

Using moored and drifting Passive Acoustic Detectors to monitor Harbour Porpoises in tidal-stream sites

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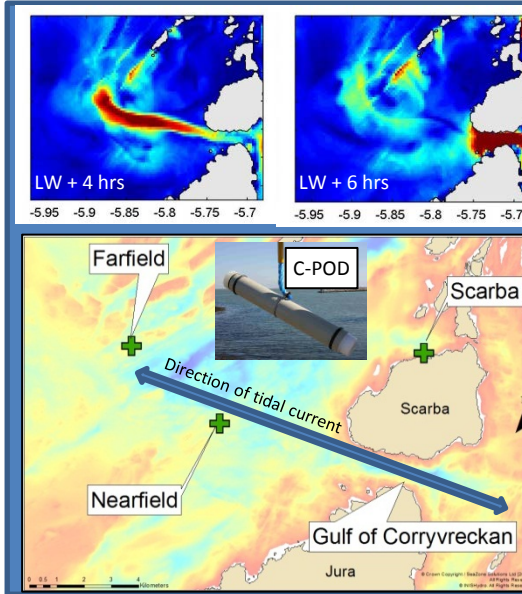
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- Charismatic megafauna species such as marine mammals can delay or complicate consenting decisions for tidal-stream energy developments:
 - High-profile species protected by legislation
 - A new industry with the potential for impacts, but many unknowns
- Regulators demand high-quality data on animal distribution, habitat use etc., but marine mammals are hard to study!
 - Animals can be difficult to observe
 - Standard survey methods may not work well in fast-flowing waters
 - Logistical difficulties

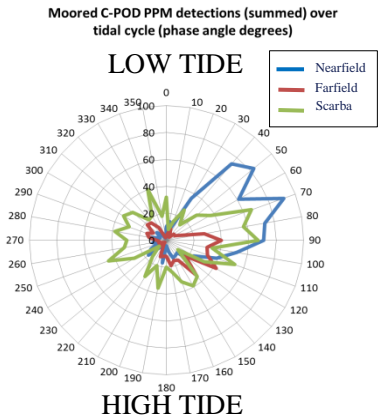


Use of C-POD porpoise click detectors on moorings and drifters:

- Moored units provide high temporal resolution in specific sites
 - Drifting units provide good spatial resolution
- **Combining them provides high-resolution information on habitat use**



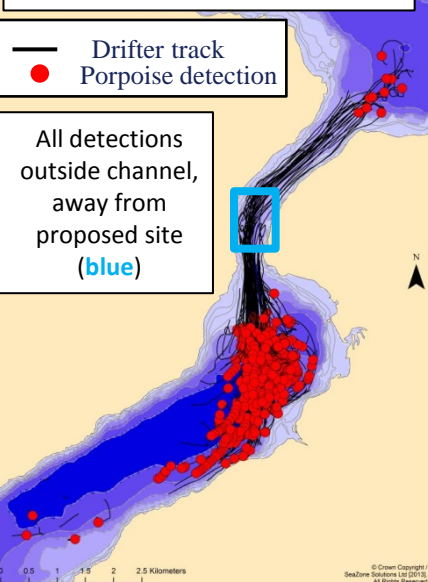
Gulf of Corryvreckan: Mooring data (+) from 3 sites (Nearfield, Farfield, Scarba [control], 2011)



Kyle Rhea drifter data (2010-13)

— Drifter track
● Porpoise detection

All detections outside channel, away from proposed site (blue)



Caveats:

- Only high-resolution data, so broader context needed
- Mooring deployment/retrieval can be hard
- Risk of pseudo-replication
- Easily lost/stolen (Moored)
- Uneven effort distribution (Drifters)
- Flow noise (Moored)

