

## MHK Regulatory Initiatives Analysis WBS# 2.3.2.603

Marine and Hydrokinetics Program

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# Project Overview

## Project Summary

The Marine Hydrokinetic (MHK) Regulatory Initiatives Analysis project was created to review current regulatory conditions for MHK development, identify opportunities for greater regulatory success, and provide a set of recommendations for potential research and development that DOE might support in the near term to reduce the cost and time of regulatory activities.

## Project Information

Project Principal Investigator(s)

Rebecca O’Neil, PNNL  
Bo Saulsbury, PNNL

WPTO Lead

Samantha Eaves  
Hoyt Battey

Project Partners/Subs

None.

Project Duration

FY17 – FY19

## Project Impact

The project resulted in two Laboratory publications – a literature review and an internal report detailing 21 forward-looking regulatory research topics and several additional potential actions – as well as an update to an existing compendium of state and federal regulations governing MHK projects, the 2019 *Handbook of Hydrokinetic Regulatory Processes* (DOE-EE-1793).

## Marine and Hydrokinetics (MHK) Program Strategic Approaches

Data Sharing and Analysis

Foundational  
and  
Crosscutting  
R&D

Technology-  
Specific  
Design and  
Validation

Reducing  
Barriers to  
Testing

## Reducing Barriers to Testing

Work with agencies and other groups to ensure that existing data is well-utilized and identify potential improvements to regulatory processes and requirements

Project reports discuss the many ways in which pilot, demonstration, and phased approaches are addressed in regulatory processes, depending on the applied authority, as well as the strategic importance of early stage projects in improving regulatory conditions for more mature technologies and deployments.

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## Data Sharing and Analysis

Leverage expertise, technology, data, methods, and lessons from the international MHK community and other offshore scientific and industrial sectors

Project reports illustrate the value and use of data acquisition, transferability, and analysis in the regulatory process, as well as provide specific regulatory research concepts on data development and sharing mechanisms that could benefit individual processes and general constructs.

FY17	FY18	FY19 (Q1 & Q2 Only)	Total Project Budget FY17–FY19 Q1 & Q2 (October 2016 – March 2019)	
Costed	Costed	Costed	Total Costed	Total Authorized
[\$126.1K]	[\$46.5K]	[\$38.4K]	[\$211K]	[\$221.6K]

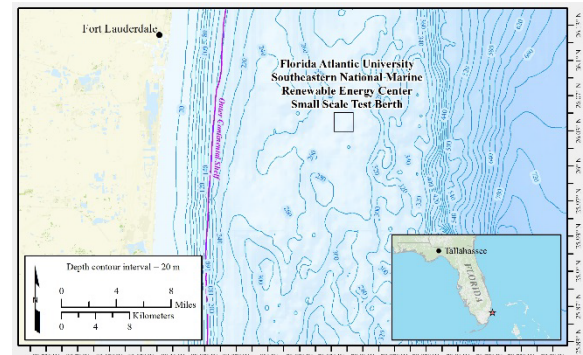
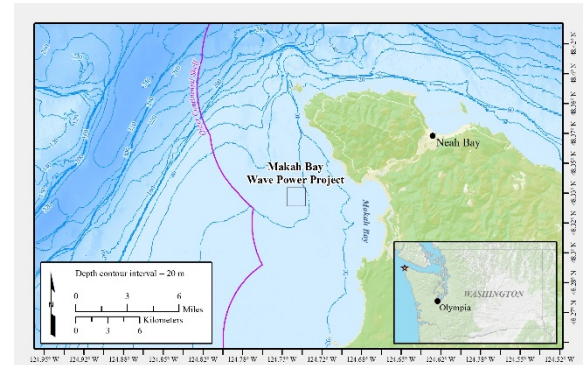
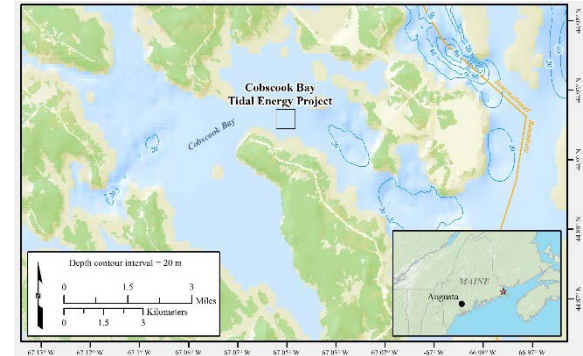
- **Timeline:** Most of the project work was conducted in FY17 (draft literature review, template topics for the Synthesis, all of the interviews). In FY18 and FY19, the PI for the project performed a rotation with WPTO to support the hydropower program and had very limited availability. As a result, final deliverables within the project were significantly delayed into FY19, though the original budget remained intact for the original tasks.
- **Budget:** For the budget provided, PNNL produced an EERE publication and two laboratory publications. WPTO provided an additional \$40K in FY19 for the follow-on state/federal agency review task for the updated handbook.
- **Team:** Key team members:
  - Rebecca O’Neil
  - Bo Saulsbury
  - Garrett Staines (Interviews, Literature review, Synthesis)
  - Mikaela Freeman (Literature review, Synthesis)

# Management and Technical Approach

The project consisted of four elements, conducted in sequence:

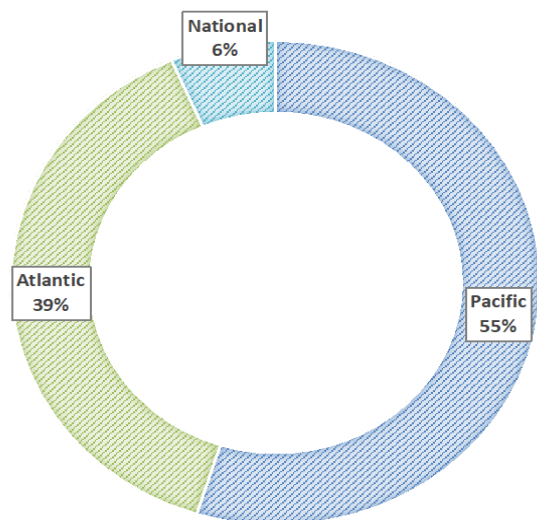
## 1. Literature Review (Laboratory publication)

- Overview of both federal and state authorities with insight into how they developed into their current form;
- Regulatory case studies of three tidal developments (Roosevelt Island, Admiralty Inlet, Cobscook Bay), four wave developments (Makah Bay, WaveConnect, Reedsport, PMEC-SETS (now PacWave)), and one ocean current (Florida Atlantic-SNMREC) with associated maps and regulatory timelines;
- Summary of existing regulatory recommendations for MHK; and
- Appendices of all Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) permitting activity (including preliminary permits) and relevant federal laws.

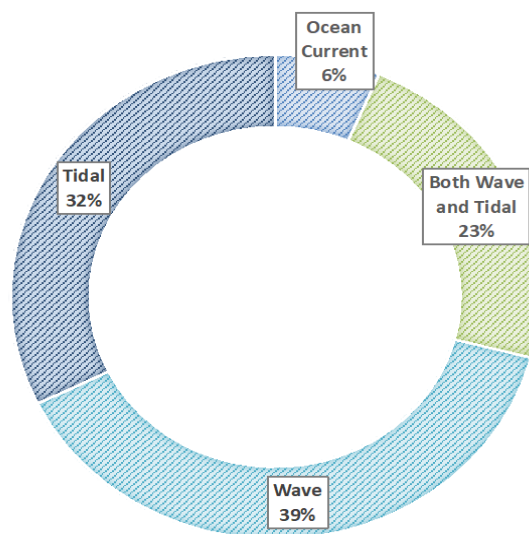


2. **Interviews.** In 2017, PNNL conducted over 30 personalized interviews ranging from 1 to 2 hours. Interviewees were selected to achieve a reasonable range of geographic diversity (Atlantic or Pacific), technology diversity (tidal, wave, and ocean current), and representative organization (experience or affiliation as a regulator, developer, or stakeholder).

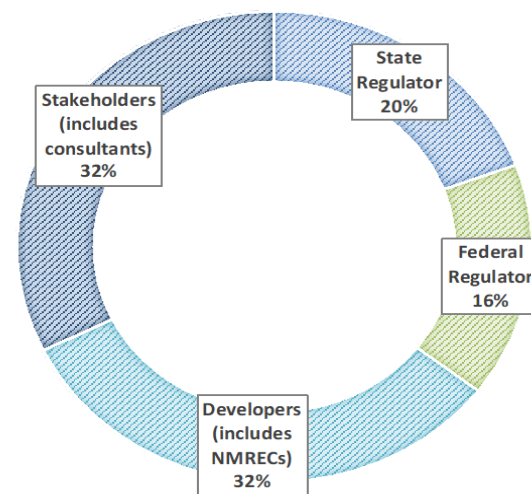
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TECHNOLOGY FOCUS



REPRESENTATIVE ORGANIZATION





3. Synthesis (internal laboratory publication). The Synthesis report presents a summary set of research recommendations to improve regulatory processes and outcomes for the next generation of MHK developments. Recommendations are organized into regulatory research topics and prioritized based on the opportunity for research to influence a regulatory practice as well as the topic’s importance and effect within regulatory processes.

Permitting Design and Improvements	Effective Management of Risk	Environmental Effects	Companion Offshore Industries
Leveraging Precedent-Setting Projects	Construction Windows	Establishing Baseline Conditions	Performance Assurance and Insurance
Merchant Marine Act of 1920 (Jones Act)	Marine Spatial Planning	Transferability of Environmental Studies	Established Marine Industry Comparisons and Standards
Decommissioning Bonds	Risk-Based Approach	Environmental Monitoring	Telecommunications Cable Route Interactions
Pilots and Demonstrations	Adaptive Management		
Compatibility with Non-Grid Marine Applications	Retiring Risk		
Pre-Permitted Sites and Auctions	Navigation		
Programmatic Review			
Distinguishing Research from Permitting Requirements			
Regulator Familiarity with Technology			



## Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

- ### Commercial Hydrokinetic Project in State Waters
- | Year 1 |    |    |    | Year 2 |    |    |    | Year 3 |    |    |    | Year 4 |    |    |    |
|--------|----|----|----|--------|----|----|----|--------|----|----|----|--------|----|----|----|
| Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q1     | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
- NOI & DLA** Filing of comment, MOI
- FERC License App.
- FERC issues Notice of REA
- FERC issues Draft EAEIS
- FERC Review**
- NEPA Consultation
- EA/EIS
- NHPA Consultation by ACHP w/SHPO/THPO
- HPMA
- Endangered Species Act § 7 Consultation
- Biological Opinion
- Essential Fish Habitat Consultation
- Conservation Recommendations
- MMPA Consultation
- IHA/LOA
- FWCA Consultation
- IHA/LOA
- USCG Consultation
- PATON Permit
- COE Review & Consultation
- § 10 Permit § 404 Permit
- Designated State Agency Review
- Water Quality Certification
- Designated State Agency Review
- CZMA Federal Consistency Certification
- State & Local Authorizations**
- Pre-Application Consultation with Federal, State & Local Agencies &
- FERC initiates Tribal Consultation
- FERC License

- The primary results of the work – a suite of recommended regulatory research topics – are internally-facing to DOE. PNNL/DOE intend to publish a public-facing overview of the Synthesis recommendations.
- A key benefit of the interviews is to ensure that the project is informed by the diverse and collective expertise of the MHK community.
- Externally-facing purposes of the project are:
  - Update and publish the MHK regulatory process handbook and
  - Engage MHK regulatory stakeholders in prioritizing regulatory research possibilities.
- Literature review and handbook will be published on Tethys.

- O'Neil R.S., G.J. Staines, and M.C. Freeman. 2019. *Marine Hydrokinetics Regulatory Processes Literature Review*. PNNL-28608. Richland, WA: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.  
<https://tethys.pnnl.gov/publications/marine-hydrokinetics-regulatory-processes-literature-review>
- O'Neil R.S., M.C. Freeman, and G.J. Staines. 2019. *MHK Regulatory Initiatives Analysis: Synthesis*. PNNL-28936. Richland, WA: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. (Internal dissemination only.)
- U.S. Department of Energy, *Handbook of Hydrokinetic Regulatory Processes* (Publication Number DOE-EE1793). Anticipated publication fall 2019.

- Published the internal report with detailed recommendations on regulatory research concepts in August 2019:
  - O'Neil R.S., M.C. Freeman, and G.J. Staines. 2019. *MHK Regulatory Initiatives Analysis: Synthesis*. PNNL-28936. Richland, WA: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.
- DOE will publish the updated MHK Handbook in fall 2019:
  - U.S. Department of Energy. 2019. *Handbook of Marine Hydrokinetic Regulatory Processes*. DOE-EE-1793. Washington, DC: DOE-EERE, Water Power Technologies Office.