Developers Perspective

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Introduction

- Representatives from the offshore wind farm industry are grateful for the invitation to attend the workshop on seabird displacement impacts from offshore wind farms.

- The workshop on seabird displacement from offshore wind farms is a timely opportunity to agree best practice on assessment methods for future projects.

- Interim guidance is required to meet the needs of the next tranche of projects to go forward for determination (6months).

Current Project Status (UK)

Projects	Status
Operational	22*
Consented / Under construction	18
Under-determination / Submitted to PINS	3
Pre-application	3
Project design and identification	~5

* 24 if you include the two demonstrator sites

Implications

- Operational/Under-Construction/Consented
  - Limited information available to inform future projects/plans to inform cumulative/in-combination assessments.
  - Requirement for retrospective assessment!!
- Under-determination / Submitted to PINs
  - In England there is a statutory driven programme with limited flexibility to address complex new approaches to assessment.

Implications

- Pre-application
  - Limited number of projects on the radar - at least one project currently drafting their impact assessment chapters for submission Q4 2015.
  - Information to inform cumulative/in-combination assessments is limited for consented project.
  - Future project boundaries have been/or are currently being defined based on the best available information.
  - Assessments can only be made on the currently available best information

Impact assessment

- Limited evidence base to support assessments:
  - Inconclusive evidence base from monitoring studies
  - Significant inherent natural variation in seabirds demographics
  - Inter- and intra-variation in wind-farm arrays
- However, wind farms are generally located in areas of low bird density and after 10yr of operating wind farms offshore no gross impacts have not been reported.

Short-term Recommendations

- Project Impact
  - Current ‘matrix’ guidance is appropriate for use.
  - In the absence of empirical data use of expert elicitation is appropriate.
- Cumulative/In-combination
  - Guidance is required on how to carry out cumulative and in-combination assessments for other projects and plans where no assessment was originally presented by these projects and what is the baseline.

Short-term Recommendations

- Impact Assessment
  - Guidance on the consequences of displacement and whether it is more appropriate to consider displacement impacts as a one-off habitat loss
  - Guidance is urgently needed on how the materiality of impacts should be considered against any population models (i.e. PVA or PBR)
  - Guidance on the interpretation of effects and the inter-relationships/dependencies between different impacts (collision, barrier effect and displacement) should be developed.

Short-term Recommendations

- Guidance should be:

Specific:	What, why, where etc
Measurable:	How much, how many …
Achievable:	Is it realistic?
Relevant:	Does it match our needs….
Time-bound:	Commitment to meet project programmes

1 = based on criteria guide to setting objectives

Long-term Recommendations

- Support of strategic monitoring proposals where appropriate
- Monitoring is proportionate to project risk/impact
- Development of a displacement cumulative database
- Incorporation of academic research into Impact Assessment best practice as appropriate

Thank you

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Questions