

Marine Mammal Observers (MMOs) & Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM)

MMOs and PAM systems are used to detect the presence of marine mammals during seismic and site investigation surveys, well abandonment operations and any potentially harmful or disruptive acoustic activity in the marine environment. The use of MMOs is a key step towards minimising potential impacts from underwater noise.

In accordance with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee guidelines for minimising acoustic disturbance to marine mammals, one or more dedicated MMOs can be stationed on a vessel throughout operations. PAM systems can also be deployed in sensitive environments, where visibility is poor, or for 24-hour operations.

RPS Energy has developed a strong capability in providing highly trained personnel for a variety of operations. Over the past decade we have provided several thousand man-days of coverage during marine operations. The range of services provided includes:

- Lead MMOs (highly experienced cetacean biologists)
- MMOs (qualified marine biologists)
- Passive Acoustic Monitoring capability
- Experienced PAM operators
- Ongoing PAM development to meet latest operational requirements
- All observers are JNCC trained and hold current OPITO / UKOO safety and medical certificates

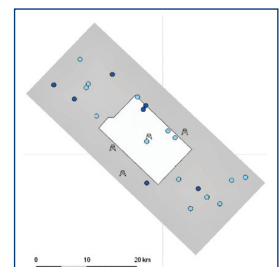
RPS Energy is at the forefront of training and supplying marine observers. We provide assured project management during the planning and operation stages, a consistent and reliable methodology and high quality reporting. All of our personnel have a wealth of experience and are accustomed to the flexibility and commitment required for the task.

In addition, combined fisheries liaison officers and MMOs are able to offer advice and guidance to surveys in sensitive fishing areas.

The combination of seismic acquisition experience and dedicated marine seismic managers, together with extensive environmental consultancy support and the highest level of project management, allows us to provide a tailored service which is practical, relevant and provides the highest level of marine protection.

Ongoing Innovation:

In response to the increasing requirement for acoustic monitoring during well abandonment campaigns using explosives, RPS Energy has been at the forefront of co-ordinating the development of new PAM technologies. Bringing together operational, environmental and technical personnel has resulted in a system tailored to static deployment and acoustic detection around a well head during decommissioning activity.



RPS Energy is a division of the RPS Group plc. We provide a range of project management and technical consultancy services to the oil and gas, renewable energy, submarine cables, nuclear and mining industries.

RPS Energy operates worldwide from offices in the UK, Europe, USA, Malaysia and Australia, with these primary business centres supported by business partners located throughout the globe.

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