

From National to Regional Locational Guidance for Renewables



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- Growth of the marine energy sector requires the support of other marine stakeholders.
- National level Sectoral Marine Plans (SMPs) have identified renewables suitable 'zones', based on societal values.
- The Shetland Regional Locational Guidance (RLG) has mapped constraints to renewable developments based on societal AND local cultural values.

Background data

- National vs local and locally verified datasets
- Nationally valued vs national and local valued features

Output

- Suitable resources (SMP) vs siting constraints (RLG).
- Fixed zones (SMP) vs dynamic maps which are updated regularly (RLG)
- RLG linked to policy in Shetland Island Marine Spatial Plan- constraint levels of MEDIUM and above require developments to use appropriate mitigation measures.
- Constraints in RLG policy linked to map, so can be updated without changing the policy or redefining zones.
- Dynamic output allows easy integration of new data, regulation changes or shifts in social or cultural values.

Compatibility

- These plans provide an example of 'nested' marine spatial planning.
- The strategic national SMPs guide developers towards regions with resources suitable for potential for development (large zones within the Shetland Islands in this case)
- The local RLG provides higher resolution spatial guidance on site suitability.

Conclusions

- Stakeholder engagement is key.
- Regional Locational Guidance 'nests' well within national Sectoral Marine Plans.
- Both national SMPs and Shetland's RLG incorporate economic, environmental, social and cultural constraints into one 'total constraint' model, without the need for monetary equivalences.
- Shetland's RLG provides a measure of social justice, where local cultural and socio-economic features are considered alongside nationally valued features.

