

ScotMER – Ornithology

Improving knowledge of the potential impacts of
marine renewables on seabirds



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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MS Projects by theme - 1

1. Enabling projects/proof of concept studies
 - LiDAR for flight height BTO
 - NIRS (near-infrared spectroscopy) tag for seabird energy expenditure CEH/SMRU
2. Providing generic evidence to inform assessment
 - Seabird body-mass survival CEH
 - Extracting behaviour information from existing seabird tracking data BTO

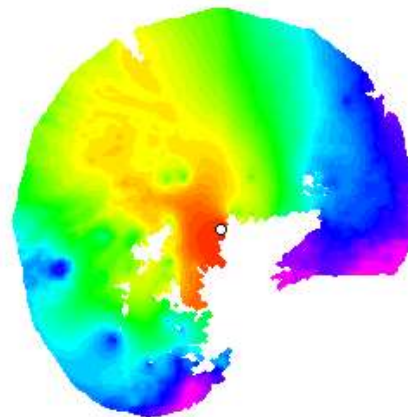


MS Projects by theme - 2

3. Recommendations on best practise
 - PVA scoping study CEH
 - Combining survey data multiple platforms MACGREEN

4. Improved assessment tools
 - The stochastic CRM tool – sCRM HIDEF
 - MS Apportioning Tool CEH
 - SeabORD Displacement Tool CEH

5. Strategic projects improving evidence base
 - Digital aerial seabird & cetacean surveys east coast of Scotland APEM
 - Seabird tracking & training on harness deployments on large gulls TBC



What is working well?

1. Engaging key stakeholders & researchers, identifying knowledge gaps, refining as new evidence emerges
2. Projects delivered have helped improve and reduce uncertainty
3. Knowledge gaps identified through ScotMER have also contributed towards other strategic initiatives nationally and internationally (e.g. WREN, OWSMRF, CEAF/SEANSE, and ORJIP)

What are the main challenges?

1. Alignment between project level monitoring and strategic evidence needs could be improved
2. Data availability e.g. meta-analyses, strategic research
3. Map doesn't adequately record developer activities.
4. Better identify opportunities where developers can help address strategic evidence needs
5. Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) – this is challenging!



Cumulative effects framework (CEF) for key ecological receptors

Summary

The aim of the CEF is to provide a baseline of current effects on to which are added the effects estimated by a new project or projects to produce a cumulative effects total

Stage: Under procurement – expected to start soon

Funding:



EUROPEAN UNION
European Maritime
and Fisheries Fund

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What are the priorities going forward?

1. Publish and disseminate outputs- reports & tools
2. Build on existing joint-working with industry
3. Ensuring that results from post-consent monitoring synthesised & disseminated to inform future assessments, policy, and planning
4. Greater focus on cross-receptor and whole ecosystem approaches

What are we missing?
Are there any other challenges or priorities?

Thank you



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