

Offshore Renewables and Marine Archaeology

Organizer

Name: Mark James
Affiliation: MSDS Marine Ltd
E-mail: mark@msdsmarine.co.uk

Co-organizer

Name: Victoria Boothby
Affiliation: HaskoningDHV UK Ltd

Session Description

Following the Paris agreement in 2015, 196 parties have adopted a legally binding treaty to reduce the effects of climate change through the limiting of greenhouse gas emissions. The requirements to reduce carbon emissions has, in part, led to the significant increase in the development of offshore windfarms around the world. Not only have the numbers of offshore windfarms increased, but the size of these windfarms is increasing. Arrays now cover hundreds of square kilometres and are pushing further and further offshore into increasingly deep waters, significantly increasing impacts to the seabed and potentially the marine archaeological resource.

The expansion of offshore windfarm development is opening up more and more opportunities for marine archaeologists to understand our underwater cultural heritage on a scale, and with resources, not previously seen . The data available typically consists of high resolution geophysical and hydrographic survey data covering hundreds of square kilometres, significant numbers of geotechnical samples, and access to data from work class Remotely Operated Vehicles.

The Environmental Impact Assessment process is broadly similar globally, however the process for incorporation of marine archaeology the method for undertaking assessments and the application of mitigation, curatorial engagement and requirements, and the funding of assessments differs between countries. The aim of this session will be to develop an understanding of the development led marine archaeological assessment process in different countries and the relationship with Environmental Impact Assessment. The session will use short invited case studies from around the world to stimulate round table discussion between curators, commissioners, and contractors to draw on examples of best practise in order to create a shared vision of future best practise and how best use is made of the resources available.

Keywords

Offshore Renewables; Marine Archaeology; Environmental Impact Assessment; Geophysical Survey