

MORAY FIRTH RENEWABLES ADVISORY GROUP (MFRAG) MEETING MINUTES

Meeting	MFRAG Main Group	
Date	22 February 2018	
Location	EDPR, 4 th Floor, 40 Princess Street Edinburgh EH2 2BY	
Attendees	Marine Scotland Licensing and Operations Team (MS-LOT)	Nicola Bain (NB) [Chair]
	Marine Scotland Science (MSS)	Ian Davis (ID)
	Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)	Erica Knott (EK), Chris Eastham (CE)
	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	Charles Nathan (CN) [conf call]
	Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC)	Fiona Read (FR) (conf call]
	Fisheries Management Scotland	Alan Wells (AW), Keith Williams (KW) [conf call]
	BOWL	Lis Royle (LR), Nick Brockie (NBk)
	Moray East	Sarah Pirie (SP), Catarina Rei (CR), Peter Moore (PM)
	Royal Haskoning	Paolo Pizzolla (PP)
Apologies	MS-PP (Paul Smith); Prof Ben Wilson	
Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ALL to provide comments by end of March 2018 to MS-LOT (Giulia Agnisola). 2. BOWL to submit results of Marine Mammal construction monitoring during Q1/Q2 2018. 3. MS-LOT to check if BOWL salmon monitoring report is available within MS website. 4. Moray East to contact BOWL prior to carrying out herring surveys to enquire about any access restrictions within the BOWL site boundary which may affect the Moray East herring survey sampling design. 5. Moray East to propose an amended survey design in case of access restrictions to the BOWL site and seek approval from MS-LOT. 6. Moray East to submit PEMP to MS-LOT for consultation with relevant stakeholders. 7. MFRAG secretariat to share MFRAG-MM MoM with FMS and RSPB. 8. ID to organise meeting on salmonid proposals with Marine Scotland, Vattenfall (Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm) scientific panel, the Dee and the Don District Salmon Fishery Boards (DDDSFB) and Moray East 9. MFRAG secretariat to organise date for next meeting (potentially August). 	

1. Introductions

Introductions were made.

2. Terms of Reference and New Chair

Regional Advisory Groups (RAG) Chairs

NB provided an update on the RAG chairs.

- MFRAG:
 - o Professor Ben Wilson (Scottish Association for Marine Science, SAMS) elected as the new chair.
 - o Marine Scotland will step in to perform chair duties whenever chair not available.
- FTRAG:
 - o Naomi Campbell elected as new chair.

Prof. Ben Wilson was not able to attend this meeting and therefore NB (MS-LOT) chairing meeting.

Terms of Reference (ToR)

CR noted that the MFRAG and MFRAG subgroup ToR require to be updated, however in order to update the subgroup ToR the main group ToR would need to be updated first. CR asked if Marine Scotland could coordinate this ToR update and suggested that the ToR should be finalised within 3 months.

NB stated that the ToRs should be updated quicker and suggested they could be updated by the end of March.

Actions	1. ALL to provide comments by end of March 2018 to MS-LOT (Giulia Agnisola).
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3. Review of MoM from Last Meeting

Minutes approved by group. Action 1 from previous meeting (BOWL to submit results of Marine Mammal construction monitoring during Q1/Q2 2018) still outstanding.

AW enquired if BOWL’s salmon monitoring was available within the MS website. NB noted that the salmon monitoring report had been approved and would check if report available within website.

Actions	2. BOWL to submit results of Marine Mammal construction monitoring during Q1/Q2 2018. 3. MS-LOT to check if BOWL salmon monitoring report is available within MS website.
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4. BOWL Project

4.1 BOWL Project update

BOWL Project Update provided by LR.

<p>Information available through https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/22cf9a_36b0df16a713420790a8420283cbfd7c.pdf.</p>
<p>4.2 BOWL PEMP Update</p>
<p>NBk provided an update on BOWL’s PEMP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BOWL’s PEMP approved and available within the MS website. - Next revision of PEMP planned in spring / summer 2018. - The PEMP will be split into wind farm PEMP and OfTW PEMP in advance of the transfer of OFTO assets to an OFTO.
<p>5. Moray East Project</p>
<p>5.1 Moray East Project update</p>
<p>SP provided an update on Moray East, presentation summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In summer 2017, Engie was confirmed as new equity partner. - CfD was awarded in September 2017 at £57.50 strike price. Milestone delivery date of 6th of October where FID must be reached or 10% of CAPEX commitment met. Project delivery will be based on positive FID. - Detailed offshore site investigations started in 2017 and are ongoing. Challenging weather conditions have caused delays to survey programme. Surveys will continue in 2018. - There is a very challenging timescale for reaching key project milestones for FID. First batches of pre-construction plans to be sent to MS-LOT for consultation in March. - The number of WTGs to be installed is 100 which is significantly less than the consented 186 across the Stevenson, Telford and MacColl sites. The foundation design has been confirmed as being a three-legged jacket. The piling strategy (PS) had stated that the design would be a three or a four-legged design so less piling required than actually assessed as the worst case scenario. The OFTO PS will be submitted later in 2018 but will follow a similar principle to wind farm PS. The wind farm will be built as a single wind farm across all three consented sites. - Landfall will be near Inverboyndie. - Moray East and SHE-Transmission onshore substations will be on same site. <p>LR highlighted that BOWL is due to finish construction activities 2 weeks before Moray East start of construction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moray East has selected a range of contractors with substantial offshore experience. Mitsubishi-Vestas, VBMS, Geosea, Siemens and NKT.
<p>5.2 Moray East PEMP Update</p>
<p>CR noted that Moray East is currently finalising the PEMP and that will aim to submit the document to MS-LOT for consultation during March. A single document will be produced to meet the wind farms Section 36</p>

consents, Modified TI and OSP Marine Licences.

There was a general agreement from the group on this approach of a single PEMP document.

CR and PM provided an overview of the proposed approach for the Moray East PEMP.

Seabed Scour & Local Sediment Deposition

As it was the case for the BOWL project, the approach for seabed scour and local sediment deposition monitoring has been designed taking into account engineering specific requirements.

The pre-construction site investigation survey results (geophysical and geotechnical) will be used as baseline. The post-construction monitoring will be determined based on survey results, foundation and cable burial design and results of the foundation integrity and cable burial risk assessment.

ID enquired if Moray East would need to use scour protection. CR replied that the need or not for scour protection would depend on the results of work still ongoing, however preliminary results indicate that the risk of scour is low and that scour protection may not be needed. However Moray East's PEMP will detail the process it will follow to monitor scour and the measures employed in case of scour being detected.

The group was in agreement with the general approach for scour monitoring proposed by Moray East.

Benthic Communities

Wind farm - As no rare or protected species were previously recorded within the Moray East site, no specific benthic surveys have been proposed. The environment within the Moray East site is not very dynamic and therefore no changes in the benthic habitat distribution are predicted.

Export cable – Moray East proposes to use the results of the EIA characterisation alongside new geophysical data currently being collected for the export cable route for the purposes of delineating any potential Annex 1 habitats and Priority Marine Features (PMF). The results of this review will be presented within the export Cable Plan (CaP).

EK stated that the approach appeared sensible. ID suggested that Moray East describes the approach in detail within the PEMP for stakeholder consultation.

Cod Surveys

PM described the survey approach for pre and post construction surveys noting that the cod survey area was clearly defined within the wind farm section 36 consents. The procurement for the surveys is ongoing and Moray East would be planning on carrying out pre-construction surveys during February-March 2019.

ID queried what data would be collected. PM confirmed surveys would be collecting cod spawning data.

EK also queried about the aims of the survey. CR noted that the Section 36 conditions require pre- and post-construction cod surveys to be undertaken and that the pre-construction would be used as 'baseline data'. ID added further that the monitoring results would feed into the commercial fisheries discussions.

LR noted that for the post-construction surveys there may be an opportunity for the Moray East and BOWL to combine surveys.

Sandeel Surveys

PM stated that as with cod, Moray East's sandeel survey area was defined within the wind farm section 36 consents. The procurement for the surveys is also ongoing and pre-construction surveys are planned to

take place during January-February 2019.

CR noted that the post-construction survey for sandeel would be another survey that could potentially be procured jointly with BOWL.

Herring Surveys

The Moray East herring survey methodology has been agreed with MSS and MS-LOT. A baseline desk-study was submitted to MS-LOT earlier in the month (February) and Moray East is currently awaiting feedback on the report.

LR noted that some of the survey stations appeared to be within BOWL's construction area and that there may be some constraints in carrying out surveys within that area during BOWL's construction. PM acknowledged that there could be some restrictions on the survey design and noted that the survey had been initially designed taking into account BOWL's survey design so that the data collected could be comparable between projects. ID recommended that Moray East contact BOWL to enquire about access restrictions within the BOWL site boundary during the herring survey period closer to the time of survey. Moray East would need to seek approval from MS-LOT on an alternative survey design if required.

Diadromous Fish

PM noted that an initial study on smolt migration from the River Spey had been agreed through MFRAG in 2015. Since then Moray East has been working with the Scottish Centre for Ecology and the Natural Environment at Glasgow University to develop proposals to satisfy condition 30. Two proposals have been developed:

- The Moray Firth Array – an ambitious large-scale research proposal to monitor movements of diadromous fish in the Outer moray Firth; and
- The Spey Nearshore Coastal Marine Migration – a closed coastal acoustic telemetry array encompassing the area of the mouth of the River Spey. This is based on the MFRAG approved study developed by Moray East in 2014/15.

Due to the high level of interest in the large scale project (the Moray Firth Array) it is envisaged that fundraising will be successful. However, failing this, Moray East is committed to undertaking the smaller scale study at Spey Bay.

PM noted that for the PEMP Moray East would describe both options for the diadromous fish monitoring highlighting that detailed/final scope of monitoring would be discussed with MFRAG once confirmed. This approach was agreed by the MFRAG. Moray East confirmed that the decision point for the approach would be in June 2018 due to procurement lead times if Moray East had to progress its alternative proposal.

KW queried who would be in charge of collating all the survey results (from Moray East and BOWL). ID replied that this would be the focus of the SpORRAn diadromous fish subgroup and noted that Ross Gardiner (MSS) was leading on this subgroup.

Birds

CR noted the approach for ornithology monitoring had already been agreed through the MFRAG-O during 2014 - 2015. At the most recent MFRAG-O meeting (22/02/2018) Moray East highlighted that APEM had been appointed to carry out the pre-construction aerial surveys during 2018 (May-July) and that as part of this work APEM was undertaking an additional Power Analysis using the MRSea package to identify the most appropriate survey design. This approach for an updated Power Analysis was agreed with MFRAG-O at

the meeting. Moray East approach for the PEMP would be to describe the agreed approach for ornithology monitoring highlighting that the detailed scope for the pre-construction surveys would be agreed through discussions with MFRAG-O. This approach was agreed by the MFRAG.

Marine Mammals

Moray East’s pre-construction monitoring was undertaken during 2014-16 and relevant monitoring reports consulted with MFRAG-MM and approved by MS-LOT.

The approach for the construction monitoring was also agreed with MFRAG-MM during 2016. Moray East is currently in discussions with MFRAG-MM about the detailed scope of the construction monitoring taking into account the BOWL construction monitoring results and any new scientific information on marine mammal monitoring. Moray East approach for the PEMP would be to describe the agreed approach for marine mammal monitoring highlighting that the detailed scope for construction monitoring will be discussed and agreed through the MFRAG-MM. This approach was agreed by the MFRAG.

Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Moray East to contact BOWL prior to carrying out herring surveys to enquire about any access restrictions within the BOWL site boundary which may affect the Moray East herring survey sampling design. 5. Moray East to propose an amended survey design in case of access restrictions to the BOWL site and seek approval from MS-LOT. 6. Moray East to submit PEMP to MS-LOT for consultation with relevant stakeholders.
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6. Strategic Research

An update on SpORRAn was provided by ID.

ID noted that the SpORRAn was likely to change its name. The various subgroups within SpORRAn have been working on identifying research priorities. These research priorities are due to be published soon.

ID noted that funding had been awarded for a project looking at the use of ADDs for wave and tidal developments. This project is being carried out by SAMS and Loughborough University and will investigate noise propagation in high energy environments.

7. AOB

NB enquired about the next MFRAG meeting and when it was likely to be required.

August was noted as a likely date for the next MFRAG meeting however the secretariat would send a doodle poll nearer the time to agree on a date.

Actions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. MFRAG secretariat to share MFRAG-MM MoM with FMS and RSPB. 8. ID to organise meeting on salmonid proposals with Marine Scotland, Vattenfall (Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm) scientific panel, the Dee and the Don District Salmon Fishery Boards (DDDSFB) and Moray East.
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	9. MFRAG secretariat to organise date for next meeting (potentially August).
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