

# Supporting blue growth through a sustainable Welsh marine energy sector

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# Introduction to NRW



- Welsh Government Sponsored Body.
- Established April 2013.
- Brings together functions of Countryside Council for Wales, Forestry Commission Wales, Environment Agency in Wales and certain Welsh Government functions.

***NRW's purpose is to pursue the sustainable management of natural resources in Wales. We're proud to be leading the way to a better future for Wales by managing the environment and natural resources.***



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# NRW & marine energy

- Statutory advisor on development plans and strategic assessments.
- Statutory advisor on project development.
- Regulator e.g. Marine Licensing Authority (on behalf of Welsh Ministers).
- Apply principles of sustainable management of natural resources to optimise opportunities for sustainable exploitation of Wales' marine energy resources.

***We want Wales to be location of choice for marine renewable energy which is good for people, the environment and business.***

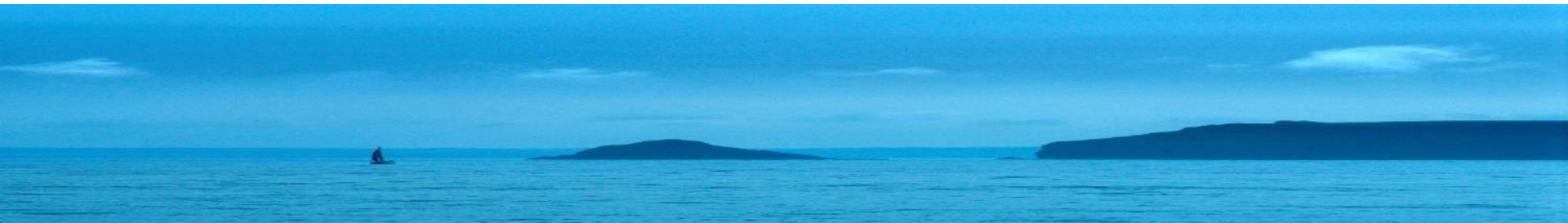


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# Marine energy strategic planning



- Welsh Government energy and low carbon aspirations.
- Marine Energy Task & Finish Group and MEW Board.
- DECC (now BEIS) offshore energy plans, Industrial Strategy, UK Review of tidal lagoons.
- The Crown Estate sectoral planning and seabed leasing.
- Emergence and development of new opportunities (Wales Act, The Welsh National Marine Plan and The Environment (Wales) Act, Well-Being of Future Generations Act).



# Marine Plan & Environment Act

- Welsh Government's Marine Plan will set out policies for sustainable development in Welsh waters.
- The Environment Act provides measures to ensure sustainable management of Wales' natural resources.
- Together provide a framework for the sustainable management of Wales' marine environment in a pro-active, joined up way.

***Opportunity to develop a thriving, sustainable marine energy industry in Wales.***





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# Marine Plan & Environment Act



- Growth of renewable energy is a priority in the Natural Resources Policy and the Welsh Marine Plan.
- NRW have a key role in supporting implementation of the Marine Plan and the NRP.
- NRW programme of work focussing on;
  - Improving access to the relevant evidence base.
  - Developing guidance to support plan policies.
  - Exploring the role of a marine Area Statement.



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# Developing the evidence base



- Working with Welsh Government to improve access to the existing evidence base, e.g. through the Marine Planning Portal.
- Steering Group members of the Offshore Renewables Joint Industry Programme for Ocean Energy.
- Working with ORJIP Ocean Energy and NERC on a tidal lagoon evidence workshop (May 2017).
- Exploring practical mechanisms to bridge gap between science and policy and accelerate the incorporation of research into decision-making.



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# Dealing with uncertainty

- Uncertainty continues to present a challenge to regulation.
- Developments must satisfy all legislative requirements prior to consent being granted. This can take time.
- Getting devices in the water is key to developing the evidence base.
- Exploring solutions-based approaches to dealing with uncertainty, including;
  - Adaptive management
  - Deploy and Monitor
  - Pragmatic, solutions-based approaches.





**Diolch yn fawr**  
**Thank you**

**Questions?**

