



the institute for
advanced studies



Ecological Modelling for Marine Renewable Energy Development: Identifying the key questions

8th-9th July 2009

Ecological modelling can play a crucial role in tackling key questions and concerns connected with marine renewable energy development (MRED) in Scotland. Many of the central issues currently remain at an unexplored interface which exists between marine ecology and marine engineering.

In the light of the Scottish Government Marine Bill there is a clear need for quantitative decision tools which can help assist with marine spatial planning and to determine the potential effects of marine renewable energy development in order to assist with coherent planning, policy and strategy.

This Institute for Advanced Studies workshop aims to identify and investigate the key questions in this area and will consider the following broad areas,

- Effects on marine ecology (benthic, pelagic, ecosystem) ranging from phytoplankton to baleen whale
- Effects on coastal ecology, sea birds and pinnipeds
- Collision risks
- Spatial locations, densities, configurations and types of MRED devices to minimise potential ecological impacts
- Temporal operation of MRED devices to minimise potential ecological impacts

As well as a number of invited participants, the programme organisers welcome applications to attend and participate from those with an interest in this area. There is no registration fee for the meeting. If you wish to participate, please contact the main organiser: Eric Grist (eric.grist@thurso.uhi.ac.uk).

This workshop is being organised in conjunction with the Environmental Research Institute and the Scottish Association of Marine Science at the University of the Highlands and Islands, the Departments of Statistics & Modelling Science and Naval Architecture & Marine Engineering at the University of Strathclyde, the International Centre for Island Technology at Heriot-Watt University and the Marine Scotland Marine Laboratory.

The **Institute for Advanced Studies** is a place for unconstrained thinking, where ground-breaking concepts can be developed and explored, with the aim of enhancing the culture and society of Scotland and the UK, and their future scientific and technological capabilities. The Institute funds programmes of research that bring together key participants from around the world to a physical location in central Glasgow. By crossing disciplinary boundaries, and with knowledge exchange with the public at their heart, research programmes aim to inform public policy and practice.

For further details on this and other programmes please visit www.instituteforadvancedstudies.org.uk