

Review of the baseline data requirements for marine mammals at a tidal energy site

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Rationale

Marine renewable energy developments require construction, deployment and operation of devices which create environmental risks for the coastal and marine environment. These risks range from sediment disturbance and noise pollution to collision risk for marine mammals and diving seabirds with the energy extraction devices. These effects can be detrimental to the population health of various species and habitats and as such require strict assessment before any license can be acquired. To create such assessments the regulatory body typically requires a minimum of two years of baseline environmental data. This can cause major delays for a project and have severe financial implications.



Methods

- SEACAMS2 will review current data requirements for assessing risks from a MRE development to marine mammals in Wales.
- The study will explore the consenting process for previous projects (where available) to assess to what extent baseline data collection requirements have been met and whether using existing datasets could fulfil the current regulatory requirements.



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