MAKING DATA SPEAK FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS:

THE “COLLECT ONCE, USE OFTEN” ETHOS IN PERMITTING

1540-1645

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PERMITTING - THE CHALLENGES

• After finance, permitting is the biggest schedule risk
• Crucial that permit submissions are complete
• Marine Route Survey (MRS) design is key to success
• Aim is to provide investment certainty to developers and reduce spatial and temporal conflicts
• Statutory / hard constraints - areas to avoid
• Advisory / soft constraints - features that could lead to additional studies and surveys.
Hard Constraints:
- Offshore renewables
- O&G Pipelines and cables
- Aquaculture
- Coastal archaeology
- Designated nature conservation areas - seabed features
- Shipwrecks
- Recreation & tourism
- Aggregates industry
Soft constraints:

- Sandbanks
- Boulder fields
- Rock seabed
- Commercial fishing - mobile
- Commercial fishing - static
- Seabed habitats
- Shore species & habitats
- Birds
- Otters, seals, sea lions, turtles
- Whales & dolphins
- Major shipping routes
- Wastewater discharges
FILLING DATA GAPS

• MRS provides bathymetric profile within a prescribed corridor
• Benthic characterization
• Burial Assessment Study (BAS)
• Sediment Dispersal
• Archaeology / UXO Survey Information

Everything can be scoped into the MRS to save time and cost!
BENTHIC CHARACTERISATION

• Legislation serves to safeguard sensitive receptors
• Desk-based study should determine requirement for benthic survey
• Authorities generally will not provide feedback on survey design
• Saves time and money if MRS can do the benthic survey - careful scope coordination required
CABLE PROTECTION

• Authorities want Burial Assessment Study pre- and post- installation

• BAS demand high quality geotechnical sampling, regular (every 2km) in-situ testing along entire route and skilled interpretation

• In reality, BAS unfortunately can be an after-thought or de-scoped during survey contract negotiations

• Done well, this can be a good example of the data re-use ethos
SEDIMENT DISPERSAL

• Suspended sediments can smother habitats and species
• Contaminant dispersion is an issue especially near food resources
• Storage of sediments require space onboard (freezer)
• If sediments retained, could avoid more surveys and mitigations
SURVEYING ARCHAEOLOGY

• Archaeology and UXO identification have similar equipment specifications and both require magnetometer array
• Archaeological authorities will provide survey specifications
• Prudent to have a specialist help coordinate this as they will have to provide a report on the MRS data
MERGING MRS & PERMITTING - THE ISSUES

• MRS Technical Specifications usually engineering-specific NOT for permitting

• Integrating the permit requirements adds additional cost (not necessarily planned for)

• De-scoping during survey contract negotiations has the potential to compromise reliability of results and could even mean a requirement for future unplanned-for surveys.
CLOSING THE DATA GAP - KEY MESSAGES

"Collect Once, Use Often" = Saves $$

Consult with Authorities on Data Requirements

PFS

Project Inception

Engage Permit Specialist

Survey Technical Specification

Engage Survey Company

Determine Data Gaps

Baseline Data

Benthic Survey with MRS? MRS to retain sediments? Scope in UXO and archaeology survey to MRS?

Contract Variations

Survey
THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!