



DELIVERABLE 7.3

Societal stakeholder characterisation



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Deliverable 7.3 Societal stakeholder characterisation

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1. SAFE WAVE project synopsis

The Atlantic seaboard offers a vast marine renewable energy (MRE) resource which is still far from being exploited. These resources include offshore wind, wave and tidal. This industrial activity holds considerable potential for enhancing the diversity of energy sources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and stimulating and diversifying the economies of coastal communities. As stated by the European Commissioner of Energy, Kadri Simson, during the Energy Day in the framework of the climate conference (COP25) held in Madrid (2-13 December 2019), “the European experience shows that the benefits of clean energy go beyond reduced greenhouse gas emissions and a healthier environment. Clean energy transition boosts the economy and creates jobs. The European Green Deal is also a growth strategy”. In the same framework of COP25 and during the Oceans Day, the European Commissioner for environment, oceans and fisheries, Virginijus Sinkevičius explained that “fighting climate change and protecting marine life biodiversity is a centrepiece of the EU’s ocean policy. Due to climate change, our oceans are facing serious challenges, which require an urgent and comprehensive response. But oceans are also a part of the solution”. Therefore, ocean energy is one of the pillars of the EU’s Blue Growth strategy. Ocean energy could provide clean, predictable, indigenous and reliable energy and contribute to the EU’s objective of reaching a share of renewables of at least 32% of the EU’s gross final consumption by 2030. As it was underlined by Virginijus Sinkevičius, “Marine renewable energy has an incredible potential. The offshore wind sector is growing strongly enough to compete with traditional energy sources. The emerging technologies such as wave and tidal energy will take the same pathway”.

The nascent status of the Marine Renewable Energy (MRE) sector and Wave Energy (WE) in particular, yields many unknowns about its potential environmental pressures and impacts, some of them still far from being completely understood. Wave Energy Converters’ (WECs) operation in the marine environment is still perceived by regulators and stakeholders as a risky activity, particularly for some groups of species and habitats.

The complexity of MRE licensing processes is also indicated as one of the main barriers to the sector development. The lack of clarity of procedures (arising from the lack of specific laws for this type of projects), the varied number of authorities to be consulted

and the early stage of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) implementation are examples of the issues identified to delay projects' permitting.

Finally, there is also a need to provide more information on the sector not only to regulators, developers and other stakeholders but also to the general public. Information should be provided focusing on the ocean energy sector technical aspects, effects on the marine environment, role on local and regional socio-economic aspects and effects on a global scale as a sector producing clean energy and thus having a role in contributing to decarbonise human activities. Only with an informed society would be possible to carry out fruitful public debates on MRE implementation at the local level.

These non-technological barriers that could hinder the future development of WE in the EU, are being addressed by the WESE project funded by EMFF in 2018. The present project builds on the results of the WESE project and aims to move forward through the following specific objectives:

1. Development of an **Environmental Research Demonstration Strategy** based on the collection, processing, modelling, analysis and sharing of environmental data collected in WE sites from different European countries where WECs are currently operating (Mutriku power plant and BIMEP in Spain, Aguçadoura in Portugal and SEMREV in France); the SafeWAVE project aims to enhance the understanding of the negative, positive and negligible effects of WE projects. The SafeWAVE project will continue previous work, carried out under the WESE project, to increase the knowledge on priority research areas, enlarging the analysis to other types of sites, technologies and countries. This will increase information robustness to better inform decision-makers and managers on real environmental risks, broad the engagement with relevant stakeholders, related sectors and the public at large and reduce environmental uncertainties in consenting of WE deployments across Europe;
2. Development of a **Consenting and Planning Strategy** through providing guidance to ocean energy developers and public authorities tasked with consenting and licensing of WE projects in France and Ireland; this strategy will build on country-specific licensing guidance and the application of the MSP decision support tool developed for Spain and Portugal in the framework of the WESE project; the results

will complete guidance to ocean energy developers and public authorities for most of the EU countries in the Atlantic Arch.

3. Development of a **Public Education and Engagement Strategy** to work collaboratively with coastal communities in France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain, to co-develop and demonstrate a framework for education and public engagement (EPE) of MRE enhancing ocean literacy and improving the quality of public debates.

2. List of acronyms

EPE	Education and public Engagement
MRE	Marine renewable energy
RES	Renewable energy source
WE	Wave energy

3. Executive summary

This deliverable comprises a brief report presenting the initial characterisations of the host communities associated with five marine renewable energy test sites in France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain.

4. Introduction

4.1 Background

Within the context of work package 7, SafeWAVE will be working with coastal communities in France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain, to develop and demonstrate a framework for education and public engagement (EPE), specifically aimed at ocean literacy. Task 7.3 is one of the foundational tasks that prepare the way for this framework. Entitled 'Identification and characterisation of societal stakeholders', the aim of this task is to develop a better understanding of societal stakeholder associated with the communities that are host to the marine renewable energy installations and test site in the focal countries. Five locations have been selected for this task, namely:

- Aguacadoura test site located near Aguçadoura a Portuguese civil parish located in Póvoa de Varzim, Northern Portugal.
- BiMEP test site located near the municipality of Lemoiz is situated on the coast of the province of Bizkaia, in the Basque Country, northern Spain.
- Galway Bay test site located near the village of Spiddal (An Spidéal), Co. Galway on the west coast of Ireland c.19 km from Galway City.
- Mutriku test site located near the municipality of Mutriku on the west coast of Gipuzkoa Province in the Basque Country, northern Spain.
- SEMREV test site located near Le Croisic on the west coast of France in the Pays de la Loire region, between the estuaries of Loire and Vilaine.

4.2 Objective

The objective of the preparatory task was the identification and characterisation of relevant societal stakeholders, who would be the prospective audience for the ocean literacy programmes in the four focal countries of France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain. The intention is that this knowledge will inform the development of the EPE framework in T7.4 and the development of specific ocean literacy programmes in T7.5.

Informed by the review of the EPE programmes in T7.2, a mapping or scoping exercise was conducted to better understand the communities. For each of the communities a mapping exercise was conducted through a combination of information arising from

T7.2, desk research and surveys of key informants associated with the test sites. For each of the five communities, information was collected on societal, community, socio-political and public administration aspects.

4.3 Structure

This brief report is quite simple in structure, following on the initial preliminary sections (1-3), the remainder of this report is divided into three sections as outlined below:

- This initial section presents an overview, details background to the work, provides context for the task undertaken, and presents the structure of the document;
- The next section presents an overview of concept of societal stakeholders;
- Section six presents the information gathered for each of the communities;
- The final section comprises concluding remarks which contextualise the report by linking it to subsequent tasks.

5. Understanding ‘societal stakeholders’

The experience of the last two decades of renewable energy deployment has demonstrated that projects are often criticised for the way the benefits and ills are distributed and for the lack of fairness in procedural development (Jenkins et al., 2016). These factors have often resulted in social opposition by individual and stakeholder groups (Cass & Walker, 2009) who are representatives of many different and sometimes discrepant interests. Inadequate management of stakeholder’s concerns can often lead to tensions and misunderstandings about the implementation of a renewable energy technologies. Because renewable energy projects comprise complex modes of interaction among actors from different hierarchical levels and across sectorial boundaries, stakeholder analysis offers an approach to better understand the concerns of the main parties that have a stake in a given project (Lienert et al., 2013), and in a dialogue, seek to reconcile conflicting interests (Susskind & Cruikshank, 1987).

What is a Stakeholder?

The concept of ‘the stakeholder’ is an important aspect of any participative engagement, especially where communities are involved. For Carr *et al.* (2002) it is one of nine essential features of the positive behaviour support approach, which emerged from combining applied behaviour analysis, the normalisation/inclusion movement, and person-centred values to project planning. Adopting a stakeholder perspective invariably requires one to move away from more traditional, expert-centred approaches where the identifying of issues, and the strategies implemented to resolve those issues, were often too narrowly defined and almost exclusively reflect the lived experiences of those same experts, not those who would ultimately be affected. The idea of a stakeholder has its roots in a very specific form of organisation, the multinational company of the globalised economies of the 1980s and 1990s. This initial starting point has evolved into a wider stakeholder theory which can be understood as a negotiated model of governance, but also as a descriptive, explicative, and interpretative, framework for decision-making and action in management (Bonnafoous-Boucher & Rendtorff, 2016).

A project stakeholder is a person, a group or an organisation who have a vested interest in the success or failure of a given project and the environment within which

the project operates (McElroy & Mills, 2000). The implication is that a stakeholder can be any individual or group with the power to be a threat or a benefit (Gibson, 2000). Consequently, it can be understood a state (Yamak & Sürer, 2005), the environment (Jacobs, 1997; Laine, 2010; Orts & Strudler, 2002; Phillips & Reichart, 2000), indeed any entity deemed to have a stake or an interest in a particular activity/project. All management approaches have clear (if not always acknowledged) philosophical, socio-political and indeed moral dimensions to them. Who will benefit and who will be impacted by the decisions of a company or business. The figures below illustrate Freedman's (2010) seminal contribution to understanding the evolution of what or who could be considered stakeholders in the relation to the business organisation, or firm. These range from earlier productivism approaches (Figure 1 and Figure 2), to a more wholistic approach to the numerous actors who can impact the activities of a firm (Figure 3).

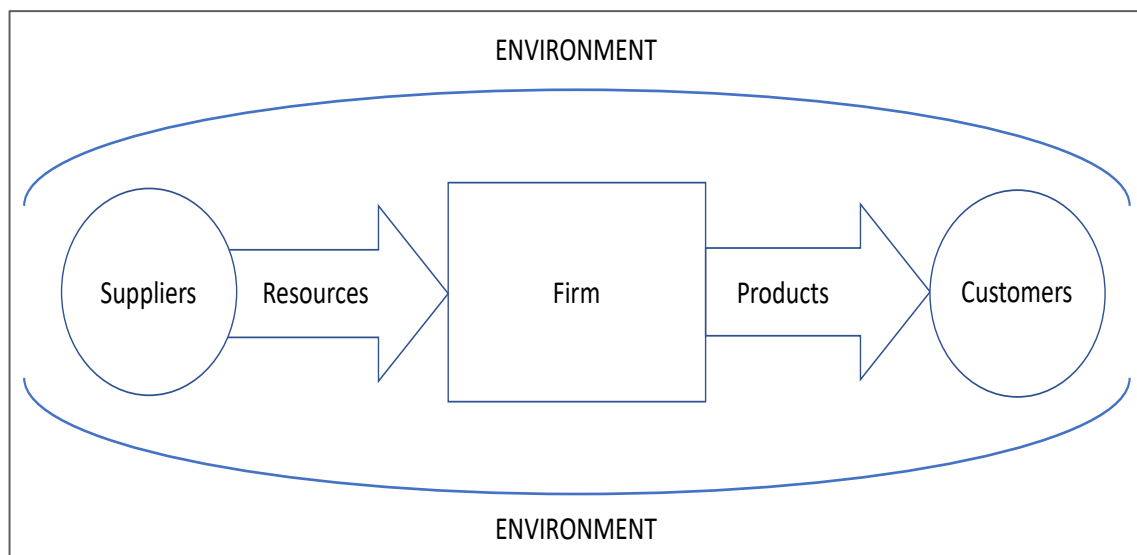


Figure 1 A productivism view of key stakeholders relating to a firm (Freeman, 2010)

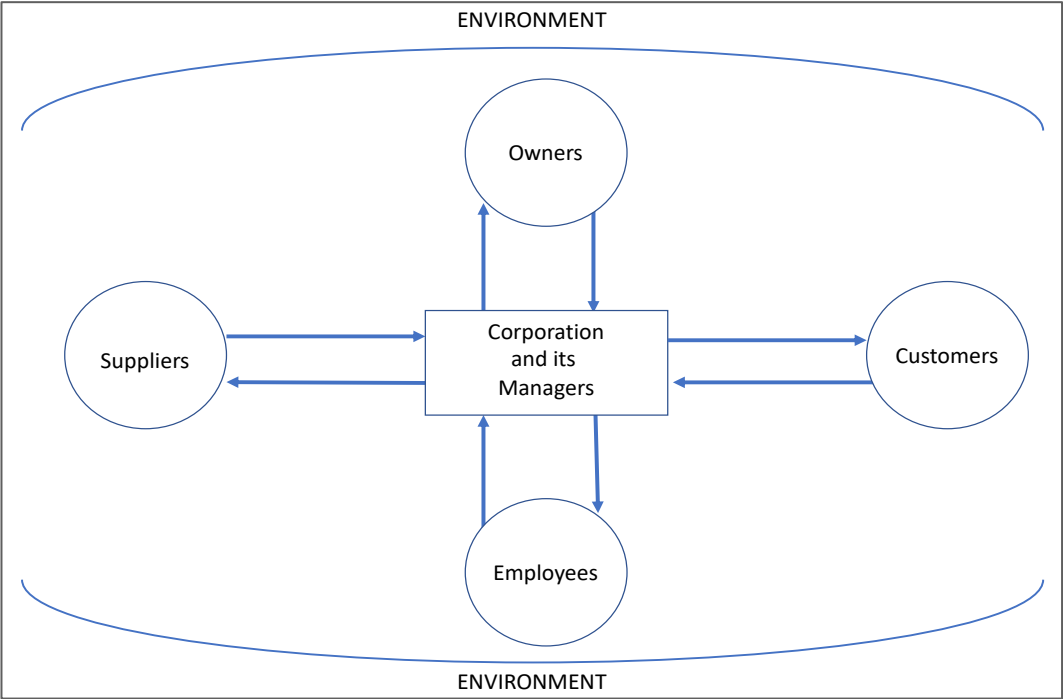


Figure 2 A managerial view of the firm (Freeman, 2010)

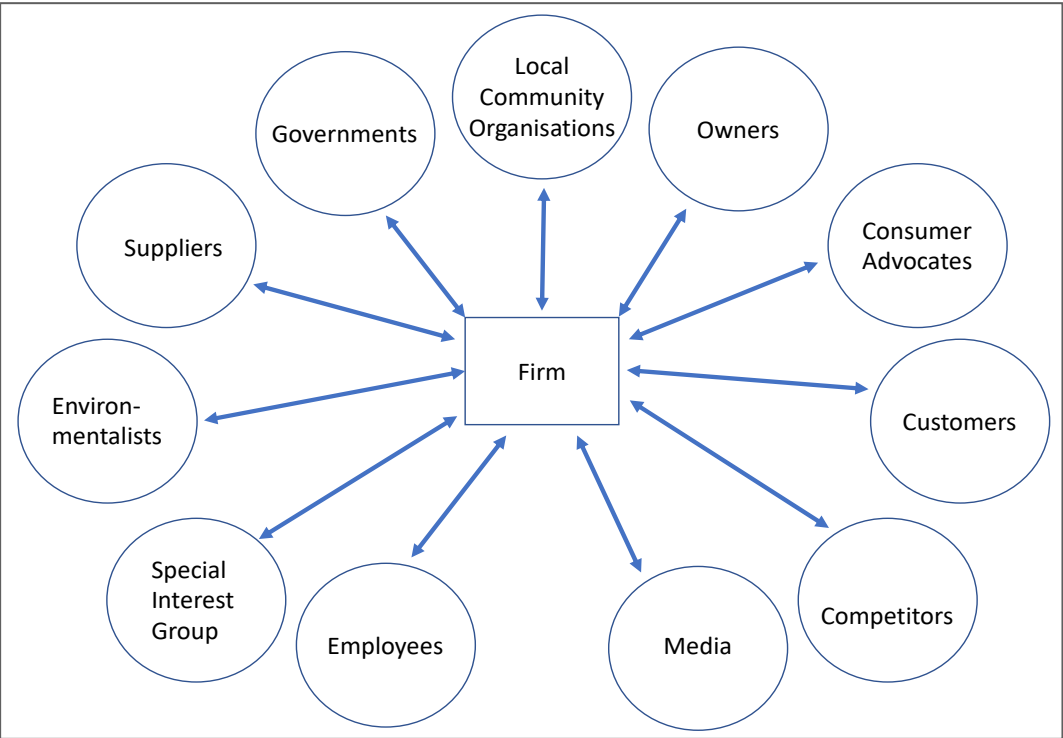


Figure 3 A stakeholder view of the firm (Freeman, 2010)

As we can see in the figures above, the firm or the company always remain at the heart of the management perspective with externalities such as the environment seen as

being outside the process and therefore not subject to consideration. Recent decades there has been a shift in this perspective with existential crises such as climate change and biodiversity loss highlighting the futility of ignoring the very real impacts they can have on the activities of any business. Indeed, even in societal terms the role of communities or didn't not feature as part of the project management process until their role as stakeholders was secured. Even then these examples of early assigning of 'stakeholder' status were often employed by project managers as means of neutralising the potential threat non-company actors posed to a project. In these instances, stakeholders took on a largely passive role receiving instructions from preapproved experts but having little or no say in what happens in a project. However, as the concept developed, and the social dimensions to a project acknowledged as having importance, understanding grew with regards to the complexity associated with stakeholders and the emergence of the kinds of 'stakes' they can have in a project. These can be influenced by social, political, economic, cultural, or environmental factors and as Ginige et al. (2018, p. 1197) suggest take different forms ranging from interest, authority, responsibility, rights, ownership, knowledge, capacity, impact/influence or contribution. Indeed, these stakes can change over the lifetime of a project along with the cohort of stakeholders depending on the stage a project is at.

The importance of stakeholders

The stakeholder concept has taken an important role in public and third sector management practices. For Carter (2010) stakeholder participation can significantly improve (indeed validate) the degree of social acceptance towards a procedure or programme designed to change behaviour, what she terms its 'social validity'. While for Renn (2012) stakeholder involvement can be a useful strategy in governing and managing risk in an ambiguous and complex world. According to Carr et al. (Carr et al., 2002) stakeholders can offer considerable added value to a project by doing one or a combination of the following:

- provide valuable qualitative insights at the planning and implementation stages of a project;
- determine the strengths and weaknesses of a proposed intervention based on past experiences of similar projects in the area;

- deliberate on whether the practical consideration of the project fit with the social values, citizens' needs, and the existing organisational structures present in the area;
- contribute to defining which outcomes are most likely to improve the quality of life of those living near a project, which in turn improves acceptability.

Consequently, it is important that all key stakeholders are identified, along with their stake in the project and the influencing factors affecting those stakes, in order to develop an appropriate plan for engaging the societal challenges they face individually and also present to the project collectively (Ginige et al., 2018).

SafeWAVE test site stakeholder characterisation

The following section comprises a characterisation of the societal context of five test sites of interest to the project. A generic scanning approach was employed, and a mapping exercise conducted using a combination of information arising from T7.2, desk research and surveys of key informants associated with the test sites. Section six present the collated information under the following headings:

- Brief overview of test site;
- Description of the local community;
- Brief overview of relevant political context i.e., those persons, groups, and institutions who hold political power both within and relevant to the local community (and water users);
- List and explanation of relevant public agencies and authorities i.e., public bodies whose remit is relevant to considerations of wave energy and other marine issues;
- Societal and community stakeholders i.e., those persons, groups, and institutions impacted or potentially impacted by wave energy at the test site location;
- Water-users i.e., those persons, groups, and institutions that use the sea/ocean for business and/or pleasure;
- Thought leaders i.e., those persons, groups, and institutions who are respected in the local community who tend to influence discourse and opinion.

6. Characterisation of the test sites

6.1 BiMEP

1. Brief overview of **test site**:

BiMEP is an infrastructure for testing prototypes of marine energy collectors and auxiliary equipment on the open sea. It is located off the Basque coast at Armintza village in the municipality of Lemoiz in the North of Spain.

Operating since June 2015, BiMEP provides technology developers a site with suitable wave and wind resources for testing the technical and economic viability of different concept designs. As a test infrastructure, BiMEP allows for testing and demonstration of offshore wind turbines and prototypes of the accompanying floating platforms and deep water fixed foundations, wave energy devices and auxiliary equipment and sub-systems.

The test area aims to provide security for developers before advancing to the full-scale commercial phase. BiMEP occupies an area of 5.2 km² of open sea which is marked as excluded for navigation and maritime traffic. It is situated at a minimum distance of 1.7km from the shore where the water depth ranges from 50 – 90m and access to the test area is fast and easy from the nearby harbour.

2. Description of **local community**

The municipality of Lemoiz is located on the coast of the province of Bizkaia, in the Basque Country, North of Spain. Lemoiz has just over 1,200 inhabitants and 97% of its population speaks Basque. The village area is 13.40 km². Three main neighbourhoods form Lemoiz - Andraga, Urizar and Armintza. The municipality offers many beaches and bays as well as a rural landscape. Armintza, located in a natural cove, is often frequented by scuba divers and fishing enthusiasts, and is the host to many pleasure boats. The service sector accounts for 84.1% of the Lemoiz municipality's economic activity, whereas Armintza's economy is mostly linked to the sea. Fishing has been its main engine directly or indirectly for years and the village has grown popular as a tourist destination. During the 1970s and 1980s it was the chosen site for the Lemóniz Nuclear Power Plant. However, the project was halted in 1983 and while it was nearly completed, construction remains unfinished due to the 1984 all-Spain moratorium on new nuclear power plants.

3. Brief overview of **relevant political context**

The Basque Autonomous Community (Basque Country) is an autonomous community in northern Spain that includes the Basque provinces of Álava, Biscay, and Gipuzkoa. In the 2020 Basque parliamentary elections, voting in Gipuzkoa Province (comprising 36% of the overall vote) resulted in: PNV, 6 seats; EH Bildu, 9 seats; PSE-EE, 3 seats, EP-IU, 2 seats; and PP+Cs, 1 seat.

The political organisation of Lemoiz's Town Council consists of a mayor and eight deputies. At present, two main parties occupy a majority of seats with the mayor and four deputies belonging to EAJ-PNV² and the other four deputies belonging to EH Bildu¹:

¹ Euskal Herria Bildu (European United Left–Nordic Green Left), (leftist, Basque nationalist, pro-independence) active in the Spanish autonomous communities of Basque Country and Navarre.

² Basque Nationalist Party (European Democratic Party), (Christian-democratic, social-democratic and conservative-liberal). Operates in all the territories comprising the Basque Country: the Basque Autonomous Community and Navarre in Spain, and in the French Basque Country.

4. Brief list and explanation of role of relevant **public agencies and authorities**

The consenting procedure in Spain is a harsh process due to the high number of permits required and authorities involved in the process, from the Directorate for Coast and Sea Sustainability (Ministry of Environment) and the General Directory for Energy Policy (Ministry of Industry) to the town hall of the city where the project is going to be developed (City Council of Lemoiz). There are two different types of procedure depending on whether the installation is onshore or offshore.

The Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO) is the department of the Government of Spain responsible for developing government policy on environmental issues. The Ministry played a part in granting concession of marine-terrestrial public domain for the BiMEP project.

The Ministry of Science and Innovation is the department of the Government of Spain responsible for developing government policy on scientific research, technological development and innovation in all sectors.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is the department of the Government of Spain responsible for developing government policy on agricultural, livestock and fisheries resources, as well as the food industry, rural development and human food.

The Ministry for Industry, trade and Tourism (MINCOTUR) is the department of the Government of Spain responsible for developing government policy on industry, trade and tourism. The Ministry provided the administrative authorisation for conducting the works on the BiMEP project.

Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda (MITMA) is the department of the Government of Spain responsible for developing government policy on land, air and maritime transport infrastructure and the control, planning and regulation of the transport services in these areas. The Ministry played a part in granting concession of marine-terrestrial public domain for the BiMEP project.

The Provincial Council of Bizkaia is the government of the historical territory of Bizkaia. It carries out a wide range of functions such as tax collection, urban

planning, roads and public works, environment, cultural heritage and social welfare. The County Council aims to promote economic development by facilitating decisions that allow the generation of jobs.

The Basque Water Agency (URA) is the Basque Government's public body tasked with implementing water policy in the Basque Country. URA was created with the aim of meeting the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive and the Basque Water Act, enabling comprehensive policy to be developed to protect the aquatic environment.

The Basque Energy Board (Ente Vasco de la Energía - EVE) was created by the Basque government to lay the foundations for energy policy grounded in energy efficiency, diversification of energy sources and the promotion of renewable energies. Since its creation EVE has been responsible for the development of projects and initiatives in line with government policies.

AZTI is a scientific and technological centre that develops high-impact transformation projects with organisations aligned with the United Nations 2030 SDGs. AZTI was responsible for carrying out an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and environmental monitoring programme for the BiMEP project.

Iberdrola is a Spanish energy company. They were contacted during the BiMEP development process and, where appropriate, offered advice on technical aspects to be considered in drafting the execution project.

The Bilbao Bizkaia Water Consortium, a consortium for the installation and management of water supply and sanitation services. The consortium is currently made up of 81 municipalities, representing over one million people in the Biskaia and Basque Country regions.

5. List of **societal and community stakeholders** (from your perspective)

Local community: to meet some of the conditions set by the authorities, BiMEP had to subcontract a 24/7 site surveillance service and BiMEP was committed to hiring local people to develop this activity.

- Fishermen's guilds
- Environmental NGOs
- Birdwatchers (Special Protection Area for Birds)

6. List of **water-users**

- Commercial and recreational fishers (e.g., Vizcaya fishermen's association)
- Recreational water users (e.g., Sea Experiences Bizkaia, El Bote Tours Getxo, Armintza Sub (scubadiving), recreational surfers)
- Birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts (e.g., Verballenas, whale watching tour company)
- Tourists and tourism interests (e.g., Oficina de Turismo (Sopelana), Oficina de Turismo de Bilbao (Bilbao))
- Researchers and developers (e.g., European Maritime and Fisheries Fund EMFF, AZTI, etc.)

7. Brief list and description of **thought-leaders**

Examples of thought-leaders in the area include:

Local national politicians: Inaki Alonso Martin (Mayor of Lemoiz, EAJ-PNV), Antxon Abaroa Egurrola (EAJ-PNV), Maria Asuncion Salazar Zabala (EAJ-PNV), Alberto Domingo Vazquez (EAJ-PNV), Matilde Lineo Revolt (EAJ-PNV), Jesus Maria Arizmendi Bastarrika (EH Bildu), Gabriela Frances Zubillaga (EH Bildu), Endika Rodriguez Martin (EH Bildu) and Artur Koldobika Zubiri Ibarrondo (EH Bildu).

GAINDEGIA, the Observatory for Social and Economic Development in the Basque Country, aims to play a leading role in the process of social and environmental change taking place in the Basque Country and contribute to highlighting and strengthening the country's unique identity as a nation. The association's aims include exploring fields of Basque Country's economy and society that are critical areas for its development as a country and carrying out its study from a national viewpoint.

- Ecology associations
- Fishermen's association (guild)

8. Any other relevant information

N/A

6.2 Mutriku

1. Brief overview of **test site**:

The wave energy plant at Mutriku, promoted by EVE, the Basque Energy Agency¹, was built into the breakwater at the harbour in Mutriku. The plant has a total capacity of 296kW and has been supplying electricity to the grid since 2011.

The Mutriku test site is located inside the plant and can host demonstrating and testing of new concepts and auxiliary equipment for the Oscillating Water Column (OWC) technology devices, including:

- Air turbines
- Air valves
- Energy storage
- Control strategies
- Power generators and converters
- Sensors

Environmental monitoring includes pressure measurements inside and outside the chamber and water column height measurements inside the chamber. Data from the test sites feed into the Wave Energy in Southern Europe (WESE) Project, which collects, processes, analyses and shares environmental data around wave energy devices in a number of European sites. Mutriku was an early case study for project monitoring and data collection focused on three key themes:

- Underwater sound emissions coming from the MARMOK-A-5 device located at the Mutriku Wave Power Plant (and also IDOM-Oceantec);
- Electromagnetic Field (EMF) generation of submarine cables that service the MARMOK-A-5 device at Mutriku; and
- Impacts on seabed integrity associated with the MARMOK-A-5 moorings and mooring lines.

These data contribute to the development of models for analysing the potential cumulative pressures and environmental impacts of future larger-scale wave energy deployments.

2. Description of **local community**

The municipality of Mutriku is situated on the west coast of Gipuzkoa Province in the Autonomous Community of Basque Country, northern Spain. Located at the centre of the Basque coastline between the mouths of Deba and Artibai rivers, it is less than an hour's drive from San Sebastián, Bilbao and Vitoria-Gasteiz, looking out onto the Cantabrian Sea in the southern part of the Bay of Biscay. Its population numbers 5,314 inhabitants according to the 2018 census, and 98% of its population are Basque speakers. The village area covers 2.763 hectares, comprising nine neighbourhoods: Astigarribia, Artzain Erreka, Galdona, Ibiri, Laranga, Mijoa,

¹ Energiaren Euskal Erakundea / Ente Vasco de la Energía

Mizkia, Olabarrieta and Olatz. Local flora includes radiata pine trees and other conifers, along with other typical Atlantic flora species.

Having a largely maritime economy, the natural harbour caters mainly for inshore fishing and ancillary activities. Key fish species are caught depending on the season and include Atlantic Mackerel, Anchovy, Tuna, Squid, Monkfish, and Hake. Fishing has been the engine of its economy, both directly and indirectly, supplying the raw material for the local canning factories. In the municipality, the canning industry has historically been the main focus of economic development though in recent years this has given way to all kinds of metal transformation workshops that connect with the important industry of the region. The harbour also has a large number of leisure craft.

Tourism has contributed to Mutriku's economy for some years now, with the old quarter classified as a cultural heritage site since 1995. Since 2010, Mutriku is part of the Geopark of the Basque Coast, along with Deba and Zumaia, which was incorporated into the UNESCO World Geoparks network in 2015. An estimated 67,6% of the municipality's economic activities coming from the service sector. Mutriku has a number of campsites and many restaurants that also cater to those visiting from the neighbouring town of Deba. It has also become a popular location for vacation homes for those living in the larger nearby cities.

3. Brief overview of **relevant political context**

The Basque Autonomous Community (Basque Country) is an autonomous community in northern Spain that includes the Basque provinces of Álava, Biscay, and Gipuzkoa. In the 2020 Basque parliamentary elections, voting in Gipuzkoa Province (comprising 36% of the overall vote) resulted in: PNV, 6 seats; EH Bildu, 9 seats; PSE-EE, 3 seats, EP-IU, 2 seats; and PP+Cs, 1 seat.

The political organisation of Mutriku's Town Council consists of a mayor and twelve deputies. At present, two main parties occupy a majority of seats with the mayor and six deputies belonging to EH Bildu¹, five deputies belonging to EAJ-PNV² and one independent councillor:

¹ Euskal Herria Bildu (European United Left–Nordic Green Left), (leftist, Basque nationalist, pro-independence, progressive) active in the Spanish autonomous communities of Basque Country and Navarre.

² Basque Nationalist Party (European Democratic Party), (Christian-democratic, social-democratic and conservative-liberal). Operates in all the territories comprising the Basque Country: the Basque Autonomous Community and Navarre in Spain, and in the French Basque Country.

4. Brief list and explanation of role of relevant **public agencies and authorities**

The consenting procedure in Spain can be onerous for developers due to the high number of permits required and authorities involved in the process. These range

from the Directorate for Coast and Sea Sustainability (Ministry of Environment) and the General Directory for Energy Policy (Ministry of Industry) to the Town Hall of the city where the project is sited. With regards to the Mutriku project, as the wave energy device is built into a breakwater and therefore involves electricity generating facilities onshore, the most relevant legislation are Royal Decrees 1955/2000 and 661/2007. As the energy plant was included in the re-design of the breakwater project, the potential environmental impact of the works involved in the construction of the wave energy device was not considered to be significantly different from that involved in the breakwater construction work, thus no major EIA was required in addition to that made for the breakwater. Therefore, including a wave energy project in another project currently being developed was found to save some time and effort, and regarding the EIA monitoring process saved cost as well.

Public agencies and authorities include:

The Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge (MITECO), is the department of the Government of Spain responsible for developing government policy on environmental issues. The Ministry played a part in granting concession of marine-terrestrial public domain for the Mutriku project.

The Ministry of Science and Innovation, is the department of the Government of Spain responsible for developing government policy on scientific research, technological development and innovation in all sectors.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, is the department of the Government of Spain responsible for developing government policy on agricultural, livestock and fisheries resources, as well as the food industry, rural development and human food.

The Ministry for Industry, Trade and Tourism (MINCOTUR), is the department of the Government of Spain responsible for developing government policy on industry, trade and tourism. The Ministry provides the administrative authorisation for conducting the works on the wave energy projects.

Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda (MITMA), is the department of the Government of Spain responsible for developing government policy on land, air and maritime transport infrastructure and the control, planning and regulation of the transport services in these areas. The Ministry has a role in granting concessions in the marine-terrestrial public domain and therefore influences projects like Mutriku.

The Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa, is responsible for governing and administering the province of Gipuzkoa. Its President is elected by General Assembly and is responsible for implementing the programme of the government, which is made up of provincial councillors appointed by the President.

The Basque Water Agency (URA), is the Basque Government's public body tasked with implementing water policy in the Basque Country. URA was created with the aim of meeting the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive and the

Basque Water Act, enabling comprehensive policy to be developed to protect the aquatic environment.

The Basque Energy Board (Ente Vasco de la Energía - EVE), was created by the Basque government as part of its efforts to devise energy policy grounded in energy efficiency, diversification of energy sources and the promotion of renewable energies. Since its creation EVE has been responsible for the development of projects and initiatives in line with government policies.

AZTI - Ciencia y Tecnología Marina y Alimentaria, is a scientific and technological centre that develops high-impact transformation projects with organisations aligned with the United Nations 2030 SDGs. Established in 1981 under the Basque Research and Technology Alliance (BRTA) umbrella, one of AZTI's services is carrying out Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and environmental monitoring programmes relating to wave energy projects.

Iberdrola, is a Spanish multinational energy company. They offered advice on technical aspects to drafting and executing the Mutriku's sister project, BiMEP.

Ocean Energy Europe (OEE), is the trade association for ocean renewables in Europe. Based in Brussels, it represents over 120 members including some of the world's leading utilities, engineering companies, device developers, test centres, regional development agencies and research institutes.

Basque Country Tourism, is the association that represents and promotes the tourism industry in the Basque Country.

5. List of **societal and community stakeholders**

Mutriku Tourist Office, offers guided visits to the Mutriku Wave Power Plant since 2013. This service was promoted and financially supported by EVE to introduce these kinds of technologies to the general public and increase social acceptance.

Basque Coast Geopark, the plant is located within the Basque Coast Geopark, which is part of the European and Global Network of Geoparks and is currently recognized as a UNESCO World Geopark. It is a title that must be renewed every 4 years, and the last time the evaluators came, in 2018, they were interested in the wave power plant.

Nautilus, is the geological interpretation centre of Mutriku and is part of a group of museums owned by the UNESCO Geopark of the Basque Coast, and the Basque Coast Museum Network.

Puerto Deportivo Mutriku (Mutriku Marina), is located within the harbour and offers berths up to 60m in length, with a maximum draft of 7m.

Mutrikuko Udala (Town Hall), is the municipal centre of Mutriku, coordinating town planning, environment, social and youth services in the area. It also works in the areas of sport and culture, and economic development.

Municipal Basque School at Mutriku

School of Music at Mutriku

Surfing Euskadi, operates under the Basque Country Tourism umbrella promoting surfing-related activities in the region.

Yurrita Group, a locally based canning and salting business.

Mutriku Fishermen's Association (guild), largely supportive of the project.

Marine Social Institute

Gipuzkoa Water Consortium

Debegesa, established in 1985 it is the Economic Development Company in Debabarrena with the aim of promoting sustainable development in the area.

SEPE, State Public Employment Service of the Government of Spain works with the State Employment Service and the Public Employment Services of the Autonomous Communities to support unemployed workers (formerly INEM).

6. List of **water-users**

Commercial and recreational fishers (e.g., Mutriku fishermen's association)

Recreational water users (e.g., Buceo Euskadi (scuba diving), visiting the Mutriku Wave Power Plant, coastline tours of the geopark, whale spotting and boat trips)

Birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts (e.g., Karraspio Itsas Turismo (whale watching tour company) climbing and slacklining the Olatz caves)

Tourists and tourism interests (e.g., Oficina de Turismo de Mutriku, Olmedo Uranga Horseback Riding (local horseback riding company))

Researchers and developers (e.g., European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), AZTI, etc.)

7. Brief list and description of **thought-leaders**

José Ángel Lizardi Agirregomezkorta (EAJ-PNV), is the current mayor of Mutriku.

Iñigo Urkullu (EAJ-PNV), is the current president of the Basque Parliament.

Ana Oregi Bastarrika, is the current Minister for the Environment and Territorial Policy of the Basque Government

Arantxa Tapia Otaegi, is Minister for Economic Development, Sustainability and the Environment in the Third Urkullu Government.

Antonio Aiz Salazar, is Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Transport (Economic Development and Infrastructure) and General Director of the Basque Water Agency

David Álvarez Martínez, is the Director of Assets and Contracting (Finance and Economy) in the Administration of the Autonomous Community of Euskadi.

Ecology associations

Fishermen's Association (guild)

Gaindegia, The Observatory of Economic and Social Development of the Basque Country

Pedro Sánchez (Port Delegate)

8. Any other relevant information

N/A

6.3 Aguçadoura

1. Brief overview of **test site**:

The Aguçadoura test site is available for technology developers for research and project demonstration (TRL 5 - 7) of floating offshore wind and wave energy conversion devices, offshore aquaculture technologies, underwater robotics and ocean observation. The site has an onshore monitoring station and an electrical substation. The test site is registered in the Portugal National Maritime Spatial Planning Situation Plan (PSOEM) as a strategic test site for the Blue Economy. As such, the test site may be requested and used for technology testing and demonstration.

The site occupies a 4 km² area, located 5 km from shore, near Póvoa de Varzim north of Porto in Portugal. Each berth is connected to the onshore substation via a 3MW offshore electrical cable and land station, both at 6.6 kV.

Aguçadoura has hosted several ocean technology devices, notably the AWS Archimedes, the Pelamis, the Windfloat Prototype and, from 2021 onwards, the CorPower wave device.

2. Description of **local community**

Aguçadoura is a Portuguese civil parish located in Póvoa de Varzim. In the census of 2001, it had a population of 4,530 inhabitants and a total area of 3.47 km².

Agriculture is the main economic and social activity of this parish. The parish is very competitive in the garden crops sector, despite being located in formerly arid sandy dunes. Fertilization of its soils was done over generations of farmers by gathering sargassum seaweed from the ocean and adding it to the infertile soil. The parish is home to Póvoa de Varzim Horticulture Association – the Horpozim. Among other small businesses, there is also a minor floriculture business. Civil construction and activities related to the tourist and leisure industry are subsectors with real economic significance too. The main beach is considered to be one of the top surf sites along the Portuguese coastline according to Global Surfers.

Despite the large seafront in this area, fishing activity is considered less important in terms of economic activity and employment. The importance of fishing activity in the region focuses mainly on the cities Póvoa de Varzim and Esposende, where the commercial ports and the equipment that allow the best exploitation of this activity are located. The port of Póvoa de Varzim is one of the most important fishing ports on the northern coast of Portugal.

3. Brief overview of **relevant political context**

The relevant political power of Aguçadoura is the Póvoa de Varzim and Esposende City Hall. The parish is managed by the Parish Council of Aguçadoura itself. Póvoa de Varzim is governed by the CDS (Partido Popular or People's Party).

After the first free elections, with the end of the Estado Novo period, only right-wing parties have governed the city: the city council was governed by the CDS between 1976 and 1989 and since then by the PSD (Partido Social Democrata). The CDS saw its popularity suffer an abrupt decline in 1997 and has since then been the third political party. On the other hand, the PSD in the same year achieved its first absolute majority with 62.4% of the votes. After the 2017 municipal elections, seven councilmen were members of the centre-right (PSD), and two of the centre-left PS (Partido Socialista).

4. Brief list and explanation of role of relevant **public agencies and authorities**

Research and development of MRE started in 1978, which led to the construction of the 400kW wave power plant at Pico in Azores in 1999. Since then, required public consents have been adapted to better suit wave energy developments. The main consent required is the "título de utilização dos recursos hídricos" (licence for the water resources use). This can be authorised through a licence or a concession. In the case of wave energy, the option for one or the other depends on the period the device(s) will be installed: for devices deployed for less than one year a licence is required and for more lengthy periods, a concession is mandatory. It also depends on the installed capacity of the development: below or equal to 25 MW a licence will be issued, higher than this value a concession will be required. The actual procedures vary according to whether a licence or concession is necessary, although to initiate the process the applicant must submit the same dedicated pre-application form with the project characteristics and an annex specifying the project location and the site characteristics. The latter includes characteristics relating to navigation, fisheries, leisure areas, water depth and wave climate, water circulation pattern, weather data (wind and storm data), emergency plans and land infrastructure associated with the project. In cases where a concession is required for the project, a competitive public examination must be carried out, starting with a public announcement by the competent authority.

The water resources licence or concession is currently administered by the Portuguese Environmental Agency (APA), which has five decentralised departments within the country corresponding to the hydrographic regions established under the national water law (ARH Norte, ARH Centro, ARH Tejo, ARH Alentejo and ARH Algarve). The applicant must submit the pre-application form to the ARH department that covers the administrative area where the development is to be located. The ARH jurisdiction ends at the limit of coastal waters (one nautical mile offshore or, where applicable, to the external limit of transitional waters). The legal jurisdiction beyond that limit still has to be established in the legislation – in the interim, the APA has assumed responsibility.

Environmental licensing is managed by the regional authority “Comissão de Coordenação do Desenvolvimento Regional” (CCDR; Coordination Committee on Regional Development). In a similar way to ARH, five regional CCDRs correspond to the same designated divisions as above.

During the EIA process there are two phases where the participation of the licensing authority is required: (1) the screening and scoping phase where the competent authority is defined as well as the scope of the EIA study and (2) after the applicant submits the EIA report which culminates in the issue of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by the Minister of Agriculture, Sea Affairs, Environment and Land Use Management, based on advice from the competent authority for EIA. The EIS can be favourable, conditionally favourable or unfavourable to the project installation depending on the evaluation of environmental impacts.

In addition to the licence for the water resources use of the project, a licence for the power production installation is required. The consenting process begins with a pre-application submitted by the applicant to the “Direcção Geral de Engenharia e Geologia” (DGEG, Energy and Geology Directorate-General). This licence does not include grid connection but is needed if the project is to supply power to the national grid. In such a case, a request is made by the developer to the Portuguese Electricity Utility (EDP, Electricidade De Portugal) together with a map of the project location including the geographical position of the connection point. After this, EDP-Distribution informs the developer of the technical solution, budget and any other relevant supplementary information to proceed with the installation of the connection infrastructure. If the construction of infrastructure on land is required for project implementation (e.g., substation, cable routes) a licence to construct these is also required and is administered by the municipal council of the area where the project is to be installed.

DGRM, the National Directorate of the Natural Resources, Maritime Security and Safety, is responsible for issuing licenses for the private use of the maritime space.

APA – Portuguese Environment Agency, responsible for Environmental Impact Assessment decisions.

DGEG – National Directorate for Energy and Geology, responsible for issuing licences for grid connections.

DGPC - National Directorate for Cultural Heritage. They are consulted during the consenting procedure.

5. List of **societal and community stakeholders** (from your perspective)

The fishing industry shapes Póvoa de Varzim’s economy. From the fishing vessels to the city’s fishing market, beach agriculture, and seaweed-gathering for fertilising fields. Tourism and related industries are more relevant in Póvoa's economy these days, as fisheries have lost importance. Nevertheless, in 2004 the fishing productivity was also comparatively higher than the national average.

Associação Pro-Maior Segurança dos Homens do Mar, the most relevant fishermen association of the region. It was established on May 17, 2007. The objective of the Association is to develop and analyse measures linked to non-work security of shipowners, fishermen and other professionals and non-professionals linked to sea life, striving for the consequent implementation of these measures. All interested fishermen and shipowners can be admitted as members, as well as all the people who want to contribute to this Association.

6. List of **water-users**

Local fishermen

Recreational fishers

Leisure maritime activities (Surfers and sailors)

Tourists

7. Brief list and description of **thought-leaders**

José Macedo Vieira, president of the city council of Póvoa de Varzim since 1993 by the PSD party.

Members of the City Council of Póvoa de Varzim and of Esposende.

Parish hall presidents of Aguçadora.

Mestre José Festas: President of the Associação Pro-Maior Segurança dos Homens do Mar.

Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa. President of Portugal who recently conferred the Fishermen association an Ordem de Mérito.

8. Any other relevant information

N/A

6.4 SEMREV

1. Brief overview of **test site**:

The SEMREV test site obtained its first authorisation in 2011 for testing wave energy convertors and in 2013 for floating offshore wind turbine, at a commercial scale. The test site is managed by LHEEA, a laboratory of Centrale Nantes (public school of engineering). The SEMREV is located off the west coast of Le Croisic, in France. The restricted area of 1 km² at sea is located at 20 km from Le Croisic and connected to the grid by a subsea export cable. The water depth is approximately 36 m. The research centre and the substation are located in Le Croisic as well.

2. Description of **local community**

The town of Le Croisic is located on the eponymous peninsula. It is separated from the mainland by an isthmus, and it is surrounded by sea. It is on the west coast of France, in the region "Pays de la Loire", between the estuaries of Loire (south) and Vilaine (North).

Le Croisic is a tourism-orientated city with an increase of population during the summer. The average population is approximately 4000 with 900 inhabitants/km² in 2017. In 2011 50% of the population is above 60 years old, and 60% of houses are secondary residence (tourism or second home) from 2012 data. It also maintains focus on traditional activities linked to the sea, though the main economic activities are concentrated in the tertiary sector.

Agriculture and especially professional fishing still constitute a significant part of the economy. The fishermen of Le Croisic target mainly rose shrimp, langoustine, sole and cuttlefish. The fishing activities surrounding them include connected activities such as ship repairs, the fish market and shellfish aquaculture. Tourist-related activities are also important. Many hostels, campsites and lodges are available on and around Le Croisic. The city hosts a renowned marine aquarium park. Thanks to an important architectural and cultural heritage and natural resources Le Croisic is marketed as the "Little town of Character".

3. Brief overview of **relevant political context**

The mayor of Le Croisic is Michèle Quillard since 2008. She belongs to DVD party ("various right"). Le Croisic belongs to the "metropolitan community" of Peninsula of Guérande who pool 15 cities and deals with local issues.

Nicolas Criaud, Mayor of Guérande and President of CapAtlantique

4. Brief list and explanation of role of relevant **public agencies and authorities**

Prefect (region and department) and Maritime Prefect: they gave the authorisations for the test site.

Land and Maritime Departmental Direction (in French: DDTM): they support the Prefect and conduct the regulatory process on the water quality aspects. They are the contact person/institute to talk with the authorities. ECN informs DDTM of all our activities, and organise dedicated meetings to present new devices, which will be tested on-site. We have regular meetings to inform them and we have to deliver regulatory prescribed surveys (annual report on environmental monitoring according to the permits).

Maritime InterRegional Direction (in French: DIRM): they support the maritime prefect and conduct the regulatory process on marine security aspects. They complete DDTM follow up with marine security aspects.

Regional Environment, Planning and Housing Direction (in French: DREAL): it is the regional authority in charge of environmental issues and the protection of nature. They give their opinion during the regulatory process (previous authorisation) about environmental aspects (based on the environmental impact assessment). They could be involved in environmental monitoring of the site and they receive our annual report.

French Office of Biodiversity (in French: OFB): They are in charge of the protection of biodiversity. They manage Marine Natural Park in France. Around SEM-REV test site there is no Marine Natural Park but OFB are in charge of two Natura 2000 sites (Plateau du Four and Mor Braz). They are involved in the monitoring and protection of birds, marine mammals in particular. They are in charge of biodiversity programs.

Regional Health Agency (in French: ARS): They are in charge, in particular, of the marine water quality (bathing water and shellfish gathering). They give their opinion during the regulatory process. Regarding to the distance to shore, they are not involved a lot with the test site.

Ministry of Defence: They are involved in maritime security.

5. List of **societal and community stakeholders** (from your perspective)

Cap Atlantique is in charge of local issues (e.g., water quality). The town of Le Croisic is part of an urban conglomeration called "Cap Atlantique" which is a key stakeholder in local politics (budget 90Me/years, 280 agents)

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), France Nature Environment and WWF are prominent non-governmental organisations in France.

EDF Renewables is in the process of implementing an industrial fixed offshore wind farm near to SEMREV test site. This could have cumulative impacts. Our team is in close collaboration with them.

OFB (see above) and COREPEM (see below) are in charge of Natura 2000 areas close to the test site.

French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (IFREMER) and National Museum of Natural History (MNHN): they carry out studies and survey about marine issues.

6. List of **water-users**

Commercial fishers (COREPEM is the regional organisation of fishermen)
 Recreational fishers and boaters (association des plaisanciers du Croisic)
 French National Marine rescue company (SNSM)
 Scuba-diving club (GAP44, CASCA La Baule, CNT Plongée,...)
 Local environmental protection association (DECOS, LPO)

7. Brief list and description of **thought-leaders**

Commercial fishers (COREPEM is the regional organisation of fishermen) : fishermen can influence the opinion.

8. Any other relevant information

N/A

6.5 Galway Bay

1. Brief overview of **test site**:

The Galway Bay Marine and Renewable Energy Test Site has been in operation since 2006. A number of organisations have to date been involved in enhancing the research infrastructure at the Galway Bay Test Site, namely: Marine Institute, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, the MaREI SFI Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine and SmartBay Ireland. The site is situated on the North side of Galway Bay, c. 2 km east of Spiddal, Co. Galway, Ireland. The 37-ha site is located 1.5km offshore in water depths ranging from 20m to 23m. The site facilitates the testing of one-quarter scale wave energy devices, as well as floating offshore wind turbines.

2. Description of **local community**

Spiddal (An Spidéal), Co. Galway is a village on the shore of Galway Bay, on the eastern side of the county's Gaeltacht region. Despite its proximity to Galway City (c. 19km), the town maintains a relatively traditional demeanour – students from outside the area come from all over the country to learn the Irish language, along with its associated cultures and traditions, in an area where these remain strong. The village, for example, hosts a relatively large (35.3% in 2016) percentage of Irish speakers and Irish language courses remain popular there throughout the summer when an influx of teenagers from around Ireland is seen in the area. Gaelic football and hurling remain the most popular sports in the village, though the area also has a sailing club. Other outdoor sports which are frequently practised in the area include fishing, horse riding, cycling, golf and walking, particularly along Spiddal's two beaches.

3. Brief overview of **relevant political context**

The Galway West constituency, of which Spiddal is a part, is represented by a total of five deputies to the national parliament (TDs):

- One Fine Gael (European People's Party), (liberal-conservative, Christian-democratic).
- One Fianna Fáil (Renew Europe) (conservative-liberal, Christian-democratic, nationalist)
- One Sinn Féin (European United Left–Nordic Green Left) (nationalist, democratic socialist).
- Two independents, one each from the centre-left/left and centre-right/right sides of the spectrum.
- There is also a former TD from the area who is now a member of Seanad Éireann (upper house of Ireland's Parliament).

Spiddal is part of the Connemara South electoral area of Galway County Council which deals with local issues. The area is represented by five councillors, two Fianna Fáil, one Fine Gael, one Green party (European Greens), and one independent (left nationalist).

4. Brief list and explanation of role of relevant **public agencies and authorities**

All the foreshore of Ireland is presumed to be owned by the State unless valid alternative title is provided. The marine planning and foreshore section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is responsible for issuing leases or licences for foreshore developments. A foreshore lease is required for a development that means exclusive occupation of the foreshore e.g., wave energy, offshore windfarms. A licence is issued for a development that does not require exclusive occupation of the foreshore. Other consents may also be required, from e.g., the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (energy regulator), the Environmental Protection Agency and Galway County Council (local authority).

The Marine Institute (Foras na Mara) is the state agency responsible for marine research, technology development and innovation in Ireland. The institute provides scientific and technical advice to the government to inform policy and support the sustainable development of Ireland's marine resources.

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland is Ireland's national energy authority, with a mission to play a leading role in transforming Ireland into a society based on sustainable energy structures, technologies and practices. The Authority supports ocean energy development throughout Ireland. It administers the Prototype Development Fund where researchers and companies developing innovative ocean energy technologies can seek funding.

Údarás na Gaeltachta, the regional authority responsible for the economic, social and cultural development of the Gaeltacht. The organisation funds and supports a wide range of enterprise development and job creation initiatives.

Irish Maritime Administration of the Department of Transport (comprising: Maritime Safety Policy Division, Marine Survey Office, Irish Coast Guard, Maritime Transport Division and a Maritime Services Division.

Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM), the government department with responsibility for marine issues.

National Monuments Service, protection of sites and monuments, including historic wrecks and other underwater archaeological sites.

The Geological Survey of Ireland is the national earth science agency, known for its work in marine mapping, it manages the INFOMAR programme (Integrated Mapping for the Sustainable Development of Ireland's Marine Resources) mapping of Irish waters.

National Parks and Wildlife Service, the body responsible for the protection and conservation of Ireland's natural heritage and biodiversity at national level.

Galway Harbour Company, the semi-state body tasked with the operation and the development of the Port of Galway and its associated land bank.

5. List of societal and community stakeholders (from your perspective)

Comhlacht Forbartha An Spidéal Teoranta is a community development organisation based in village of Spiddal.

Cumann Forbartha Chois Fharraige is a development association based in the Gaeltacht area extending west of Galway City known as Cois Fharraige

Guth Comhshaoil (Environmental Voice) is a Spiddal residents' group established in response to the latest foreshore lease application for the Galway Bay test site.

Galway and Aran Fishermen's Co-op Ltd. is located in Rossaveal Harbour, on the northern shore of Galway Bay. This local co-operative consists of a fleet of eleven fishing vessels as well as a number of smaller fishing vessels.

Galway Bay Inshore Fishermen's Association was established to protect the interests of fishermen working in Galway Bay and along the Clare coast. There are c. thirty-three members, who fish for lobster, shrimp, velvet crab, brown crab and scallop.

Galway Bay Protection Group, a registered charity formed to 'protect Galway Bay and its coastal zone from actions and events that may prove environmentally harmful"

Galway County Public Participation Network is an open membership network of community groups (within Co. Galway) established to allow input and have their voices heard within the formal decision-making structure.

Clare Public Participation Network is an open membership network of community groups (within Co. Clare) established to allow input and have their voices heard within the formal decision-making structure.

An Taisce - the National Trust for Ireland is a non-governmental organisation active in the areas of the environment and built heritage in Ireland.

Friends of the Irish Environment is a prominent environmental non-governmental organisation in Ireland.

Coastal Concern Alliance is a national group set up to campaign for the protection of Ireland's coastal zone.

6. List of **water-users**

- Commercial fishers (e.g., Galway and Aran Fishermen's Co-op Ltd., Galway Bay Inshore Fishermen's Association)
- Recreational fishers and charter boats (e.g., Galway Bay Fishing, Galway Bay Boat Tours, Blue Shark Angling, etc.)
- Recreational water users (e.g., Galway Bay Sailing Club, Atlantic Masters sea swimming club, Rusheen Bay Windsurfing, Galway Sub Aqua Club, Galway Kayak Club)
- Birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts (e.g., BirdWatch Ireland Galway Branch)
- Tourists and tourism interests (e.g., Connemara Chamber of Commerce)
- Researchers (e.g., NUI Galway, Galway-Mayo IT, MaREI SFI research centre, etc.)

7. Brief list and description of **thought-leaders**

Examples of thought-leaders in the area include:

Local national politicians: Catherine Connolly TD (independent); Hildegard Naughton TD; Eamon Ó Cuív TD (Fianna Fáil); Noel Grealish TD (independent); Mairead Farrell (Sinn Féin); Senator Sean Kyne (Fine Gael).

Local political figures: Councillors Pádraig Mac an Iomaire (Fine Gael), Noel Thomas (Fianna Fáil), Daithí Ó Cualáin (Fianna Fáil), Alastair McKinstry (Green Party) and Tomás Ó Curraoin (independent).

Other community leaders include:

Gearóid Ó Fátharta, Chairman, Cumann Forbartha Chois Fharraige

Aodán Mac Donncha Manager, Comhlacht Forbartha an Spidéil Teoranta

Seán Griffin, General Manager, Galway and Aran Fishermen's Co-Op Ltd.

Patrick Oliver, Chairman, Galway Bay Inshore Fishermen's Association

Dr. Mark White, Spiddal Sailing Club

Tríona Ní Mhurchu, Principal, Coláiste Chroí Mhuire

8. Any other relevant information

Both TG4 and RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta (RnG), national Irish Language TV & radio stations respectively are based in the locality. RnG in particular focuses a lot of content on matters of interest to the Gaeltacht community.

Media with a particular focus on the area around Spiddal include Galway Bay FM, Connemara Community Radio, Connacht Tribune, and the Connaught Telegraph

7. Summary

The deliverable presented an initial characterisation of the societal stakeholder context within the five focal communities that are host to the marine renewable energy installations and test site in France, Ireland, Portugal and Spain.

For each case, information was gathered about the test site, the host community, political context, public administration, societal and community stakeholders, the community of water-users, and thought-leaders. This new knowledge will inform the planned engagement with the communities and directly feed into the development of the EPE programme.

The information collated as part of this task and presented in this document will not remain a static output, rather the outline characterisation of the communities will be iteratively revised and updated over the life of the work package to take account of new information arising from the engagement with the stakeholders envisaged in the context of other tasks within WP7.

This was an internal report on a preparatory piece of work which will inform future work on the education and public engagement framework in T7.4, and eventually will feed into the development of ocean literacy programmes in T7.5.