



Draft Strategic Roadmap **Key Recommendation 4.6:**

De-Risking Environmental Consenting through an
Integrated Programme of Measures

Work Package: Ocean Energy Development within the context of Marine Spatial Planning

Prepared for:

Forum Open Session Conference
23-24 February 2016, Edinburgh

OEF Session 4a

Day 2 Wed 24 February 2016 1030-1115hrs

Lowther Room Level -1

Ocean Energy Forum



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Document produced for;	Ocean Energy Forum Open-Session Conference Edinburgh 23-24 February 2016
Context;	<p>Following publication of the Forum's <i>Draft</i> Strategic Roadmap in October 2015 (where 6 key recommendations were outlined to help develop the ocean energy sector), the Forum has been tasked with producing action plans for each recommendation to help realise the aims and ambitions of the Roadmap. The actions plans will be reflected in the final Strategic Roadmap due to be published in November 2016.</p> <p>Key recommendation 4.6 - Planning Regulators and consequently developers need advice on how devices can be deployed. In Edinburgh we will start the development of a proposal to better facilitate sustainable new Ocean Energy arrays to reduce risks of failed applications, exploring the interaction between existing environmental regulations on National and International levels and EU Directives.</p>
About this Paper;	<p>This paper has been prepared to discuss and develop an action plan (project specification) that will help promote integrated planning and consent of ocean energy devices.</p> <p>The paper will be discussed at the Forum's open session conference in Edinburgh. All Forum members are welcome to participate and contribute to Session 4a discussion.</p>
Next steps for Forum Edinburgh event:	<p>Please consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What specific elements of planning and consenting procedure and regulations are perceived to be holding back development and what you consider to be priority area(s) for focus • What practical steps can be undertaken to help de-risk the process • Estimate of associated costs, duration and phases to deliver and implement any practical steps
Issue Date;	17 February 2016, Forum Secretariat
Distribution;	Non-restricted – All Forum members



1. Context

This paper has been prepared to discuss and develop an action plan (project specification) that will help promote integrated planning and consent of ocean energy devices.

Please consider:

- What specific elements of planning and consenting procedure and regulations are perceived to be holding back development and what you consider to be **priority area(s)** for focus
- What **practical steps** can be undertaken to help de-risk the process
- Estimate of associated costs, duration and phases to deliver and implement any practical steps

2. Key Considerations for the Work Package:

- Review of best practice and EU legal requirements
- How best to consider opportunities and constraints within a strategic planning approach
- How assessment tools can be applied to reduce risk, cost, time in the development process (concept to consent)
- Cumulative and in-combination impacts
- If project scope is guidance **and** tool

3. Background to the Work Package:

Regulators and consequently developers need advice on how arrays of ocean devices can be deployed within the context of the Marine Spatial Planning and the Marine Strategy Framework Directives.

Currently only single device or small arrays have been authorised. However, in the near future, larger scale arrays of devices will require consents for development. The proposal will explore the interaction between existing environmental regulations on National and International levels in terms of strategic assessments and the Marine Spatial and Marine Strategy Framework Directivities to better facilitate sustainable new Ocean Energy arrays to reduce risks of failed applications. A key issue to be explored is how to best consider opportunities and constraints



within a strategic planning approach to aid developers with site selection and cumulative impacts between device arrays as well as in-combination impacts with other sectors.

The project will also give consideration to the role of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Strategic Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and socio-economic assessments (potentially with one integrated Sustainability Appraisal) and how these tools can be applied, alongside effective consultation, to steer development in sustainable locations and away from areas where insurmountable challenges could be faced at the consenting stage.

4. Expected Outcome(s):

The resulting project will review existing best practice and EU legal requirements to provide advice to planners, regulators and developers on how to comply with key directives to help promoted integrated planning and consenting of Ocean Energy devices.

In addition, a strong, transparent and responsive Marine Planning system will promote the best areas for ocean energy development which in turn will reduce the risks and costs to developers and at the same time protect the marine environment and consider economic and social benefits related to ocean energy development. There is scope to extend the project into a further reaching tool that will provide advice on the role of SEA, Strategic HRA, socio-economic assessments (potentially with one integrated Sustainability Appraisal), along with effective public consultation, and how these tools can be applied to reduce risk, cost and time in the concept to consent development process.

5a. Considerations / input **in developing** the Work Package:

- Who: Forum, Others?
- What:
- When: (deadlines)
- Existing evidence / Exeter Evidence Review:

5b. Considerations for the Project Specification:



- Timeline and Duration of project:
- Costs / Funding of project:
- Length of project spec.: (number of pages): *how comprehensive spec. needs to be*

6. Suggested Milestones for the Work Package:

- M1 – Meeting with the Commission 13 January 2016
- M2a – Scoping document initiated 21 January 2016
- M2b – Scoping document outline accepted by DG MARE 31 January 2016
- M3a – Discuss scoping document at OEF Edinburgh Conference 23-24 February 2016
- M3b – Agree overall direction and key areas of focus for Work Package at Edinburgh
- M3c – Agree next steps to develop project specification at Edinburgh
- M4 - Post-conference discussion with DG MARE on next steps w/c 07 March 2016
- M5 – Advise plans to Forum members / Steering Committee as required and follow-through on next steps

Future milestones tbc – e.g. Paris Steering Committee meeting input. Suggestions are made below but timings of requirements are currently unknown until after the Forum Edinburgh event

- *M?? – First Draft project specification to DG MARE by XXXX*
- *M?? – Final Draft project specification to Steering Committee by XXXX (e.g.) 16 May 2016*
- *M? – Steering Committee meeting 16 June 2016 Paris*
- *M? - Updates for final Strategic Roadmap by 31 July 2016*
- *M? – Presentation of final Strategic Roadmap 08 November 2016 Brussels*

7. AOB