RiCORE
Risk Based Consenting of Offshore Renewable Energy Projects

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• Challenges facing development of Offshore Renewable Energy Projects
  • Technology costs
  • Transmission grid infrastructure
    • Consenting procedures
    • Environmental impacts
  • Grant and revenue support


- Relevant EU legislation includes:
  - Strategic Environmental Assessment, (2001/42/EC)
  - Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)  
  - Habitats Directives (92/43/EEC)  

- Legislation aims to address climate change, promote low-carbon energy whilst maintaining biodiversity, protecting endangered species and habitats, minimising adverse impacts of development and protecting the marine resource base

- **Uncertainty about the appropriate application of environmental legislation, which can further prolong consenting processes**

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) varies considerably in scope and intensity both within and across Member States

- Different methodologies and timeframes are utilised

- Uncertainty regarding the impacts for novel technologies (acknowledgement that mechanisms for potential effects had an extremely limited empirical basis - collision risk, displacement & barrier effects)

- Costly and time consuming surveys are required even for perceived lower risk technologies in sites which may not be of highest environmental sensitivity
• To ensure the successful development of the ORE in the EU member states by reducing the cost and time taken to consent projects through the development of a risk based approach to the consenting of projects.
1. Understanding what actually happens in different members states:

- The consenting process
- Application of legislation
- Legal and legislative barriers to ‘standard’ approaches...
- ...what is required to overcome those barriers
2. Look at potential for developing and using risk profiles to speed up the consenting of offshore wind, wave and tide:

- Small arrays...
- ...of known technology...
- ...in areas of low environmental sensitivity
3. Seeking more standardisation in post deployment environmental impact monitoring:

- standardising data collection ...
- ...would allow policymakers to compare and better understand the environmental effects of different devices
Project Work Packages and Leads

**RiCORE**

- **WP1** • Project Management
- **WP2** • Profiling MS consenting processes • Reconciling EU Legal Requirements
- **WP3** • Survey, Deploy and Monitor
- **WP4** • Pre-consent survey optimisation
- **WP5** • Post-consent and post-deployment monitoring standardisation • Communication and dissemination
- **WP6** • Communication and dissemination
• Inception meeting 21-22/1/15

• Workshop 1: Pre & post consent – 20/4/15 (Bilbao)
• Workshop 2: Legal and policy – 21/5/15 (Paris)
• Workshop 3: Understanding the barriers – 9&10/11/2015 (Dunkeld)
• Workshop 4: Recommendations - 12/4/16(Cork)
• Final project conference – June 2016 (Brussels)
• Determine current national consenting practices, operational experiences and difficulties
• Compare and contrast approaches to implementation of over-arching EU legislation – e.g. EIA, Habitats & Birds Directives, etc...
• Introduce risk-based management approaches using the Survey, Deploy & Monitor (SDM) methodology as an example
• Discuss the potential legal and regulatory issues potentially associated with implementation of a risk-based management approach
• Identify what is required to enable a risk-based management approach across partner EU Member States