

Appendix 6 - Baseline Studies / Environmental Monitoring

Preliminary baseline assessment / on-test monitoring of the following took place at the FabTest site during June 2011.

- Anthropogenic underwater noise
- Seabed condition (video imagery)

Underwater noise was monitored using an Autonomous Multichannel Acoustic Recorder (AMAR) mounted on the seabed in 25m (above chart datum) water depth. The AMAR was shielded from trawling / scallop dredging activities by placement adjacent to a large special mark buoy. An acoustic Doppler current profiler (ADCP) was tethered to the buoy. The ADCP was set to continuously record current and wave activity. The inclusion of the ADCP was not only to serve to inform the MEC developers of the wave climate but will also provide current and wave references for the noise data. Figure A1 below illustrates the instrument layout.

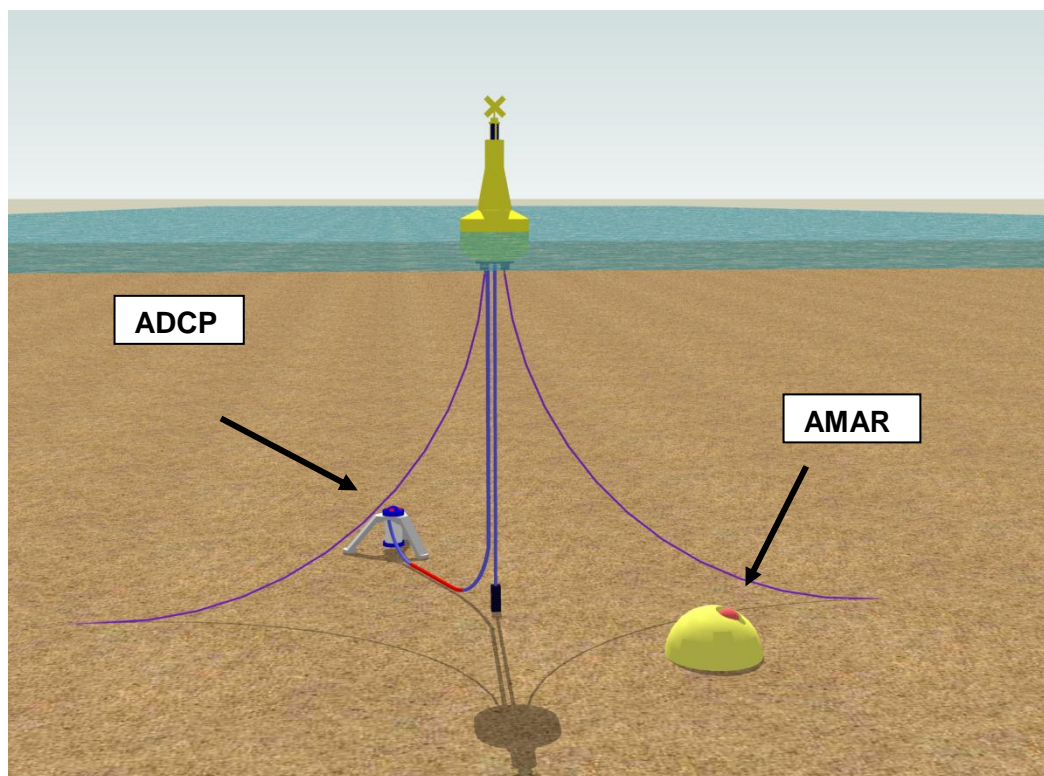


Figure A1: The fixed deployment baseline instrumentation layout

The seabed condition were monitored using video imagery at sample points along two transect lines with sample points at 200m intervals as shown in Figure A2. The positions of the sample points were recorded and replicated (within the bounds of GPS accuracy) during each sampling study.

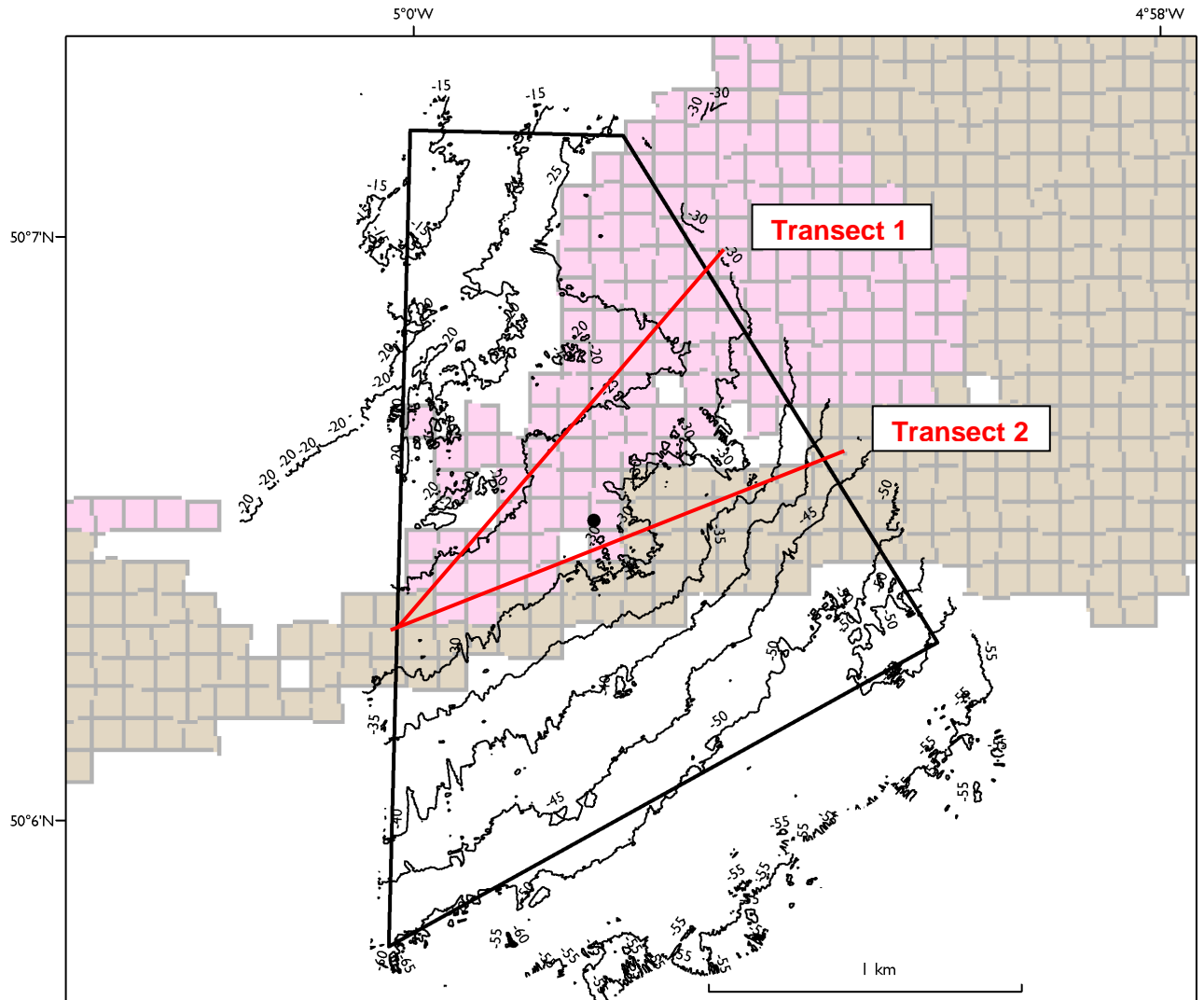


Figure A2: Video imagery sample transect lines

It is envisaged that the seabed condition imagery surveys will be conducted on a seasonal basis with four studies per year making use of calm weather windows.