

Data Transferability and Collection Consistency Workshop Report

ICOE
Cherbourg, France
June 12th 2018, 9am-12:30pm

Background

The Data Transferability and Collection Consistency workshop builds on the Annex IV team's work engaging the US regulatory community and developing a framework for transferring data from consented marine renewable energy (MRE) projects to future projects in order to increase the efficiency and shorten timelines for consenting.

The workshop brought together MRE researchers, developers, and other stakeholders to discuss ways to "transfer" data, information, and learning on environmental effects from early consented MRE projects. The workshop focused on building on information collected from MRE regulators, presenting a framework for data transferability, refining best management practices for data transfer and collection consistency, and discussing implementation and next steps (see Appendix for agenda).

Twenty one members of the MRE community from 7 different countries participated in the workshop. Participants represented industry, consultancies, research institutions, and government (see Appendix for attendee list). The Annex IV team presented lessons learned from engaging with the US regulatory community through webinars, a survey, and workshops, current challenges to the MRE industry and for permitting/consenting projects, and the need for data transferability and collection consistency. The presentation was followed by an initial brainstorming session on data transferability needs to gather input from participants. Following the brainstorm session, the Annex IV team presented the Data Transferability Framework, Best Management Practices for transferring data, and a table to guide data collection consistency. Based on this material, the participants split into two groups with the objective of discussing the framework, BMPs, and data collection consistency, and to provide their thoughts, feedback, and suggestions on the material. The workshop was concluded by a report out of each group's discussion, discussing next steps for implementation.

Main Points derived from the Workshop:

- Have to get both regulators and developer to buy in – make the process practical for developers and attractive for regulators
 - Also includes consultants who write EIAs
 - Outreach to each group needs to be tailored to that group and their current state of knowledge
- Need to make previous data available and accessible
- Get developers to be comfortable sharing information; then get regulators to say this is what we want to see

- Need to educate/guide regulators and make it easy for them to transfer data
 - Create tool to sort through and find datasets (filters to help find data, and define criteria)
- Instead of focusing on data or research first, should focus on the methodologies for collection consistency
- Collection of acoustic data is a good example of the need for standardization/collection consistency
- Might consider having minimum requirements separate for the 5 environmental impacts
- BMPs should be validated and updated (maybe on an annual basis)
- Data collection consistency table
 - Add a column to data collection consistency table for outcome of data and what it will be used for
- Need to address data transferability for all project phases
- Should be industry driven process that is endorsed by regulators
- Gather some examples of successful MRE data transfer – US example of using data from another industry and Nova Scotia example of new provincial Act
- Can we learn from data transfer from other industries – for example, acoustic deterrent devices used in aquaculture – can this be used for collision risk?
- Use case studies to “test” the framework (see how it would be applied, measure efficacy, and identify gaps) and assess implementation of BMPs
- Need to work with regulators to understand gaps in understanding: bring together a group of regulators to discuss and get regulators talking to regulators
- Overall, BMPs look good and should be implemented

Discussion

The following is a summary of the discussions that took place during each part of the workshop.

Challenges and introduction to data transferability and collection consistency

- Have to get regulators and developers to buy in
 - Make it practical for developers and attractive to regulators
- Regulators:
 - Make it appealing to them
 - Don't give them an “escape route” to not transfer data
 - They are not trained in this area, but open to learning – need to guide and inform them
- Developers:
 - IP is a challenge – developers have to be comfortable sharing data/information
- Collection of acoustic data is a good example of working together to develop data collection standards
- Some issues we don't know how to monitor or measure yet, learning how to best do so

Next Steps

- Continue to work with US regulators
- Get Regulator Survey out to other Annex IV countries
- Write implementation plan and send it to Workshop group for comment
- Eventually, make tool for framework/data transfer to be published on *Tethys*



Data Transferability and Collection Consistency Workshop Agenda

Tuesday, June 12th

900 – 1230

Workshop at ICOE – La Cite de la Mer; Cherbourg, Normandy

Agenda

900 – 920	Introductions
920 – 930	Present challenges and introduce data transferability, and collection consistency
930 – 1000	Brainstorm data transferability needs
1000 – 1030	Data Transferability Framework and Best Management Practices
1030 – 1045	Break
1045 – 1145	Breakout sessions: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Minimum requirements for data transferability2. Data collection consistency table3. Best Management Practices
1145 – 1200	Report out from breakout sessions
1200 - 1220	Implementation brainstorm
1220 - 1230	Next steps and closing remarks

Workshop Attendees:

Name and Role	Organization	Country
Andrea Copping Organizer/Discussion Lead	Pacific Northwest National Laboratory/OES Annex IV	US
Ian Hutchinson, Discussion Lead	Aquatera Ltd.	UK
Mikaela Freeman Organizer/Scribe	Pacific Northwest National Laboratory	US
Jennifer Fox, Scribe	Aquatera Ltd.	UK
Carrie Schmaus, Scribe	US Department of Energy	US
Bruce Cameron	Envigor Policy Consulting Inc.	Canada
Carys Burgess	Atlantis	UK
Célia Le Lièvre	University College Cork	Ireland
Anne Marie O'Hagan	University College Cork	Ireland
Blandine Battaglia	Sabella	France
Caitlin Long	EMEC	UK
Maelle Nexer	France Énergies Marines	France
Tony Rice	FORCE	Canada
Teresa Simas	WavEC	Portugal
Nolwenn Quillien	France Énergies Marines	France
Pedro Vinagre	WavEC	Portugal
Erica Cruz	WavEC	Portugal
Takero Yosida	University of Tokyo	Japan
Craig Chandler	Mersey Consulting Ltd.	Canada
Liz Foubister	Xodus	UK
Russell Dmytriw	OERA	Canada