

Consenting Strategic Advisory Group

Science and Evidence Advisory Sub-group

10 December 2020



Attendees

Chair – **Jim McKie** (Eurona), **Morgan Johnson** (WG – Marine Licensing), **John Hamer** (WG – Marine Planning), **Rebecca Rees** (WG – Marine Planning), **Chris Jenkins** (WG – Science), **James Moon & Alexander Scorey** (NRW), **Jess Hooper** (Marine Energy Wales), **Aly McCluskie** (RSPB), **Tania Davy** (The Wildlife Trusts), **Joe Kidd** (Catapult), **Jennifer Fox** (ORJIP-OE)

1. The group met and approved the Terms of Reference and agreed to meet every two months. The initial life span of the Group will be one year, subject to review.
2. Members of the group discussed a draft Work Plan, which is focused on addressing ecological issues. Matters relating to human health and other users of the sea are also a consideration for marine licensing and will be considered by the CSAG.
3. It was agreed a key deliverable of the Group will be the publication of a series of Information Notes (IN's) outlining the shared understanding of the state of the available science and evidence needs regarding single and small scale deployments of wave energy and tidal stream energy devices in Wales. The IN's will also highlight the way forward in addressing critical evidence gaps. The ambition is for the IN's to support, after careful consideration and discussion, a move towards low risk impacts being identified and safely retired from further consideration. The IN's will therefore facilitate robust marine licence applications which are proportionate and focused on assessing the key potential significant impacts and possible interactions between marine wildlife and marine renewable energy devices.
4. Discussions on the Work Plan also included the potential for a strategic approach to data sharing and monitoring which the group agreed to consider further.
5. The addition of academics and representation from the Marine Energy Engineering Centre of Excellence at future Group meetings was welcomed.
6. It was agreed the Group's Work Plan will be reviewed and approved at the next meeting.

Next meeting: 2 February 2021