



**PrePARED**  
Predators + Prey Around Renewable Energy Developments

Quarterly Report: Q1 2022

Date: 08/03/2022

## Project Overview

The PrePARED project has got off to a good start with work already underway, despite delays to signing of the funding agreements.

Delays to recruiting project staff (due to late signing of the agreement) and resource-intensive requirements of Offshore Wind Farm developers prior to agreeing to research work taking place in their Offshore Wind Farms have made project delivery more challenging. Despite this, the project is still on track with the first fieldwork starting on 11th April 2022.

The main focus of the project during Q1 has been preparing for fieldwork in 2022 including ordering and preparing equipment, extensive discussions with developers around work in their Offshore Wind Farm, review of existing data to inform survey design and other logistical requirements of fieldwork. The project is on track for fieldwork to take place as planned in Q2.

Two project team meetings and a Programme Advisory Group meeting have ensured effective communications, collaboration and steering of the project through start up and initial phases of work. External communications have raised awareness of the project in industry, the applied research community and government (including SNCBs).

## Summary of activities undertaken in Q1 2022

Financial updates: Signing of TCE-MS agreement (Feb 2022) and MS-project partners agreement (April 2022)

Operational updates: Preparation for fieldwork in 2022, including:

- Ordering and preparation of equipment, e.g. setting up 87 receivers for detecting tagged fish in Beatrice Offshore Windfarm Ltd. (BOWL) and Moray East Offshore Wind Farms, as well as extensive cross-project discussions on exact design of fish and marine mammal data collection design, e.g. grid design of locations of fish and marine mammal acoustic moorings (Task 3.3; Task 4.2)
- Review of acoustic fisheries data to inform design of acoustic surveys in June/July 2022 in the Moray Firth & Forth+Tay OWFs (for quantifying fish biomass and developing broadscale prey landscapes (Task 1.1 and 3.1)
- Data collation for digital aerial survey data and exploration of methods for combining different types of data, development of R code scripts for processing data (Task 4.1)
- Multiple project team meetings including two entire project team meetings and many work-focussed subgroup meetings to ensure effective project delivery. New synergies and collaborations have been identified and developed since project kick off, thereby strengthening internal collaboration within the project and the quality of project deliverables.
- Internal discussions around data management including data sharing, ethical review, etc.

Staff resource update: recruitment underway for postdocs (University of Exeter, University of Aberdeen, BioSS, UKCEH) to work on the project plus an acoustician, fisheries ecologist and project manager (Marine Scotland Science)

## Summary of activities to be undertaken in Q2 2022

In the next quarter, the focus will be on fieldwork preparation and undertaking fieldwork. In April 2022, 87 acoustic receivers will be deployed in the Moray Firth Offshore Wind Farms and fish will be tagged. In June 2022, acoustic fisheries surveys will take place in both the Moray Firth and Forth & Tay Offshore Wind Farm. Other work includes collation and preparation of existing datasets, such as environmental data and digital aerial survey data and development of modelling approaches for analysing data. Also, ongoing project management tasks, with a focus on streamlining developer requirements for work in their Offshore Wind Farms, external communications (such as a website, stakeholder and network analysis) and data management (data sharing, ethics review, etc)