

Annual Report

FREDS Marine and Bioenergy Networks *Delivery of the Networks in the second year: 2007*

1. Introduction

This report has been compiled for the funding partners and steering group members of the Marine and Bioenergy Networks, and summarises the work of these Networks on completion of their second year of operation. The document outlines the background to the Networks, their objectives and the work delivered over the second year, before projecting the work programme for the third year.

Funding for the three-year programme has been committed by the following organisations:

Scottish Executive:	£10,000 per annum (covers Marine and Biomass)
Highlands and Islands Enterprise:	£10,000 per annum (covers Marine and Biomass)
Confederation of Forest Industries:	£5,000 per annum (covers Biomass only)

2. Background to Networks

In summer 2004 and spring 2005 the Forum for Renewable Energy Development in Scotland (FREDS) published reports on the development of the marine and biomass energy sectors in Scotland.

Both reports created similar responsibilities for Scottish Renewables, namely to establish two networks to aid industry discussion on sector development in marine and bioenergy.

Scottish Renewables informed the Scottish Executive in March 2005 of how it proposed to take this work forward, and provided a business plan for delivery of these network commitments.

The Business Plan proposed the following key points for delivery of the networks:

- Host quarterly meetings of key partners
- Provide regular mailings to network stakeholders on key sector issues
- Act as a focal point for discussion on key issues
- Provide a focal point for feedback to and from the relevant FREDS groups, and an audience for updates on progress of the FREDS work programmes.

The common deliverables of the Networks will be reported in the next section. However, the two Networks have evolved into different initiatives with distinct aims, objectives and characteristics, and so certain deliverables will therefore be reported on separately later in the document.

3. Summary of Network Work Programme for 2007

3.1 Delivery Chart

The initial Networks programme has been scheduled to run for three years, commencing in 2005 and to be reviewed in 2008. The key deliverables for the Networks are set on an annual basis and reviewed each year.

The following tables summarise the deliverables set for 2007 and their schedule of achievement. The two sections following the diagrams outline in more detail the specifics of the agreed and additional outcomes of the Networks in 2007.

BIOENERGY NETWORK TASKS 2007	2007												2008											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Steering Group meeting 5	X																							
Bioenergy Bulletin 2 (Winter 06-07)	X																							
Launch Website		X																						
Steering Group Meeting 6			X																					
Bioenergy Bulletin 3 (Spring-Summer 07)				X																				
Steering Group Meeting 7					X																			
Steering Group Meeting 8							X																	
Bioenergy Bulletin 4 (Autumn 07)								X																
Annual Open Meeting									X															
Steering Group Meeting 9										X														

Legend:

- X – indicates planned date for delivery
- Green box – indicates actual date of delivery
- Red box – indicates non-delivery

Table 1 – Work Programme Bioenergy Network 2007



MARINE NETWORK TASKS 2007	2007												2008											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Launch website		X																						
Steering Group Meeting 5		X																						
Open Meeting 3 (Grid issues)				X																				
Marine Bulletin 2 (Spring-Summer 07)					X																			
Steering Group Meeting 6					X																			
Steering Group Meeting 7							X																	
Open Meeting 4 (Environmental Issues)								X																
Marine Bulletin 3 (Autumn 07)									X															
Steering Group Meeting 8										X														
Annual Seminar											X													

Legend:

- X – indicates planned date for delivery
- Green box – indicates actual date of delivery
- Red box – indicates non-delivery

Table 2 – Work Programme Marine Network 2007



4. Common Deliverables over 2007

Deliverables common to both the Bioenergy and Marine Energy Networks are laid out in more detail in this section, with an explanation of their achievement, below.

4.1 Staff Resource

- *To recruit a dedicated full-time member of staff to manage the delivery of the two Networks and to co-ordinate with network members.*

Jenny Hogan was appointed in November 2005 as Development Officer (Marine and Bioenergy), employed by Scottish Renewables on behalf of the two Networks, and based in the Scottish Renewables office in Glasgow.

Ms Hogan left Scottish Renewables in early February, and Catriona Prebble acted as the Network Secretary until Morna Cannon was hired in July in the permanent position of Development Officer. Her time is split equally between the two Networks.

4.2 Quarterly Meetings

- *For each Network to hold four meetings a year of key partners*

These meetings involve key agencies and groups involved in relevant sectors to interface with industry representatives in discussion of relevant issues. Industry representatives were mostly selected from Scottish Renewables' membership.

At these meetings, discussion on key development issues is facilitated, with the Development Officer acting as secretariat for these groups, and coordinating delivery of key actions/agreements from the groups.

The meetings have aided communication between key stakeholders from a range of sectors. However, in respect of the Bioenergy Steering Group in particular, there have been difficulties with low attendance, perhaps due to a sense that there is a lack of value from the meetings. Attendance at the Marine Steering Group meetings has been better. This is perhaps due to the fact that the SRF Marine Industry Working Group acts as the Steering Group for the Marine Network, and therefore representatives have a double-purpose in attending Network/Work Group meetings.

It is proposed that there should be discussion within the Steering Groups and with Network sponsors to determine:

- whether attendance at the Bioenergy Steering Group meetings is deemed problematic;
- changes that might be made to the way that both Steering Groups operate over 2008.

This report lays down some suggestions for the latter. These will be discussed in Sections 5.2.1 and 7.

4.3 Network Open Meetings/Seminars

- To hold one meeting of both groups annually.

Scottish Renewables has organised two open meetings for the Marine Energy Network since January 2007. An open meeting has not been held for the Bioenergy Network in 2007, the reasons for this are discussed further in Section 5.2.1. The events held help to promote the work of the Networks, and communicate key issues to other industry players and organisations on developments within the sectors. These events have received very positive feedback from delegates, with calls for similar work to be carried out in the future.

4.4 Network Bulletins

- *To produce bulletins for each Network twice per year that will be sent to all interested participants. These Bulletins will update stakeholders on the latest industry and policy developments within the biomass and marine energy sectors.*

The Bioenergy Network has received four formal bulletins in addition to ad hoc email briefings. The Marine Energy Network has received three formal bulletins, in addition to ad hoc email briefings. The lower figure for the Marine Energy Network was due to a delayed start in establishing the initial work programme during the 2005-06 period.

4.5 Network Reports

- *To produce one annual report detailing the work and achievements of each network group to funding partners and interested parties.*

This document is the second annual report submitted to funding partners and steering group members. It will be available on the Scottish Renewables website for other interested parties to access.

4.6 Network Website

- *To create a Networks website for each sector as a micro-site of the Scottish Renewables website. This will feature information about the Networks, key publications, meeting minutes, an events diary, links to other important websites and any other information as agreed by Steering Groups.*

Both the Bioenergy and Marine Energy Networks now have their own micro-sites on the Scottish Renewables website. These sites feature information as listed above, for example: meeting minutes, information on Network events, links to other important industry resources.

The micro sites are actively managed and can be viewed via the main menu on www.scottishrenewables.com

5. Scottish Bioenergy Network

As recommended by FREDS, the Bioenergy Network aims to coordinate activities and bring together those working in both the supply and the demand sides, including the responsible public sector agencies, facilitating links between suppliers, processors and generators.

FREDS' Biomass Energy Group (BEG) suggested that the Network oversee the development of comprehensive data and advice and coordinate with groups aiming to deliver that advice. It also aims to identify gaps and opportunities within the sector to be developed, and implement actions (or advise on other appropriate organisations to implement actions).

5.1 Steering Group

The Steering Group was established at the end of 2005, and is scheduled to meet quarterly to discuss key development issues and deliver actions and agreements. The group consists of representatives from Scottish Renewables (co-chair), ConFor (co-chair), NFU Scotland, Forestry Commission Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Enterprise, the Scottish Government, and an industry representative.

The industry representative is Fergus Tickell, Managing Director of Northern Energy Developments, while Scottish Renewables, ConFor and NFUS also bring industry focus to the group.



This is in accordance with the FREDS BEG Report, which suggested that the Bioenergy Network be industry-led, while bringing together 'those working in both the supply and demand sides, including the responsible public sector agencies' (FREDS [2005] 'Promoting and Accelerating the Market Penetration of Biomass Technology in Scotland' Edinburgh: Scottish Government, para77).

Last year's Annual Report confirms that when initially created, the Steering Group was satisfied with the Group membership, which was thought adequately representative of both public and private sectors. The Report confirms that other organisations (such as SEPA, CoSLA and Communities Scotland) may be invited to meet with the Steering Group when the Group deems it appropriate.

5.2 Network Outcomes in 2007

5.2.1 Core Deliverables

Progress on core deliverables in 2007 has been outlined in Section 4, however discussion of specific feedback regarding the Bioenergy Network Open Meeting will be outlined in more detail here.

In 2007, the Bioenergy Network Open Meeting was not delivered, though members of the Network were invited to the SRF Annual Bioenergy Seminar, held in September. This was due to Network Secretary staffing changes, and confusion over the distinction between Network events and SRF events.

As a remedy to this, there are proposals in the last section of this report which aim to differentiate to a greater degree the events and Steering Group meetings of the Bioenergy Network from the work of SRF over the course of 2008. If agreed upon, these proposals would mean the Bioenergy Network operating in a similar manner to the Marine Network; as can be seen from this report, the Marine Network has achieved all its core deliverables for 2007.

5.2.2 Additional Outcomes

In addition to the Bioenergy Network's core deliverables, 2007 has also seen the expansion of the Network, with 152 new members on the Network mailing list since mid-2006. The list, which aims to link all stakeholders with an interest in bioenergy in Scotland, now has a total of 238 contacts.

On top of this, the Development Officer for the Network has promoted Network interests, and kept abreast of developments relevant to the Network, through attendance at a variety of meetings throughout the year, for example, at the launch of the Biofuels Research Centre at Napier University.

6. Scottish Marine Energy Network

As recommended by FREDS, the Marine Energy Network is industry-led and aims to coordinate learning and information sharing and act as a source of expert advice and information. According to the FREDS recommendations, the Network should balance the need for coordination with the growing importance of industry representation, including the hosting of a major annual conference on marine energy.

Scottish Renewables already has a positive working relationship with the British Wind Energy Association, ensuring a coordinated approach to the representation of wave and tidal energy across the UK. Membership of the Scottish Coastal Forum ensures Scottish Renewables maintains communications and coordination with a variety of marine stakeholders.



Through the Network in particular, Scottish Renewables has also established clear links with the Crown Estate, the Enterprise Agencies and a number of key marine stakeholders including the Scottish Fisherman's Federation, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, the Ministry of Defence, the British Marine Federation, SEPA and Scottish Natural Heritage.

6.1 Steering Group

Scottish Renewables' Marine Working Group, made up of industry experts from its membership, acts as the Steering Group for the Network. Both Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Scottish Enterprise may be invited to attend meetings, whenever relevant issues arise.

6.2 Work Programme 2007

6.2.1 Core Deliverables

Two events were held for the Marine Energy Network over the course of the year.

The Environment of the SEA – Glasgow, May 2007

This event was designed to facilitate interaction within Network membership, and between Network members and Faber Maunsell, who were at the time carrying out their consultation on the Marine Renewables Strategic Environmental Assessment. The format of the event entailed presentations from Faber Maunsell, Metoc, and the Marine industry, followed by a panel and audience discussion. This event received very positive feedback from delegates, and has been highlighted in the 'Scottish Marine Renewables Strategic Environmental Assessment Report on Consultation Responses' as having been an important part of consultation on the vital work on the SEA.

New Kids on the Block – Dundee, November 2007

This event was designed to facilitate stakeholder interaction, with presentations from Faber Maunsell, the Chamber of Shipping, as well as speakers talking on environmental concerns and the concerns of the industry. This event allowed for very helpful discussion updating stakeholders on views on the potential effects on other sea-users of the growth of the marine renewables sector, as well as indicating actions for the network going forward, such as prioritising engagement with the NOREL (Nautical and Offshore Renewables Liaison) group, chaired by the UK Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Both events were very well attended and received, resulting in strong enthusiasm for further events. Presentations and summaries of the discussions are made available to stakeholders by email and on the Scottish Renewables website.

6.2.2 Additional Outcomes

In addition to the Marine Energy Network's core deliverables, 2007 has also seen the expansion of the Network, with 52 new members on the Network mailing list from July 2007 to January 2008. The list, which aims to link all stakeholders with an interest in marine energy in Scotland, now has 114 members.

On top of this, the Development Officer for the Network has promoted Network interests, and kept abreast of developments relevant to the Network, through attendance at a variety of meetings throughout the year, for example, at the plenary meeting of the Scottish Coastal Forum in October 2007.

7. Work Programme for 2008

Scottish Renewables proposes the following work programme for the Networks in 2008.

- **Reduce the number of Steering Group Meetings for Bioenergy to twice-yearly meetings and hold these concurrently with SRF Bioenergy Work Group meetings.** This is to ensure the meetings continue to be of concrete value to all Steering Group members, and to allow for greater attendance. It is proposed that such meetings will involve discussion primarily around strategic objectives for the Network to achieve (through deciding priorities for stakeholder engagement, events and advice services) for the following 6 months. It is proposed that the agenda be managed in order to facilitate discussion which both industry and public bodies find valuable.
- **Continue to hold quarterly meetings for the Marine Energy Steering Group, and continue to hold these concurrently with SRF Marine Energy Work Group Meetings. Invite other marine stakeholders, and public bodies with an interest in marine energy, to meetings more regularly.**
- **Hold 2 open meetings for each sector annually.** It is proposed that the format of the smaller-scale events could focus on new event formats – for example, roadshows or site visits – while bringing together relevant stakeholders in a more regular manner. In 2007, two open meetings were held for the Marine Energy Network, but not for the Bioenergy Network. It is proposed that the Bioenergy events would focus on bringing together stakeholders on both the supply and demand side of the Bioenergy industry.
- **Trial monthly bulletins for both Networks.** It is proposed that increasing the frequency of these Bulletins could result in the Bulletins becoming more easily digestible by the Network. It is proposed that feedback be received on the system of monthly bulletins at the summer Steering Group meetings.
- **Produce a Network Report.** This is to be produced at the end of the year, December 2008, detailing the work and achievements of the Networks to funding partners and interested parties.
- **Continue to add to the Network micro-sites.**
- **Set and achieve definite targets for increasing Network membership.** It is proposed that this would drive promotion of the Network, increasing its efficacy through more wide spread dissemination of its work.

Please see the Appendix for proposed timelines for this work.

It is suggested that this report be discussed by the funding partners and the Network Steering Groups, and that by mid-February, a finalised timetable for 2008 is agreed upon.

8. Conclusion

To conclude, 2007 has seen delivery of the majority of the Network objectives, though difficulties have been encountered with regard to Bioenergy Steering Group meetings and the Bioenergy Network Open Meeting.

This report has made suggestions which would change the way the Networks operate in 2008. The major proposals relate to the frequency of Network Bulletins, events and meetings. The suggestions have particular relevancy for the Bioenergy Network.

It should be noted by all Network members, that 2008 is the last year of scheduled sponsorship for the Network. It is proposed that SRF meet with the Steering Groups and sponsors early in 2008 to discuss the future of the Networks beyond 2008.

APPENDIX

Tables 3 and 4 outline proposed Work Programmes for the Networks in 2008.

BIOENERGY NETWORK TASKS 2008	2008											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bioenergy Bulletin 5	X											
Steering Group Meeting – Review 2007	X											
Bioenergy Bulletin 6		X										
Bioenergy Bulletin 7			X									
Bioenergy Bulletin 8				X								
Bioenergy Bulletin 9					X							
Open Meeting 1					X							
Steering Group Meeting 11					X							
Bioenergy Bulletin 10						X						
Bioenergy Bulletin 11							X					
Bioenergy Bulletin 12								X				
Bioenergy Bulletin 13									X			
Open Meeting 2									X			
Bioenergy Bulletin 14										X		
Bioenergy Bulletin 15											X	
Bioenergy Bulletin 16												X
Steering Group Meeting 11												X
Network Report												X

Table 3 – Proposed Bioenergy Network Work Programme 2008 timeline

MARINE NETWORK TASKS 2008	2008											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Marine Bulletin 4	X											
Marine Bulletin 5		X										
Steering Group Meeting – Review 2007		X										
Marine Bulletin 6			X									
Marine Bulletin 7				X								
Marine Bulletin 8					X							
Steering Group Meeting 10					X							
Marine Bulletin 9						X						
Open Meeting 1						X						
Marine Bulletin 10							X					
Marine Bulletin 11								X				
Marine Bulletin 12									X			
Marine Bulletin 13										X		
Marine Bulletin 14											X	
Open Meeting 2											X	
Marine Bulletin 15												X
Steering Group Meeting 11												X
Network Report												X

Table 4 – Proposed Marine Energy Network Work Programme 2008 timeline