

Subject	Forth and Tay Regional Advisory Group - Main Group Meeting: Jan 2020: Final			
Meeting location	SNH – Battleby Perth			
Meeting date	28 January 2020	Minutes by	Polly Tarrant	Date issued 19 March 2020
Attendees	<p><u>In person</u></p> <p>Annie Breaden ABR (CES) – Meeting Chair</p> <p>Ewan Walker EWA, Polly Tarrant PTA (EDF -NnGOWL)</p> <p>Lis Royle LRO, Nick Brockie NBR (SSE – Seagreen)</p> <p>Ben King BKI, Sarah Arthur SAR, (Red Rock Power – Inch Cape) Stuart McCallum SMC (Natural Power for Inch Cape)</p> <p>Erica Knott EKN, Karen Taylor KTA, Catriona Gall CGA (SNH)</p> <p>Ross Gardiner RGA, Kirsty Wright KWR, Jared Wilson JaWI (Marine Scotland Science)</p> <p>Gayle Holland GHO, Nikoleta Papanastasouli NPA (MS-LOT)</p> <p>David Summers DSU (FMS)</p> <p><u>Video / teleconference</u></p> <p>Karen Hall KHA (JNCC)</p> <p>Charles Nathan CAN (RSPB)</p> <p>Alan Wells AWE (FMS)</p> <p>Marion Harrald MHA (Marine Scotland Science)</p> <p>Janelle Braithwaite JBR (Marine Scotland Policy and Planning)</p> <p>Jessica Wilson JeWI (MS-LOT)</p>		Apologies	Sarah Dolman (WDC)
Distribution	Attendees + Apologies			

## Meeting objectives

Meeting Objectives
List meeting objective(s) e.g.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Update FTRAG on the progress of each F&amp;T Project; and</li> <li>(2) Review monitoring proposals for F&amp;T Projects.</li> </ul>

## Meeting minutes

Ref	Item / Action	Who	When	Status
1.0	Introductions			
2.0	Actions from previous meeting			

Ref	Item / Action	Who	When	Status
2.1	MS-LOT to approach Annie Breaden as potential chair for the FTRAG Group – Closed Annie in place as Chair.			
2.2	Marine Scotland Science (MSS) to investigate whether a national information sharing process can be put in place under ScotMER <b>Ongoing to be discussed at ScotMER symposium in March</b>	MSS	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 20	Closed
2.3	MSS to investigate possible date for national forum for sharing monitoring information Closed ScotMER symposium date has been arranged for March 2020			
2.4	MS to encourage MFRAG to update ToRs and MS to bring updated MFRAG ToR to FTRAG for discussion and approval Closed - updated MFRAG ToR updated and circulated to group – discussed further under item 3.			
2.5	Seagreen to distribute the latest version of the strategy [benthic monitoring] which has been signed off by MSS. Closed – distributed			
2.6	JB to contact other developers to gauge their interest in participation in an information sharing forum Closed - As per 2.2 to be captured as part of ScotMER symposium			
3.0 & 4.0	FTRAG Terms of Reference (TOR) and FTRAG membership			
3.1	GHA provided an overview of the main changes to the MFRAG ToRs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of specific conditions within ToR instead replacing with links to Project websites</li> <li>Individual names to be replaced with names of groups/organisations. A contact list for each group/organisation is kept separately.</li> </ul>			
4.1	FTRAG Membership, there had been previous discussion on the inclusion of Seagreen 2 and 3 within the group. They were keen to join as they are starting to undertake baseline surveys and keen to join the group for learning and information sharing. EWA raised no concerns from NNG, felt that there was a benefit in sharing information and although it could appear to increase the numbers of attendees, from a monitoring perspective, it is the same members of the project team as in Seagreen one. SAR highlighted that it was part of the consent condition of Seagreen, NnG and Inch Cape to participate in the group, so if it was opened out to others without this condition where would the membership end. Also, the number of members of the group can at times be challenging to manage, such as organising the meetings themselves. EWA suggested they might only be involved in key topic areas e.g. ornithology EKN suggested that they might not have voting rights within the group but could participate, especially given that FTDOG or equivalent does not exist. SBR felt that ICOL were willing to trial including them in the group if it would not distract from the main purpose of the group.			

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	<p><b>ACTION: GHO to update the FTRAG ToR and distribute to members for comment. Update to include</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the purpose and rights of Seagreen two and three within the FTRAG; and</li> <li>it is in line with the updated MFRAG ToR.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION: Members to comment on updated ToR within 2 weeks of receipt. Assume if no response is received within 2 weeks that there are no comments.</b></p> <p>JaWI asked if any other receptor specific sub-groups need setting up in the FTRAG. However, following the presentation of the proposed monitoring, or lack of, for remaining topics in the meeting, all agreed that the marine mammal and ornithology subgroups were sufficient, with the diadromous fish ScotMER group covering strategic diadromous fish work be sufficient for the time being, but this could be further reviewed in the future</p>	GHO	21-02-20	Closed
		All	06-03-20	Closed
5.0	Project updates			
	<p>EWA provided an update on NNG: Final investment decision and signing of main contracts happened in November 2019 and onshore works commenced in October 2019. Offshore there has been a lot of activity to inform detailed design and prepare for construction: geophysical and geotechnical surveys, boulder clearance and UXO inspections, with UXO clearance to come.</p> <p>All consent plans, including PEMP were submitted by Nov 2019 and consultation on the PEMP closed on 21 Jan 2020. NNG received the comments from consultees on the PEMP the afternoon prior to this meeting, Project programme: still aiming to commence offshore construction in May 2020, with final commissioning end 2022. Planning application has just been submitted for an O&amp;M base in Eyemouth.</p>			
	<p>LRO provided an update on Seagreen one: Awarded CFD for 40% of Project Capacity, aiming to submit all consent plans to Marine Scotland by March. Montrose confirmed as operations base.</p> <p>Activities planned for 2020 include preconstruction activities: geophysical and geotechnical surveys, boulder, debris and UXO clearance and export cable installation at landfall (Q3 20 – Q1 21). Offshore construction planned for Q1 2021 to be complete by Q4 2023.</p>			
	<p>BKI provided an update on ICOL: Unsuccessful in CFD bid, looking at alternative routes to market and financial investment. Aim is to conclude on investor process by May 2020 and therefore Project timelines are indicative as construction programme is currently uncertain. Goal is to complete installation and be generating by end of 2023. Therefore, until that process is in place ICOL have not had detailed discussions on their monitoring proposals.</p> <p>ICOL are planning on having individual discussions in coming months. JeWI confirmed that the best approach to the PEMP is to have individual discussions prior to submission of the PEMP instead of the submission of a draft PEMP.</p> <p>Discussion had on the appropriateness of commercial fisheries within the PEMP. NNG currently have this listed as a PEMP topic in their consent and have included in their PEMP. EKN – SNH only have an interest as a prey</p>			

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	resource (marine fish), GHO commented that this might fit more appropriately within the FMMS.			
6.0	Monitoring Proposals			
6.1	Diadromous Fish			
	<p>NBR: for Seagreen the approved pre-construction PEMP stated no project specific monitoring but undertook to investigate, with Marine Scotland, to contribute to the ScotMER programme to further understand Atlantic salmon behaviour and ecology.</p> <p>EWA: as stated previously, the NNG PEMP proposed no project specific monitoring but openness to participate in further discussions for contributing to strategic studies e.g. through ScotMER</p> <p>On the back of a meeting held between NNG, MSS and MSLOT in November, NNG spoke to the other developers about the request to look at potential strategic studies. NBR presented to the group the outcomes of exploratory discussions he had with Scottish Centre for Ecology and the Natural Environment (SCENE), Glasgow University, which included a genetic assignment study for the Forth. The supplied ScotMER priorities list/strategic proposals includes this type of study but the outcome of initial discussions with RGA were that this wasn't an appropriate study as MSS were now hoping to undertake similar work.</p> <p>NBR stated to the group that the identification of an appropriate study, scope and management needs to be passed back to MS and diadromous ScotMER group to lead on, there is little appetite for Seagreen (or NNG as confirmed by EWA) to lead on such a study, either specific to diadromous fish or a large cross-receptor project.</p> <p>RGA highlighted that the evidence map is evolving and that there will be a meeting of the diadromous fish ScotMER group soon, which underpins the research gaps and evidence lists.</p> <p>JaWI identified that from a review of the four proposed strategic projects number 4 (Investigate influence of large arrays of wind turbines and wind turbine bases and possibly construction activities on the level of predation by all types of predator) seemed to be the most appropriate.</p> <p><b>ACTION: MSS to develop broad project outline covering the relevance of such a study and what contributions might be from developers and return this to the group.</b> LRO and NBR highlighted that delivery of such a Project needs to sit outside the developers, but with developers facilitating through funding or installing equipment at their site where appropriate/able.</p>	MSS	Next FTRAG Meeting July/Aug 20	Open
6.2	Benthic Communities			
	<p>NBR provided an overview of the circulated Seagreen benthic communities monitoring strategy. The assessment of recent and historical survey data has indicated a low probability of reef areas. A survey has been commissioned to undertake DDV sampling (methodology agreed by MSS/MSLOT), survey contractor is waiting for a suitable weather window. Seagreen hope to update the group on the findings from this survey at the next FTRAG meeting. The outputs from the survey will feed into various consent plans (e.g. cable plan).</p> <p>EWA: There is no change in the position of NNG from the last FTRAG meeting, the PEMP proposed that project specific monitoring of benthic communities be removed from the scope of the PEMP.</p>			

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	EKN asked about consideration of monitoring of drill cuttings and if that had been considered, SNH might have included this in their consultation comments on the PEMP to NNG.			
6.3	Commercial Fisheries			
	EWA: NNG’s PEMP proposed a desk top study of commercial fisheries activity in response to the construction and operation of the wind farm.  NB: commercial fisheries is currently not part of Seagreen’s PEMP condition, the FMMS outlines commercial fisheries management including agreements for disruption which are not for this group.			
6.4	Seabed Scour and Local Sediment Deposition			
	EWA: NNG have proposed to remove monitoring of seabed scour and local sediment deposition for environmental purposes from the PEMP, as this should be driven by engineering requirements rather than a response to potential effects on the physical environments. But in principle happy to share collected engineering which might be of use.  NBR: Seagreen’s approach is the same as NNG’s, scour is an engineering issue, no pre-construction or construction monitoring required. Will develop post installation monitoring strategy which will be aligned with engineering requirements. Post installation surveys undertaken as part of engineering requirements will be evaluated from a scour perspective. HR Wallingford are currently undertaking studies of a scale model of one of suction pump foundations to understand the scour protection requirements from an engineering perspective.  EKN ask NNG about the placement of scour protection over drill cuttings at NNG, EWA confirmed that currently there is no expected requirement for scour protection			
6.5	Marine Fish			
	EWA: for NNG, and in line with previous discussions and proposals, NnG proposed to remove project specific marine fish monitoring from the PEMP.  NBR: Seagreen are in the same position as NNG and will also propose to report the results of underwater noise results, including any comparison between predicted and observed construction noise levels.			
	Discussion followed on the on inclusion of scoped out topics at these meetings. GHO felt that as they should continue to be included, because they are in the consent conditions and that the FTRAG is a good forum to check that these topics aren’t forgotten. Agreed that they should remain on the agenda, but with less focus/attention. Especially when it comes to ScotMER/strategic studies, although FTRAG remains a good forum for relevant updates.			
7.0	High level update from each project on Ornithology and Marine Mammal Monitoring			
7.1	EWA provided an update on ornithology. Overall aim is for all three developers to work together, where able and appropriate to be an overall F&T ornithology monitoring strategy.  Digital aerial surveys are currently covering all sites using the same method, with Inch Cape potentially stopping in March 2020.  GPS tracking work will continue on the Isle of May for 2020 (NNG) with Seagreen also commissioning RSPB to undertake similar work on kittiwakes			

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	<p>at the colonies on St Abbs and Fowlsheugh, using same methods across all colonies. There are some questions are over specific tags potential for newer tags. Hoping to get decided soon to allow time for breeding season.</p> <p>Collision / avoidance study: intention is for this to be based at NNG, but cooperation across the developers on this. Tender process, and external advisory group. This will not be installed until the wind farm is operational.</p> <p>Gannets. Developers are looking to progress an adult survival study, which was scoped at a meeting in Jan 2020 (attended by developers, their consultants, Bob Furness, Steve Voiter and Keith Hammer). NNG are in the process of contracting Leeds and Exeter Universities to continue their ringing and re-sighting at Bass Rock and Grass Holm for the 2020 breeding season. ICOL are leading on finding a potential third (second control) colony – Sule Skerry is looking more promising than Hermaness, but still has its challenges.</p> <p>NBR provided an update on marine mammals. Seagreen have added 5 locations to the ECOMASS array (with partial data collected between April – July 2019, and complete data collection between July – Nov 2019). NNG also added to the ECOMASS array in Nov 2019 with 4 additional locations.</p> <p>All developers attended a meeting held by SMRU mid Jan 20 on the bottlenose dolphin ID work and are pending input from SMRU on the scope of the study and costs. In principle NNG and Seagreen are onboard with supporting this study.</p>			
8.0	Next steps			
	<p>SAR outlined that ICOL’s plan is to have more detailed discussions on proposed monitoring plans in time for next FTRAG meeting.</p> <p>NBR (Seagreen) to present some outputs after 1 yrs. worth of data collection (e.g. marine mammals)</p> <p>EWA (NNG) to get all conditions discharged and begin the construction of the windfarm</p>			
	<p>EWA asked about the condition relating to the provision of data from the monitoring, such as the regularity of reporting and where it is managed/accessed. This is currently not explicitly stated in the consent condition.</p> <p>Discussions had over the role of the FTRAG website and how it is managed and the equivalent of MEDIN for Crown Estate Scotland. ABR noted that the Crown Estate Scotland doesn’t have MEDIN and are currently looking at alternatives, including running a pilot project.</p> <p><b>ACTION: MS and CES to continue discussions on and agree a suitable data management and access platform for project monitoring data.</b></p> <p>MHA noted that access to such data is useful for planning purposes</p> <p><b>ACTION: Add a standard item relating to data (data reporting and management) to the agenda of the next meeting, as a means of CES and MS updating group.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: item should also be added to the agenda for the ScotMER symposium, maybe within the Q&amp;As, to cover data management and reporting)</b></p>	<p>GHO/MS ABR/CES</p> <p>ICOL</p> <p>JBR</p>	<p>Aug 2020</p> <p>July/Aug 20 (next meeting)</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> March 20</p>	<p>Open</p> <p>Open</p> <p>Closed</p>
9.0	AoB			

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	<p><u>SNH Public perception study of Forth and Tay area</u></p> <p>EKN reported to the group that SNH has bid for internal funding to undertake a public perception study of Forth and Tay area, including covering how perceptions change in years with wind farms being built. They have proposed to undertake this through a combination of questionnaires and site visits. EKN asked that if they were successful in getting the money for the project if developers would be willing to contribute, such as via a project steering group, or provision of public event responses</p>			
	<p><u>ScotMER symposium</u></p> <p><b>ACTION: JBR requested that developers respond to the draft agenda for the ScotMER symposium.</b></p> <p>LRO suggested adding a next steps section to the agenda to cover how the outputs of ScotMER feed into the next round of project EIA and HRA.</p> <p><b>ACTION: add item to next FTRAG meeting to discuss out outputs from ScotMER can be used for the next round of offshore wind farms</b></p>	<p>NNG, Seagreen, ICOL</p> <p>ICOL</p>	<p>12<sup>th</sup> Feb 20</p> <p>July/Aug 20</p>	<p>Closed</p> <p>Open</p>
	<p><u>Scottish renewables</u></p> <p>JaWI - Scottish Renewables is struggling for industry representation.</p> <p><b>Action MS to contact Scottish Renewables again and developers to also make contact to get industry representation back into that group.</b></p>	<p>JaWI NNG, Seagreen, ICOL</p>	<p>July/Aug 20</p>	<p>Open</p>
	<p><u>Napier University EMF and particle motion</u></p> <p>MHA: Napier university are doing some work on the impacts of EMF and particle motion on lobster and mussels. Napier Uni. She asked if the developers would be open to using their windfarms for future in-situ measurements as part of the research. EWA felt there was potential at NNG; when the windfarm was operational.</p>			
	<p><u>Next meeting</u></p> <p>Agreed next meeting to be held end July / August 2020, which will be organised by ICOL.</p>	<p>ICOL</p>	<p>July/Aug 20</p>	<p>Open</p>