



**AOTEAROA WAVE AND TIDAL ENERGY ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER UPDATE**

**Volume 2, #7: 10 May 2007**

Welcome to this brief update newsletter. We are publishing this update because of some recent publicity for marine energy and because the Executive Officer is going to be out of the country from 20 May to 2 June (see below).

If you wish to join the Association an updated application form can be downloaded from the AWATEA website or supplied on request by sending an e-mail to [admin@awatea.org.nz](mailto:admin@awatea.org.nz).

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## **AWATEA News**

### **Annual General Meeting and Developers' Day**

The AWATEA Executive met on Friday 4 May. Following discussions the Executive agreed that the first Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on **Thursday 12 July 2007** at a venue in Wellington yet to be decided. The meeting will follow the same format as last September's General Meeting: a brief (30 minutes) meeting to discuss the business of the Association at which members can vote on any motions and elections for the Executive, followed by a series of presentations open to a wider audience. Formal notification of the meeting will be sent out in the first week of June.

Due to the shortness of time, the Executive has decided to hold the proposed Developers' Day after the AGM proceedings, rather than as a separate meeting. This will mean some small changes to the format of the Developers' Day. The meeting will be open to members and non-members alike, although 'Chatham House' rules will apply. Full details will be published in early June.

The Developers' Day (or perhaps more appropriately, afternoon) will focus on providing information to those people developing projects or devices in New Zealand. The objective is to provide a range of useful advice and contacts to stimulate and accelerate developments.

Presenters/topics will include:

- Government funding agencies (NZTE and Technology NZ)
- Intellectual property lawyer
- Successful entrepreneurs and their experiences
- Department of Conservation (see next item)
- Any recommendations from members???

### **Hector's (and Maui's) Dolphins**

The Chairman and Executive Officer had a meeting on 3 May with Department of Conservation staff on the subject of Hector's and Maui's Dolphins. DoC has published a Hector's Dolphins Threat Management Discussion Document, which can be located at:

<http://www.fish.govt.nz/en-nz/Environmental/Hectors+Dolphins.htm>

The Executive is keen to make all project developers aware of this document because it could have significant impacts on their projects. If you are interested, it is worth downloading and reading this document. Maui's Dolphins are a sub-species of Hector's dolphins and they are the world's most endangered marine mammals (only 111 survive today). The Discussion Document addresses the threats to both Hector's and Maui's dolphins and potential mitigations. Obviously marine energy projects are an additional issue for DoC and the dolphins will be an additional issue for project developers in their consent applications.

It is the Executive's view that the best strategy, as it has been with the fishing and surfing communities, is active dialogue. This is to share experience from overseas, best practices and successful mitigation strategies. The Executive has responded that it will continue to engage and communicate with DoC. Members' views on this topic are welcome: [mail@awatea.org.nz](mailto:mail@awatea.org.nz).



## **AWATEA Website Upgrade**

The website will be upgraded and live before Friday 18 May.

## **"Listener" Article**

Last month's 'Listener' article on marine energy should be available on the Listener's website archive from 12 May:

[http://www.listener.co.nz/issue/3493/columnists/8626/wave\\_action.html](http://www.listener.co.nz/issue/3493/columnists/8626/wave_action.html)

## **Wave Energy Blog**

An interesting article and interview on the Wave Energy Technology – New Zealand (WET-NZ) project can be found on the Public Address blog site:

<http://publicaddress.net/default,4133.sm#post4133>

## **UK Trade and Investment Marine Energy Tour**

Those of you who attended the AWATEA conference or purchased the conference packs will know that UK Trade and Investment brought over one of the two keynote speakers over from Scotland. UK Trade and Investment have organized a tour of marine energy projects and facilities in the UK for a group of interested overseas parties. The visit is centred around the All-Energy Conference in Aberdeen and there will be visits to the Edinburgh University wave tank, OPD's facilities (to see Pelamis) and a visit to the European Marine Energy Centre.

At least four people are going from New Zealand, including the Executive Officer of AWATEA, whose visit is being jointly funded by AWATEA and EECA (for which, thanks). A copy of the Executive Officer's trip report will be made available to members of AWATEA after his return in early June.

## **Submissions on the Draft New Zealand Energy Strategy**

The names of organizations and individuals, who made submission on the draft NZ Energy Strategy were published a week or two ago on the Ministry of Economic Development's website. Now the actual submissions on the draft NZ Energy Strategy have been published on the EECA website: <http://www.eeca.govt.nz/about/national-strategy/nzeecs-submissions.html> -

There does appear to be an error or two: CREST Energy's submission is actually the submission of NZ Energy. Presumably this will be corrected soon.

## **The World Wakes Up to Marine Energy**

International publications and presentations indicate a growing interest and awareness of the potential for marine energy.

## **"Economist" Article on Marine Energy**

Last month the Listener published an article on marine energy in New Zealand. This month (April 28-May 4) the Economist has an article entitled "Tapping the Power of the Sea". Whilst the article is largely correct, it's, perhaps not surprisingly, a very thin sketch of worldwide developments in marine energy. It does, however, cite New Zealand as having a Government "interested in marine power". How interested will be measured by the final version of the NZ Energy Strategy, due out later this year. It's possible that the Budget, due on 17 May, will give some indications too.



## **Even The Oil Industry Is Catching On!**

Matt Simmons, the chairman of Simmons & Co. International, an oil industry 'guru', who was in New Zealand last year, spoke at the Offshore Technology Conference in Houston last week, saying that "Ocean energy will be a key source of future energy supply for the United States". He cited the potential in "waves, tides, currents, aqua biofuels, ocean geothermal and vent and seep energy". Although a number of oil and gas companies in Europe have invested in marine energy projects, this is the first time someone truly influential has put a stake in the ground for marine energy.

## **Promoting Marine Energy in the US**

Attached to this newsletter is a brief article by Christian Hamaker published in Public Utilities Fortnightly (thanks to John Hancock for spotting the article). Christian has kindly agreed that the article can be circulated with this newsletter.

The first half of the article points out the potential for marine energy in the United States offshore and describes some active projects. The second half of the article summarizes a report from the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), which states that the principle barriers to marine energy technologies in the US are political and not technical. The report then goes on to detail how the US Government could help marine energy. It's worth re-iterating the eight recommendations because they are almost equally applicable to what our own Government could do to promote marine energy here. Paraphrasing slightly the eight recommendations are:

1. Leadership and funding of an ocean energy R, D & D programme
2. Funding for a national ocean energy test centre
3. Design and testing standards for ocean-energy devices
4. Join the IEA's Ocean Energy Systems Implementing Agreement (AWATEA has part-funded its Executive Officer to attend two of the last three meetings but efforts to persuade MED to sign up to the IEA:OES IA have not been successful - yet!)
5. Study provision for production tax credits, renewable energy credits, and other incentives to spur private investment in ocean energy technologies and projects and implementing appropriate incentives to accelerate ocean-energy development
6. Lead activities to streamline processes for licensing, leasing and permitting renewable-energy facilities offshore
7. Ensure the public receives a fair return from the use of ocean-energy resources
8. Ensure development rights are allocated through a transparent process that takes into account regional, local and public concerns

Since its inception, AWATEA has been pushing very similar recommendations as necessary for the development of a marine energy industry in New Zealand. It's encouraging to see other countries identifying the same opportunities and initiatives.

EPRI has produced a comprehensive suite of documents on wave and tidal energy, all of which can be downloaded from the EPRI website: [www.epri.com](http://www.epri.com).



## Diary of Forthcoming Events

If you are aware of an event that might interest AWATEA's membership, please e-mail details to: [mail@awatea.org.nz](mailto:mail@awatea.org.nz).

Date	Location	Event
16-17 May 2007	Calgary	Ocean Energy Opportunity Interchange (OREG and Energy Net)
23-24 May 2007	Aberdeen	All-Energy 2007 Conference
31 May – 3 June 2007	Trondheim	1 <sup>st</sup> International PhD Symposium on Offshore Renewable Energy
10–15 June 2007	San Diego	Special Symposium on Offshore Renewable Energy (part of OOAEE 2007)
18-21 June 2007	Aberdeen	Oceans '07 Conference
<b>12 July 2007</b>	<b>Wellington</b>	<b>AWATEA AGM &amp; Developers' Day (details and venue to be confirmed)</b>
13-15 August 2007	Wellington	9 <sup>th</sup> Annual NZ Energy Summit
21–23 August 2007	Hawaii	Energy Ocean 2007
11-14 September 2007	Porto, Portugal	7 <sup>th</sup> European Wave and Tidal Energy Conference
29 September – 4 October 2007	Vancouver	Oceans07 Conference
Week of 15 October, 2007	Messina, Italy	13 <sup>th</sup> IEA: Ocean Energy Systems Implementing Agreement Executive Committee meeting
11-15 November 2007	Rome, Italy	20 <sup>th</sup> World Energy Congress
30 November – 1 December 2007	Halifax, Nova Scotia	OREG Fall Symposium "Enabling Wave and Tidal Energy: Technical Challenges and Technology Transfer Opportunities"

## Overseas News

### Australia

The company with a wave energy project closest to New Zealand waters, Energetech Australia Pty Ltd, has changed its name to Oceanlinx Limited. Conference attendees will remember that John Bell, Chief Financial Officer of Energetech and now Oceanlinx, gave a 33 slide presentation in 20 minutes at the conference and, without drawing breath, was able to give a full description of the company's activities. Oceanlinx has also announced plans to build a 10 unit 'wave park' off the coast of Oregon. The company already has an active project on the US Atlantic Coast. Details of the new project can be found at:

<http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/04-28-2007/0004576011&EDATE=>



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You can also contact AWATEA by sending an email to [mail@awatea.org.nz](mailto:mail@awatea.org.nz).



The **Aotearoa Wave and Tidal Energy Association (AWATEA)** is a registered Incorporated Society. Its aim is to:

***"AWATEA will promote, aid and foster a vibrant and viable marine energy sector in New Zealand"***

**Role:** AWATEA will be the national association for the representation of industry and research interests in marine energy and its uses.

**Objectives:** AWATEA has the following objectives:

1. to **promote the marine energy industry** in New Zealand, including research, energy generation, marine fabrication and marine services;
2. to **increase recognition and utilization of marine energy** as another energy source in New Zealand's supply portfolio;
3. to act as a **centre for advocacy of marine energy**, including lobbying, drafting and making submissions to the Government and representing the views of the marine energy industry;
4. to assist in the **exchange of information about the marine energy sector** and to provide and publish statistics and informed commentary on issues affecting the uptake of marine energy in New Zealand;
5. to be a meeting place for marine energy industry participants; and
6. to **represent the New Zealand marine energy industry** to national bodies, including Government agencies, non-governmental organisations and other industry bodies as well as liaising with any relevant international bodies.

