

Marine Spatial Planning - Opportunity or Threat to Marine Renewables?

An industry view from the
Ocean Energy Group
Renewable Energy Association



Environmental Costs for Licensing

- FEPA application 4%
- Pre-installation monitoring 5%
- Post-installation monitoring 13%
- Post-decommissioning monitoring 4%

- TOTAL 26%



Drivers for Renewable Energy Developments

- Global warming
- Shortage of fossil fuels
 - Security of supply
 - Price volatility
- Need for generation capacity



Competition with conventional energy generation

Cheap energy from marine RE is inconsistent with:

- Excessive permission costs
- Time delays in consenting process
- Risk of consent denial



Opportunities of MSP

- Streamline consents process
- Provide data as basis for environmental monitoring
- Effective MMO:
 - Oversee policy
 - Facilitate conflict resolution
 - Promote data sharing



Concerns

- The marine renewables industry's prime concern is that the marine bill and MSP will increase the regulatory burden on developers, by adding another layer of bureaucracy!



Further Concerns

- Level of data required to underpin MSP
- Transition to new system will be difficult and hard to manage
- Flexibility required
- Achieve balance between social environment, economic environment and marine conservation



Conclusions

- Marine Bill / MSP
 - Enable sustainable development of marine renewable energy
 - Reduce delays and costs of the consenting procedure
 - Provide an effective MMO to oversee policy, facilitate conflict resolution and promote data acquisition and sharing

