

Workshop: Understanding the NOAA Noise Exposure Guidance

UKAN sponsored and co-organised this event, held at The Royal Society in London on 9th October 2018, which was co-organised by the Offshore Wind Programme Board (the UK Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult, see <https://ore.catapult.org.uk/>) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC, see <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/>).

The aim of the workshop was to provide a forum for an invited audience of underwater noise experts, regulators, statutory advisors and offshore developers to understand the evidence base detailed within the NOAA Technical Guidance for Assessing the effects of anthropogenic sound on Marine Mammal Hearing (NOAA Guidance) and best available scientific evidence to inform Environmental Impact Assessments and regulation when using thresholds for auditory injury in marine mammal species in the UK.

The event was popular with a total 85 people in attendance at the excellent facilities in the Royal Society building. Of most value were the two invited presentations by world-renowned experts from overseas, namely:

Dr Brandon Southall, USA, who delivered a lecture titled *“The Evolution and Application of the NOAA Technical Guidance for Assessing the effects of anthropogenic Sound on Marine Mammal Hearing”*,

and:

Dr Jakob Tougaard, of Aarhus University in Denmark, who delivered a lecture titled *“How the NOAA Technical Guidance for Assessing the effects of anthropogenic Sound on Marine Mammal Hearing is being applied in Europe”*.

The lectures were followed by a long question and answer session where the audience took the opportunity to probe the speakers on the latest scientific evidence, and the direction of future research.

The afternoon was taken up with further presentations by offshore windfarm developers and their contractors.

The presentations by the two invited speakers are available for download.