

6 CONSULTATION PROCESS

6.1 Introduction

Since the award of the AfL in October 2012, TVL has been actively consulting a wide range of statutory and non-statutory stakeholders and interested parties on the Project. All consultation has been carried out in line with relevant legislation e.g. the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 (as amended) (MWRs) and Guidance on Marine Licencing (DoENI, 2012).

TVL is committed to the highest environmental standards and best practice throughout the entire Project lifecycle and as part of this, recognises the importance of early consultation that continues throughout the Project in order to integrate public and stakeholder concerns and opinions into the Project decision making process. Consequently, consultation with both statutory and non-statutory stakeholders has been an integral aspect of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process since the commencement of the Project. The primary aim of the consultation process is to facilitate two way communications about the Project with all relevant stakeholders. This allows any environmental concerns to be identified at an early stage and the opportunity for the project team to ensure that these concerns can be adequately addressed during the EIA process.

Alongside the overarching EIA consultation process, extensive consultation has also been undertaken for the Navigation Risk Assessment (NRA) and the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

This section of the ES describes the overall consultation process that was undertaken for the Project. Detailed information on topic specific consultation is included in study specific sections throughout the ES.

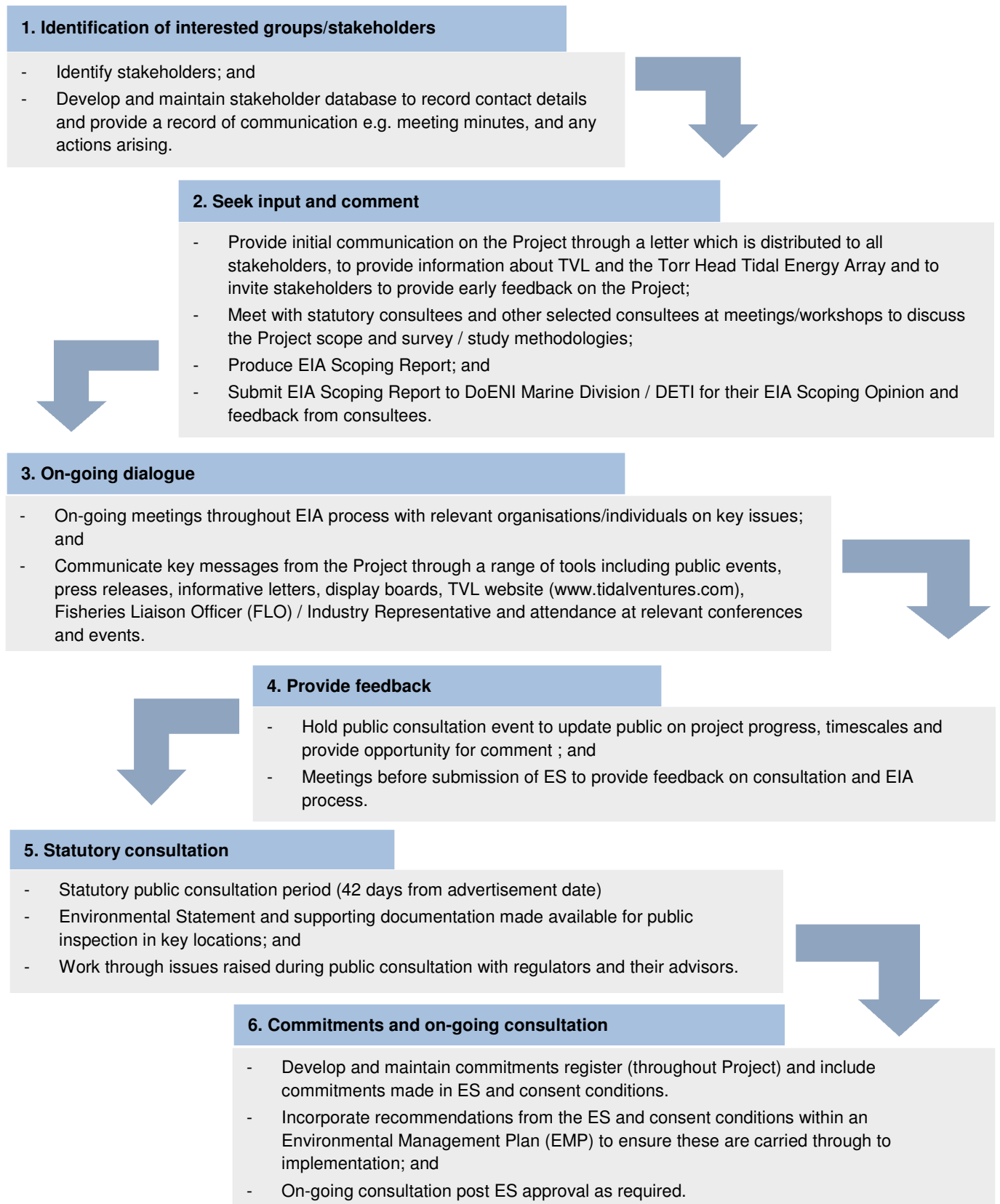
6.2 Approach to stakeholder engagement

For successful stakeholder engagement it is essential that the following is undertaken:

- > The stakeholders and groups/individuals interested in or affected by the Project are identified;
- > Information is issued at the appropriate time to all interested parties in an accurate and understandable manner;
- > Early and continuous dialogue is held between those affected by the decisions and those responsible for making the decisions;
- > The information provided by the stakeholders and interested parties is considered and incorporated in the decision making process and final decision for the Project; and
- > Feedback is provided to all stakeholders and interested parties explaining the actions taken and how the final decision has been influenced by the process.

Using experience from previous similar projects and incorporating the requirements of legislation (e.g. Public Participation Directive, Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 (MWRs) and Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013), the overall approach to stakeholder engagement carried out as part of the Torr Head Tidal Array Project is presented in Figure 6.1.

Figure 6.1 Overview of consultation summary



6.3 Pre-application consultation

6.3.1 Identification of interested parties and stakeholders

Following the award of the AfL, an extensive list of stakeholders and interested parties were identified in consultation with the DoENI Marine Division. This process ensured that all relevant consultees were made aware of the Project at an early stage and that they could be consulted with throughout the EIA process. Early identification of these consultees also ensured that the Project Team were made aware of any issues and concerns about the Project and that these could be considered and addressed through development of the Project. Stakeholders and interested parties include the following:

- > Government Departments;
- > Government Agencies;
- > Energy Companies;
- > Fishery, Angling, Diving and Sailing Organisations;
- > Marinas and Marine Organisations;
- > Harbour Commissioners and Coastguards;
- > Conservation, Countryside, Tourism and Heritage Organisations;
- > Universities and Scientific Institutions;
- > Local Councils;
- > Elected Representatives;
- > Rathlin Island Residents, Groups and Businesses;
- > Local Community Groups, Residents and Businesses;
- > General Public;
- > Media; and
- > Environmental Organisations.

All stakeholder and interested parties were included in a Project Stakeholder Database. This allowed contact details and records of all consultations to be logged and made available for future reference. Consultations included face to face meetings, telephone calls and emails. Minutes from all meetings were produced by TVL and links to these minutes were included in the Stakeholder Database. This database is a live document which has been regularly updated during the EIA process and will remain live during the post submission consultation period. New stakeholders have been added to the list on request, recommendation or if a potential stakeholder was identified by the Project team.

6.3.2 Statutory & non-statutory consultation meetings

Following announcement by The Crown Estate on the AfL award meetings were organised with statutory and non-statutory stakeholders and interested parties to discuss and provide information on the Project, identify any concerns or key points to be considered and included in the EIA Scoping Report and ES. A list of all stakeholders and interested parties met with during the EIA process are listed in Table 6.1. Key points raised during these meetings were incorporated into the scope of the EIA where appropriate. A summary of consultation activities and points raised on specific EIA topics are discussed in detail in each of the impact assessment chapters (Chapters 9 to 20 of this ES).

Table 6.1 Stakeholder meetings

Stakeholder	Key meeting dates
Government departments	
The Crown Estate (TCE)	October 2012 January, April, June, September and December 2013 March and September 2014
Department of Environment Northern Ireland (DoENI) Marine Division	Met five times between October and November 2012 February 2013, June 2013, October 2013 and November 2013 May 2014, June 2014 January 2015
Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Natural Heritage (NIEA: NH)	October 2012, November 2012 February 2013, June 2013, November 2013 May 2014, June 2014 January 2015
Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Protecting Historic Monuments (NIEA: PHM) Marine Licensing	January 2015
Department of Environment Northern Ireland (DoENI) Planning Service	October 2010 May 2014, June 2014
Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (DARD)	Met five times between October and November 2012 January 2015
Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment (DETI)	October 2012, November 2012 March 2013 January 2015
Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI)	Met four times in November 2012 October 2013, November 2013 July 2014 September 2014 January 2015
Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure (DCAL)	November 2012
Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation (NIAUR)	November 2013
Power organisations	
Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE)	October 2010 February 2014
System Operator Northern Ireland (SONI)	October 2010 December 2013 February 2014
Fisheries organisations	
Portaleen Salmon Fishery	November 2012 April 2013 December 2014
Local inshore fishermen (members of North Coast Lobster Fishermen's Association (NCLFA))	November 2012 June 2013, August 2013, September 2013 March 2014, July 2014
North Irish Salmon Fisheries Association (NISFA)	November 2012
North Irish Fish Producers Organisation (NIFPO)	November 2012 September 2014
Anglo North Irish Fish Producers Organisation (ANIFPO)	November 2012 April 2013 September 2014
Ballycastle Seafishing	July 2014

Stakeholder	Key meeting dates
Angling organisations	
Irish Federation of Sea Anglers	April 2013 August 2013
Ulster Angling Federation	May 2013
Diving organisations	
Aquaholics	December 2012 September 2014
D & P Marine	July 2014
Sailing organisations	
Red Bay Boats	December 2012 July 2014
Irish Cruising Club and RYA NI	September 2014
Conservation / countryside / heritage organisations	
Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB)	December 2012 January 2015
Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT)	December 2012
Council for Nature Conservation and Countryside (CNCC)	January 2013 January 2015 February 2015
National Trust	January 2013
Ulster Wildlife Trust	October 2014 (via conference call) January 2015
Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust	October 2014 (via conference call)
Northern Ireland Marine Task Force	October 2014 (via conference call) January 2015
Marine Conservation Northern Ireland	April 2013 August 2013
Northern Ireland Environment Link	May 2013
Friends of the Earth	May 2013
Marina's / marine organisations	
Commission for Irish Lights	July 2014 January 2015
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)	May 2014 July 2014
Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)	December 2012
Red Bay RNLI	July 2014
Kintyre Express	September 2014
Harbour commissioners	

Stakeholder	Key meeting dates
Ballycastle Harbour Master	November 2012 December 2012 July 2014 September 2014
Local councils	
Moyle District Council	December 2012 January 2013 (Presentation to councillors)
Political	
DUP	January 2013 March 2013 December 2014
Green Party	March 2013 December 2014
Independents	January 2013
SDLP	January 2013
Sinn Féin	January 2013 November 2012
TUV	January 2013
UUP	January 2013
Rathlin Island stakeholders	
Rathlin Development & Community Association	December 2012
Rathlin Island Ferry Service	November 2012 July 2014
Local developers	
Fair Head Tidal	Meetings on a monthly basis throughout EIA Process
Business groups	
North Antrim Marine Business Group	February 2014

6.3.3 Project communications

Project update letters & press releases

In November 2012, following the AfL award, a letter was issued to all statutory and non-statutory stakeholders informing them of the award, introducing the TVL Project and outlining details for the organisation of meetings. A copy of the press release from October 2012 was also included with this letter.

In February 2013, TVL issued a Pre-EIA Scoping Request for Information letter (TVL, 2013a) to all statutory and non-statutory stakeholders. This letter provided a brief description of the Project including site location maps and requested the provision of feedback and information for inclusion in the formal EIA Scoping Report. A full list of all consultees was provided in the EIA Scoping Report (TVL, 2013b).

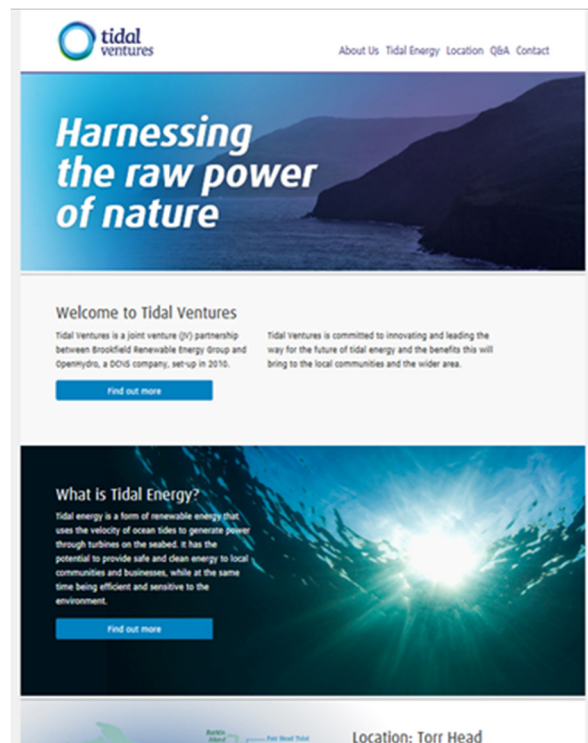
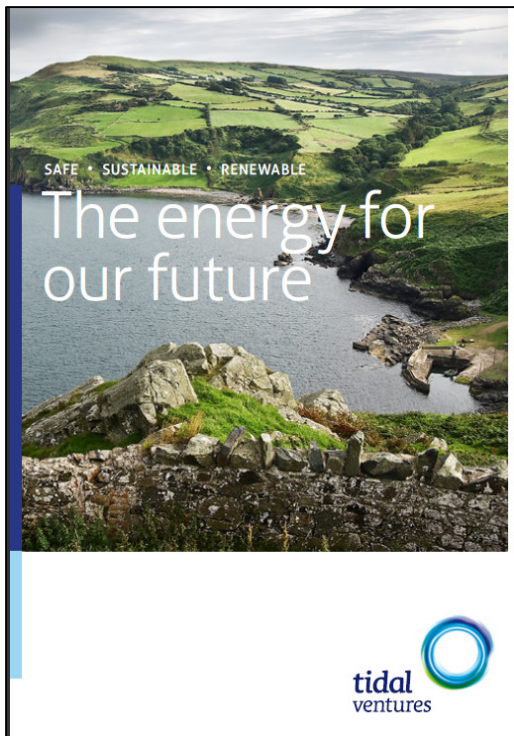
In June and December 2013, Project update letters were issued to all consultees providing an update on the progress of the Project, survey activities, ability to avail of further meetings and where additional information on the Project was available i.e. Project website

Copies of the Project Update Letters and Press Releases are included as supporting documents on the enclosed CD in the Consultation Summary Pack.

TVL Project website & brochure

The TVL Project website (www.tidalventures.com) was launched in November 2013. The website includes information on TVL and the Torr Head Tidal Energy Array Project including a frequently asked questions' section. Contact details for any general, Project or media queries are also made available on the website.

TVL also compiled a Project Brochure providing information of the Project. This brochure is available to download from the Project website and was disseminated at the Public Consultation Event and consultation meetings. A copy of this brochure is also included as a supporting document on the enclosed CD in the Consultation Summary Pack.



6.3.4 Consultation with the fishing community

The local fishing community is seen as an important and key stakeholder to the EIA process. To maintain ongoing consultation and liaison with the fishing community a Fisheries Industry Representative (FIR) and Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) were appointed to the Project. This is in accordance with the FLOWW Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison (January 2014).

Fisheries Industry Representative (FIR)

In November 2012, a Fisheries Industry Representative (FIR) was appointed to the Project. This role was seen by TVL as essential to the engagement process with the local fishing community, acting as a two-way conduit for the transfer of information between the fishing community and the TVL Project Team. The use of the FIR ensured that the fishing community was kept up to date with information about the Project, made aware of surveys taking place within the AfL area and to voice the interests of the fishing community, providing TVL with specialist advice and guidance as to any industry sensitivities.

Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO)

A TVL Project Team member was also appointed to the role of Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO). This allowed for representation of the Developer regarding fisheries issues and a primary point of contact for the FIR and fishing industry to allow for direct communication with the TVL Project Team. During the EIA process, the FLO ensured the timely provision of information to the FIR regarding offshore survey scheduling and organisation of meetings.

6.4 Onshore Project consultation

As discussed in Chapters 1 and 22, the onshore Project will form Part 2 of the consenting strategy. TVL has undertaken a feasibility study to further define the onshore Project (e.g. landfall, onshore cable route and potential substation locations). Development of the onshore Project is described further in Chapter 4: Site Selection and Alternatives. Consultations were initially undertaken with the DoENI Planning Service at the award of the AfL in October 2010. DoENI Planning Service were also met in May 2014 to provide an update on the Project, details of the onshore infrastructure required, feasibility study and consenting strategy for the onshore elements. A further meeting was held in June 2014 with the DoENI Planning Service, DoENI Marine Division and DETI in attendance to refine the scope of EIA and agree consenting strategy for the onshore and offshore components of the Project.

6.5 EIA scoping

As described in the Northern Ireland Guidance on Environmental Impact Assessment, under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (DoENI, 2012) developers can request a formal opinion from the licensing authority on the proposed scope of the EIA (EIA Scoping Opinion). The purpose of scoping is to determine what information should be included in the ES by drawing together, in a systematic manner, the main subject areas which require consideration in order that there is a comprehensive assessment of the proposed project's likely significant environmental impacts (DoENI, 2012).

In July 2013, TVL submitted an EIA Scoping Report (TVL, 2013b) to DoENI Marine Division and DETI as part of a formal request for an EIA Scoping Opinion under the MWRs and the Offshore Electricity Development EIA Regulations 2008. The EIA Scoping Report included a description of the Project including maps and proposed development programme, key legislation and policy relating to the Project, key environmental characteristics of the Project area and identification of potential significant impacts on key environmental receptors. A copy of the EIA Scoping Report is included as a supporting document on the enclosed CD.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been established between DoENI Marine Division and DETI to ensure both Departments work closely together to determine planning, marine licensing and consent applications for all energy infrastructure and installations requiring Article 39 consent as quickly as possible (DoENI Marine Division and DETI, 2014).

Under this MoU, in relation to TVL's request for a formal EIA Scoping Opinion from DoENI Marine Division and DETI, DoENI Marine Division undertook a consultation process on its own behalf and on behalf of DETI. A list of bodies that DoENI Marine Division and DETI agreed to consult in relation to the Project is provided below (DoENI Marine Division and DETI, 2014).

- > Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI)
- > Centre for Maritime Archaeology (CMA)
- > Commissioners of Irish Lights (CIL)
- > The Crown Estate (TCE)
- > Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI)
- > Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (DARD) (Fisheries Division)
- > Department of Culture Arts & Leisure (DCAL) (Salmon, eels etc)
- > Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)
- > DoENI Marine Division, Nature Conservation
- > DoENI Marine Division, Marine Monitoring
- > Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)
- > Marine Scotland (MS)
- > Moyle District Council
- > Environment Protection Agency (EPA) (DCENR)
- > Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)

A formal EIA Scoping Opinion was received from DoENI Marine Division and DETI in February 2014. This EIA Scoping Opinion set out requirements for the EIA and provided details on the views from regulatory bodies and other key stakeholders on what they deem necessary for consideration by the EIA and reported in the ES. A copy of the EIA Scoping Opinion is included as a supporting document on the enclosed CD.

Following receipt of the EIA Scoping Opinion each issue raised was reviewed and implications to the overall Project, as well as the EIA, considered. Where required, further meetings / discussions were held, generally on a topic specific basis, throughout the EIA. These were necessary in order to refine the scope of EIA studies being undertaken, based on the EIA Scoping Opinion received and / or results of EIA studies as they became available. This on-going consultation was an important aspect in ensuring the EIA addressed all issues required in the appropriate manner. Details of, and feedback from, on-going post EIA scoping consultation are provided in each of the impact assessment chapters of this ES (Chapters 9 to 20). A number of these meetings were held with the DoENI Marine Division, DoENI Planning Service and DETI to refine the scope of EIA and agree consenting strategy for the onshore and offshore components of the Project.

6.6 Public Consultation Event

On 5th November 2014 TVL held a public consultation event as part of pre-submission consultation on the Project. A letter informing consultees of the event was issued in September 2014. The purpose of the event was to ensure that the wider community was aware of the Project proposals and was given an opportunity to comment on the Project prior to submission of the ES and consent applications. A feedback form was available at the event for attendees to provide comments or submit comments at a later date.

The meeting was held in the Marine Hotel, Ballycastle, between 3 pm and 8 pm. Newspaper notices of the event were displayed in local papers on the following dates:

- > Coleraine Times – 1st Sept and 29th Oct
- > Coleraine Chronicle – 30th Sept and 28th Oct
- > Ballycastle Chronicle – 30th Sept and 28th Oct
- > Coleraine Leader – 2nd Sept and 30th Oct

Posters advertising the public event were displayed in shops, libraries, hotels, local clubs, associations and public buildings in the Cushendall, Cushendun, Rathlin Island, Ballycastle and Moyle District Council areas.

Approximately 55 people attended the event from a wide range of groups and organisations including:

- > DoENI Marine Division, Nature Conservation
- > HM Coastguard
- > Moyle District Council
- > Rathlin Ferry Ltd
- > Rathlin Development and Community Association
- > Corrymeela Community Council
- > Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE)
- > North Antrim Marine Business Group
- > Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside (CNCC)
- > Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust (CCGHT)
- > DP Energy
- > Ballycastle Town Partnership
- > Members of the public
- > System Operator Northern Ireland (SONI)

Copies of the display boards from the event and supporting information on the Project have been uploaded to the Project website (<http://www.tidalventures.com>) to facilitate consultation with a wider audience. Copies of poster and newspaper notices, invite letter issued, feedback form and copies of display board information are also included as supporting documents on the enclosed CD in the Consultation Summary Pack.



6.7 ES pre-submission consultation

Prior to final submission of the ES, draft copies of key chapters of the ES were submitted to DoENI Marine Division for review. A number of stakeholders (statutory and non-statutory) were invited by DoENI Marine Division to provide comments on these draft ES chapters. In addition to providing written comments, stakeholders were given the opportunity to provide feedback on, and discuss, the draft ES chapters at a meeting that was held at NIEA's offices in Lisburn, Belfast on 20th January 2015. Attendees at this meeting are included in Table 6.1.

All comments received on the draft ES chapters, and TVL's response to those comments, have been recorded in the Project stakeholder spreadsheet which is included as a supporting document on the enclosed CD. Where changes have been made to the ES in response to specific comments, the nature of the changes and location (e.g. relevant section of specific ES chapter) has been identified. Where it was felt that changes to the ES were not required, justification for this decision has also been provided in the spreadsheet. In some instances, additional information has also been provided in support of certain responses.

6.8 Post submission consultation

Following submission of the Marine Licence Application, notice of the application will be advertised in local newspapers in the Antrim area. TVL also propose to make hard copies publically available in key locations to facilitate inspection, in person, by members of the local communities in the vicinity of the project. These locations will be confirmed post submission and all stakeholders will be notified of the confirmed locations via email and/or letter. The entire Environmental Statement will also be made available via www.tidalventures.com. This is to allow the public an opportunity to review the application, ES or request a copy of the submission. A statutory public consultation period of 42 days will remain open to allow written representations on the Project to be made.

Consultation will continue beyond the submission of the application. Assuming successful award of Project consent, licence condition implementation, including the development of appropriate environmental monitoring protocols, will require continuing engagement and consultation with the regulators and their statutory consultees. In addition, TVL will continue its communications with local marine users, the local community and wider public to keep them informed of the Project progress and key milestones.

6.9 References

DoENI (2012). Northern Ireland Guidance Environmental Impact Assessment, under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Department for Environment (DoENI) Northern Ireland.

DoENI Marine Division and DETI (2014). Scoping Opinion for Tidal Ventures Limited Proposed Torr Head Tidal Scheme, North Antrim Coast, Northern Ireland.

TVL (2013a). Torr Head Tidal Energy Array Pre-EIA Scoping Request for Information. Letter prepared by RPS on behalf of Tidal Ventures Limited. January 2013.

TVL (2013b). Torr Head Tidal Energy Array EIA Scoping Report. Report prepared by RPS on behalf of Tidal Ventures Limited. June 2013.