MANAGING THE OFFSHORE ENERGY TRANSITION

Newsletter

Meetings held – dates and purpose

10th November 2022 – Full MOET project kick-off meeting. Introduction of project to all project staff and overview of different work packages

29th November 2022 - Programme Advisory Group (PAG), meeting #1. Introductions to WP leads and PAG members, agreement of Terms of Reference and initial discussion of key topics

9th January 2023 – MOET Management team meeting. Work package updates and planning for extended stakeholder engagement

The first **Programme Advisory Group meeting** was held on 29th November 2022 via MS Teams. Each work package gave an update on plans and progress to date.

Terms of reference for the group were agreed

Discussion points included:

- Good to see that possible seabed uplift as a result of gas injection is considered
- Keen to see how the project would advance our understanding of hydraulically connected pore volume of the Bunter
- Creates an opportunity to consider the impacts of co-location of gas storage sites and windfarms, co-habitation of CO_2 and H_2, interference between storage sites and cumulative environmental impacts
- Consideration of different types of windfarms, and other infrastructure, and associated environmental impacts would be beneficial
- Early consideration of Interactions with Marine Protected Areas – should map these early
- MOET will be important in influencing wider development and policy in the future

Work package aims and progress updates

WP1 - Optimal use of subsurface geological resources for storage of H_2 and CO_2
Mapping of closures in the southern North Sea area of study for the Teesside & Humberside clusters is progressing well, structure mapping and regional scale assessment to predict uplift in response to injection has commenced. Sample selection from Bunter Sandstone core and analysis for NOC and BGS experimental work is in progress.

WP2 - Understanding the shallow subsurface, seeps and the marine environment
BGS progressing with mapping of shallow sediments in our target areas. Meanwhile PML and NOC have been planning the hydrogen exposure experiments and making initial modifications to enable our model to deal with hydrogen gas.

WP3 - Societal consequences of the energy transition
Collation of existing ecosystem service data from previous PML projects (e.g. UKERC, DREAMS INSITE) is complete. Identification of appropriate ecosystem service parameters from WP 2.3 & WP 3. National public survey is being developed, and ethical approval for the programme of work is being sought.

WP4 - Translating scientific research into stakeholder-led outcomes to support decision making
One to one introductory meetings held with individual stakeholders since June 2022
Stakeholder survey shared in December 2022. Thanks to all those that have completed.

Project management team

Emrys Phillips – Principal Investigator (BGS)
Maxine Akhurst – WP1 lead (BGS)
Jerry Blackford – WP2 lead and PML Principal Investigator (PML)
Elizabeth Gabe-Thomas – WP3 lead (PML)
Hazel Napier – WP4 lead (BGS)
Angus Best – NOC Principal Investigator (NOC)