

Overview of pre-consenting requirements of MRE deployments across Europe

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Marine Renewables and Environmental Risks – Current practices in pre and post consent monitoring



Overview of MRE consenting: definitions

Pre-consenting requirements

Information needed to proceed with the licensing process and decide whether an EIA is required and what information will be needed



Level of environmental baseline information and project description

Post-consenting requirements

Conditions that are usually attached to the consent and which must be adhered to following deployment and up to decommissioning



Level and characteristics of environmental monitoring and mitigation measures implementation

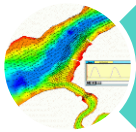
Marine renewable energy consenting



In general lack of dedicated consenting for ocean energy and pilot projects



Dedicated legal procedures are more common for offshore wind energy



More integrated maritime governance (SEA, MSP) could inform decision-making and consenting processes



Some requirements are universal: compliance with EIA Directive, Habitats Directive, etc.



The requirement for an EIA of ocean /wind energy projects varies across Europe: compulsory vs. case-by-case basis (size/location)

Pre-consent requirements per country

(SOWFIA project; <http://www.sowfia.eu/>)

France	Ireland	Portugal	Spain	UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initial consultation with all stakeholders (to create a regulatory pathway)• Feasibility study• EIA development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-application consultation• Foreshore licence• Baseline data collection (wave, wind, tidal conditions and seabed)• EIA Screening and Scoping process	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-application form with:• Project characteristics,• Project location map• Site features (natural and human uses)• EIA Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Request for an administrative authorisation referring to:• The project's draft installation plan (technical document)• EIA Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>England and Wales</u>: pre-application (EIA screening, scoping and ES review)• <u>Scotland and Northern Ireland</u> : pre-screening consultation followed by formal EIA screening and scoping

Simas, T., O'Hagan, A.M., O'Callaghan, J., Hamawi, S., Magagna, D., Bailey, I., Greaves, D., Saulnier, J.-B., Marina, D., Bald, J., Huertas, C., Sundberg, I., 2015. Review of consenting processes for ocean energy in selected European Union Member States. International Journal of Marine Energy, 9:41–59.



Summary of pre-consent requirements

- Screening process is usually used to decide whether an EIA is required - the decision on whether an EIA is required is usually made on a case-by-case basis
- General information required:
 - Project characteristics
 - Physical features (e.g. wave and tidal conditions, seabed composition)
 - Human uses of the site (which may include protected areas)

- Should pre-consenting include more information about the environmental characteristics of a site?
- What level of detail should be considered?
- Can lessons be learned from other marine developments?

Pre-consent requirements for MRE

Questions for breakout groups discussion:

- What are the current pre-consent monitoring requirements for site characterisation?
- What effective methodologies and practices would meet the (recommended) one year site characterisation survey for pre-consenting?

