

Subject	Minutes of meeting: Forth and Tay Regional Advisory Group – Marine Mammal sub-group (FTRAG-MM)				
Meeting location	SNH, Battleby, Perth				
Meeting date	2 July 2019	Minutes by	Phil Bloor / Ewan Walker	Date issued	26 Aug 2019 (draft) 9 Oct 2019 (final)
Attendees	<b>CHAIR</b> - Erica Knott (EK) - SNH Ross Culloch (RC) - MSS Kate Brookes (KB) - MSS Nick Brockie (NB) - Seagreen Carol Sparling (CS) SMRU Consulting / Seagreen Ben King (BK) - Inch Cape Sarah Arthur (SA) - Inch Cape Ewan Walker (EW) - NnG Phil Bloor (PB) - Pelagica / NnG Gayle Holland (GH) - MS-LOT Janelle Braithwaite (JB) – MSS (phone) Catriona Gall (CG) - SNH Fiona Manson (FM) – SNH Karen Taylor (KT) - SNH		Apologies	Sarah Dolman – Whale and Dolphin Conservation	
Distribution	Attendees and apologies				

## Meeting minutes

Ref	Item / Action	Who [initials]	When [dd mmm yyyy]	Status
01	<b>Introductions and Apologies</b>	NA	NA	NA
02	<b>Previous meeting minutes / actions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Last meeting was held in Dec 2015</li> <li>- EW had an action to report back on developer conversations regarding combined monitoring. Was agreed that project-level monitoring sufficiently captures requirements.</li> <li>- Was agreed by the group that harbour porpoise is not considered a priority species due to expected displacement from impacted area, plus likelihood of return following noisy activity.</li> </ul>	NA	2015	Closed
03	<b>Project updates:</b> Seagreen (NB): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SSE now 100% owner.</li> <li>- Ground investigations taking place offshore in second half of 2019.</li> <li>- Working towards CfD auction later this year.</li> <li>- New application with MS-LOT with addendum submitted recently.</li> <li>- Commencing work to discharge conditions, with first consent plans recently submitted to MS-LOT.</li> </ul> Inch Cape (BK):			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New consent now received for up to 72 turbines, fewer OSPs (5 down to 2) and fewer export cables (6 down to 2).</li> <li>- Working towards CfD auction.</li> <li>- Will commence submission of Consent Plans following CfD auction.</li> <li>- Have recently undertaken geophys and geotech surveys.</li> </ul> <p>NnG (EW):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NnG now owned by EDF Renewables following acquisition from Mainstream in 2018.</li> <li>- Ongoing ground investigations with pre-construction activities planned for later in 2019 – seabed preparation and UXO clearance.</li> <li>- Due to commence onshore construction in second half of 2019, with offshore construction planned to start in April 2020.</li> <li>- New consent received in Dec 2018, variation received in Jun 2019. New consented design allows for max 54 turbines.</li> <li>- New design implications for marine mammals – now anticipated to use 3 legged jackets (max. consented allows for up to 6 i.e. approx. half the number of piles to be installed than consented). Also the primary pile installation technique is expected to be drilling with the potential for driving in some locations. Final details to be clarified through geotechnical investigations.</li> </ul>			
	<b>Action:</b> NnG to discuss drilling noise with SNH prior to submission of PS.	EW	Sep 2019	Open
04	<p><b>Monitoring Proposals:</b></p> <p>Seagreen (NB/CS):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PEMP to be submitted following recent circulation of monitoring discussion papers and development of MMMP strategy. Is informed by EIA/AA conclusions and takes account of consultation comments from SNH.</li> <li>- Key considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o PTS and disturbance from piling driving.</li> <li>o Bottlenose dolphin, harbour porpoise, minke whale, white-beaked dolphin, harbour and grey seals.</li> <li>o Moray Firth SAC – potential for noise to reach coastal waters used by bottlenose dolphin.</li> <li>o Regarding grey seals, their wide ranging nature makes it difficult to monitor. Regarding harbour seals, no material difference to the population is anticipated. Therefore as a result of predicted impacts and the difficulty in monitoring, it is not considered necessary or possible to monitor.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Proposed approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Monitor noise levels and establish if there is a change to BND occurrence in the area, to establish if there are any population-level consequences.</li> <li>o Will add to ECOMMAS array (CPOD and broadband recorder) – have a good baseline which started in 2013. Will add a further 5 stations to monitor received noise and BND vocalisation at different distances from construction. Study uses BAG approach.</li> <li>o Initially deployed in Mar 2019.</li> <li>o Also informed by aerial survey data.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Inch Cape (BK/SA):</p>			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approach still to be defined - may take a similar approach to Seagreen and could start next year. Depends on outcome of CfD auction.</li> <li>- Asked the group re whether ICOL should take the same approach to focus efforts elsewhere.</li> </ul> <p>NnG (EW):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Intend to take a similar approach as Seagreen, procurement of devices is underway and deployment to take place Q3 this year.</li> <li>- Sought the views of the group regarding the number and location of deployments. Three potential array designs presented by PB, with a preference stated by all for an extension of the existing 'St Andrews' array, with 4 moorings located inside the NnG site, plus to the east and west.</li> </ul> <p>BND photo ID discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- KB advised this is required to address population level questions – was agreed by RC and FM. CG noted this was recommended in previous FTRAG-MM meetings. EK advised this is currently funded by Aberdeen wind farm until the end of 2019 but no funding is in place thereafter.</li> <li>- RC noted that due to potentially extensive regional construction phase, the 'post-construction' photo ID work may be required for approx. 10 years.</li> <li>- CS noted that population effects are cumulative and not project alone.</li> </ul>			
	<p><b>Action:</b> EW to discuss final deployment locations for NnG with KB and RC.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> CS to obtain costs for photo ID work.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Developers to discuss BND photo ID work.</p>	EW CS Developers	July 2019 Aug/Sep 2019 ASAP	Now closed Open Open
05	ScotMer marine mammal update (JB) – no updates	NA	NA	NA
06	AOB - none	NA	NA	NA