

# MMT Sees Growing Demand for Marine Environmental and Habitat Services



There is a growing demand from the renewable energy and oil & gas industry on marine mammal observer (MMO) and passive acoustic monitoring (PAM) services, according to MMT. The awareness around marine mammals is constantly evolving and so are the regulations concerning them and their habitats.

MMT has a long history and a strong focus on environmental services such as working with marine mammals. They are constantly developing and educating its staff on these fields of expertise, to optimise their complete marine survey services and to take care of the important life beneath the surface.

## Marine Mammal Detection

Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) refers to the use of underwater microphones (hydrophones) in order to detect and locate biological noise. When PAM is operated during an offshore survey the aim is usually to detect vocalising marine mammals in order to mitigate disturbances from survey equipment on marine mammals and their environment.

The Marine Mammal Observer (MMO) onboard MMT's survey vessels is monitoring marine mammals in the vicinity of the survey vessel and equipment and ensures that the survey is conducted in compliance with regulations and guidelines concerning marine mammals.

All MMO working in the UK Continental Shelf requires education recognised by the JNCC (Joint Nature Conservation Committee). MMT offer in-house licensed MMO's and professionally trained PAM operators on its vessels.

## Understanding Marine Mammal's Ecology and Behaviour

As the offshore renewable industry has grown in Europe so has the need of MMO and PAM operators. The fact that any detonation and piling work requires marine mammal mitigations is easy to grasp, but as the scientific communities understanding of the ecology and behaviour of marine mammals are growing so are the awareness of how other sound produced during surveys are affecting the marine environment.

To have this competence in-house ensures that the MMO/PAM requirements can be taken into account early in the project, highlighting any needs or challenges for the client.

Andrea Johansson, one of MMT's senior marine biologist who recently finished a MMO and PAM course, comments that to evaluate the impacts of surveys and take relatively small actions to mitigate negative impacts on marine mammals is a simple way for the industry to take responsibility for the environment. The sea is to stay as wild and fascinating as we're used to, also in the future, she concludes.

MMT's in-house MMO and PAM operators are experienced in the type of surveys MMT are conducting and the equipment used on the different vessels, which will ensure that during mitigations the survey operations will run as smoothly as possible.

To learn more about MMT's environmental services and more, visitors of Offshore Wind Energy 2017 at London ExCel, taking place from 6-8 June 2017 can find MMT at stand S-P10. MMT will give a presentation on Wednesday the 7 June, 16:15-17:30 on the topic [Environmental survey - an industrial symbiosis](#).