

RiCORE

Risk Based Consenting of Offshore Renewable Energy Projects

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RISK BASED CONSENTING FOR OFFSHORE RENEWABLES



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 646436.

- Challenges facing development of Offshore Renewable Energy* Projects

- Technology costs
- Transmission grid infrastructure
- Consenting procedures
- Environmental impacts
- Grant and revenue support



RiC*RE

- *defined as offshore wind, wave and tidal



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Relevant EU legislation includes:

- Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC)
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD 2008/28/EC)
- Strategic Environmental Assessment, (2001/42/EC)
- Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2014/52/EU)
- Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)
- Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) SPA's
- Habitats Directives (92/43/EEC) SAC's



- 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 MS
- Different methodologies and timeframes are utilised
- Costly and time consuming surveys are required even for perceived lower risk technologies in sites which may not be of highest environmental sensitivity



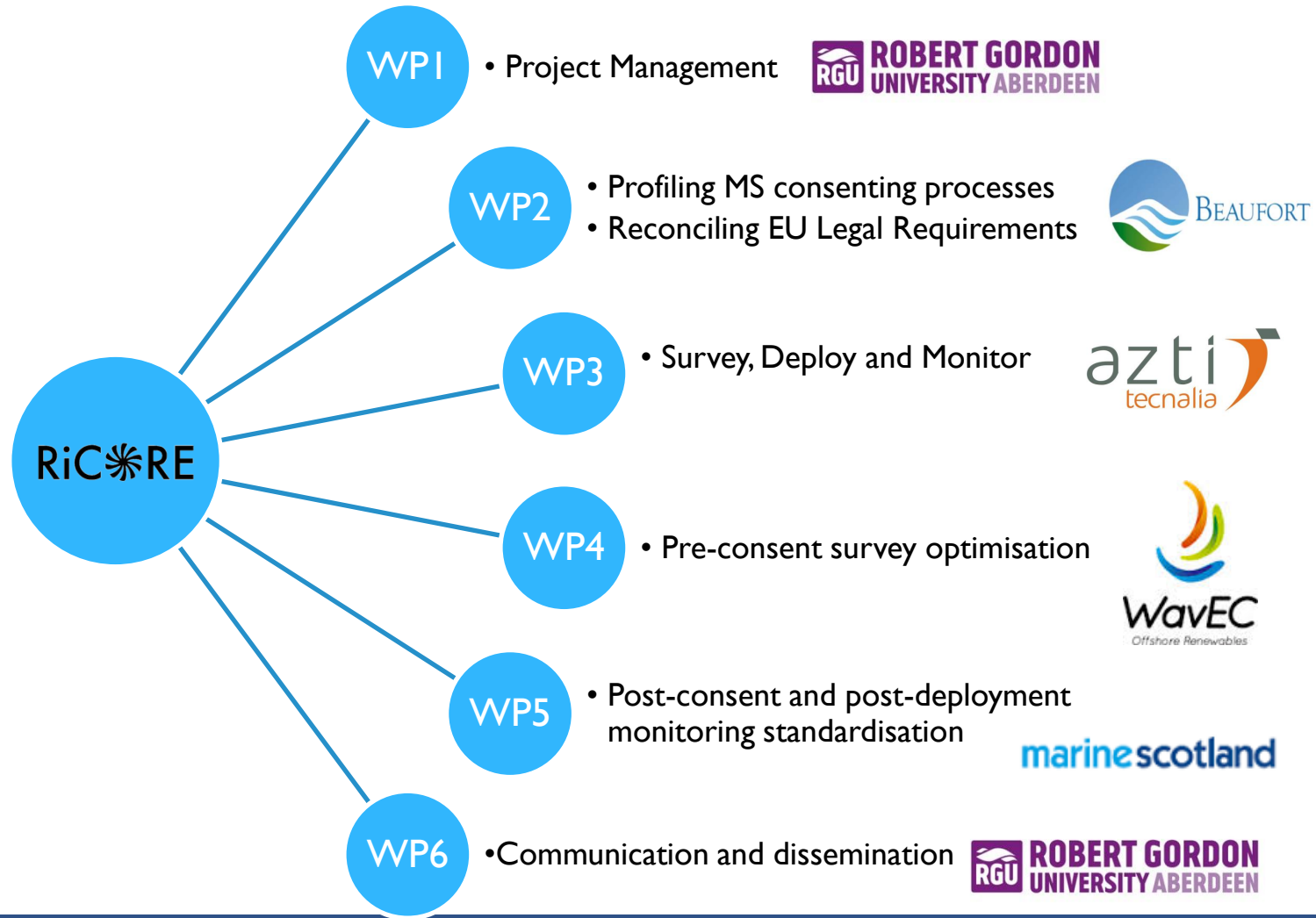
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- To ensure the successful development of the ORE in the EU member states by reducing the cost and time taken to consent projects of low environmental risk through the development of a **risk based approach to the consenting of projects** which standardises the assessment of key components of environmental risk from ORE deployment.





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- The Marine Scotland Survey, Deploy and Monitor policy is based upon three main factors:
 - 1. Environmental Sensitivity (of the proposed development location)
 - 2. Scale of Development
 - 3. Device (or Technology) Risk
- Supplementary guidance document to the licencing manual
- Risk-based approach for taking forward wave and tidal energy proposals
- Distinguishes between proposed developments for which:
 - there are sufficient grounds to seek determination on a consent application based on a minimum of 1 year of wildlife survey effort and analysis to develop site characterisation preapplication,
 - and those where a greater level of site characterisation is required



1. Compare and contrast the operational legal framework and its current application relating to ORE project consent across EU MS with ORE interests. This will include development of a set of metrics which will allow direct comparisons to be made between MS e.g. length of time to obtain a consent. These metrics can be applied to the outcomes of this project to allow a measure of effectiveness to be made compared with the known baseline.
2. Investigate the current application of risk based approaches across EU MS with ORE interests, highlighting areas of better practice.
3. Investigate the costs and benefits of applying an EU wide risk based approach framework.
4. Develop a risk based approach framework, in collaboration with stakeholders that could be applied across EU MS with ORE interests.
5. Develop implementation guidance for an EU risk based approach.



6. Follow a case study approach across EU MS to investigate the ‘real life’ application of a EU risk based approach framework under (4) applying the developed metrics under (1) to assess impacts and validate the approach.
7. Improve the understanding of the environmental risks posed by novel technologies and develop a standardised approach capable of being applied to various technology types that will characterise the risk profiles of novel technologies in the offshore sector.
8. Detail the potential impacts of all stages of ORE development on Natura 2000 designated sites under EU legislation and the implications this can have on development.
9. Develop data collection and data management principles with appropriate guidance to maximise the scientific knowledge produced from the application of the risk based approach ‘Demonstration Projects’ to support future research interests.
10. Promote the risk based approach and technology risk characterisation research through knowledge exchange activities in EU MS with ORE interests.





- Inception Meeting 21-22/1/15
- Workshop 1: WP4+5 - 20/4/15 (Bilbao)
- Workshop 2: WP2 - May 2015 (Paris)
- Workshop 3: WP3 + 2,4,5 - 17/9/15 (RGU)
- Workshop 4: WP2,3,4,5 – March 2016 (Lisbon)
- Final project conference – Sept 2016 (Brussels)



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- A commitment from EU MS with ORE interests to support the implementation of the risk based approach framework providing conditions for viable procedural changes identified
- Determine the legal and operational feasibility for an increased uptake of a risk-based approach in the consenting processes of selected EU MS
- A scientifically robust framework with clear data gathering and sharing principles to maximise the return from information generated by demonstration projects
- An increased understanding of the environmental risks associated with novel offshore renewables technologies
- An effective and efficient risk based approach framework, produced in collaboration with stakeholders that allows the continued realisation of ORE potential in European waters
- Consenting processes that complement the aims of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive in achieving and maintaining Good Environmental Status (GES)



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Thanks and Questions

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