

Assessing the distribution of diving birds in relation to current strength and renewable energy devices

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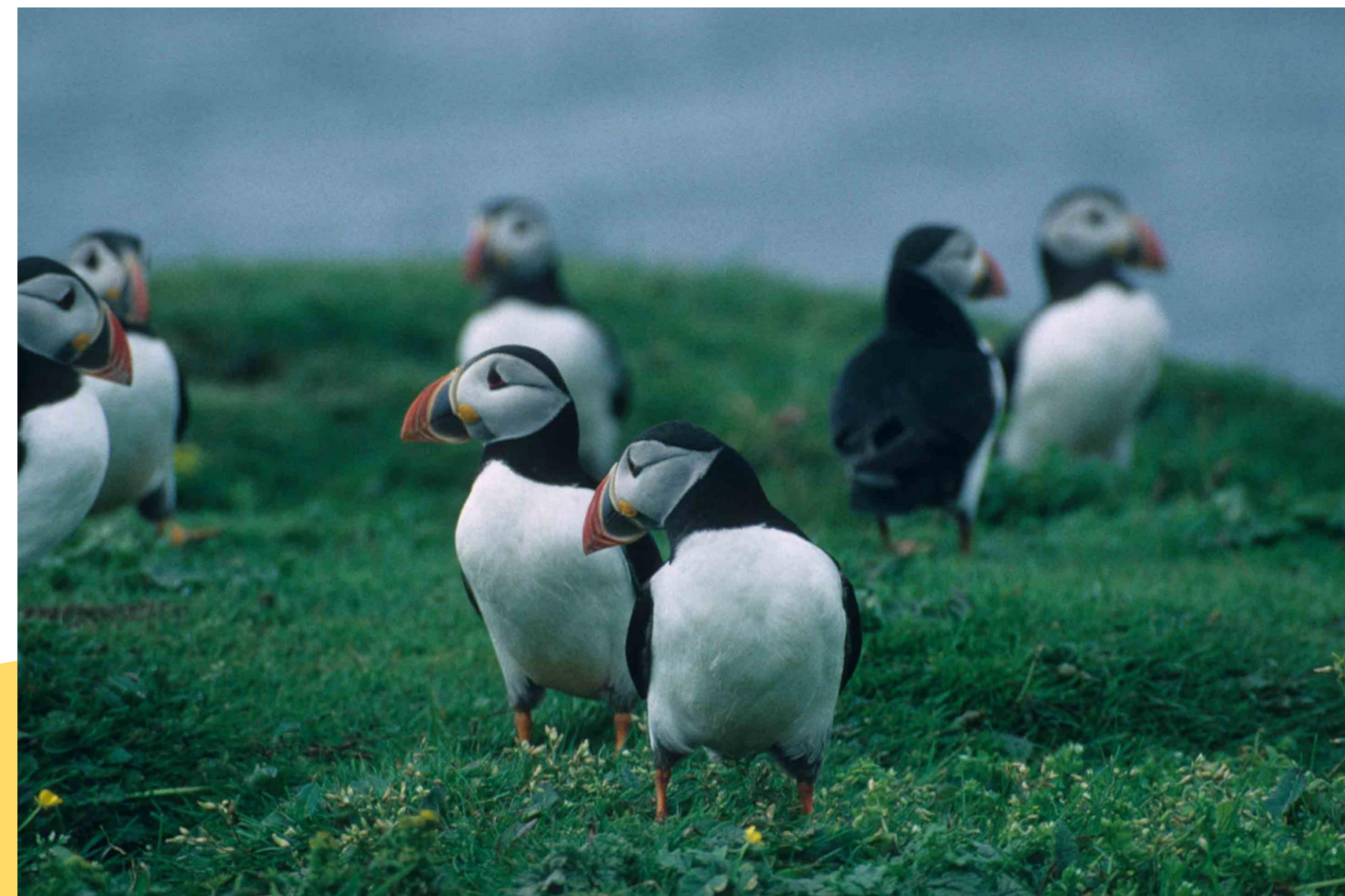
Rationale

This SEACAMS2 project will allow Marine Energy Pembrokeshire (MEP) to provide essential data and advice about the fine-scale movements of seabirds.

I. In areas where marine renewable energy devices are located

II. In relation to current regimes in Ramsey Sound.

This will enable an insight into whether diving species target or avoid particular current strengths, which are, in turn, a major consideration for the placement of tidal turbines in the Ramsey Sound area to comply with the impact assessment on seabird species as well as potentially help refine procedures for selecting locations of future tidal energy installations.



Outcomes

Analysis of dive locations and current selection in Ramsey Sound, will provide new understanding of the interactions between seabirds, current vectors and tidal turbines.

This project applies a novel methodology from quantifying the diving locations of seabirds from a land or ship-based platform, based on a laser range-finder system attached to a laptop. These may be supplemented by the development of further animal-borne technology to quantify underwater trajectories.

Further data on seabird movements may also be collected and compiled to examine more general usage of potential and current development areas, and potential for conflict over medium and fine scales.

