

Annex IV Workshop – Update and Feedback on the State of the Science Report  
EWTEC 2015  
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- **Highlighting Positive Impacts**
  - Most of the discussion around potential environmental impacts has a negative connotation, but it is also worth highlighting the positive impacts as well. Examples include increasing fish habitat and presence around devices and the carbon offset that would result from deploying clean renewable energy systems. These positive impacts should be called out in the report, or possibly in their own chapter.
- **Coastal Protection**
  - Similar to the previous comment, the report could also discuss the potential benefits of certain MRE technologies and how they may be used for coastal protection or erosion control.
- **Compare to Other Energy Sources**
  - Could be beneficial to compare the potential environmental effects of MRE to other forms of energy such as oil and gas.
- **Compare to other Anthropogenic Stressors**
  - The report could put the potential environmental effects of MRE in context with some other anthropogenic stressors, for example domestic cats kill far more birds than wind turbines.
- **Combining Benthic and Reefing Chapters**
  - Combining benthic habitats and reefing effects is misleading - benthic habitat is more about changes to the physical system, while reefing is more about grouping animals together and increasing collision risk.
- **Importance of Habitat Changes**
  - More emphasis should be placed on altering habitats, which could have more of an impact on a population than single events like strike. For example, spawning grounds can be impacted thus affecting food chains and potentially collapsing entire species.
- **MRE Device Design Guidance**
  - The report could discuss the design of certain MRE technologies and how some may act more as an artificial reef to intentionally encourage or discourage certain species from using habitats, or to provide guidance for promoting biodiversity.
- **Socio-economics**
  - Though it is not specifically environmental, a chapter looking at the socio-economic ramifications of MRE devices (positive or negative) such as aesthetics and ecosystem services and/or the social acceptance of this industry could be very useful.

- **Mitigation**
  - The report should also discuss existing mitigation methods for certain environmental impacts, and the overall effectiveness of these methods.
- **Expand on the Collision chapter**
  - The collision chapter seems a bit restricted due the fact that it only focuses on collision between tidal devices and marine animals. Can this be expanded to also include wave devices?
- **Include Seabirds**
  - The collision chapter should also include collision risk between seabirds MRE devices
- **Effective Dissemination of Information**
  - It would be great to provide insight (in the report) as to whether or not all of this new information and research gained through this report is reaching all the necessary people and contacts in a timely fashion.