

## **Liaison Group Terms of Reference**

The SeaGen Marine Current Turbine Project is undertaking an Environmental Monitoring Programme (EMP) to comply with the conditions of the Food and Environmental Protection Act (FEPA) 1985: Part II (as amended) Licence reference DU 115/05 issued by the Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) of the Department of Environment, Northern Ireland for the SeaGen project in Strangford Lough implemented by Marine Current Turbines (MCT) Ltd.

MCT recognise that the SeaGen project and its EMP is relevant to a wide range of bodies and stakeholders with an interest in tidal energy and the marine environment, all of whom will therefore be interested in the monitoring programme outputs.

MCT are inviting organisations and stakeholders to participate in a Liaison Group. Those stakeholders invited to be a member of the Liaison Group are detailed in the table at the end of this Terms of Reference and have been grouped into statutory and non-statutory categories. It is likely that the main contact will delegate the membership to a more relevant member of the organisation.

One of the key aims of the establishment of the Liaison Group is to allow stakeholders the opportunity to be involved in the EMP process through receipt of outputs, ensure transparency and to provide a mechanism for dissemination of environmental surveillance outputs.

The following Terms of Reference have been provided to the invitees of the Liaison Group to ensure all members are working towards a common goal before joining the Group. In doing so a Mission Statement has been devised for the Liaison Group which should be used as the primary focus for the Liaison Group:

*“Members of the SeaGen Liaison Group share the common goal of safeguarding the environment of Strangford Lough from any potential significant environmental impact that might be caused by the SeaGen project; The Group may also have an interest in the wider tidal energy environment and commercialisation of turbine technology. In doing so, the Liaison Group will provide advice and guidance to support the environmental monitoring program designed to ensure that the installation, operation and decommissioning of the SeaGen Marine Current Turbine does not have any significant impact on the European features of Strangford Lough SAC and SPA”.*

*In addition, members of the Liaison Group will be part of the tidal energy community*

The Liaison Group will work as follows:

- All members of the Liaison Group will support the common goal of working towards a sound and effective environmental monitoring program that supports the SeaGen turbine installation, operation and decommissioning without compromising the important environmental features of Strangford Lough SAC and SPA.
- The Liaison Group will understand that MCT is committed to the ongoing Environmental Monitoring Programme (EMP) to safeguard the environment to ensure

potential impacts are detected and mitigation measures implemented to guarantee environmental compliance and reduce environmental risk the features of Strangford Lough.

- The science proposed for the monitoring programme requires some element of flexibility and adaptation throughout the monitoring process as new opportunities or issues arise. The key focus of the Liaison Group is to advise on the implementation and evolution of the EMP. Any significant changes to the steer of the EMP will be reviewed and approved by the Liaison Group beforehand.
- The Liaison Group will offer advice and guidance to support the development and ongoing improvement of the Environmental Monitoring Programme.
- The Liaison Group members have a common interest in the Seagen project but will inevitably come from different standpoints. The Liaison Group will therefore attempt to work towards reducing conflict between different interest groups to support the Environmental Monitoring Programme.
- The liaison group does not represent a regulatory body for the MCT SeaGen Project. This responsibility lies with the regulators, EHS, and the Seagen operator.
- The group will meet approximately once every four months around the installation period or on request with the frequency of meetings reducing as the EMP develops post commissioning.
- The group members will be supplied with all relevant reports in relation to the SeaGen monitoring outputs.
- All meetings will be minuted for dissemination amongst the Liaison Group only.
- The outputs will be summarised by Royal Haskoning in agreement with the Chairman and made available for dissemination amongst the wider network of UK conservation groups and industry.
- The liaison group will be serviced by an independent secretariat chaired by David Erwin, a separate independent representative to ensure advice is fed back so as to influence ongoing management as appropriate. The Chair will represent wider interests outside the immediate developer group and their advisors.
- The group will initially be serviced by Royal Haskoning, effectively providing both project management and secretariat support, although this role could be filled by any other appropriate organisation or individual.

Those groups or individuals invited to attend liaison group meetings have been selected following broad criteria and any recommendation for subsequent members will also follow the same criteria set out below:

- The member should have a genuine interest in the environmental and socio-economic issues relating to wet renewables, in particular those features that the monitoring programme is targeting;
- The members should where possible be representative of a cross section of governmental, non-governmental and interest groups;
- Membership should include individuals who are able to contribute positively to the development of the monitoring programme and advise the responsible operation of Seagen; and
- Membership should include individuals selected to reduce any concerns arising among wider stakeholders around Strangford Lough arising from any paucity of information on the project.