



17th January 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

A review of all environmental benthic reports submitted by European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) developers and accepted by Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) to date has been carried out by the EMEC Monitoring Advisory Group (MAG). It is with regard to this review that MS-LOT is contacting you now.

Current Situation

As you will be aware, any Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) submitted to MS-LOT is required to include details of benthic surveys, usually pre and post-installation and post-decommissioning. Prior to this, benthic surveys were usually conditioned into FEPA (1) licenses. These surveys should have methodologies agreed with MS-LOT and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the ensuing environmental reports detailing the findings of the benthic surveys should also be submitted for review and comment. MS-LOT are responsible for the formal acceptance of these reports.

These reports were included as part of a wider-scale review of all monitoring reports related to testing at the EMEC test sites. This review process extends into the remit of the EMEC MAG. The aim of the review is to capture and apply the findings and indications of the multiple reports submitted by developers testing devices at the EMEC sites, and help to refine licence conditions. This will ensure that this learning is applied as appropriate to current and future licensing conditions.

Purpose of this letter

This letter is to inform developers that after this extensive review there is no longer a requirement for environmental benthic reports (pre and post-installation and post-decommissioning) to be submitted in relation to devices tested at the main EMEC test sites at Billia Croo and the Fall of Warness.

What this means for your development

In effect, any condition placed on any licence (including FEPA, Marine (2) or CPA (3)) by Marine Scotland (or its predecessor regulatory bodies) that requires the licence holder to analyse environmental benthic footage or data and submit a report to MS-LOT of the findings, will henceforth be considered by Marine Scotland as being fulfilled.