

Stakeholder and Fisheries Collaboration: Lessons Learned from Scotland's Kincardine Floating Offshore Windfarm

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Call:: MRC 2025 Technical Track - Call for Abstracts

What Theme Are You Submitting for?: Indigenous and Social Considerations

Keywords: fisheries, floating wind, stakeholders

The presentation will briefly outline the background to and the context of the trailblazing project, in the context of impacts, perceived, or otherwise.

The challenges presented by the complex local and national fishing communities and other relevant stakeholders, such as local authorities, harbour/port sectors, other marine industries and environmental interests will be outlined. An opportunity to outline how the windfarm development balance the conflicting interests of static gear (pot/trap) and mobile trawling activities. In the Kincardine example, crucially safety issues in relation to the development infrastructure and fishing activities - the issue being the marine architecture involving 5 steel floaters protected by 50 metre exclusion/safety zones whilst individual mooring chains/anchors extend to 1.5km all round. The importance of insightful and effective early fisheries liaison will be underscored and the necessity for project fisheries liaison teams to be embedded at a high-level within the project hierarchy. The importance of state/national fisheries liaison guidelines will also be outlined - the presenter having chaired the drafting committee for the UK's Fisheries Liaison Offshore and Wet Renewables (FLOWW) Guidelines. Lessons learnt in approaches to and circumstances where the relevance of payments to fishermen - individually or through associations/federations - will also be outlined. A distinction between compensation v cooperation payments will be addressed. The value of fishing friendly electronic charting etc will be mentioned, with the benefit of the UK type KIS-CA and FISHSafe systems to Marine Communities being particularly worthy of note. Upgrading of fishermen electronic plotters and navigation devices as well as safety equipment will be described. The value and practicality of Fishing Industry Legacy Trust Funds, and the management thereof will be set out. The mutual benefit of involving local fishermen, fishing vessels etc in opportunities for guard/patrol and overtrawlability work will be highlighted. (NOTE: Email submission - overall abstract summary above)