Social license for multi-use offshore installations

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What is social license and why is it relevant?



Social license is the acceptance of an activity and its operator by local communities and communities of interest in return for certain terms and conditions (Moffat et al 2016).

- $\checkmark\,$ Many uses and users of the marine environment
- ✓ Lack of social license can:
 - Increase conflict between industry and communities
 - Reduce space for activities through planning and legal mechanisms
 - Cause reputational damage to the operator
- ✓ Negotiating social license can:
 - Increase benefits to local communities
 - Increase opportunities for shared use
 - Reduce the risk and cost of conflicts





Studying social license in the BGF project

- Two case studies: Reggio Calabria, Italy and Islay, Scotland
- ✓ Surveys asking for views on;
 - 1. Wind energy
 - 2. Fish farming
 - 3. Combining both on an MOI
 - 4. Trust and regulations
- ✓ Reggio 127 participants, 90% local
- ✓ Islay 108 participants, 80% local
- ✓ Stakeholder workshop Reggio Calabria







Workshop results: Reggio Calabria



- Perspective on benefits:
 - ✓ Creation of new jobs
 - Keep young people in the area
 - Encourage
 confidence of people
 in their local area
- Perspectives on concerns:
 - Management of waste
 - Impact on other users of the sea
 - Negative environmental issues

"[An MOI] would provide a strong contribution to the cultural and scientific growth of the local community"

"Attention has to be payed to the interaction between the BGF platform and the local companies working in the fishery field"





Survey results comparing positive opinions

What is your opinion of wind turbines that are at sea and used for electricity generation?										-	
What is your response to a proposal to install wind turbines in the sea near [here]?											
What is your opinion of farming of fish in the sea?											
What would your response be, to a proposal to place a fish farm in the sea near [here]?							•				
What is your first reaction to [MOI]?											
How likely are you to eat fish produced in one of these installations?											
What would be your response to a hypothetical proposal to place a full- scale MOI in the sea near [here]?											
In your opinion, how likely are you to trust public officials to regulate the environmental impacts of this MOI?											
	0	10	20	30	40	50 %	60	70	80	90	100
Reggio Calabria (Positive)		Islay (Positive)									





Survey results comparing negative opinions



Reggio Calabria (Negative)
Islay (Negative)





Summary

- There is a difference between opinions of the two technologies
- ✓ Social license is not guaranteed for MOI
- ✓ Further work needs to be conducted on the role of lack of trust in regulators and likelihood of social license for MOIs

Thank you to all of our participants!



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