

Supporting the development of a sustainable Welsh marine energy industry

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Introduction to NRW



- Welsh Government Sponsored Body.
- Established April 2013.
- Brings together functions of Countryside Council for Wales, Forestry Commission Wales, Environment Agency in Wales and certain Welsh Government functions.

NRW's purpose is to pursue the sustainable management of natural resources in Wales. We're proud to be leading the way to a better future for Wales by managing the environment and natural resources.



NRW & marine energy

- Statutory advisor on development plans and strategic assessments.
- Statutory advisor on project development.
- Regulator e.g. Marine Licensing Authority (on behalf of Welsh Ministers).
- Apply principles of sustainable management of natural resources to optimise opportunities for sustainable exploitation of Wales' marine energy resources.

We want Wales to be location of choice for marine renewable energy which is good for people, the environment and business.



Marine energy strategic planning



- Welsh Government energy and low carbon aspirations.
- Marine Energy Task & Finish Group and MEW Board.
- DECC (now BEIS) offshore energy plans, UK Review of tidal lagoons.
- The Crown Estate sectoral planning and seabed leasing.
- Emergence and development of new opportunities (Wales Act 2017, The Welsh National Marine Plan and The Environment (Wales) Act 2016).



Marine Plan & Environment Act

- Welsh Government's Marine Plan will set out policies for sustainable development in Welsh waters.
- The Environment Act provides measures to ensure sustainable management of Wales' natural resources.
- Together provide a framework for the sustainable management of Wales' marine environment in a pro-active, joined up way.

Opportunity to develop a thriving, sustainable marine energy industry in Wales.



Marine Plan & Environment Act



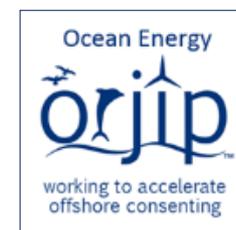
- Policies within the Marine Plan are supportive of the energy sector, for example;
 - Strategic Resource Areas.
 - Risk-based, proportionate decision-making.
- NRW have a key role in supporting implementation of the Marine Plan.
- NRW are working with Welsh Government to translate the policies, through guidance and practical implementation.
- Exploring the role of Area Statements.



Developing the evidence base



- Working with Welsh Government to improve access to the existing evidence base, e.g. through the Marine Planning Portal.
- Steering Group members of the Offshore Renewables Joint Industry Programme for Ocean Energy.
- Working with ORJIP Ocean Energy and NERC on a tidal lagoon evidence workshop (May 2017).
- Exploring practical mechanisms to bridge gap between science and policy and accelerate the incorporation of research into decision-making.



Dealing with uncertainty

- Uncertainty continues to present a challenge to regulation.
- Developments must satisfy all legislative requirements prior to consent being granted. This can take time.
- Projects like DeltaStream helped develop understanding for managing risk and uncertainty within acceptable limits – ‘Deploy and Monitor’.
- Working with Morlais to develop principles of good practice for defining project design envelopes.

Early engagement and good quality information are key to consenting.



NRW Marine Licence fees



- Welsh Government undertaking Marine Licence fees review.
- MEW were part of an informal stakeholder group.
- Streamlining and efficiencies formed part of the review.
- Activities (and charges) banded based on risk;
 - Band 1 – low risk activities.
 - Band 2 – non-Band 1, not EIA, not more than £1 million development.
 - Band 3 – EIA, over £1 million development.

<https://naturalresources.wales/apply-for-a-permit/marine-licensing/?lang=en>

Charging for discretionary advice



- April 2017 onwards charging for discretionary advice.
- Phased introduction.
- Three key elements;
 1. Free core service for statutory consultation.
 2. Free preliminary opinion (indication of key issues).
 3. Charging for additional discretionary advice.
- Opportunity to access additional NRW advice.

<http://naturalresources.wales/planning-and-development/discretionary-planning-advice-service/?lang=en>

Key Contacts

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