

Displacement of Animals from Marine Renewable Energy Development

When large numbers of marine renewable energy devices (or “arrays”) are placed in the ocean, they may cause animals such as large migratory fish or whales to act differently or be displaced from the area. Displacement can happen when animals may need to swim longer and farther to go around arrays of devices (avoidance) or when they see the array as a barrier and are not able to get to their preferred habitat (exclusion). Other animals may swim toward the devices out of curiosity or for the new habitats provided (attraction). There are currently no large arrays of marine renewable energy devices in the ocean, but scientists are already beginning to study displacement to understand the ways marine animals could be affected.

