

Update - FORCE's Environmental Effects Monitoring Program (EEMP) –Sept 2012

Response to DFO's Review of FORCE's 1st EEM Report (October 2011) – FORCE's Response to the DFO Review of the 1st EEM Report was provided to DFO on August 1st. Generally, the DFO comments are helpful, but they did comment on areas beyond the scope of FORCE's present project. Follow-up discussions are required with DFO to clarify their recommendations and advice regarding future EEM projects. FORCE's Response along with DFO's Review Comments, are available on the FORCE website under Monitoring/Research.

2nd EEM Report – FORCE's 2nd EEM report is nearing completion. Since there were no turbines or cables at the FORCE site in 2011, the EEMP continued to collect baseline data, which included studies on the movements in and around the FORCE marine Demonstration area, of:

- seabirds
- lobster,
- fish
- mammals

In addition to the above EEM field reports, the 2nd EEM report will include the following recently completed reports:

- Electromagnetic Field (EMF) Review Report by CEF
- Acoustics (background marine noise) Study Report by JASCO
- Benthic Habitat Characterization Report based on FORCE data by Acadia University

The 2nd EEM Report should be completed by the end of September or early October 2012, and will be available on the FORCE website. In 2012, the EEMP is essentially a continuation of the 2011 EEMP baseline studies, as there are no turbines in the demonstration area.

EMAC - The next (10th Meeting) EMAC meeting is scheduled for September 28th and will focus on DFO's comments on FORCE's 1st EEM report and how this advice can be incorporated into EMAC recommendations to FORCE on the 2013 EEM program. EMAC established a Subcommittee (fisheries/weir data), with its first meeting held on September 5th. The Subcommittee will focus on development of a weir by-catch study and its relation to fish movement in the Passage, to be started before the end of 2012. The study will be in cooperation with Acadia University.

Monitoring Platform Project – A project was announced on September 13th to design and deploy a subsea platform at the FORCE site, to test monitoring instruments in high-flow environments. One of the key areas for testing will be instruments that can measure marine life behaviour and movement near turbines, which has been an ongoing challenge for tidal projects world-wide.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this update, please contact Joe Kozak at joe.kozak@fundyforce.ca or 902-406-1166 ext.3.