

FIRST DRAFT FOR COMMENT 06/04/06

**Chairmanship of the SeaGen – Environmental Monitoring Programme, Strangford
Lough Northern Ireland**

David Erwin

Draft Terms of Reference

1. Overview

The role of the chairman of the SeaGen Environmental Monitoring Programme is crucial to the success of the monitoring project and to the wider SeaGen project. The chairman must be recognised to be a well informed but impartial representative, enthusiastically seeking to ensure that the SeaGen environmental monitoring programme meets its objectives, as set out in the outline programme document attached. The role of the chair is to ensure an objective approach to the monitoring programme, the interpretation of the data produced and its dissemination.

The chair should work to ensure the programme maintains high academic standards and thus provide rigorous data to determine change in the environmental conditions or ecology of Strangford Lough resulting from the SeaGen Project. It is essential that the monitoring programme allows a reasonable judgement on impacts before a significant impact to be made occurs. The chairman's will facilitate balanced discussion around this point.

SeaGen will be the first commercial-scale tidal power turbine array to be installed anywhere in the world. It is essential therefore that the longer term and wider ramifications of the SeaGen project to the marine renewable sector are recognised. It is likely that there will be a significant interest in the project and the chairman is likely to be called upon to be the 'front man' for environmental matters.

This is a project not without its controversy, it is expected of the chairman that he will use his influence and best endeavours to ensure that the SeaGen Environmental Monitoring Programme receives fair treatment from all those involved in the liaison group and wider interested groups. Equally it is important for the chair to work with MCT and Haskoning to ensure the monitoring scheme remains targeted, effective and well run.

2. Time requirement

It is anticipated that on average 4 days per month is likely to be required to undertake the duties of the chair of the EMP. The chair would be paid on a time charge basis against a daily rate. In order to release payment the chairman would be expected to provide a simple note of activities and time taken to complete against days. The daily rate for the Chair of the EMP would be £410. Expenses would be reimbursed against receipts with handling charge of 5% added. Any mileage incurred by the chairman will be reimbursed at 40p per mile.

3. Partners and roles

Marine Current Turbines – Technology developer and project sponsor. MCT are responsible for the project management of the installation operation and maintenance of SEAGEN. MCT are ultimately responsible for most financial matters in relation to the environmental monitoring plan. Contracts to undertake and oversee the EMP will be let by MCT. The FEPA license is issued to a subsidiary company of MCT

Haskoning UK - Environmental Consultants responsible for the EIA process for SeaGen and key in facilitating discussion and dialogue with EHS. Haskoning co-ordinated the development of the EMP and will be responsible for its management and administration. Haskoning will also take the lead in the liaison and reporting of the science to the liaison committee and regulators. Haskoning, together with the EMP chairman will ensure the provision of communication routes to the wider consultation group.

The Queen's University – The key academic instate undertaking much of the non marine mammal related data gathering. Academic reports will be submitted to Haskoning and discussed through the Science group. The key findings will then be reported and discussed in the liaison group.

Sea Mammal Research Unit – The key academic instate undertaking much of the marine mammal related data gathering. Academic reports will be submitted to Haskoning and discussed through the Science group. The key findings will then be reported and discussed in the liaison group.

Environment and Heritage Service - The key regulator with responsibility to administer and enforce the FEPA consent for the SeaGen development. EHS are also the key regulator with devolved responsibility under the EC Habitats and Birds Directive. The discussions within the environmental monitoring programme will assist and inform EHS's views but with respect to legislative matters EHS retain all their duties and responsibilities as the regulator.

4. Key duties

- I. Working with Haskoning and MCT to agree the membership of science, liaison and wider consultation group.
- II. Whilst Haskoning will take on the bulk of the work in inviting the membership of the Liaison Group, where appropriate, the chairman would be expected to make the initial approach to certain prospective members of the liaison group. This split approach will be agreed in discussion with Haskoning.
- III. Chairing the science and liaison group meetings. The Science Group is expected to be meeting approximately once every 2 months initially dropping to once a quarter after 12 months. The Liaison Group is expected to be meeting once a quarter initially then once every six months.
- IV. The initial membership or any changes in membership of the Liaison group sought by the chairman is to be agreed with MCT and Haskoning prior to such a change

being made. Clearly if an organisation requests a non attending or listening brief or makes a specific request to the chair to be allowed to join the liaison group this will be facilitated wherever possible but the agreement of MCT and EHS should be sought prior to such a change being made.

- V. Working with Haskoning to assist in the production of materials to be disseminated to the liaison group and wider consultation group. The use of a dedicated website is anticipated.
- VI. To act as an ambassador for the SeaGen Environmental Monitoring Programme.
- VII. To ensure any agreed changes in the EMP and its various scientific activities are carried through and implemented.
- VIII. To make recommendations to the Science Group or Haskoning as to how the EMP could or should be amended in order to continue to meet its aims.
- IX. From time to time liaison with EHS or other NI or UK regulators or statutory bodies may be required may be. Working with Haskoning it may be appropriate for the chairman to assist or lead in these meetings.
- X. To provide support and advice to the science group, Haskoning and MCT as appropriate

5. Support

- I. Secretarial support for the logistics of setting up meetings, arranging venues etc and in taking minutes of the meetings will be provided by Queens University Belfast Marine Biology Station, Portaferry. This is expected that this level of support will required around 2 person days a month, spread over 4-5 days.
- II. Regular meetings and liaison with Haskoning is anticipated.
- III. The chair will be copied in to all appropriate correspondence in relation to the Environmental monitoring programme.