

Effective environmental data collection: using novel and traditional methods to understand fine scale habitat use

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Rationale

Impacts from MRE devices to the marine wildlife are still largely unknown. Potential risks include displacement, loss of key habitat, effects on prey species and entanglement or collision with devices or their moorings. These effects can be detrimental to the population health of various species and habitats and as such require strict assessment before any license can be acquired. Cost effective and timely data collection is important to acquire scientifically robust dataset enabling the appropriate assessment of key species at potential tidal and wave energy development sites.



Methods

- SEACAMS2 will trial aerial and underwater imagery using an unmanned aerial vehicle, UAV and underwater videography in combination with land based visual tracking as well as acoustic methods.
- The study will assess the feasibility of different methods for gathering information on marine mammal and seabird habitat use, as well as interactions with their prey.

Outcome

- The aim is to determine the most cost effective and efficient method for collating marine mammal data at the appropriate temporal and spatial scales to fulfil consenting requirements for licensing.



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