

Changes in Benthic and Pelagic Habitats Caused by Marine Renewable Energy Devices

Adding any human-made structure to the marine environment can affect the habitats that marine animals rely on. These structures can be piers, sunken ships, pipelines, or marine renewable energy devices. Marine renewable energy devices can be placed on the seafloor, in the middle of the water column, or on the surface of the water. Many devices will also have electric cables or anchors on the seafloor that may be buried or have coverings or cable protections. Placing these devices, cables, and anchors seafloor (benthic) and water column (pelagic) habitats may cause changes to these habitats and the animals that use them.

