

**IMAREST & EEEGR
MARINE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG)
TERMS OF REFERENCE – DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Purpose

Mission Statement

The joint IMarEST and EEEGR SIG aims to provide a forum for discussion and debate for IMarEST and representatives of EEEGR members to enable all aspects of the sustainable development of offshore energy in the East of England and to raise awareness of the significance of the East of England in this area.

Terms of Reference

The SIG will act as a forum for the dissemination of current knowledge and best practice in offshore energy issues in the east of England and as a focal point for research in this sector and region.

Definition

As the most diverse energy region in the UK and with a backdrop of key skills developed over more than 40 years, the East of England is perfectly placed to deliver the UK Government's national energy policy. The area supports gas platforms, offshore wind farms, wave and tidal energy systems, and commercial activities such as shipping, aggregate extraction, related port activity and fishing. The area also contains a wealth of archaeological sites and heritage assets, has a number of areas licensed for aggregate extraction in English waters, includes a number of Special Areas of Conservation, and is the most productive region of England for aquaculture.

Functions:

- To serve as a forum for disseminating objective information and to provide the Institute's and EEEGR member bodies expertise and advice to HM Government, National and International bodies seeking consultation on East of England marine issues.
- To act as an agent, through the world-wide IMarEST network to educate, for example, energy companies, shipping companies, equipment suppliers and other stakeholders on the significance of the East of England marine region.
- To act as a clearing house for up-to-date relevant information available to Members and the wider marine community.

- To further the expertise, and status of Group members working in the field, and to provide help and advice on training to those Institute members seeking to expand their knowledge of this subject. To maintain and expand a mailing list and database of interested members and affiliate organizations – membership access only.
- To advise on conferences, seminars and papers related to marine activities in the East of England region in conjunction with the IMarEST Technical Leadership Board (TLB).
- To advise the IMarEST and EEEGR on suitable specialist papers, publications and events pertinent to the subject for reference by the membership of both organisations.
- To produce at least one position paper per year on an East of England related marine topic.
- To encourage engineers, scientists and technologists working on marine issues within the region to seek membership of the Institute and the SIG
- To work closely with EEEGR “Skills for Energy” and the Marine Industries Alliance Skills Working Group to look at ways of delivering skilled people to the marine industry in the region.
- To work in conjunction with other relevant organisations in the region and other relevant IMarEST Special Interest Groups to take forward the TORs

2. Group Composition

The “Marine SIG” is an IMarEST and EEEGR joint special interest group established for the benefit of the Institute and EEEGR members which also draws on advice from external advisers. The Group is directed by a steering Group of 12 members with any IMarEST members or employees of EEEGR member bodies able to participate as corresponding members. The Chair and at least one third of the Committee members must be [corporate] members of IMarEST.

The Committee can be supported by a number of Advisors made up of individuals representing a cross-section of interests and with expertise in the marine sector in the region e.g. representing administrations, recognised organisations, shipping companies.

- a. Committee Meeting Frequency: at least two meetings a year
- b. Committee Quorum: Four including the Chairman

3. Notes

- a. Regular review of the committee structure and membership should be carried out to ensure that it can effectively implement and continue to support the SIG Aims and Objectives; and that it reflects and continues to reflect the areas of professional interest of the membership of the IMarEST and EEEGR.