Tethys Blast

April 3, 2015

Welcome to the first March edition of the bi-weekly Tethys Blast!

Tethys Blasts will keep you updated with new information available on Tethys, new features on Tethys, and current news articles of international interest on offshore renewable energy. We hope that this becomes a valuable tool to help you stay connected to your colleagues and to introduce you to new research, new contacts, and ongoing milestones in renewable ocean energy development.

Join the Tethys Community

The Tethys community is a group of international researchers, developers, regulators, consultants, students, and stakeholders who support the common goal of environmentally responsible development of offshore renewable energy. Contact information is available to other members of the Tethys community, which presents a good opportunity for professional networking. Create a Tethys account and join today!

New Articles on Tethys

A total of **169 new documents** have been added to Tethys in the last two weeks! These documents have been hand-selected for their relevance to the environmental effects of offshore renewable energy. The listings below are short introductions to several prominent documents that can be accessed through the accompanying Tethys links:

Virginia Offshore Wind Technology Advancement Project on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf Offshore Virginia Environmental Assessment - Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) 2014

> BOEM developed this EA to assist in determining the appropriate Agency action related to DMME's request for approval of the RAP pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 - 4370f) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR § 1501.3). This EA considers a number of alternatives (Chapter 2), and evaluates the environmental and socioeconomic consequences (including potential user conflicts) associated with each alternative (Chapter 3).

A Self-Contained Subsea Platform for Acoustic Monitoring of the Environment Around Marine Renewable Energy Devices - Field Deployments at Wave and Tidal Energy Sites in Orkney, Scotland - Williamson et al. 2015

> The drive towards sustainable energy has seen rapid development of marine renewable energy devices (MREDs). The NERC/Defra collaboration FLOw, Water column and Benthic ECology 4-D (FLOWBEC-4D) is investigating the environmental and ecological effects of installing and operating wave and tidal energy devices. The FLOWBEC sonar platform combines several instruments to record information at a range of physical and multitrophic levels for durations of two weeks to capture an entire spring-neap tidal cycle.

The European Offshore Wind Industry - Key Trends and Statistics 2014 - Corbetta et al. 2015

> Offshore wind power market in 2014: 408 new offshore wind turbines in nine wind farms and one demonstration project, worth between €4.2 billion and €5.9 billion, were fully grid connected between 1 January and 31 December 2014. The new capacity totals 1,483.3 MW - 5.34% less than in 2013; 536 turbines were erected during 2014, an average of 5.9 MW per day. 373 of these turbines are awaiting grid connection; Work is on-going on 12 projects.

Wave Energy Test Site Environmental Assessment: Marine Corps Base Hawaii - Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) 2014

> Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center (NAVFAC EXWC) proposes to construct and operate two wave energy test site (WETS) berths for testing offshore wave energy conversion (WEC) devices in waters off the north coast of Mokapu Peninsula at MCB Hawaii. The "deep-water" WETS berths would be located in approximately 197 feet (ft) (60 meters [m]) and 262 ft (80 m) of water, approximately 6,500 ft (2 kilometers [km]) and 8,200 ft (2.5 km), offshore of MCB Hawaii, respectively.

Strengthening the Role of Science in Marine Governance through Environmental Impact Assessment: A Case Study of the Marine Renewable Energy Industry - Wright 2014

> This paper explores the role of environmental impact assessment (EIA) in advancing the 'Blue Economy'. The ability of EIA frameworks to act as the interface between science and regulation and advance scientific knowledge is assessed. This paper examines how regulators and regulatory frameworks can best use available science, as well as facilitate the generation and sharing of new scientific knowledge on environmental impacts, using the emerging Marine Renewable Energy (MRE) industry as a case study.

Current News

Current news articles of international interest on offshore renewable energy include:

Simply Blue Energy announce Wave of the Future

> The project is being developed in conjunction with Finnish Utility Fortum as well as with ongoing support from the Swedish Energy Agency. Seabased is deploying 36 Wave Energy Converters (WECs) and a substation. Initially delayed by poor weather conditions, the deployment is now proceeding apace with 21 Wave Energy Converters installed on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 24th and 25th.

Nagasaki Plans Asia's First Major Testing Site for Marine Energy

> Nagasaki prefecture plans to become Asia's first major testing site for renewable marine energy, offering support for companies, scientists and government officials looking to better understand floating wind farms and other marine power technology. The plan will be loosely modeled on the European Marine Energy Centre, a testing site in the North Sea that has been used since 2003 to develop and test ocean power technology.

Pioneering wave energy device heads for first commercial site

> A cutting-edge wave energy converter device trialled in Cornwall is being deployed to its first commercial site. The Fred Olsen Bolt Lifesaver, the first device tested at the FaBTest site, underwent trials for more than two years and will be shortly arriving in its new location in Hawaii.

US funds feasibility study for Vietnam offshore wind farm

> The US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) has awarded grant money to private Vietnamese developer Cong Ly Ltd to study feasibility of a 300MW third phase of the Bac Lieu Wind farm in shallow waters of the Mekong Delta.