Effects of electromagnetic fields (EMF) from offshore wind facilities

Andrew B Gill PhD FRSB **PANGALIA Environmental** Founder/Owner



















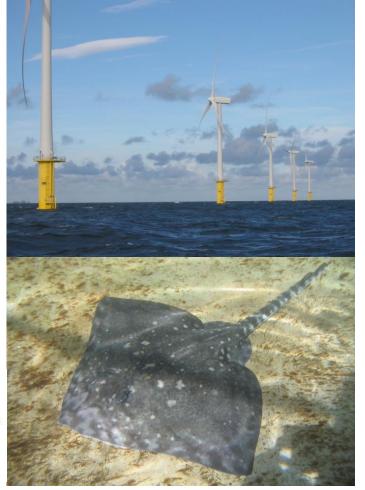




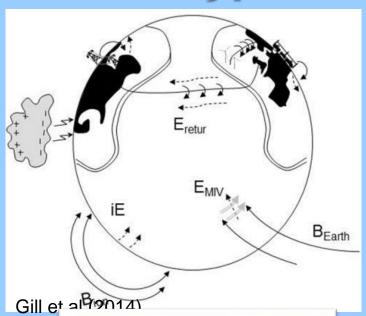


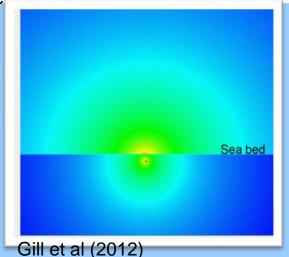




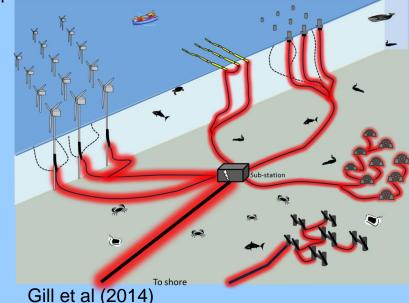


What we need to know about EMF – Abiotic - type and scale

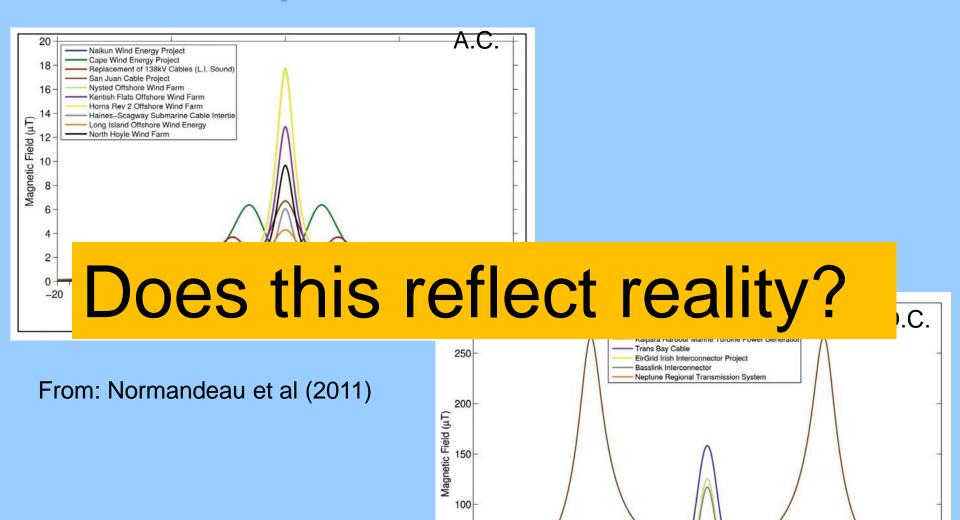








EMF dissipation – A.C. and D.C. models



50

-15

-10

10

Distance along sea bed (m)

15

BOEM - EMF effects from HVDC on migratory species



1. Determination of EMF emitted

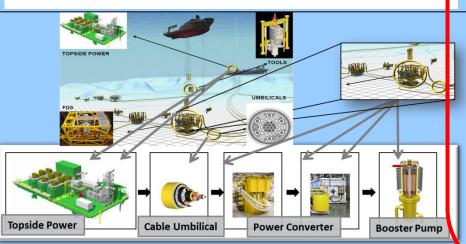


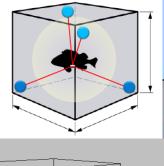
UNIVERSITY OF

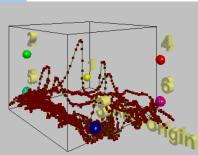
Rhode Island

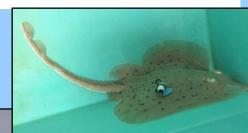
3. Response of species to encounter with EMF emitted

2. Evaluation of power system behaviour w.r.t environmental conditions







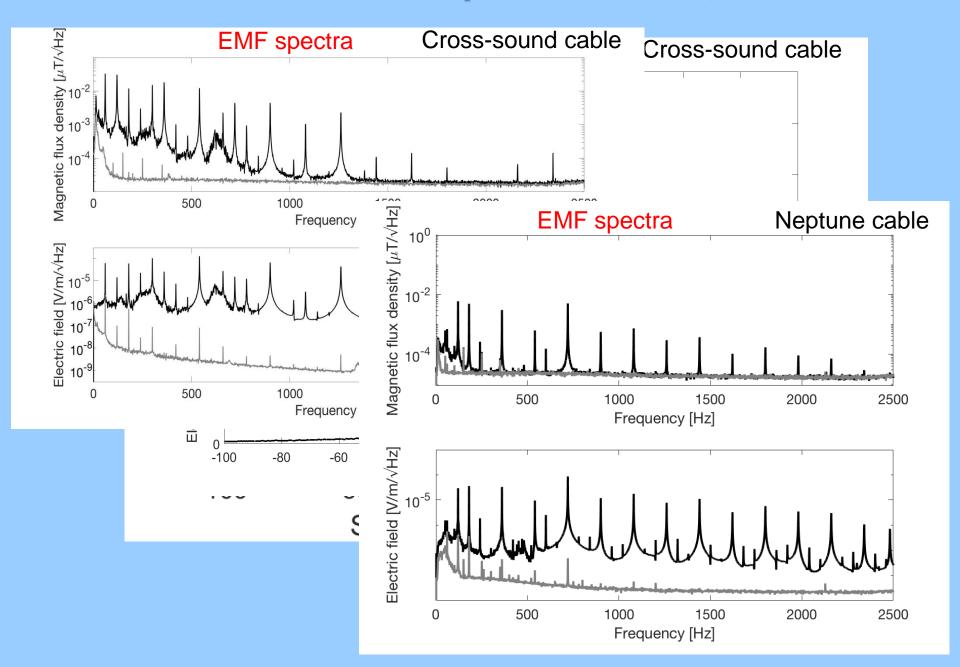






An example of subsea power distribution network (Figure courtesy: ANSYS)

EMF from HVDC power cables, USA



What we know about EMF – biotic?



EM sensitive animals have evolved (and continue) to live in an EMF environment (both AC and DC)





Evidence of response to anthropogenic EMF – early life stage

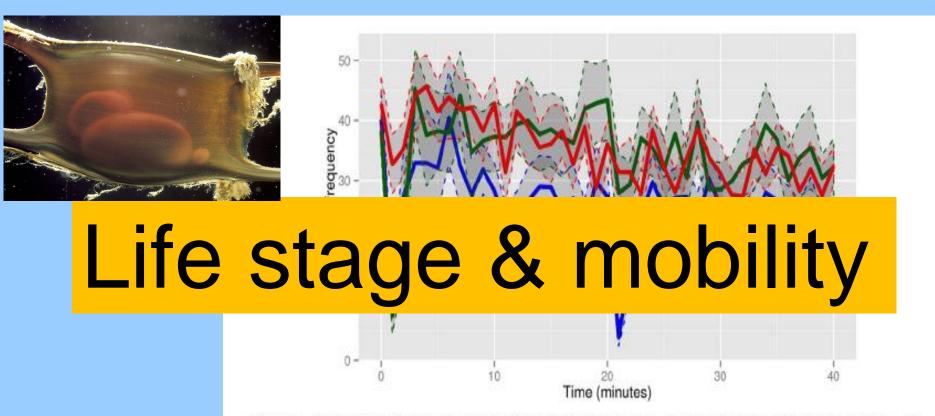
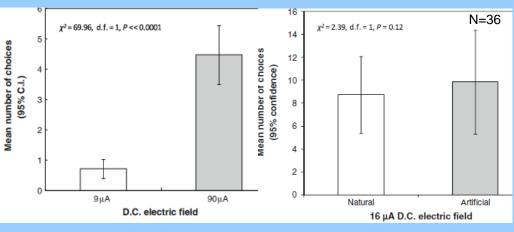


Figure 3 TBF over time for different electric field treatments (green line = constant, blue line = intermittent, red line = control). Colored dashed lines show 95% confidence intervals, respectively. A clear dip in ventilatory activity can be seen at minutes 1 and 21 for the intermittent treatment, representing the onset of electric field stimuli.

Ball et al (2015)

Sensory discrimination - lab studies





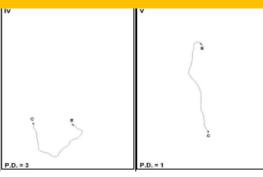
Encounter context + animal abilities

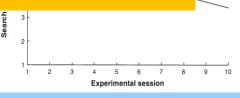
After interval:

Before interva



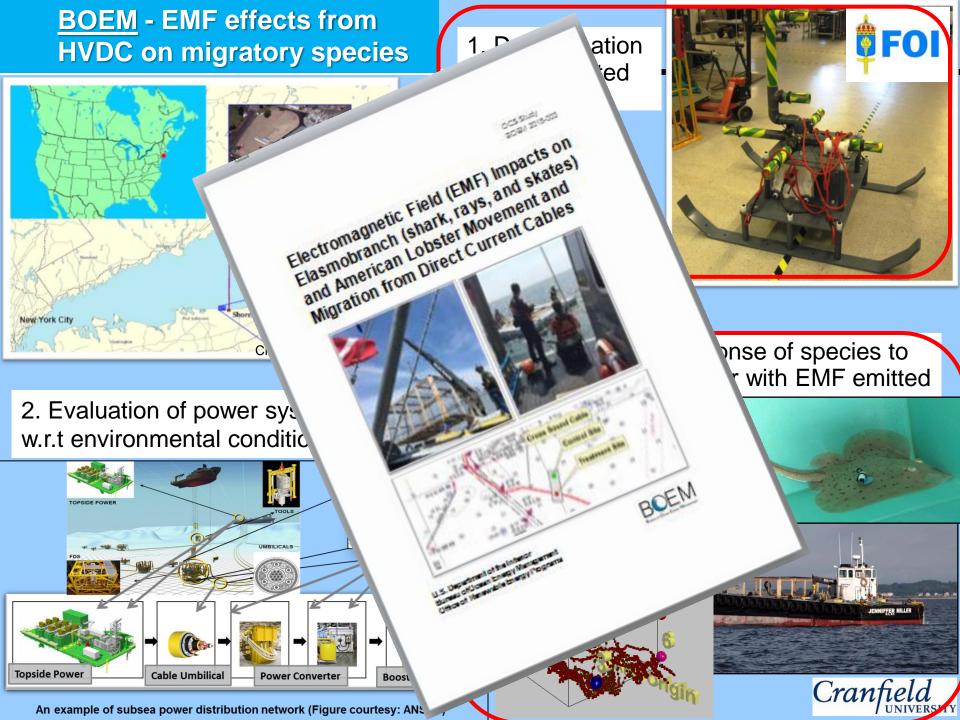






HGZLMM; N = 24

Catshark Blue 1501



Findings Summary



Total Distance Travelled



Response (effect) + distribution

Proportion of large turns





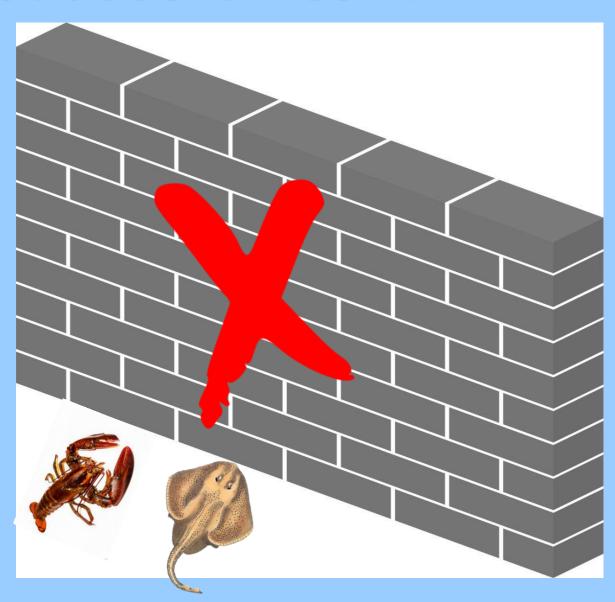






What does it mean?

The EMF from the Cross Sound Cable in this study did not prevent the lobsters or skates from crossing the cable



Field study evidence

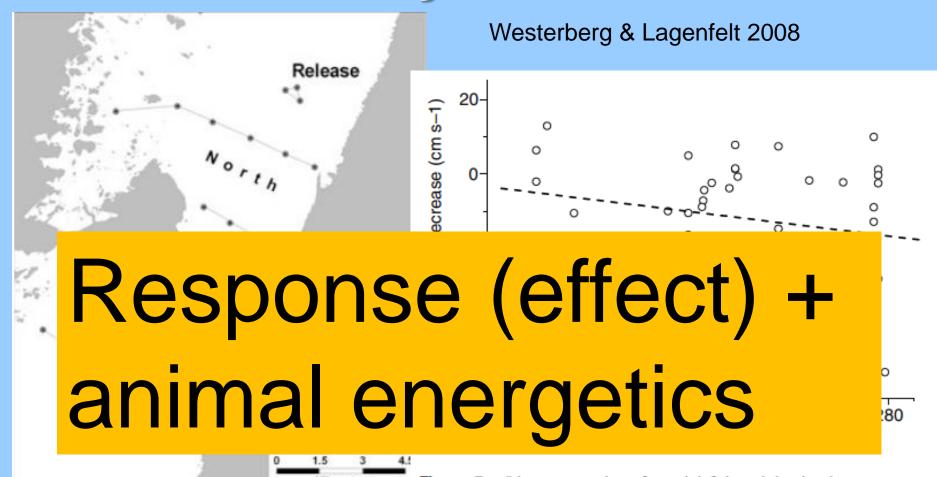


Figure 5. Linear regression of speed deficit and the simultaneous, root mean square, current in the sub-sea cable. The deficit is the decrease of swimming speed in the middle (cable) interval compared with the mean swimming speed of the same eel in the northern and southern intervals.

Summary EMF and OWF

- Evidence of Electric and/or Magnetic field
 - Type (AC / DC)
 - v background
- Receptors
 - Fish (telelosts & elasmobranchs)
 - Marine/aquatic invertebrates
 - Marine/aquatic mammals & turtles
- Movement & distribution
 - Altered Migration large scale
 - Movement pattern Medium scale
 - Avoidance or attraction Small scale
- Life history
 - Early life stage development
 - Physiological / biochemical change (e.g. Energetic)
 - Prey /predator detection
- Caveat warning:





Poor understanding of receptor animals and what the effects/responses mean in terms of biological/ecological/fisheries/socioeconomic significance (i.e. Impact)

