



Offshore  
Wind Evidence  
+ Change  
Programme

# Programme Steering Group Meeting

September 2022



**THE CROWN  
ESTATE**

## Programme Session

- OWEC Programme update – Mandy King, The Crown Estate
- POSEIDON – Hannah Reed, Natural England
- PrePARED – Sue O’Brien, Marine Scotland
- Remote Tracking of Seabirds at Sea – Lucy Wright, RSPB
- Programme Risks – highlighting Avian Influenza – Prof. Dickon Howell, EcoWind Champion
- Discussion and Q&A



Offshore  
Wind Evidence  
+ Change  
Programme

# Programme Update

Mandy King – Programme Manager



**THE CROWN  
ESTATE**

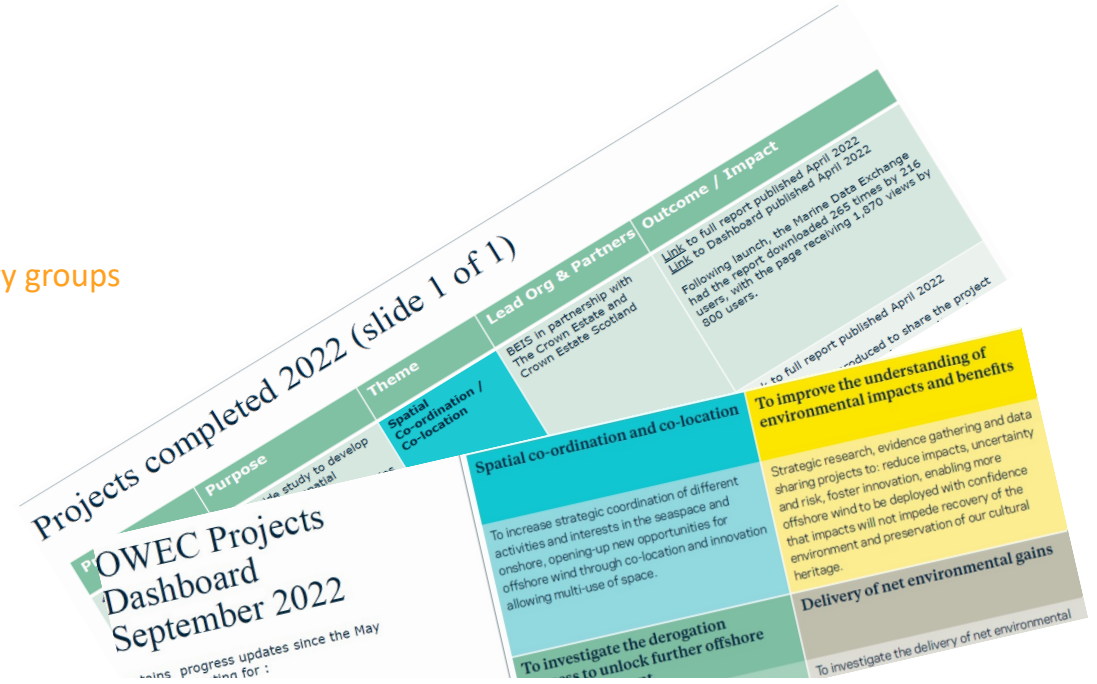
# Overview

## Financial

- £24m committed of £50m investment intent
- Partner co-funding of £7.6M , plus ££ contribution in expertise, time, project advisory groups

## Projects

- 17 live projects and 7 completed – see dashboard.
- Funding Agreements signed for £1.4m Cefas-led projects – August
- POSEIDON, PrePARED, Seabird Tracking
- Project call now open for proposals up to £3m – deadline 14 October



2021 Main Call Projects (slide 3 of 3)

Project	Purpose	Theme	Lead Org & Partners	Update
5. POSEIDON (PIP-020)	To improve the knowledge of environmental risks across UK waters and provide tools for future offshore wind planning.  This will be achieved through producing a strategic environmental baseline for B4 lease areas, updating	<b>Spatial Co-ordination / Co-location</b>  <b>Improve understanding of environmental impacts and benefit</b>	Natural England	Collection of benthic samples underway in the North Sea. Benthic surveys in the Irish Sea due Sept. Planning for 2023 benthic surveys underway. Benthic Technical Advisory Group meeting scheduled for Oct.  Priorities for seabird and marine mammal digital aerial surveys finalised during Aug. Study areas



# On my mind ...

## Listening to what you say

- Updated governance documents and project call processes
- Priorities for investment published
- Group membership – format / objectives of meetings

## Programme risks

- Apart from “Resources” – everyone’s!
- Highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) – “Bird Flu”
- Access for researchers to offshore wind farm sites as study areas

## Improving systems and real-world impact

As the programme moves from start up to delivery

- Project progress reporting and tracking, KPIs
- How can we know we have made a difference? – outcomes and impact tracking



Offshore  
Wind Evidence  
+ Change  
Programme

# POSEIDON Project

Update September 2022

Hannah Reed, Natural England

THE CROWN  
 ESTATE

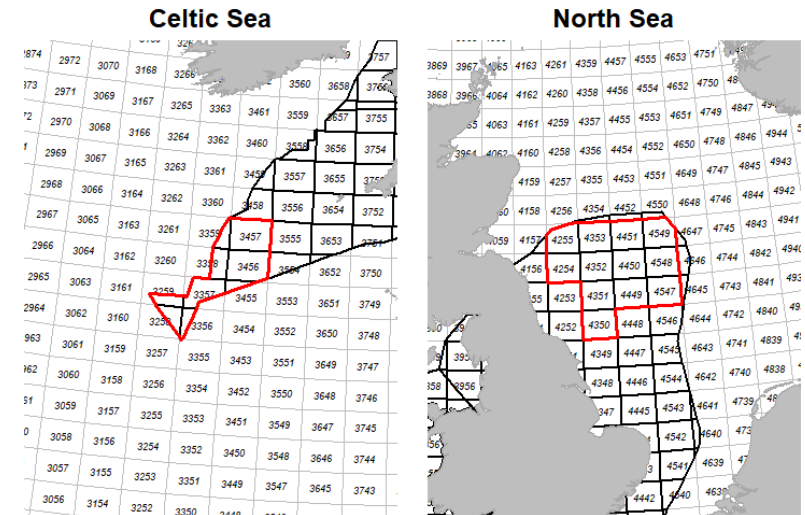
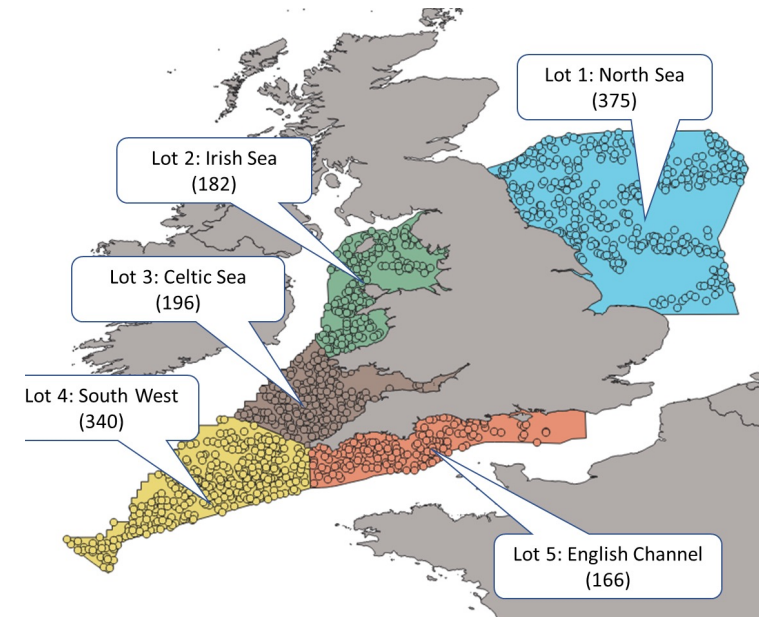
NATURAL  
ENGLAND



# POSEIDON Project Update

## Key Highlights June – September 2022

1. Tenders let for 2022 benthic surveys, with sampling underway in North and Irish Seas.
2. Spatial and temporal priorities for seabird and marine mammal Digital Aerial Surveys (DAS) agreed by Highly Mobile Species Technical Advisory Group.
3. Three suppliers awarded to Framework Agreement for DAS. Contract for the 2022-23 surveys anticipated to be awarded end October.
4. Phase 4 and 5 planning underway, including long-term host for POSEIDON tools.
5. Evaluation Framework and Communications & Engagement Plan finalised.
6. Ongoing coordination with other initiatives.





Offshore  
Wind Evidence  
+ Change  
Programme

# PrePARED Project

Update September 2022

Sue O'Brien, Marine Scotland

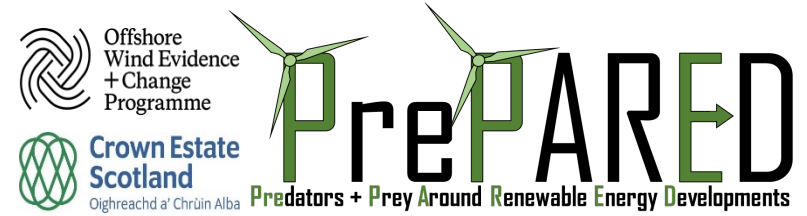
THE CROWN  
 ESTATE

marinescotland





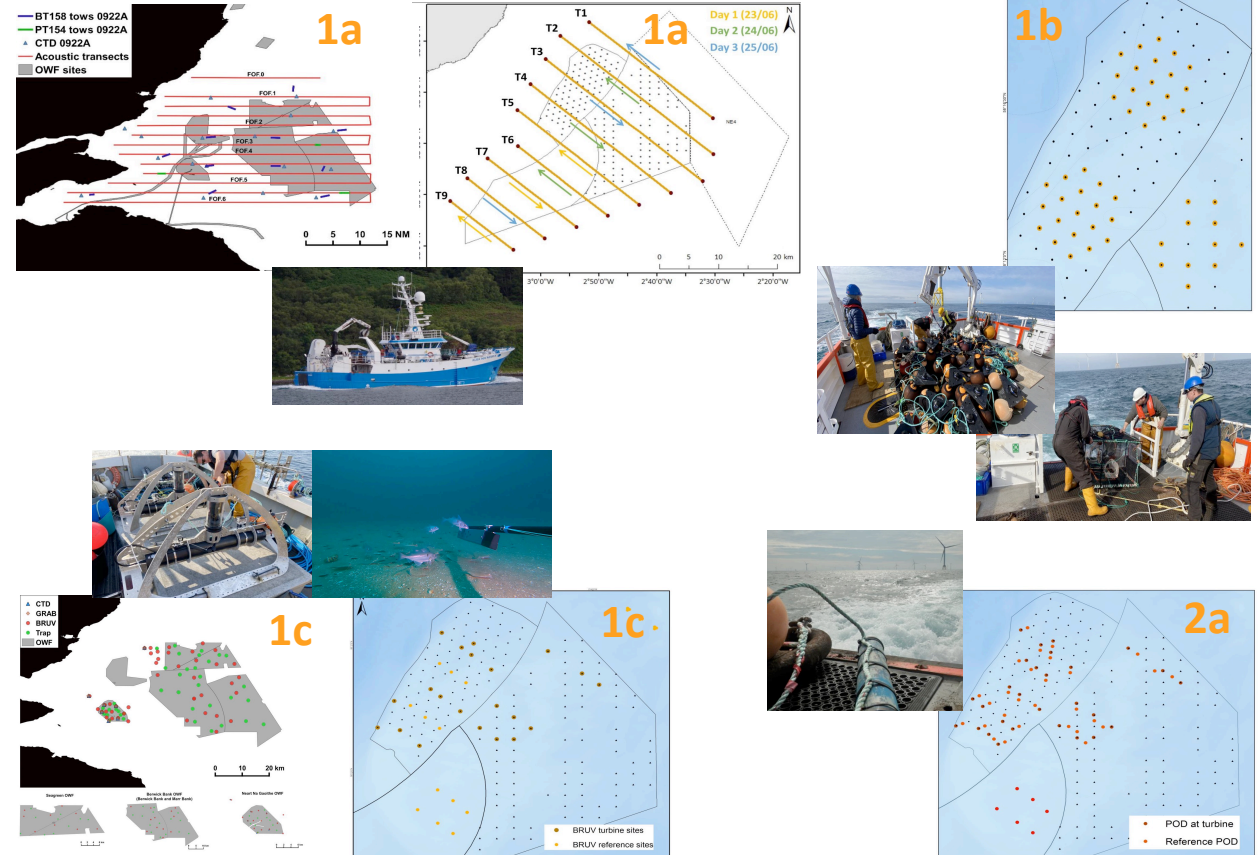
# PrePARED Project Update



**Aim:** to ↑ stakeholder confidence in response of protected marine mammal and seabird populations to potential OWF impacts + magnitude of cumulative impacts → derisking consenting

## 1. Fish distribution and behaviour in OWF

- a) Broad scale fish distribution in Moray Firth and Forth & Tay: 17 days acoustic survey, June/July 2022
- b) Fish behaviour (fish telemetry): 84 receivers deployed, 60 fish tagged in Moray Firth, April-June 2022
- c) Fine scale fish distribution and behaviour: >150 deployments of baited camera and video in Moray Firth and Forth & Tay, August 2022



## 2. Marine mammal distribution and behaviour in OWF

- a) Passive acoustic monitoring in Moray Firth (July-Sept 2022) (funded by Moray Firth developers)

## 3. Seabird distribution and behaviour in OWF

- a) No GPS tracking due to avian flu (funded by Forth & Tay developers)

PrePARED Project Update for OWEC Programme Steering Group meeting 28.09.22







Offshore  
Wind Evidence  
+ Change  
Programme

# Remote Tracking of Seabirds at Sea

Update September 2022

Lucy Wright, RSPB

THE CROWN  
ESTATE



# Project delays

## Progress delayed by:

- Resourcing issues
  - key staff leaving
  - Covid-related absence
  - recruitment delays
  - urgent work due to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)
- Delays in setting up subcontracts
- Need to plan for the potential for HPAI to disrupt work in 2023 and beyond



Kittiwakes

# Plan of action

- Continue work to agree subcontracts
- Revised timeline agreed
- Additional staff at RSPB (some now in post)
- Contingency plan for HPAI
- RSPB to speak to licensing authorities over winter to agree HPAI protocols in advance



Motus receiver



Offshore  
Wind Evidence  
+ Change  
Programme

## Programme risks – Highlighting Avian Influenza

Access to OWF sites as study areas

Prof. Dickon Howell, EcoWind Champion

THE CROWN  
ESTATE



ECOWind

# Programme Risks

- Avian Flu
  - Fieldwork may not be able to take place
  - Populations are severely impacted, resulting in changes to baselines for collected data. This in turn could have issues for modelled data
  - Changes to baselines may make the consenting challenge even greater
  - The extent of this risk is still being determined
- Site Access
  - Differences in opinion about how sites can be accessed between researchers and industry
  - Not all sites put forward in proposals may be able to be accessed
  - Develop a common approach to site access through the ECOWind programme that can be used across OWEC



## **Strategic priorities session**

- **New strategic government priorities for OSW – Dr. Nicola Higgins, BEIS**
- **Marine Spatial Prioritisation – Joanna Shayer, Defra**
- **Powering Healthy Seas – Helen Quayle, RSPB**
- **Discussion and Q&A**



Offshore  
Wind Evidence  
+ Change  
Programme



# Powering Healthy Seas

Helen Quayle, RSPB Senior Policy Officer

A large white wind turbine with three blades, set against a blue sky with light clouds. The turbine is positioned on the right side of the image, with its tower extending from the bottom towards the center.

THE **CROWN**  
 **ESTATE**

# Powering Healthy Seas: Accelerating Nature Positive Offshore Wind

- Nature & offshore wind
- Collaborative
- Solutions focused
- Sharing across UK & beyond



---

## State of our seas

- Global importance & responsibility for seabirds
- Seabirds are struggling
  - Population & productivity
  - Failing GES – moving further from recovery
- Decades of human activity & exploitation
- Climate change
- Avian flu
- **Net zero needs healthy seas**

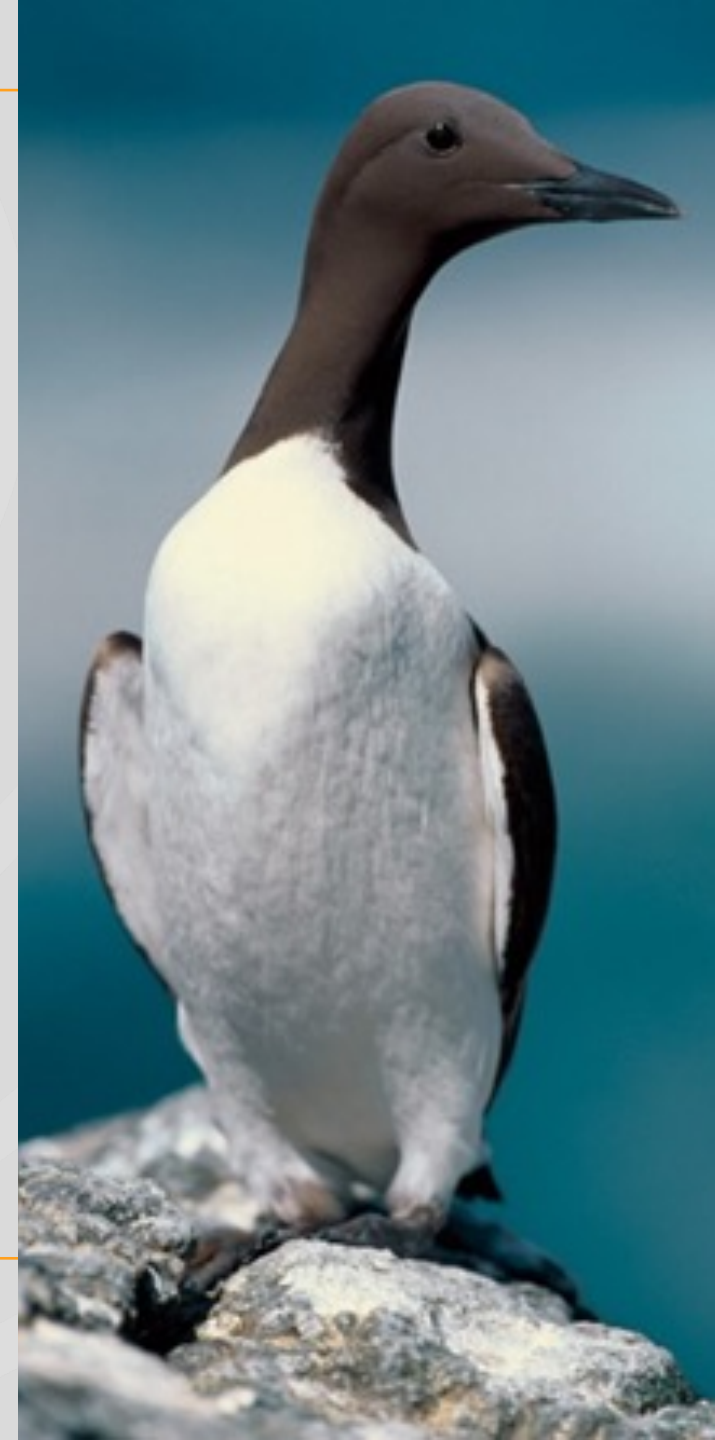




---

# Accelerating offshore wind & reducing nature loss

1. A robust and strategic evidence base
  - informing the siting of new offshore windfarms
  - providing certainty
  - enabling effective mitigation
2. Country level marine plans for offshore renewables
  - to coordinate delivery of 2030 offshore wind targets
  - assess and manage ecological impacts at scale from the outset
  - consider associated coastal infrastructure and displaced activities of other activities
3. Cumulative Impact assessments
  - fully identify the impacts of multiple offshore developments





---

# Accelerating offshore wind & reducing nature loss

## 4. Innovative industry standards

- prevent harm, protect and restore nature

## 5. Robust adaptive management

- enable development with robust safeguards

## 6. Clear understanding, and application, of strategic compensation

- addresses the ecological needs of impacted species, habitats
- protects site integrity

## 7. Marine net gain

- enabling strategic and site-based interventions to help drive the recovery of marine biodiversity



## Strategic compensation

Ecologically meaningful

Strategic & cooperative

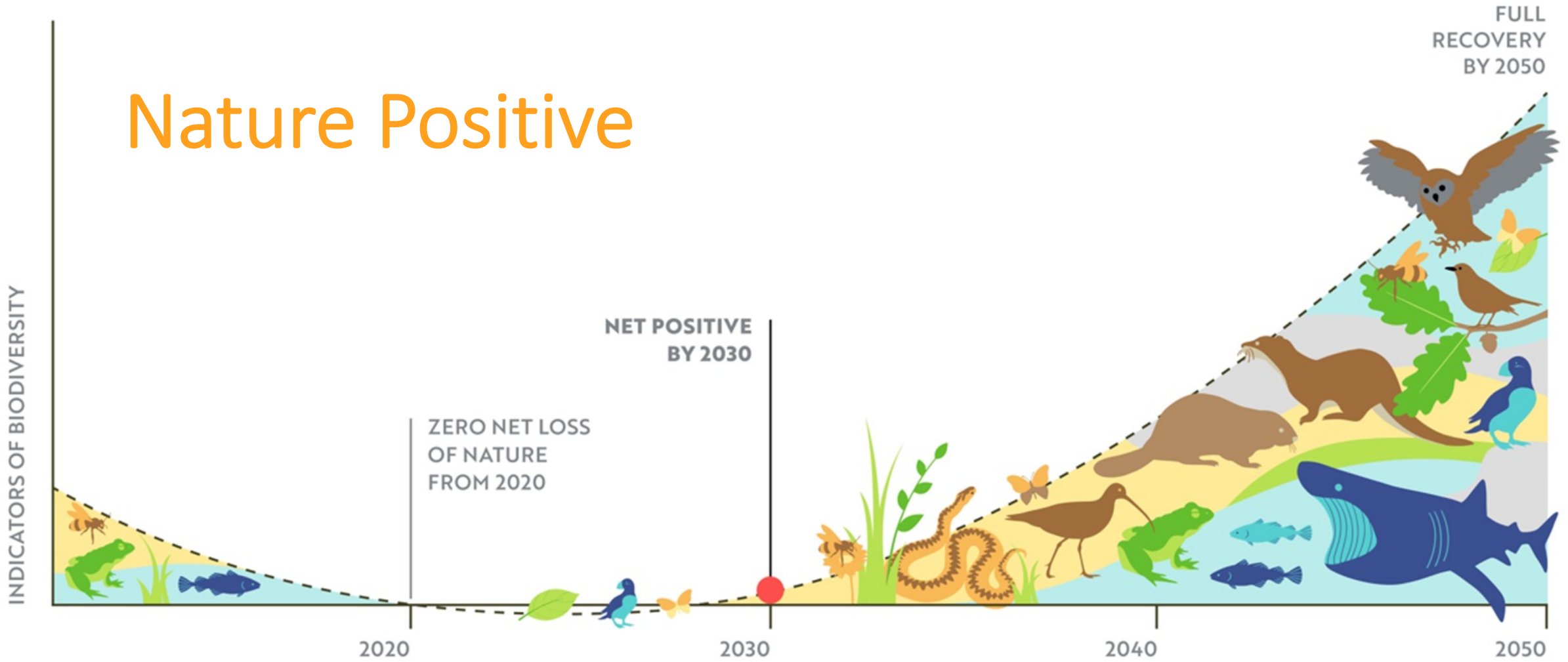
Implementation of measures at  
greater geographical scales &  
across sectors

Shared approach

Innovation, collaboration  
monitoring & adaptive  
management



# Nature Positive



*Nature Positive offshore wind is industry & government-led action to restore resilient seas, going above & beyond halting nature loss as part of the UK's renewable energy transition.*



# Nature Positive offshore wind

1. Strategic, holistic & truly spatial marine planning
2. Closure of industrial sandeel fisheries in the UK Exclusive Economic Zone
3. Minimise & eliminate bycatch
4. Marine Protected Area – complete, manage & monitor
5. Seabird island biosecurity programmes







Offshore  
Wind Evidence  
+ Change  
Programme



Thank you



## **Collaboration and evidence session**

- **Collaboration on pathways to growth – Brian McFarlane, SSE Renewables**
- **How OWEC's data and evidence is driving change – Chelsea Bradbury, The Crown Estate**
- **Outcomes: What does success look like? – Mandy King, The Crown Estate**



Offshore  
Wind Evidence  
+ Change  
Programme

# Collaborations on pathways to growth

Brian McFarlane – P2G Workstream  
Lead, SSE Renewables

THE CROWN  
ESTATE

OffshoreWind  
IndustryCouncil



# P2G Progress Highlights

## Key areas of progress:



Derogations – strategic compensation governance agreed



Resourcing - engagement with Tim Pick to emphasise the scale of the issue (Offshore Wind Champion)



Resourcing – project delivery and emphasis on shorter term solutions



4 P2G ITTs issued (coexistence and collation biodiversity and marine industries, analysing data collectively and policy and legislation ‘deep dive’)



Floating Offshore Wind consideration in P2G



Four new barriers proposed at the August P2G Coordination Group meeting (avian flu (x2), wider statutory stakeholder resourcing and public challenges to onshore works)



Forging better links with the academic sector

## Challenges:

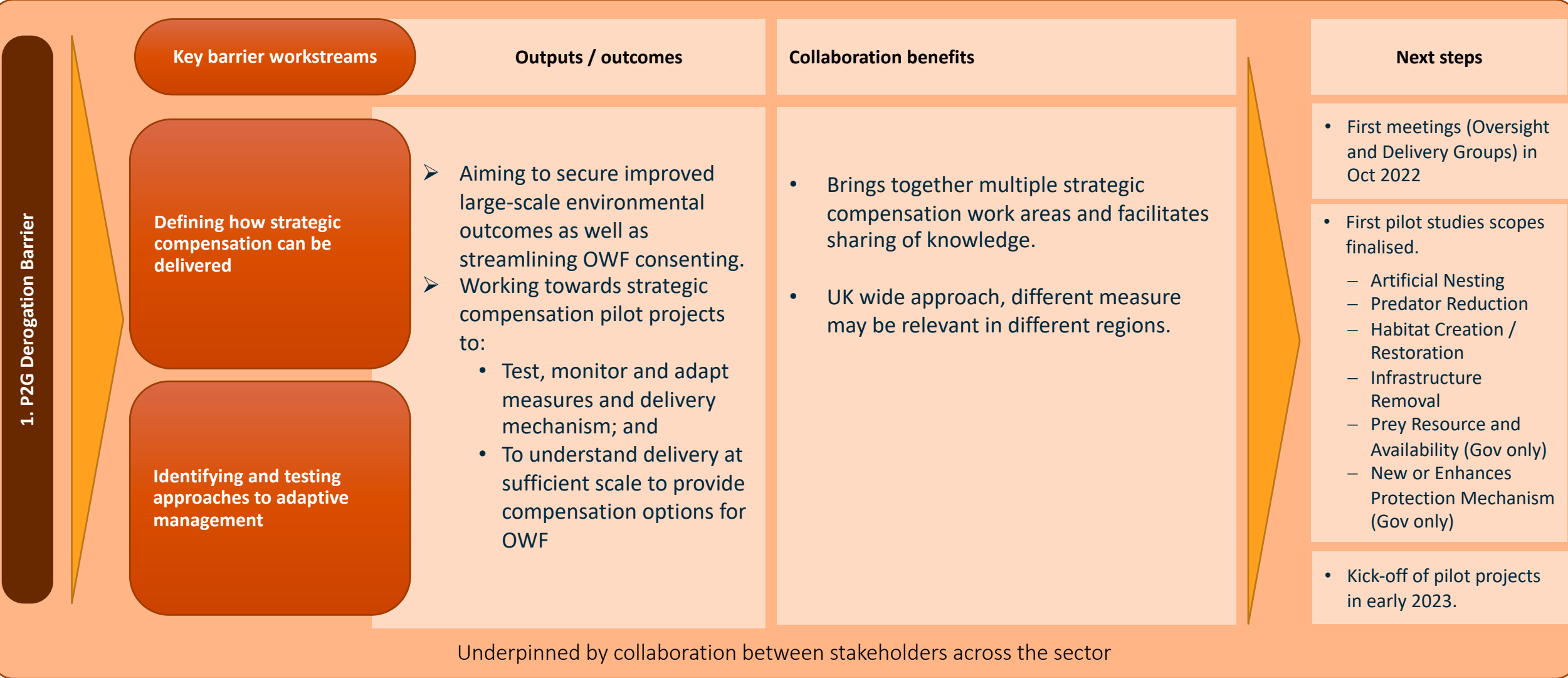
- Resource availability in the industry particularly in relation to consultancy
- Confirmation and timelines for BESS delivery, particularly the OWEIP package.
- DLUHC Planning Reform consultation.

## Roadmaps now online:

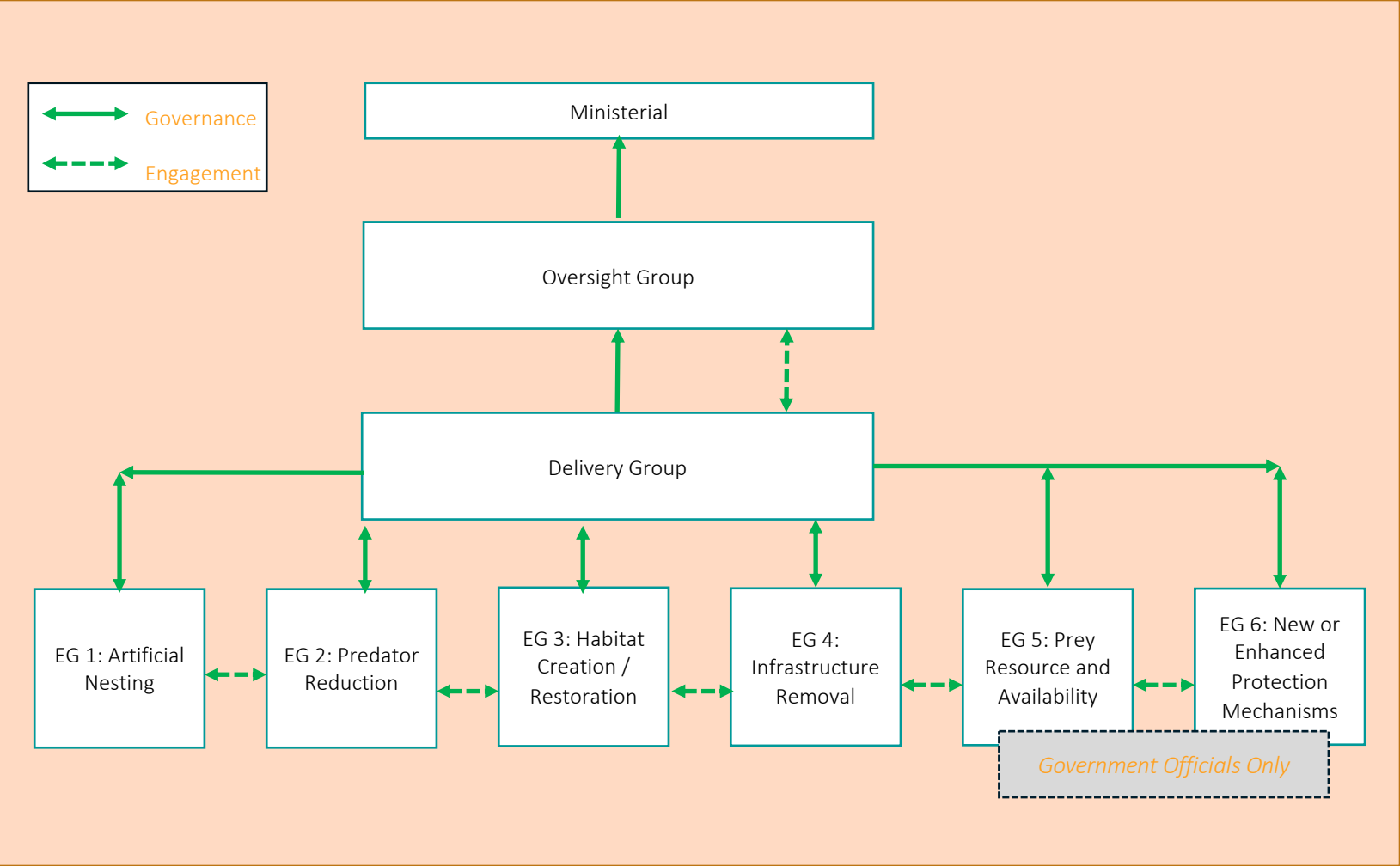
- [OWIC | Pathways to Growth](#)
- Comments/challenges welcomed



# Collaboration: Delivering strategic compensation



# Governance Structure Organogram – as agreed August 22



Group	Membership
<b>Ministerial</b>	Defra, BEIS, Scottish Ministers, Welsh Ministers, Northern Ireland Minister
<b>Oversight Group</b>	Director / Deputy Director: Defra (chair), BEIS, Scottish Gov, Welsh Gov, NI Gov, The Crown Estate, Crown Estate Scotland, OWIC, JNCC
<b>Delivery Group</b>	OWIC (co-chair), Defra (co-chair) RenewableUK OCLG, BEIS, Marine Scotland, Welsh Government Marine Management Organisation, Natural Resources Wales, The Crown Estate, Crown Estate Scotland, Natural England, NatureScot, DAERA, eNGOs
<b>Expert Groups</b>	OWIC, RenewableUK OCLG, Defra, BEIS, Marine Scotland, Welsh Government Marine Management Organisation, JNCC Natural Resources Wales, The Crown Estate, Crown Estate Scotland, Natural England, NatureScot, DAERA, eNGOs

# Collaboration: Learning and applying lessons for strategic data collection

9. P2G Strategic approach to data collection barrier

Key barrier workstreams	Outputs / outcomes	Collaboration benefits	Next steps
<p>Lessons learned from other countries and strategic monitoring stakeholder needs</p> <p>Workshop Part 1</p> <p><i>Defra</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharing of knowledge from Netherland’s WOZEP program</li> <li>Identification of stakeholders, expectations and needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cross-country knowledge sharing will contribute to development of improved monitoring approach</li> <li>Post-consent monitoring stakeholder needs and expectations shared and understood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop planned for Autumn 2022 (dates tbc)</li> </ul>
<p>Lessons learned from Forth and Tay Regional Advisory Group Approach</p> <p>Workshop Part 2</p> <p><i>P2G</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experiences shared from Scottish RAG approach</li> <li>Awareness of the challenges in implementation and a plan for tackling challenges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders aware of challenges to strategic monitoring and defining solutions together.</li> <li>Stakeholders will feel able to contribute their experiences to discussions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop scope drafted for review by P2G members</li> <li>Workshop planned for Autumn 2022 (dates tbc)</li> </ul>
<p>OWEKH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OWEC project - a hub for offshore wind evidence and knowledge to streamline consenting process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wider sector representation in steering group / requirements gathering process will future proof product</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project kicked off – first of two requirements gathering workshop held 21<sup>st</sup> Sept</li> </ul>
<p>Opportunities to ‘pool’ data now</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshop, review and preliminary analysis providing recommendations for review to address key impact issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project will bring awareness of evidence gaps and initiatives to P2G coordination group stakeholders – part two of project will allow analysis of project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project in process of procurement, through academia</li> </ul>

Underpinned by collaboration between stakeholders across the sector

# Background



# Pathways to Growth: Prioritised Barriers to Growth [updated ranking and wording]

<b>1. Derogations</b>	There isn't sufficient UK Government and Devolved Administration guidance available to define how to present a Habitats Regulations derogation case, define and deliver compensatory measures or principles to enforce and adaptively manage compensatory measures.
<b>2. Resources</b>	There is a shortfall in the required volume and range of skilled resources within the SNCBs and regulatory bodies to meet the demand in case work to deliver offshore wind 2030 and net zero targets.
<b>3. CIA on Seabirds</b>	There is a lack of certainty and consistency in the approach taken to estimate cumulative impacts on seabirds during the construction and operational phase.
<b>4. Biodiversity</b>	Biodiversity policy targets may limit the amount of marine space available for offshore wind deployment required to meet 2030 and net zero targets.
<b>4. Marine Spatial Planning</b>	The existing approaches to marine spatial planning across the UK do not currently provide clarity on how decisions are being made about the use of marine space to ensure there is adequate area available to meet 2030 and net zero offshore wind targets.
<b>6. Future Policy</b>	Opportunities to resolve policy or legislative challenges or to make improvements to wider policy delivery are missed leading to delays meeting UK net zero targets.
<b>7. Underwater noise guidance</b>	There is a lack of clear guidance on underwater noise management within harbour porpoise SACs (England and Wales specific).
<b>8. Proportionate EIA</b>	The volume of information required for offshore wind EIAs will continue to impact decision makers' resource availability, leading to delays during both consent application and preconstruction discharge of consent conditions.
<b>9. Adoption of new research</b>	There isn't a defined process or transparent way of communicating when and how evidence and research outcomes inform Government, SNCB and regulatory body positions on the impacts of offshore wind farms.
<b>9. Strategic approach to data collection</b>	The different approaches to collecting monitoring data at project sites across the UK is preventing development of a more coordinated, robust evidence base to support the understanding and potential resolution of uncertainty in offshore wind development.



Offshore  
Wind Evidence  
+ Change  
Programme

# How OWEC's data and evidence is driving change

Chelsea Bradbury, The Crown Estate



THE CROWN  
 ESTATE

**We have been proactively investing in world-leading marine data and evidence for over 20 years. We do this in collaboration with others to drive positive change and to promote innovative and sustainable ways in how we collect, share and use data.**

DELIVERING RESEARCH AND  
EVIDENCE PROJECTS THAT DRIVE  
CHANGE

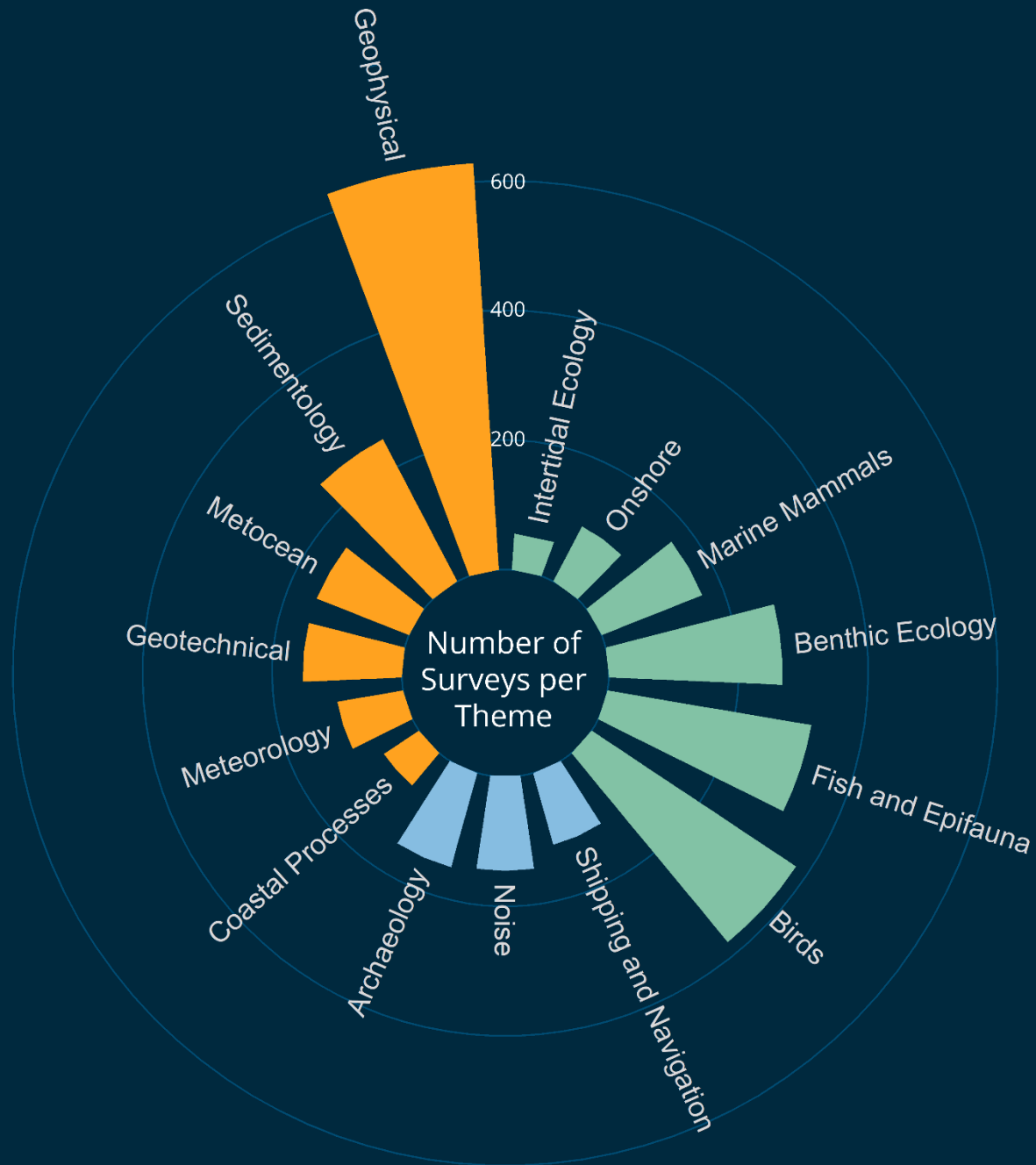
PROVIDING THE WORLDS LARGEST  
RESOURCE OF MARINE INDUSTRY  
SURVEY DATA, RESEARCH AND  
EVIDENCE

AWARD WINNING SPATIAL  
PLANNING SYSTEMS

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DATA  
COLLECTION

ENABLING BETTER DATA  
OUTCOMES THROUGH  
COLLABORATION

300TB of survey data from over 50 offshore projects





# MDE Confidentiality Review Points for OWF Projects

## Environmental

Consent Decision

## Site Investigation

Financial Investment Decision  
(FID)

## Wind Resource

2 years from the date of  
collection or FID

# MDE

## Data feeding in to OWEC projects

### POSEIDON

- Benthic, Bird and Marine Mammal
- Lessons learnt – how data is captured, inconsistent methodologies, data formats

### North Sea Net Gain

- OneBenthic

### OWEKH

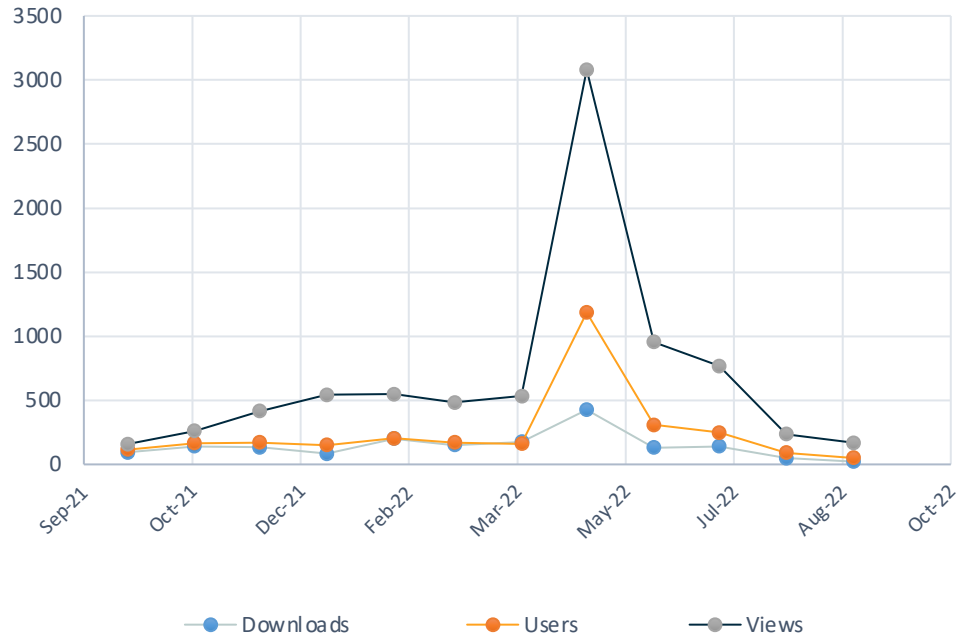
- Post construction data held on the MDE fed into the initial scoping studies that led to the OWEKH recommendations
- Ensure continued alignment between the MDE and OWEKH





# OWEC ANALYTICS

## Outputs Feeding into the MDE



- Analytics are only generated by users who accept the site Cookies
- The Future Offshore Wind Scenarios report caused a significant spike, following an extremely high pick up from Twitter
- FOWS has been downloaded 400 times, whilst OWEER has been downloaded 926 times



# WIDER DATA, DIGITAL AND EVIDENCE PROJECTS

1. Using industry data for UK marine assessment and reporting. Proposed pilot studies include:
  - **Post construction monitoring data trends**
  - **UK Marine Strategy GES indicators**
2. Fisheries evidence
3. OneBenthic
4. Advanced data science to generate insight
5. Geotechnical standardisation with BGS – ensuring that maximum value can be gleaned from existing geological data to inform engineering designs
6. Offshore Energy Digital Strategy Group
  - **Offshore Energy Data and Digital Maturity Survey**
7. MEDIN STAG (Marine Environmental Data and Information Network Strategic Task Group) - UKMAAS Data Strategy







Offshore  
Wind Evidence  
+ Change  
Programme

# Outcomes: What does success look like?

Mandy King – Programme Manager



THE CROWN  
ESTATE



# How can we know that we are making a difference?

.. across all enabling activity for offshore wind – Offshore Wind Enabling Actions Programme(OWEAP) / EcoWind / Offshore Wind Environmental Evidence Register / Pathways to Growth

## **OWEC projects - What does success look like ?**

- “Intended outcomes” included in project application documents and to be revisited mid-project
- Project Impact Reviews (PIR) to be carried out at project closure and beyond
- All captured via an **Outcomes - Impact Tracker**.

We have defined some "Impact Types" categories and "Impact Scale" to synthesise where change is happening and quantify impacts.

# Impact Types

As part of the Project Impact Review, we will ask Impact Owner/s to identify the Impact Types that are expected or have been achieved by the Project,

1. Influencing Policy	6. Energy Security
2. Reduced Consenting Times	7. Derogations
3. More Efficient Use of Seabed	8. Strategic Compensation
4. Reduced Environmental Impact	9. Other
5. Enhanced or Improved Marine Environment	

# Impact Scale

	Level of Impact			
		1	2	3
Level of Evidence	1	1	2	3
	2	2	4	6
	3	3	6	9

**Level of Impact** - Indicates the level of Impact based on below definitions.

**1 = Minor, Negligible or Unclear** – Low level of real-world change and associated benefits identified and / or the extent of change is not clear at point of reporting.

**2 = Moderate** – Some level of real-world change and associated benefits, although the details of which may be somewhat unclear or incomplete at point of reporting (PIR).

**3 = Significant** – Clear, indisputable, real-world change and associated benefits, present at point of reporting.

**Level of Evidence** – Indicates level of evidence present to demonstrate the Impact.

**1 = None available or negligible**

**2 = Some, partial or incomplete**

**3 = Clear and demonstrable**

# Project Impact Review Template



## Project Impact Review (PIR)

**Project Name (short):**

**PIP Number: **xxx****

**Project Document Number: 41691.**xxx**-PIR**

**Template Number: 41691-178-GOV-TEM**

[Coversheet to be completed by TCE ahead of sending to Impact Owner]



 OWEC Project Impact Review PIP Number <b>xxx</b> - <b>Project Short Name</b>	1
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---

# Extract: "Strategic Targets for Net Gain" pilot

Project Name: Strategic Targets for Net Gain (PIP No. 016)

Outputs (on MDE)	High Level Outcome	Expected Impact & Evidenced by	Project Impact Review (PIR) Dates	Impact Type	Impact Scale	Impact Owners
Project final report	<p><b>A robust set of recommended strategic targets for marine net gain (MNG),</b> which have strong consensus and agreement from industry, regulators and conservation bodies.</p> <p>By When: High Level Outcome achieved – project complete</p>	<p><b>Expected Impact:</b> The recommended strategic net gain targets to be used by Defra to inform development of MNG policy and principles through the Offshore Wind Enabling Actions Programme (OWEAP).</p> <p><b>Evidenced by:</b> via feedback received as part of the Project Impact Review. Also, views / downloads of the report published on the Marine Data Exchange (MDE).</p>	<p><b>09/09/2022</b> (six months post-project completion – <b>in progress</b>)</p> <p><b>09/03/2023</b> (one-year post-project completion)</p>	<p><i>To be confirmed as part of Project Impact Review</i></p> <p><b>Expected:</b></p> <p><b>1a.</b> Influencing Policy;</p> <p><b>5a.</b> Enhanced or improved marine environment;</p> <p><b>6a.</b> Energy Security</p>	<p><i>To be confirmed as part of Project Impact Review.</i></p> <p><i>Assesses level of Impact against evidence of Impact .</i></p>	<p><b>Impact Owner/s:</b> Strategic Net Gain T&amp;F Group – <i>named individual contacts confirmed and approved</i></p> <p><b>Consulted / Informed:</b> TCE</p>



# Heads Up!

**The Team will be in touch with each project Lead Organisation to validate the outcomes and impact information we hold !**

# Definitions – What do we mean?

- **Output** - *Outputs refer to the project results (for example, reports, webinars, datasets) and to be published in a manner so as to ensure that the Output is freely available for use (i.e. via the Marine Data Exchange and/or equivalent). 'Outputs' is encompassed by the definition of 'Final Report' set out in the project Funding Agreement.*
- **Outcome** – *The conditions created which have the potential to enable and affect real-world change and value (social, environmental and/or economic). For example, recommendations made that could be used in future policy.*
- **High Level Outcome** - *a summary of the Project's overarching and priority outcomes.*
- **Impact** – *The evidenced real-world change and value (social, environmental and/or economic) created by the Outputs and Outcomes. For example, national policy that has been influenced or changed by the project's Outputs and Outcomes.*
- This is also assessed and evidenced using **Impact Type** (using eight pre-set Impact categories) and **Impact Scale** (based on the level of impact against level of evidence)
- **Impact Owner** – *Organisation and role/s (with named individuals) responsible for driving the High Level Outcome forward (leading on Outcome delivery and enabling it to effect real-world Impact) and for the completion of the Project Impact Review (in coordination with TCE). This includes responsibility for evidencing the project's Impact.*
- Although the Impact Owner will often be the same as the Lead Organisation this is not always the case.

## **Wrap-up**

- **PSG arrangements for 2023 – Adam Hanrahan, The Crown Estate**
- **Closing remarks – Ruth Stubbles, Defra**