



“The Social Life of MRE”

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Strategic Environmental Assessment Update for Tidal Energy in the Bay of Fundy

In 2007 the Nova Scotia Department of Energy commissioned the Offshore Energy Research Association of Nova Scotia (OERA) to complete a Phase I Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to guide the development of tidal energy in the Bay of Fundy. Since then, the tidal industry has evolved in Nova Scotia; consequently OERA commissioned a Phase II SEA Update to describe the contemporary state of the industry both regionally and globally and to present the current scientific and community knowledge base on this subject in the Bay of Fundy.

Many of the recommendations in the 2008 SEA have been implemented or are currently being addressed. Considerable environmental and biophysical research, targeting priorities identified in 2008 and since that time, has been completed or is currently underway. Modifications to environmental and electricity regulations have been made to further encourage the development of a made-in-Nova Scotia tidal energy industry.

Since 2008, two fundamental changes have occurred that will affect projects developed in Nova Scotia. First, the most developed technologies are now seeking sites that can host arrays of turbines for commercial purposes, rather than individual sites for demonstration of their technologies. Second, the industry has evolved large devices to serve utility-scale *transmission* projects, as well as smaller units suited to community-scale *distribution* projects. These different project types and supporting regulatory incentives offer a number of opportunities for the Nova Scotia marine industry and the skilled services and technologies that support this industry.