

Data Transferability and Collection Consistency Workshop

June 12th, 2018

9:00am to 12:30pm CEST

La Cité de la Mer, Cherbourg, Normandy - France

The workshop will bring together marine renewable energy (MRE) researchers, developers, and other stakeholders to discuss ways to “transfer” data, information, and learning on environmental effects of early MRE projects. The purpose of the data transfer is to reduce the high costs of environmental monitoring and accelerate consenting for future projects. The workshop will focus on refining best management practices for data transfer and collection consistency, building on information collected from MRE regulators.



Background on Data Transferability and Collection Consistency

As the MRE industry progresses in waters worldwide, there continues to be an increasing demand for data and information about how MRE technologies (wave and tidal) may affect the marine environment. While understanding of potential environmental effects of MRE development is increasing, continued uncertainty leads to high costs of baseline assessments and post-installation monitoring, as well as protracted timelines for obtaining licenses and permits. In addition, data collected around early-stage MRE devices use many different methods, instruments, and measurement scales that make comparability of results challenging or impossible.

Both data transferability and collection consistency can help reduce these risks to the industry. Transferring learning, analyses, and datasets from one country to another, among projects, and across jurisdictional boundaries can aid regulators in consenting processes and provide increased peace of mind to stakeholders. Additionally, if similar parameters and accessible methods were used to collect baseline and post-installation monitoring data, the results would be more readily comparable leading to a decrease in scientific uncertainty, support for a common understanding of the risk of MRE devices to the marine environment, and an easier ability to transfer data between projects.

What do we mean by “data transferability”? Using data from an early stage MRE project or analogous industry to be “transferred” to inform potential environmental effects and consenting for a new MRE project. Data can include raw or quality controlled data, but more likely it will be analyzed or synthesized data and information (in the form of reports, research studies, etc.).

The Annex IV team has engaged with the regulatory community in the US and through these interactions it has become clear that data transferability and collection consistency is of interest to regulators and could be used to help consent new MRE developments. After gaining feedback from regulators, we now want to hear from MRE researchers and developers regarding data transferability and collection consistency and work together to develop best management practices that can aid the MRE industry as it continues to advance.

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- Discuss data transferability and collection consistency and how it can alleviate challenges to MRE industry and regulators;
- Present feedback from regulators on the ability to use transferred data/information/learning for consenting and present our data transferability framework;
- Refine best management practices for data transferability and collection consistency; and
- Brainstorm implementation strategies for best management practices.

Andrea Copping

Senior Program Manager for Coastal and Marine Waters
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Andrea.copping@pnnl.gov

Mikaela Freeman

Marine Science and Policy Analyst
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
Mikaela.freeman@pnnl.gov