

Dear Pro-Tide Environmental Aspects Group Members,

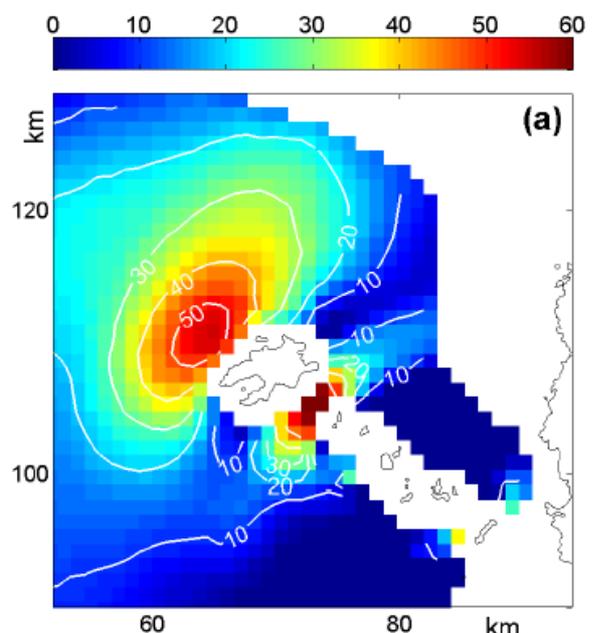
It is summer holiday season, and while many of us are enjoying short and long breaks, close to home or in exotic places, news and events in the tidal energy sector continue to develop. Highlights this month include new research into tidal resource characterisation using high-frequency radar carried out by Pro-Tide partners Université du Littoral – Côte d’Opale, and Pro-Tide project research to be presented at the upcoming European Wave and Tidal Energy Conference in Nantes, France, this September.

Marine Energy Consenting Recommendations Published

Recommendations for streamlining the environmental consenting process for marine renewable energy projects in Wales have been published by an industry-led sub-group of Marine Energy Pembrokeshire. Key recommendations include development of ‘best practice’ guidance to assist developers and establishment of a transparent consenting framework with clearly defined timescales. In line with the ‘survey, deploy, and monitor approach’ currently used by the Scottish Government, the group recommended that the Welsh Government adopt a policy which allows the regulating body, Natural Resources Wales, to take a risk-based, proportionate approach to consenting marine renewable energy projects. This approach should take into account the environmental sensitivity of the location, and the scale and type of development. Where the environmental risk is low, this could enable projects to proceed with reduced survey requirements. The group suggested that this approach would support the industry by permitting earlier-stage and/or smaller developments to proceed with a proportionate approach to uncertainty.

Demonstrating high-frequency radar as a mapping tool for tidal energy sites

New research from Pro-Tide partner Université du Littoral – Côte d’Opale has demonstrated a new method to map current velocities at tidal energy sites using high-frequency radar. Focussing on the Ushant Island, Iroise Sea, France, the team gathered more than one year of surface current velocities using the radar technology. The site is characterised by exceptionally high tidal asymmetry, with variations in flow speeds ranging from 0.5 m/s to 2.5 m/s. The high-frequency radar methods were complemented by current flow data obtained using a bottom-mounted adcp, increasing the team’s confidence in the results obtained using high-frequency radar.



Percentage of time tidal current velocity exceeds 1 m/s Ushant Island, Iroise Sea, France. Sentchev & Thiébaud 2015.

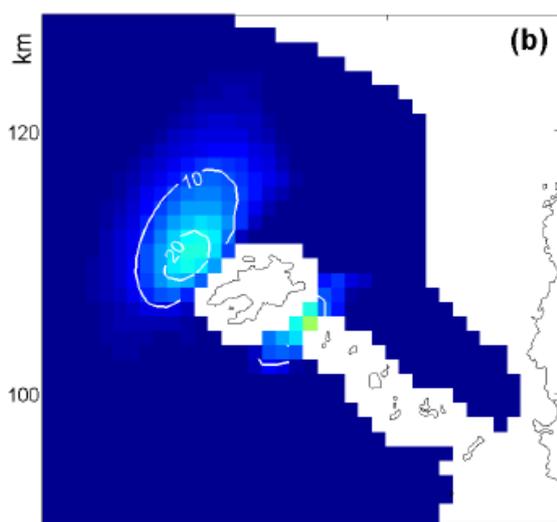
Investing in Opportunities



This project has received European Regional Development Funding through INTERREG IV B.



INTERREG IVB



Percentage of time tidal current velocity exceeds 2 m/s at Ushant Island, Iroise Sea, France. Sentchev & Thiébaud 2015.

Importantly for the tidal energy industry, the group was able to use the outputs from the high-frequency radar to develop a method to optimize micro-siting of tidal energy devices to maximise power generation potential, in response to physical environmental constraints.

Pro-Tide Project Partners to present at EWTEC in September

Jacob van Berkel (Pro-Tide NL), Alexei Sentchev (Université du Littoral, Côte d’Opale), and Raeanne Miller (Scottish Association for Marine Science) will be presenting some of the outcomes of the Pro-Tide project at the upcoming European Wave and Tidal Energy Conference (EWTEC) in Nantes, France, this Autumn.

Jacob van Berkel will present the outcomes of the ongoing fish friendliness testing at the Nuon/Vattenfall’s hydropower station Maurik, while Raeanne Miller will present key outcomes of the Pro-Tide Environmental Aspects work package, and how these contribute to development of tidal energy in Europe. Alexei Sentchev will present the work described above on mapping tidal energy resources with high frequency radar. Alexei, Jacob, and Raeanne have produced conference papers associated with their work, which will be available as part of the published conference proceedings, as well as on the Pro-Tide website as soon as they are available.

Information requested! Pro-Tide Environmental Work Package

Do you or your colleagues have burning feedback for the Pro-Tide Environmental Aspects Group? Or a relevant case study which you would like highlighted as part of the Pro-Tide Project Environmental work package? Or ideas and suggestions for the legacy of this project? We would like to reach out to all members of the Pro-Tide Environmental Aspects Group and provide an opportunity to reflect on the impact this element of the Pro-Tide project has had. What have been the most important outcomes for your organisation? Do you have key recommendations you would like communicated more widely?



Examining fish for damage following testing carried out at the Pro-Tide NL site at the Maurik hydropower plant.

If so, please don't hesitate to contact Pro-Tide Project Environmental Investigator, Raeanne Miller, who will endeavour to reflect your contribution in the work package final report. Raeanne can be reached by email at Raeanne.Miller@sams.ac.uk

Upcoming Events

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| September 7th-11th 2015 | European Wave and Tidal Energy Conference (EWTEC), Nantes, France |
| September 29th 2015 | Pro-Tide Master Course, CCI, Boulogne-sur-Mer, France |
| September 30th – October 1st 2015 | Pro-Tide Final Conference, Dover, UK |

The Environmental Aspects Group work package final report is currently in development, so please remember that all Pro-Tide related publications, documentation, and other outcomes should be conveyed to Raeanne at Raeanne.Miller@sams.ac.uk. In the meantime, keep an eye out for the EAG Final Workshop Report, which should be making its way to your inboxes imminently!

Best wishes,



Dr. Raeanne Miller
Pro-Tide Environmental Investigator