

SMRU Ltd is a world leader in applied research on marine mammals for the marine renewable energy industry. We provide high quality services and advice on marine environmental issues. SMRU Ltd works with industry and government to assist with managing environmental risks and improve decision making associated with offshore activities in the wind, wave and tidal sectors.

- We provide critical assessments of the potential effects of marine developments and provide advice on mitigation strategies to Government and industry.
- We have expertise in the design and implementation of surveys and monitoring programs for EIA purposes and can analyse data to provide biologically meaningful interpretation of the results. We also provide critical data reviews and area assessments throughout the world.
- We are world experts in marine mammal bioacoustics and the impacts of underwater noise on marine mammals. We carry out predictive modeling on construction and operational noise from marine developments to estimate their impact on animals.
- We provide global marine mammal distribution and abundance data for cetaceans and pinnipeds and assess how new technologies, installations and operations in oceans may affect them.

SMRU Ltd's world class research is used to inform strategic environmental assessments and EIAs as well as site selection decisions. Our experience in underwater impact assessments combined with our instrumentation expertise provides clients with a world leading service that will assist them at every turn to ensure projects are consented efficiently. We also work with clients in oil & gas, marine civil engineering, defence and Government sectors.

We have offices in the UK, Canada, the US and Asia Pacific.

## Case Study

### [Marine Current Turbines, Strangford Lough](#)

Ongoing support to monitor any potential effects on marine mammals of the MCT SeaGen Turbine in Strangford Lough, Northern Ireland.

Activities have included:

- Surveys to benchmark the marine mammal populations
- Year round monitoring of extent and pattern of use made by marine mammals of the region where the turbine is placed
- Detailed tracking of seals within the region of the turbine and their use of habitat in the surrounding region
- Assessment of sonar systems for detecting and tracking marine mammals close to the turbine
- Development of acoustic deterrent devices (ADDs) to deter marine mammals from potentially dangerous interactions with marine energy devices.



## What makes us unique?

SMRU Ltd bridges the gap between research and consultancy to make the best marine mammal science accessible to industry.

- Proven track record for managing long term industrial renewable energy projects
- Clients have confidence in our understanding of the evidence required by regulators to comply with environmental legislation
- In-depth knowledge of regulations built on in-house experience of staff in conducting research for and subsequently advising on many of the original regulations for marine assessment and planning
- Companies have access to SMRU's and SOI's expertise and existing datasets
- Our in-house scientists are dedicated to commercial project work
- Our scientists have 24 days of protected research time to maintain the quality of our research and their standing in the academic community
- All profits are returned to the University to fund further research in the academic departments whose expertise was used during the project work

## We can help clients with the following steps in the consenting process for the development of offshore sites:

- Scoping of potential site-specific issues
- Baseline survey of existing marine environment to inform EIA and identification of potential impacts
- Advice on mitigation of likely impacts
- Design of assessment of impact of development before, during and after construction, operation and decommissioning
- SMRU Ltd scientists have expertise in bioacoustics and development of active sonar for use in monitoring and mitigation

## SMRU Ltd works with clients at every stage of a project from scoping to long term monitoring programmes including:

- Identification of key questions relevant to a site or proposed device and activity
- Bespoke survey and baseline study design
- Survey implementation
- Data analysis & interpretation
- Contributions to and production of Environmental Statements
- Long-term monitoring and strategic research
- Assessment of impacts & mitigation



Further information about all our services is available from: