

SCOTTISH OFFSHORE RENEWABLES RESEARCH FRAMEWORK (SPORRAN)



Introduction

The Scottish Offshore Renewables Research Framework (SpORRAN) was created to ensure that any research undertaken to develop the Offshore Renewable sector in Scotland is done in a collaborative and co-ordinated way.

Marine science plays a key role in addressing the environmental and socio-economic uncertainties that surround placing offshore renewable devices in the marine environment and SpORRAN will help Marine Scotland ensure that any developments are undertaken sustainably and that new knowledge informs future plans and projects.

SpORRAN has Seven strategic objectives:

1. To map out and prioritise the evidence needs.
2. To be more co-ordinated and work together with other groups.
3. Understand the current research landscape.
4. Explore joint funding opportunities.
5. Provide a mechanism for the monitoring, review and update of the Sectoral plans for Offshore Wind, Wave and Tidal Energy.
6. Collaborate with specialist Regional Advisory Groups (RAGs).
7. Ensure new knowledge informs future decision making and is disseminated.

Membership of SpORRAn

SpORRAn consists of a high level coordination group (SCG) and seven specialised research groups (SSRG). The groups include representation from industry, environmental stakeholders, Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies and researchers.

The SpORRAn Coordination Group (SCG) is responsible for:

- Guiding the strategic direction of SpORRAn and reviewing its success.
- Signing off SpORRAn documentation.
- Advising on a strategic programme of work required to address SpORRAn priorities.
- Looking for synergies between research prioritised by SpORRAn groups, their own organisational research and requirements from other marine policies.
- Considering mechanisms to address priorities.
- Discussing mechanisms to ensure new knowledge is feeding back into future decision making.
- Promoting the framework.

The SpORRAn Specialist Research Groups (SSRG) are responsible for:

- Identifying and prioritising the evidence needs in an evidence map.
- Maintaining awareness of funding opportunities.
- Linking evidence needs between the various specialist groups where appropriate.
- Encouraging collaborations.

The evidence maps will set out a prioritised list of evidence needs in line with current policy and licensing objectives. They will be maintained as live documents and updated as required.

Communication

In collaboration with members of SpORRAn groups, Marine Scotland will develop a communications plan to ensure good communication between existing groups using existing communications methods.

Supporting other policy areas

The research landscape is complex and the research required for the development of offshore renewables may also support marine policies in other areas and sectors. The framework will seek to make these connections through the evidence maps and good communication pathways.

Further information and documents can be found online at
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/marineenergy/mre/research>

