



Sizewell Marine Technical Forum Independent Chair's Report – 2024

Introduction

The Sizewell C Marine Technical Forum (MTF) was set up in 2015 to facilitate consultation on marine elements of the Sizewell C project with statutory stakeholders. As in previous years, this has led to some very constructive discussions about all aspects of potential marine environmental impact and Sizewell C Ltd (SZC) and its marine technical advisers at the Centre for Ecology, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) have not only contributed positively to the discussions, but also demonstrated on many occasions that comments received have influenced the way that work is done, interpreted and subsequently reported.

Meetings

In line with agreed Terms of Reference, the MTF met four times in 2024; these were largely to ensure that Forum members were kept up to date with progress on the Development Consent Order (DCO) marine licences and conditions associated with the granting of the DCO in July 2022. It is worth noting that as members have become more familiar with Teams 'etiquette', meetings have been very co-operative and members have consistently agreed that they have had good opportunities to ask questions and expect answers.

It has also been the practice of the MTF that if questions and requests for information cannot be met satisfactorily in the meeting, a record is kept, fed back to the meeting and full responses are subsequently made. This has helped to ensure that members can genuinely know that their involvement is comprehensive and their questions and concerns taken seriously

MTF Quarterly Meeting	General Meeting	21 March 2024
MTF Quarterly Meeting	General Meeting	17 June 2024
MTF Quarterly Meeting	General Meeting	3 September 2024
MTF Quarterly Meeting	General Meeting	3 December 2024

Personnel from the member organisations continue to change frequently, so an important part of the MTF's work is to make sure that new attendees feel comfortable in their role and are able to ask questions freely. To assist this, Dr Roast and CEFAS continue to offer a full briefing service to new members and this has been applauded by Forum members and recorded on the Regulatory Nuclear Interface Protocol (RNIP) form. Additionally, the

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experience of long-standing members of the Forum, such as Simon Barlow from the Environment Agency, is equally valuable in ensuring that discussions and outcomes address concerns as well as meet regulatory obligations.

Terms of Reference for MTF

The purpose of the MTF as set out on the Terms of Reference was finally signed off in early 2024 with the following aims:

1. To inform the process of submissions to discharge Deemed Marine Licence conditions and Development Consent Order requirements that relate to the coastal and/or marine environments.
2. To provide a forum for the discharging authorities, consultees and other invited parties to review and respond to proposed applications for Conditions and Requirements to be discharged ahead of formal submission.
3. To review monitoring plans and reports and recommend any need for further monitoring and/or mitigation or cessation of monitoring.
4. To agree the need to, and approve, the release of monies from the Fish Contingency Fund to address materially new or materially different environmental effects on fish caused the Project by way of fish habitat creation and/or enhancement.

Following contacts from a third party to examine their specific issues associated with coastal processes, the MTF discussed whether such requests should be allowed. It was unanimously agreed by members that the terms of reference for the Forum do not allow this and that appropriate channels exist for such approaches. I agreed to make this point back to the person who made the enquiry. Their response suggested that they understood this and accepted the outcome of the request.

Future meetings

Although all meetings in 2024 were held on-line at the request of some of the members, Dr Roast and I have both stressed that in 2025 there will be more substantive issues to discuss and, consequently, face to face meetings would be better on some occasions.

Peter Barham MBE
Independent Chair - Sizewell MTF.