

ETIP Ocean Workshop: Facilitating consenting of ocean energy projects

Case studies

Case Study 1 – Test site

A developer intends to test a wave energy converter prototype in a test site. To begin the permitting process, he contacted the test site manager, who supplied information about the application procedure. The test site has baseline information concerning environmental characterization. 10 km from the test site, there is a Site of Community Importance (SIC), established to protect a dolphin population. Consequently, the environmental authority raises some concerns and requires that the developer conducts an environmental impact study. Another developer dealt with the same problem for a similar project and could have relevant information to share.

Questions to discuss:

- What can be done to promote sharing of experiences?
 - What could you do?
 - What could the other stakeholders do?
- How could data be transferred from similar projects?

Case Study 2 – Pilot project

A developer intends to test a tidal energy device in a non-test site. To begin the process, they consulted the Marine Spatial Planning, and, after site selection, they identified a potential location. They started the application for permits and consent in 2018 and have approved funding to test the device between 2021 and 2023. But the consenting process got delayed and the deployment period is now at risk. The reasons for the delay:

- The regulatory framework for demonstration projects was not clear, and the developer contacted the wrong entity.
- The environmental monitoring programme is complex and the developer struggles to fulfil its requirements.

Questions to be discussed:

- What can be done to make the regulatory/consenting process clearer?
- What can be done to reduce environmental concerns?
 - What could you do?
 - What could the other stakeholders do?