



WHAT WILL SOWFIA PRODUCE?

GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

SOWFIA will produce a series of guidance documents on specific aspects of environmental and social impact assessment for developers and regulators, based on scientific evidence from across Europe, supplemented by the expertise of wave energy developers to date.

CATALOGUE AND DATABASE

One of the initial outputs will be a catalogue that identifies all European locations where wave energy devices are being tested, specifying all the impact assessments that have been carried out to date. This information will feed into a dynamic online database that will be useful to both the developers and regulatory bodies as well as accessible to the public.

STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

Subsequent to compilation and analysis of the relevant data, the project will engage in extensive and continuous stakeholder participation. This will give policy makers, governments, investors, engineering firms, manufacturers, device developers and NGOs the opportunity to share their experience in order to improve the effectiveness and relevance of future impact assessments.

COMMUNICATION

Information on project activities will be communicated through dedicated workshops, the SOWFIA website and SOWFIA network. Dissemination will be on-going as the project seeks to increase availability of data related to environmental and social impact assessment of wave energy farms and raise the profile of the wave energy sector in Europe.

ENGAGEMENT

The SOWFIA project will organise a series of workshops which will bring together high-level officials, policy makers and other stakeholders, thereby giving them a unique opportunity to have their say in how the impact assessment process currently functions, how it should function in future and what SOWFIA can do to address these needs. Ultimately this direct, synergistic approach will improve the final outputs of the project.

NETWORKING

The SOWFIA network is the principal means of interaction with key stakeholders and for dissemination of the project findings. In addition to the specific target groups of this project, the network will draw on existing and complementary networks, such as the WAVEPLAM network and EU-OEA membership. Subscribers will receive regular project newsletters, updates and be invited to project workshops and networking events. Subscribe at:

www.sowfia.eu

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF WAVE ENERGY FARMS:

Identifying the needs

and opportunities

for a growing sector

through communication,

public engagement

and networking.

SOWFIA

Streamlining of Ocean Wave Farms Impact Assessment

Supported by
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WHAT IS THE SOWFIA PROJECT?

The aim of the project is to facilitate the development of European wide coordinated, unified and streamlined Environmental and Socio-economic Impact Assessment (IA) tools for offshore wave energy developments.

This will be achieved through two key approaches:

1. Knowledge Collection & Transfer

By utilising the findings from technology specific monitoring at these sites, SOWFIA will facilitate knowledge transfer and augment European-wide expertise on environmental and socio-economic IA of large scale wave energy projects.

2. Two-Way Information Flow

Secondly, this information will be communicated and shared with the wave energy community across Europe. Through a two-way process, developers will have the opportunity to contribute their experiences to date with consenting processes, environmental and socio-economic impact assessment. This will facilitate the development of best practice guidance for future offshore wave energy developments.

WHY IS SOWFIA NEEDED?

Wave energy is an innovative and developing field. To deploy a device in the marine environment developers must comply with a range of regulatory procedures, some of which were not designed with ocean energy development in mind. Environmental and socio-economic issues are most commonly cited as problematic areas.

For example, the large number of regulatory authorities involved in consenting and the lack of coordination between different authorities results in long lead times to obtain necessary permits. Similarly, as a new industry, wave energy developers are asked to provide evidence of specific environmental effects that are yet largely unknown and/or undocumented.

All of these considerations, which the SOWFIA project aims to address, have time and cost implications for developers, which in the long-term may be detrimental to the development of large-scale wave energy farms. Thus, the project will enable the sustainable development of this new industry.

Through a proactive approach many of the perceived barriers to wave energy development can be addressed in advance of actual physical development of these technologies.

PARTNERS :

