

**Maine Ocean Energy Task Force (OETF)  
Subcommittee #5: Tidal Power  
Scope Area: Generation Potential**

**3/31/2009 Meeting Notes**

**In Attendance:** Bob Blackmore( Cianbro/TEDEC, Scope Leader), Dr. Huijie Xue(UMaine), John Fernald(ORPC), Parker Hadlock(Cianbro, Tidal Power Chair) - via telecon

**Agenda for today's meeting:**

- **Introductions**
- **The Scope Area Breakdown for our scope is as follows:**

**Generation Potential**

- **Identify Resource Potential**
- **Identify “State of the Art” Tidal Technology World Wide**
- **Recommendations for Tidal Development in Maine**

**Discussion:**

**Given the above scope breakdown, what, specifically, do we believe the deliverables for our group should be?**

- **Formulate a plan to achieve those deliverables as per the tentative schedule**
- **Other action?**

**Discussion Summary**

The general discussion that was intended to try and focus in on what the specific deliverables of our scoping group should be, resulted in the realization that in order to determine those deliverables, some basic questions needed to be explored further. Those being:

- What tidal energy assets currently exist in Maine and how are they being employed? This would include all those involved in any tidal energy activities and what are they doing.
- What would any developer need to develop a project in Maine?
- What could the State do to make developing tidal energy technology easier?
- Given the fact that obtaining funding is a critical element of the technology development, how could a funding mechanism be created that was ongoing, reliable, straight forward and easily accessed? This should probably go beyond tidal to include all ocean energy and be all encompassing in that it tap into funding sources that are State, Federal and Private.

- What is the most effective and efficient way for tidal and other ocean energy development efforts to address the many geopolitical issues?
- What is the role of tidal in ocean energy in Maine? Much of the dialog regarding ocean energy in Maine revolves around deepwater offshore wind, due to the huge resource potential. While it is true that deepwater offshore wind is most likely to ultimately deliver more energy than tidal, tidal technology is currently more advanced and most likely to reach commercial deployment first. For this reason it seems to make sense that tidal be used to pave the way for deepwater offshore wind, particularly in the areas of:
  - Creating/training a workforce
  - Creating the service infrastructure
    - Environmental Protocol (both baseline and ongoing monitoring)
    - Transmission and Distribution
    - Manufacturing opportunities

After exploring the above questions in more depth, three items emerged as being potential candidates for the formulation of formal recommendations. They are:

1. The development of tidal energy and other types of ocean energy in Maine would benefit from an Industry/State supported advocacy organization that would be in place specifically to facilitate and accelerate the development of ocean energy in Maine. This would be a centralized group that could assist with general policy issues, funding, geopolitical issues, etc. All developers of ocean energy projects face similar and varied issues that need to be addressed and they are all doing it individually, and often times, from a defensive posture. If these issues could be identified up front, worked on proactively by an advocacy group and dispositioned in a way that would become more or less accepted protocol, each developer would not have to fight the battle alone. The results would be reached more efficiently, consistently and generally in the best interest of all stakeholders.
2. There are many sites in Maine that have the potential for some sort of tidal energy development. However there are only a handful that are obviously well suited for major commercial development. Although the EPRI Report on potential project sites (EPRI-TP-003-ME Rev 1) did a good preliminary job of identifying these sites, much more needs to be learned about them before any serious development could occur. These sites need to be studied in more depth and then be designated as production only and reserved for serious commercial development. The State currently has no part in the issuance of FERC site permits.
3. The process of getting a project designed, developed and implemented has many pitfalls, challenges, impediments, and problems. Some are obvious but many are not. We need to begin to capture the lessons learned from the past and current experience from developers who have been involved in trying to develop this technology not only here in Maine but elsewhere. Again, this issue is all about efficiency and not having future developers having to learn everything the hard way. This knowledge needs to be in a form where it can be accessed and shared easily.

The group agreed that if we could focus on the above three items that we would be well on our way to being able to formulate meaningful recommendations for the final OETF report.

Action Items:

1. Investigate what types of industry advocacy organization currently exist in Maine and which (if any) would be suitable to use as a model for a future group to represent and work for the advancement of ocean energy in Maine.

Responsibility – Bob Blackmore

2. Identify several (4-6) prime sites that would be most suitable for commercial development and define what further work would be required in order to learn what is needed in preparation for commercialization.

Responsibility – Huijie Xue

3. Identify those issues that have been encountered or are anticipated that are the biggest impediments to development and/or are the most difficult for a developer to overcome on its own. Try to prioritize them in terms of cost, both in money and time. Also include what could be done to make the process easier and what actions either were or would be necessary to solve/avoid the problem.

Responsibility – John Fernald

These action items are due to the Scope Area Leader by April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Respectively submitted,  
Bob Blackmore