protection Agency)  
Fiona Read (Whale & Dolphin Conservation)  
Jessica Drew (MS-LOT)  
Morag McCorkindale (Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group)  
Douglas Watson (The Crown Estate)

**Apologies** Stuart Gibb (University of the Highlands and Islands)  
Mark Christie (MS-LOT)  
Karen Hall (Joint Nature Conservation Committee)  
Catriona Gall (SNH)

## 1. Background to meeting:

This meeting constitutes the third meeting of the EOWDC Scientific Research and Monitoring Panel, as comprised of individuals/organisational representatives deemed required by the Scottish Ministers. The Agenda for this meeting was drafted and circulated by AOWFL.

The main aim for the meeting was to agree the evaluative framework to be used to prioritise research themes, and conduct a scoring and weighting exercise to deliver the final list of prioritised research themes. Discussion regarding the mechanism to call for proposals was also discussed.

## 2. Status of actions from last meeting:

Actions		
FGDS	Following definition of the above lists, FGDS will use the information to draft a framework for the next stage – prioritisation of research areas. This draft framework will be circulated to Panel members for comment.	Complete, document circulated prior to Meeting #3
AOWFL	To circulate draft MoM to members for comment. Once comments returned MoM will be finalised and re-circulated alongside a finalised version of the MoM from the first meeting.	Complete, circulated in advance of Meeting #3
FGDS	Draft the prioritisation framework and circulate to the group for comment/any additional criteria suggestions. These comments will be considered prior to the next meeting.	Complete, circulated in advance of Meeting #3
AOWFL	Arrange a date for the next meeting during which the prioritisation exercise be completed. AOWFL will attempt to schedule for w/c 11 <sup>th</sup> April via a Doodle poll.	Complete
MS-LOT	Make arrangements to host the next meeting, once the date is agreed, and circulate an agenda.	Complete
All	Complete/revise BioPic's and send on to AOWFL prior to the next meeting.	Ongoing
AOWFL	Compile the final list of BioPic's for publication once all information is received.	Awaiting Panel providing information
All	Revisit the ToR and terminology at the next meeting	Ongoing, updated ToR circulated prior to Meeting #3. Comments requested prior to Meeting #4 in order

		to finalise
MS-LOT	Follow up with all invited members and confirm final list with level of membership (active participant or correspondence only)	Ongoing
MS-LOT	Maintain a record of Panel activities and outputs	Ongoing
All	Agree list of Panel meetings/activities required pre-FID	Complete
MS-LOT	Continue to provide an update on legal aspects at subsequent meetings	Ongoing
AOWFL/MS-LOT	To confirm timescales associated with definition of PEMP requirements	Ongoing

### 3. Discussion:

#### 3.1 Update on Legal Challenge (MS-LOT)

No further legal update since Meeting #2

#### 3.2 Update on Project Rochdale Envelope and Programme (AOWFL)

HJ provided an update on programme and refinements to the project design envelope since the last meeting.

Key points:

- The project expects a Final Investment Decision (FID) in summer 2016
- Procurement and engineering work are ongoing
- Onshore construction may start as early as the end of 2016 with site clearance/preparation works
- Offshore construction may begin as early as Q3 2017
- Grid connection is programmed for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018

The above programme highlights the need to progress to an approach to applicants as a matter of priority, in order to account for any pre-construction data collection that may be required.

Proposed technology:

Technical elements remain the same as presented at Meeting #2, in summary:

- One wind turbine generator type
- Single foundation concept remains a jacket structure with suction anchor foundations, however the design now features three legs as opposed to four
- 66kV inter-array and export cables will be deployed
- Installation will be completed in a single phase

### **3.3 Scientific Panel Terms of Reference (ToR)**

Request from AOWFL that Panel members review the most recent version of the ToR and provide any comments in advance of Meeting #4. Agreement of the final ToR will take place at Meeting #4, following which AOWFL will finalise and circulate prior to Meeting #5.

Panel members request that, for clarity, the definition of a 'link' to the EOWDC project is included in the ToR, in reference to potential projects, to guide the decision making process when evaluating proposals. It is agreed that in order to maintain relevance to the EOWDC project, whilst maximising the transferability of R&D outcomes beyond this particular site, it is acceptable to consider projects which are not necessarily physically sited at the EOWDC, but which consider wider populations known to use the Aberdeen Bay area during all or part of their life-cycle.

### **3.4 Budget for Chairs Expenses and Ad Hoc costs**

AOWFL put forward the proposal that the Chair's expenses be covered by the environmental R&D budget pot. The justification for this being that the role is required to be filled by an impartial party without vested interests in the outcomes of the Panel's activities, and as such the Chair (and the Chairs employer) will gain nothing from their participation. A small budget for ad hoc costs e.g. meeting refreshments and venue hire (if required) is also proposed.

The Panel agree that the Chair's expenses will be reimbursed, up to a maximum value of £250 per quarter. This will cover travel and accommodation, but not hours.

The Panel agree that up to £200 per quarter will be made available for ad hoc costs associated with panel activities.

### **3.5 Phase 2 of the Prioritisation Exercise**

The Panel completed the second phase of the exercise, thus concluding the process.

Final scores out of 100 following prioritisation of the research themes identified during Meeting #2 were as follows:

- Birds (71)
- Marine Mammals (71)
- Fish (67)
- Socio-economic (41)
- Coastal Processes (37)
- Colonisation (37)
- Benthos (19)
- Water quality (10)

Details can be found in Appendix 1: EOWDC, An Evaluation Process on Research Themes

### 3.6 Taking the process forward to a call for Proposals

A number of suggestions were made in relation to the call for proposals, including potential for a two-step process beginning with a round of Expressions of Interest to limit the amount of time and money invested in preparation of proposals which are ultimately unsuitable as they do not meet the requirements of the EU grant or AOWFL internal processes.

The Panel agreed that a briefing document should be drafted to provide information on project philosophy, design envelope, programme, any EU/AOWFL stipulations in terms of procurement/H&S etc, plus details of the evaluation of research themes and resultant prioritisation of topic areas. AOWFL will provide a first draft in advance of Meeting #4.

The Panel also agreed that a greater degree of granularity is required in terms of the topic areas, as the research themes as they stand are too broad. AOWFL will circulate a request for suggestions of sub-topics under each high level research theme (maximum of three) in advance of the next meeting, the final list will be agreed at Meeting #4.

<b>Actions</b>	
FGDS Ltd	Generate final reporting for the prioritisation exercise
AOWFL	Issue final MoM, appending the above report
AOWFL	Investigate and outline any stipulations/constraints imposed by the EU grant agreement/AOWFL internal procedures which may guide or dictate project choices and spend
AOWFL	Set up doodle poll for Meeting #4 and circulate link. Meeting date to be fixed by COB 10 <sup>th</sup> June to allow for summer holidays and changing commitments
All	Participate in the doodle poll by the required date
AOWFL	Circulate a request for sub-topics under each of the research themes
All	Put forward suggestions for sub-topics (maximum of three under each theme) in advance of Meeting #4, final list to be agreed during the meeting
AOWFL	To investigate stipulations within the EU grant agreement and AOWFL internal processes which may influence project choices
AOWFL	Attempt to define programme and process to the point of contract placement for chosen research projects, and beyond to project implementation and operation
AOWFL	Draft a briefing for applicants to be reviewed by Panel members in advance of Meeting #4
All	Review draft briefing for applicants circulated by AOWFL
AOWFL/MS-LOT	AOWFL will circulate the current distribution list for Panel correspondence and MS-LOT will follow up with respective parties to confirm whether they wish to remain on the distribution list
AOWFL	Recirculate ToR
All	Provide any comments on the ToR in advance of Meeting #4