

Appendix D

Letter to Stakeholder - 14 October 2011



Our ref: R/4032/ceb/001

To Stakeholder Contact List
(Appendix C)

ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd
Suite B
Waterside House
Town Quay
Southampton SO14 2AQ

Tel: +44 (0)23 8071 1840
Fax: +44 (0)23 8071 1841

www.abpmer.co.uk

e-mail: enquiries@abpmer.co.uk

14 October 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

SOCIO-ECONOMIC BASELINE REVIEW AND DATA GAP ANALYSIS FOR OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY IN SCOTLAND'S RENEWABLE ENERGY ZONE

ABPmer, in association with economic consultants Risk & Policy Analysts (RPA), has been commissioned by Marine Scotland to prepare a socio-economic baseline review to inform future impact assessments of sectoral plans for offshore wind and wave and tidal energy in the Scottish Renewable Energy Zone. Appendix A shows the location of sites and potential sites for offshore wind, wave and tidal energy developments based on the Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy in Scottish Territorial Waters (see Figure 1) and Marine Scotland in the Initial Plan Framework (see Figure 2) for the respective technologies. The study is being conducted between September 2011 and December 2011. Delivery of the study is being managed by Marine Scotland, supported by a Steering Group.

This letter provides initial information on the purpose and nature of the study, explains the background to the study and sets out how you may be able to contribute.

Background to the Study

Marine Scotland is committed to undertaking socio-economic impact assessments to inform the development and adoption of future sectoral plans for offshore wind and wave and tidal development in the Scottish Renewable Energy Zone. The programme of work to complete these impact assessments will be delivered in three distinct but interconnected stages:

- Stage 1 - Socio-Economic Baseline Review & Data Gap Analysis
- Stage 2 - Required Studies to address Data Gaps
- Stage 3 - Impact Assessment Stage.

The Socio-Economic Baseline Review & Data Gap Analysis (this study) is the first of these three stages in the wider programme. The review will gather background readily available data on a number of socio-economic activities, as identified in Appendix B, in order to provide a baseline for future impact assessments. The information will be reported at a national and regional level by activity. In addition to the data will be mapped at a national and regional scale. The findings from this specific project will inform the studies undertaken in Stage 2 of the programme of socio-economic impact assessment of the development of offshore renewable energy in Scotland's Renewable Energy Zone. They will also underpin the impact assessments undertaken at Stage 3.



The main aims of this study are therefore to:

- Identify data and evidence requirements for constructing baselines to assess the potential social and economic impacts of offshore wind and wave and tidal energy on marine uses and other interests at regional levels;
- Use existing data and evidence to identify related social and economic activities taking place on land and within specific areas of Scotland's Renewable Energy Zone identified for potential offshore wind, wave and tidal energy development;
- Map both the intensity and value of these activities, and assess how these activities have changed over time and may change in the future;
- Identify social and economic activities taking place within specific areas of Scotland's Renewable Energy Zone for which the required data or evidence does not exist, and which will need to be developed to allow comprehensive assessments of impacts to be undertaken; and,
- Recommend methodologies for addressing identified data and evidence gaps, and advise on the extent to which these would be successful.

The study team has undertaken an initial scoping review of interactions between offshore wind, wave and tidal development and wider marine users and other interests and has also identified the main information sources on which the baseline review may draw (Appendix B).

How you can contribute to the study

In response to this letter we would be grateful if you could do the following three things:

- Confirm the person in your organisation who is prepared to be the main point of contact for this study;
- Provide us with contact details of any other stakeholders that you think we should contact in addition to the list provided in Appendix C; and
- Review the interaction tables and proposed information sources in Appendix B relevant to your interests and provide:
 - Comments on any additional interactions that may be significant;
 - Comments on the significance assigned to particular interactions;
 - A list of any additional national or regional scale information that you think may be appropriate for preparing the baseline reviews.

A member of the study team will be contacting you in by phone in due course, however we would also ask if you could respond to: **Claire Brown** (cbrown@abpmer.co.uk; **023 8071 1864**) by **4 November 2011**.

Where to get more detailed information

If you require further information on the study, please feel free to contact me or David Pratt (david.pratt@scotland.gsi.gov.uk; 0131 244 6272) at Marine Scotland.

Yours sincerely
for ABP Marine Environmental Research Ltd

Claire Brown
Project Manager