Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment
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Department of Enterprise Trade and Investment

Offshore Renewable Energy Strategic Action Plan 2012 – 2020

Progress Report – October 2013 - March 2016

Actions	Action / Status
Publish SEA Post Adoption Statement	**Action Completed.** The SEA Post Adoption Statement was published in July 2012 and is available on www.offshorenergyni.co.uk along with all the other SEA related documents.
Continue to work closely with The Crown Estate (TCE) to ensure the optimum benefits for Northern Ireland through successful offshore renewable energy leasing in Northern Ireland waters.	**Ongoing.** Since the TCE award of development rights in October 2012 to one offshore wind and two tidal projects, all three had been working closely with DOE, TCE and stakeholders through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. In December 2014, First Flight Wind, the consortium involved in the offshore wind project off County Down, announced that it had taken the commercial decision not to proceed. TCE has confirmed that with the withdrawal of this project, the Offshore Wind Resource Zone off the east coast of Northern Ireland no longer holds any formal status and the re-leasing of this area is not envisaged in the short to medium term. DETI continues to liaise with TCE on the latter's ongoing policy development for offshore renewable energy commercial and test and demonstration opportunities across the UK.
Actions arising from the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Appraisal (i) consider a cross departmental approach to filling strategic data and knowledge gaps and increasing the collection and availability and accessibility of current data sets.	**Action Completed.** DoE Marine Division has prepared a report on the issue of data and knowledge gaps. Additional information has become available since the SEA was carried out. Many of the regional data gaps have been taken forward at the individual project EIA stage. DoE is working with DARD, AFBI and the Loughs Agency to develop a Marine Science Strategy (MSS) to examine how NI can address the monitoring and management requirements of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and other European requirements. The finalisation and publication of the MSS has been put on hold until after the formation of the new Department, (the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs) in 2016. In addition, TCE, DECC and Marine Scotland are taking forward key strategic research programme to de-risk the consenting of UK wide offshore wind projects through the Offshore Renewable Joint Industry Programme(ORJIP), on which DoE Marine Division is represented. The work is focussed around four projects examining bird collision risk and avoidance rate monitoring; population consequences of acoustic disturbance; underwater noise mitigation technologies and measures. DOE is also represented on the ORJIP Ocean Energy which focuses on wave and tidal research.
(ii)promote proposals for the adoption of a	**Action Completed**. DoE has pioneered the 'survey, deploy and monitor' strategy through the

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"deploy and monitor" approach to the deployment of commercial scale development on a phased approach, to increase knowledge of possible impacts as well as building on information from other developments such as those being deployed in the Pentland Firth.	MCT SeaGen tidal device in Strangford Lough, which was granted a marine licence in 2008. This approach has been at the forefront of marine renewable device technology and deployment and continues to evolve with the co-operation of DoE. The SeaGen trial is now completed and due for decommissioning by June 2017. DoE has subsequently committed to this approach for all marine renewable projects within NI waters.
(iii) develop a Project Level Mitigation Strategy to ensure that the necessary mitigating actions, as identified in the Environmental Report and the HRA are satisfactorily considered and addressed as individual projects come forward.	**Action Completed** A Project Level Mitigation Strategy has been used as the basis for the identification of the specific requirements for each of the offshore projects, and has been tailored to address the specific characteristics and locations of the individual projects.
Work with NIE, the System Operator (SONI) and the Utility Regulator of Northern Ireland (UREGNI) to facilitate the development of the NI Grid to handle the increasing renewable electricity generated offshore.	**Ongoing.** NIAUR published the outcome of its offshore connection consultation in December 2013 and in October 2014, NIE/SONI confirmed that offshore renewable energy developers could apply for grid connection on foot of agreement for lease / development rights from TCE, rather than having to await onshore planning permission. The Regulator has set up an operationally focussed group considering grid matters which includes the NI Renewables Industry Group, NIE and SONI and which DETI attends in an observer capacity. The NIRO closed to new large-scale onshore wind from 1 April 2016 and re-consultation on closure arrangements for small-scale onshore wind commenced on Thursday 24th March 2016. The consultation document is available at https://www.detini.gov.uk/consultations . Support for all other new renewable electricity project including tidal projects (the only form of offshore energy currently in the pipeline) ends in March 2017.
Consider, with Scotland and the Republic of Ireland, the initial findings of the joint Isles Project to assess the potential for an offshore regional marine electricity grid linking Ireland and Scotland.	**Action Completed** The first phase of the ISLES study, in April 2012, concluded that a cross-jurisdictional, offshore, integrated network is feasible, under certain circumstances, and recommended a second project to achieve further action 'towards implementation'. "ISLES II" received INTERREG IVA funding in 2013 and involved three distinct work-streams: the Spatial

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	Plan, the Network Regulation and Market Alignment Study and the Business Plan. The purpose of the project was not to commission any generation/construction projects but to undertake environmental studies, identify regulatory issues for potential investors and provide information that would prove useful in the event of developer interest. The project was delivered successfully in June 2015. Copies of the reports are avialable at the dedicated project website: http;//www.iselsproject.eu/isles-ii/
Continue to work with Invest NI, The Crown Estate and others in promoting the opportunities for local manufacturing and service sectors to secure offshore energy supply chain business in relation to projects considering investment in NI waters and also in the wider international and national market	**Ongoing** InvestNI continued to promote the supply chain opportunities in the offshore renewable sector – to individual companies, through collaborative networks and also through the Local Economic Development measure with local councils. It also continues to work with UKTrade and Investment to promote UK as a location for offshore wind investment and participated in a multi-agency visit to Siemens in Denmark to highlight NI's supply chain capability of some 120 companies. InvestNI's mainland UK office remains alert to construction related opportunities in the renewable sector. Some key highlights for offshore wind in the reporting period are as follows; • Burke Shipping and Ridgeway Renewables continues to benefit from good relationships with DONG Energy and their Tier One Contractors and are now working with the company in relation to expansion at Walney and Burbo Banks Windfarms.. • Kilkeel fishing based organisation, SeaSource, is continuing to services to a major European cable laying contractor and continues to actively pursue contracts with companies such as DONG Energy. • A joint venture between Graham and Lagan Construction won a £100m contract for the construction of an offshore wind Terminal at Hull for Associated British Ports Ltd. • Graham Construction installed a 7MW Samsung demonstration wind turbine at Fife Energy Park. • Harland & Wolf continue to actively target the offshore sector. However, there are limited large-scale infrastructure projects currently available and market conditions are challenging. The company is part of a pan European consortium co-ordianted by Universal Foundation A/S which aims to demonstrate the advantages of UFN

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	Monobucket foundations in difficult conditions.. As regards marine renewables, Invest NI hosted, for the first time, the Renewable UK Wave and Tidal Conference in February 2014 with some 250 delegates and showcased some key local developments; • The Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy, supported by Invest NI, is an industry – led enterprise to transform research into commercial success. The marine renewable energy sector is a key target area for CASE and a series of projects are currently being supported which involve a number of industry partners and the research capability at QUB. CASE has supported four projects in the marine renewable energy sector to date with a fifth in the planning. Testing of 1/10th scale tidal turbines in tandem formation in Montgomery Lake and Strangford Lough has been undertaken through the TTT Project suite of funding (c£1m in total). Triple T2 was a follow on to this first tidal turbine project using a single Schottel turbine. A further project in the Triple T suite to investigate the effect of scale on device performance and elevate the knowledge of device testing and the applicability of testing at sites in NI was supported by CASE in 2015 and due to the significant interest in the previous Triple T projects it has attracted a number of new industry partners from outside NI including ORE Catapult, SME and QED Naval. • Invest NI is working with colleagues in Scottish Enterprise, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and the Marine Renewable Industry Association to explore the potential for an open innovation network to drive forward innovation in the marine energy supply chain • Invest NI is a partner, alongside Scottish Enterprise and the Sustainable Energy Association of Ireland in a bid under Innosup, part of Horizon 2020, for funding to support the development of a marine energy value chain • A number of NI companies have provided input into an interactive digital portal to support the development of the UK's developing marine energy supply chain developed by the Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult and designed to

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	facilitate better engagement between buyers and sellers. The Marine Energy Supply Chain Gateway (MESCG) draws together, for the first time, regional supplier databases into a UK-wide information source. It provides a practical resource for new market entrants, aiming to put buyers in touch with sellers and making sure that organisations that need products and services can find the companies that can supply them. • With Invest NI R&D support, McLoughlin &Harvey announced in February 2015, a collaboration with SeaRoc of Scotland to develop novel foundation system for tidal projects, using rock anchor drilling technology. • Harland& Wolf continues to support Scot Renewables and is now involved in the development and construction of a new version of the SR2000 tidal turbine.
Continue to work with the relevant authorities in the UK and Ireland to build on the progress achieved through the signing of the MOU for offshore renewable, as required.	**Ongoing**
Participate fully in the DOE led Inter Departmental Marine Co-ordination Group (IMCG) to ensure that DETI's offshore energy interests are effectively represented within the development of new marine environment policy and legislation.	**Ongoing** DETI has continued to participate fully in the DOE led IMCG meetings/ activities and contributed to consideration of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the ongoing development of the first draft NI Marine Plan and the establishment of Marine Protected Areas/Marine Conservation Zones in NI waters. The IMCG Terms of Reference will require revision reflecting the re-organisation of the Departments in May 2016.
With the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, develop during 2012-2013 streamlined administrative guidance for developers and officials on the licensing and consenting regimes for offshore renewable energy projects.	**Complete. MOU between DETI and DOE signed in June 2013.** The two tidal projects have almost completed survey/ research work as part of the EIA process. The companies have been working with stakeholders throughout . Consent for a 100 MW tidal project at Torr Head has been submitted by Tidal Ventures. Consent for a marine licence for a 100 MW tidal scheme at Fair Head, Ballycastle is expected to be sought in Summer 2016.The Swedish company, Minesto, has completed the trials under licence of its Sea Kite tidal device in Strangford Lough.
Establish through legislation, the	The policy consultation is complete. The introduction of an Offshore Renewable Energy Bill

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necessary offshore energy production and decommissioning regime, similar to that in force in GB waters, for offshore renewable energy installations in NI waters.	will be a matter for the Executive following the Assembly election in May 2016.
Continue to support the generation of electricity from offshore and marine renewables through appropriate incentivisation mechanisms.	DETI has continued to work with DECC and other Devolved Administration colleagues on the development of the UK wide Electricity Market Reform (EMR. At the end of March 2015, DETI issued a Strategic Issues Paper on the implications of extending the implementation of Contracts for Difference within EMR to NI. Decisions will be taken in 2015-2016. The nature of any future support mechanisms will be a matter for the Executive following the Assembly election in May 2016.
Ensure that Northern Ireland benefits from the range of NI and UK wide regimes and groups supporting research, development and deployment of offshore renewable energy.	**Ongoing** DETI has continued to represent Northern Ireland within UK wide groups such as the Offshore Wind Industry Council and Marine Renewable Energy Programme Board. In its lead environmental regulatory role, DOE participates with counterparts in Marine Scotland and the Marine Management Organisation in the Offshore Renewable Energy Licensing Group to consider best practice/ consistent standards / shared research with regard to licensing and consenting offshore renewable projects across the UK.
Produce an annual report on progress on ORESAP actions	This is the progress report from October 2013 to 31 March 2016.