

Perceptions of the Inshore Wave Resource by Beach Water-Users in the lee of Wave Hub

Christopher Stokes
PhD researcher, Plymouth University

Co-authors: Prof. Paul Russell, Dr. Emily Beaumont, Prof. Deborah Greaves.

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RESEARCH
WITH
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sowfia
Streamlining of Ocean
Wave Farms Impact
Assessment

Introduction

Wave Hub Controversy

- Stakeholder opposition
Fishermen, Shipping, Tourism, **Surfers**

Reduction in wave height and quality

- Not a trivial objection!
Recreational water-users bring ~ £300 million of tourism a year to Cornwall
(Environment Agency, 2007)

Cornwall is the UK's poorest county
Gross value added (GVA) 61% of UK average
(Long, 2014)

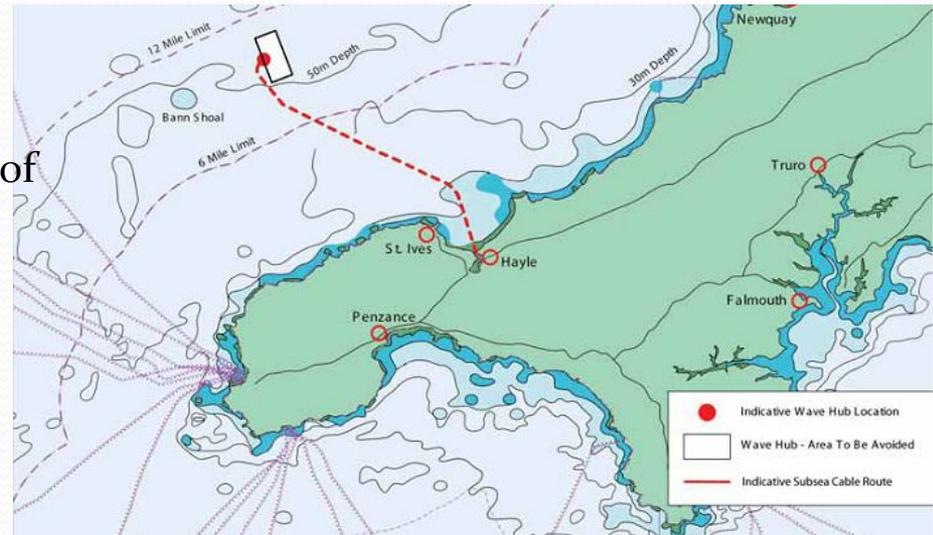
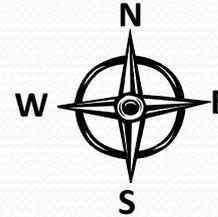


Image Courtesy of www.WaveHub.co.uk

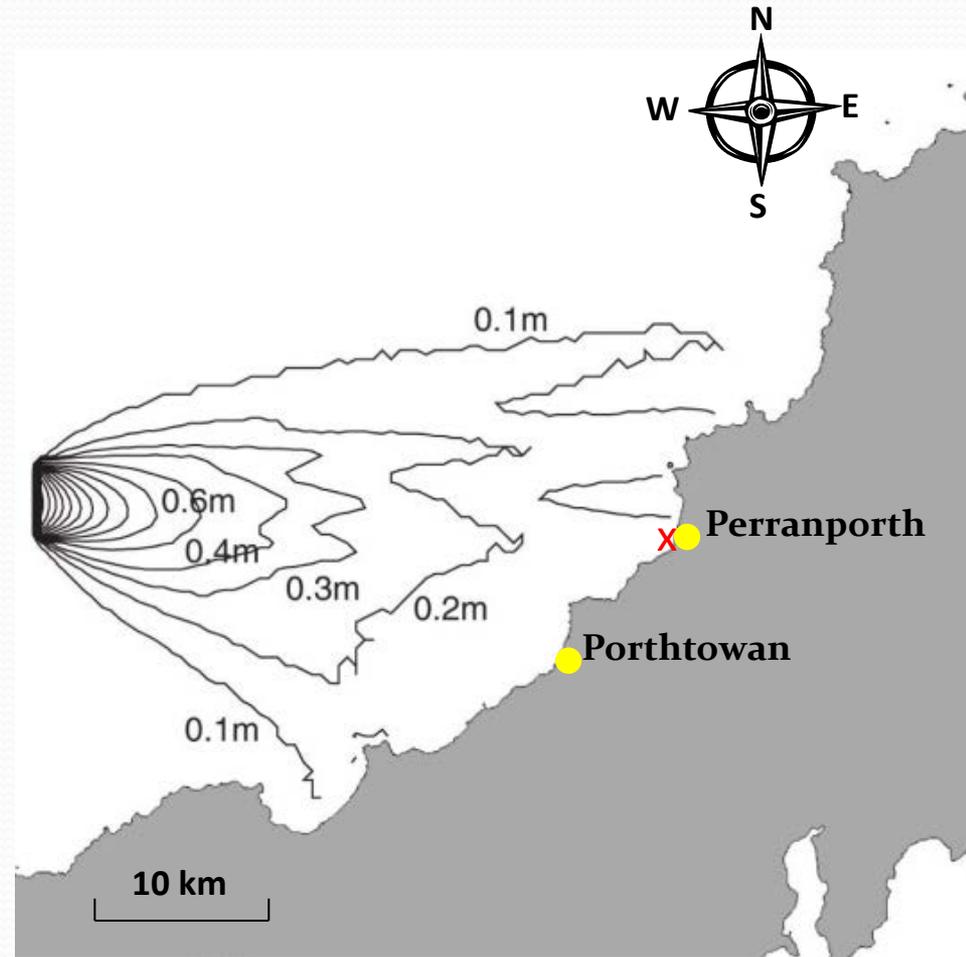
Introduction

- Modelling results indicate Wave Hub impacts will be small –

0.5 – 2% reduction in height at Perranporth under 30% extraction scenario (Smith et al. 2012, Miller et al. 2007)

Peak periods will experience most reduction in wave height (Smith et al. 2012)

- **Water user preferences and perceptions yet to be explored**
- **Unknown how likely they are to be affected by, or if they will correctly perceive any changes**



AIM: investigate wave preferences and how abundant the 'wave resource' is perceived to be.



Methods

Questionnaire (n = 403)

- Preferred wave height and period for water use
- Annual mean breaker height
- Probability of breaking heights over 6ft (1.83 m)
- Probability of 'ideal' wave conditions for water use
- **Observations of breaker height and period**



Nearshore wave measurements



Photo and wave data courtesy of
Channel Coastal Observatory.
<http://www.channelcoast.org/>

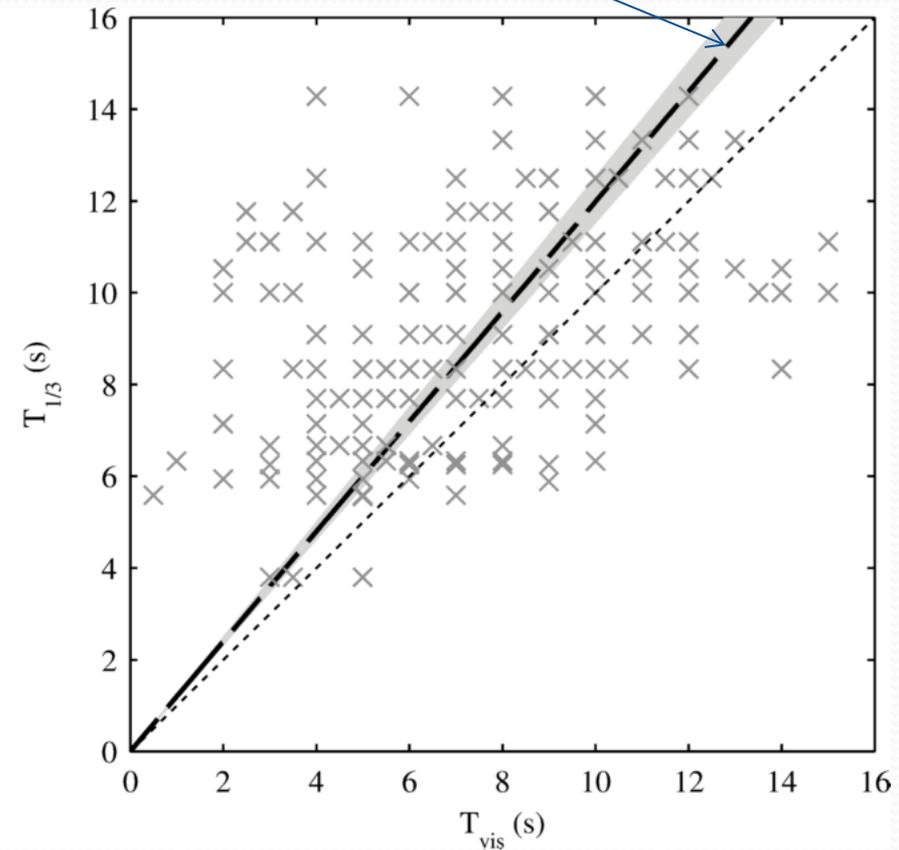
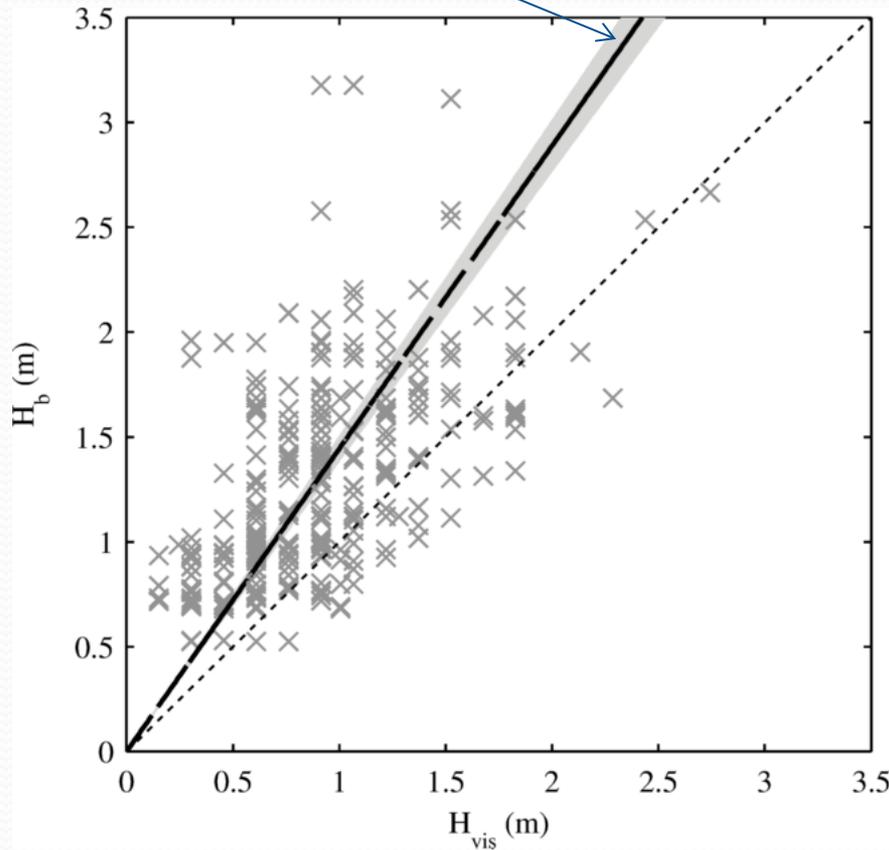
Wave height/period perceptions

$$H_{\text{vis}} = 0.70 H_b$$

(RMS error 0.52 m)

$$T_{\text{vis}} = 0.83 T_{1/3}$$

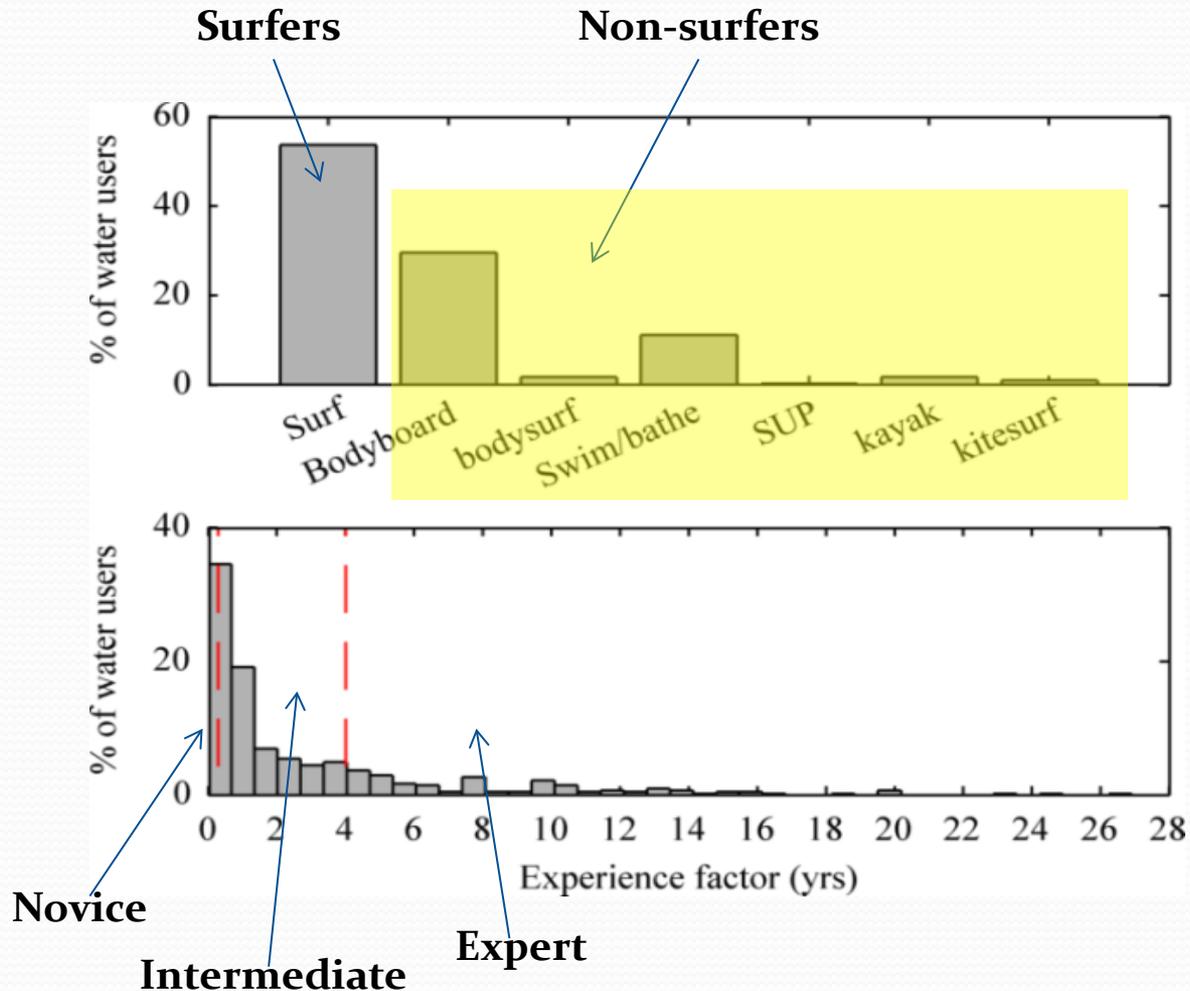
(RMS error 3.22 s)



..... Line of perfect correlation for reference

— — — Mean ratio
(observation/ measurement)

Results - Water User Categories



Results - Perception ratios

Wave height ratios

Wave period ratios

Water user categories	Surfers	Non-surfers	Surfers	Non-surfers
Novice	0.75	0.83	0.79	0.81
Intermed.	0.63	0.70	0.87	0.81
Expert	0.59	0.62	0.81	0.81

Interpreting wave preferences

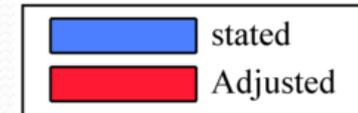
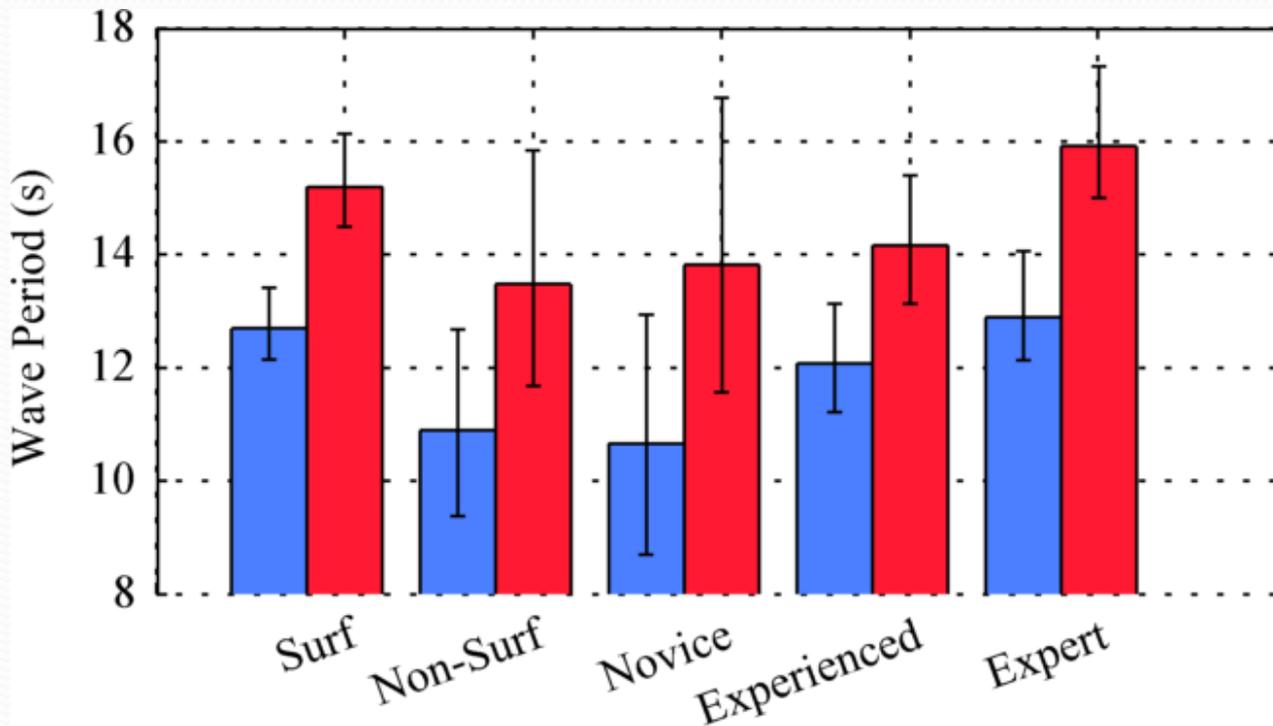
- To determine a measured trough to crest equivalent, all wave heights (and periods) were adjusted –

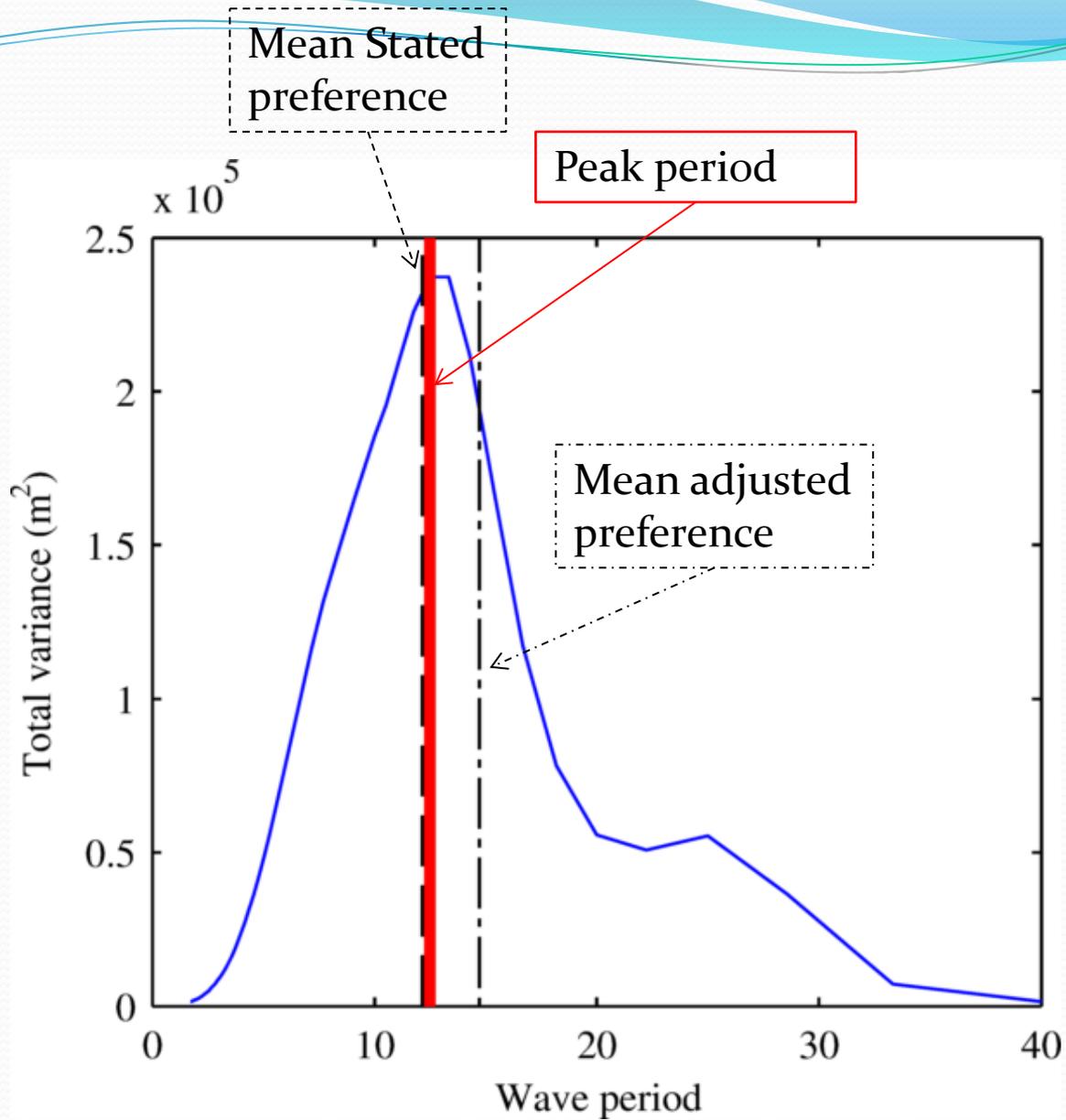
$$\text{measured conditions} = \frac{\text{stated conditions}}{\text{perception ratio}}$$

Results - Wave Preferences

**Preferred wave
height**

$$\text{adjusted} = \frac{\text{stated conditions}}{\text{perception ratio}}$$





Summed wave spectrum from 7 years of half hourly spectra

Perception of the wave resource

Perceived abundance of 'ideal' wave conditions

(% of days in a typical year)–

Large wave conditions ($H_b > 1.83\text{m}$) – Mean breaking wave height - 48%

intermediate mean $H_b = 1.75\text{m}$ 37%

• Perceived to occur on 34% of days in a typical year

• On average participants overestimated the occurrence of large waves by 19%

non-surfers 43%

surfers 32%

- novice non-surfers (17% of the sample) 50% of days
- expert surfers (18% of the sample) 25% of days

Conclusions

- Preferred wave heights 1.5 – 2.5 m
- Preferred wave period ~14 s
- Water-users generally overestimated the abundance of wave energy
- Preferred wave period of all water-users is ~ equal to the peak period, associated with the bulk of available wave energy -

Potential clash of interest between device developers and water-users?

Predicted wave impacts needs to be clearly conveyed to water-users to avoid opposition.

Thanks for listening

A full reference list can be found in the conference proceedings.

Current/further research –

- Changes in the occurrence of preferred waves under extraction scenarios
- Beach morphodynamics of relevance to water users

Christopher.stokes@plymouth.ac.uk