Recent Operations, Findings, and Plans at the Wave Energy Test Site (WETS)

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Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, April 22
3:30 - 4:30 pm Seminar

Abstract

The U.S. Navy's Wave Energy Test Site (WETS) has been operational in its final configuration since June 2015. The site has now hosted four separate wave energy converter (WEC) deployments – two each of two different WECs. Several other commercial WEC deployments are planned over the next few years. HNEI provides research and logistics support to WETS, including independent device performance monitoring, environmental measurements, site infrastructure inspection and maintenance, outfitting of a site-dedicated vessel, liaison with companies planning tests, and other support as needed by the Navy sponsor.

In this talk, I'll highlight some of the major in-water activities that the UH team has been involved with in this role over the past two years. This included 1) the modification and redeployment of the Northwest Energy Innovations Azura device, 2) the second deployment of the Fred. Olsen Lifesaver device, including a world-first integration of a sensor package and subsea charging capability developed by our colleagues at UW, 3) a major effort to redesign and redeploy large portions of the previously deployed mooring systems at the two deeper test berths, 4) a summary of recent modifications made to the deep berth offshore cable anchors, and 5) a summary of acoustic measurements made to date at WETS around deployed WECs. Finally, I'll look ahead to the next few years at WETS, with an emphasis on upcoming WEC deployments.

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