

# Advancing hydrokinetic energy technologies to commercialization: Opportunities & challenges



Vincent S. Neary, Water Power Technologies  
Ruby Jubilee Lecture Series 2021, Lectures, Indian Institute  
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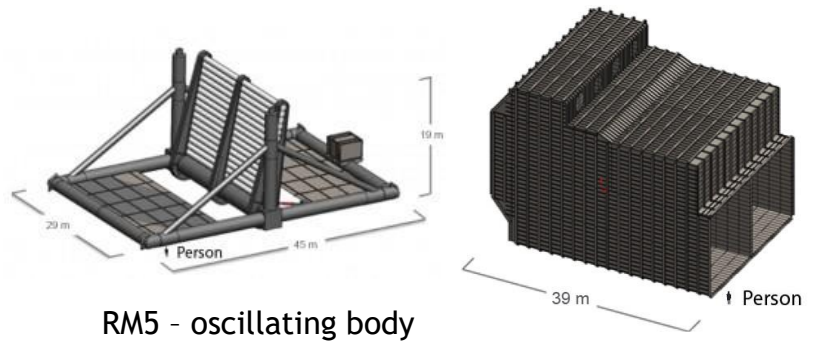
# Hydrokinetic (marine) energy technologies: What are they?



Renewable energy in waves, water currents, osmotic/thermal gradients, solar, wind and marine biomass

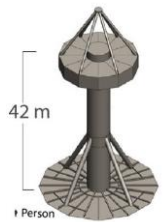
## Energy conversion technologies:

### Wave energy converters (WEC)



RM5 - oscillating body

RM6 - oscillating water column



RM3 - oscillating body

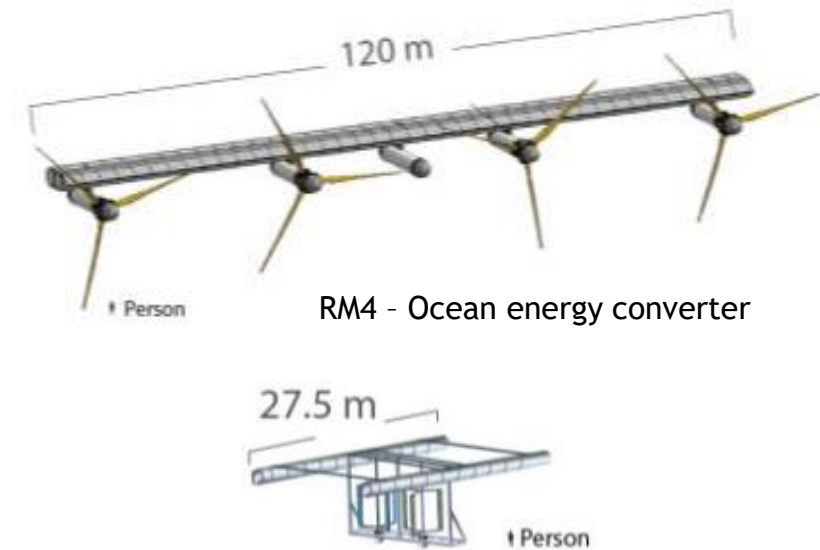
USDOE's Reference  
Model WECs  
[Neary et al. 2013]

### Current energy converters (CEC)

USDOE's Reference  
Model CECs  
[Neary et al. 2013]



RM1 - Tidal energy converter



RM4 - Ocean energy converter

RM2 - River energy converter

# Ocean energy sailing ships: Wind and hydrokinetic energy converters



Windsail power drives hydrokinetic turbine  
inflow speeds between 5 to 10 m/s

Mobility provides high capacity factors, 70-80% avoids hazards, and reduces market barriers and costs

Most subsystems at TRL 9

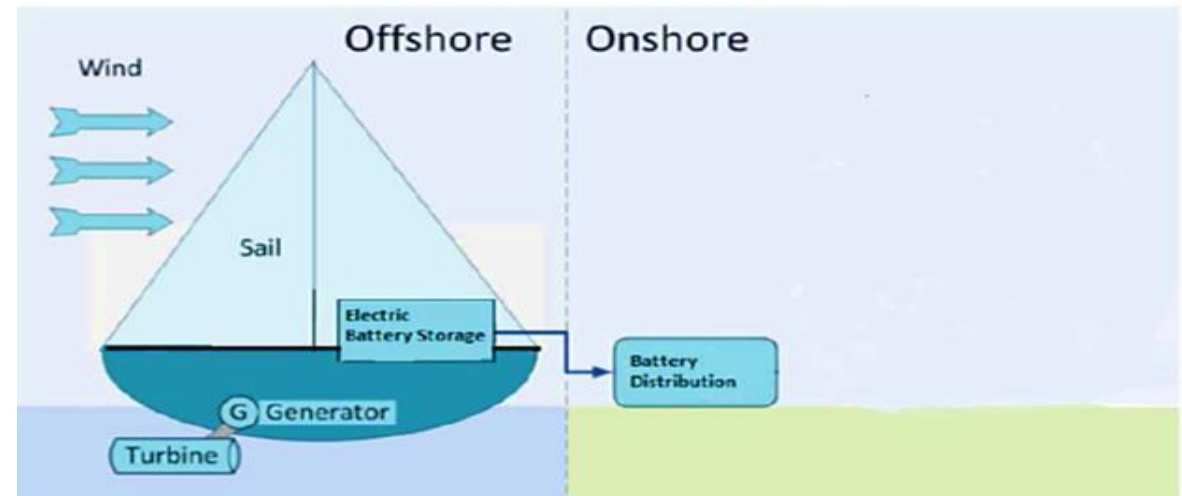
Can be scaled to deliver 3-30 MW per ship

Millions of energy ships can satisfy the global energy demand

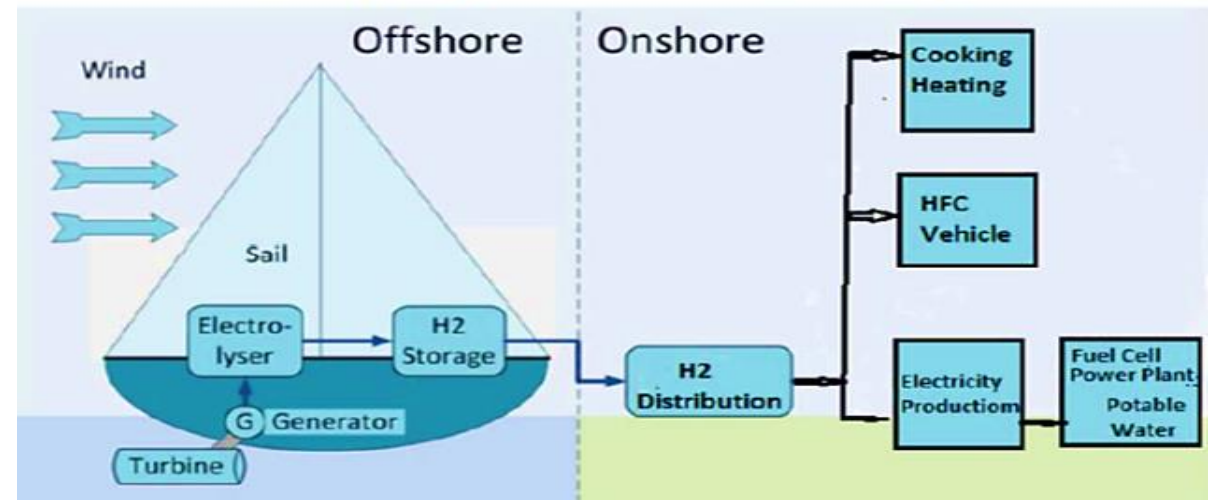
A variety of energy storage options, e.g., battery-stored electrical energy, sustainable liquid fuels, compressed or liquefied hydrogen

Autonomous operation in international waters subject only to the Law of the Sea

(a) Electric Battery Energy Storage



(b) Hydrogen Production and Delivery





# Migration of renewable kinetic energy generation technologies

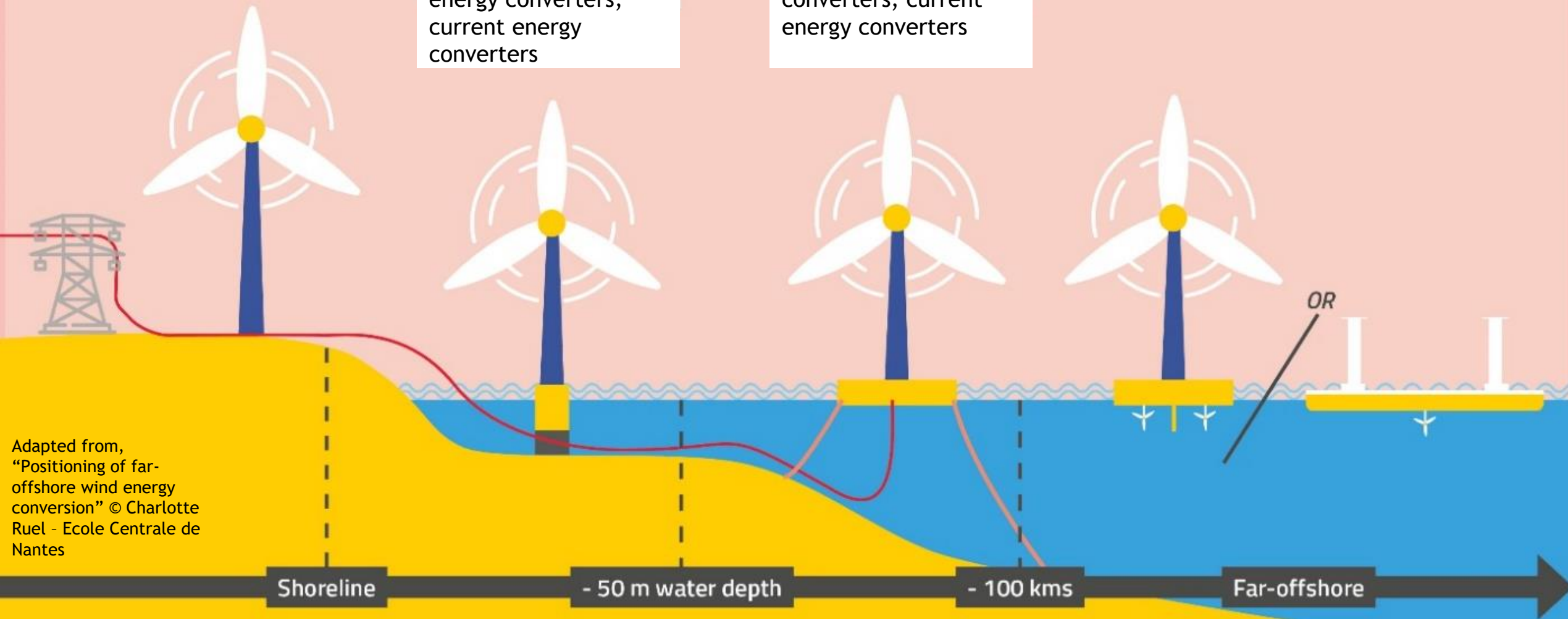


Land-based wind turbines

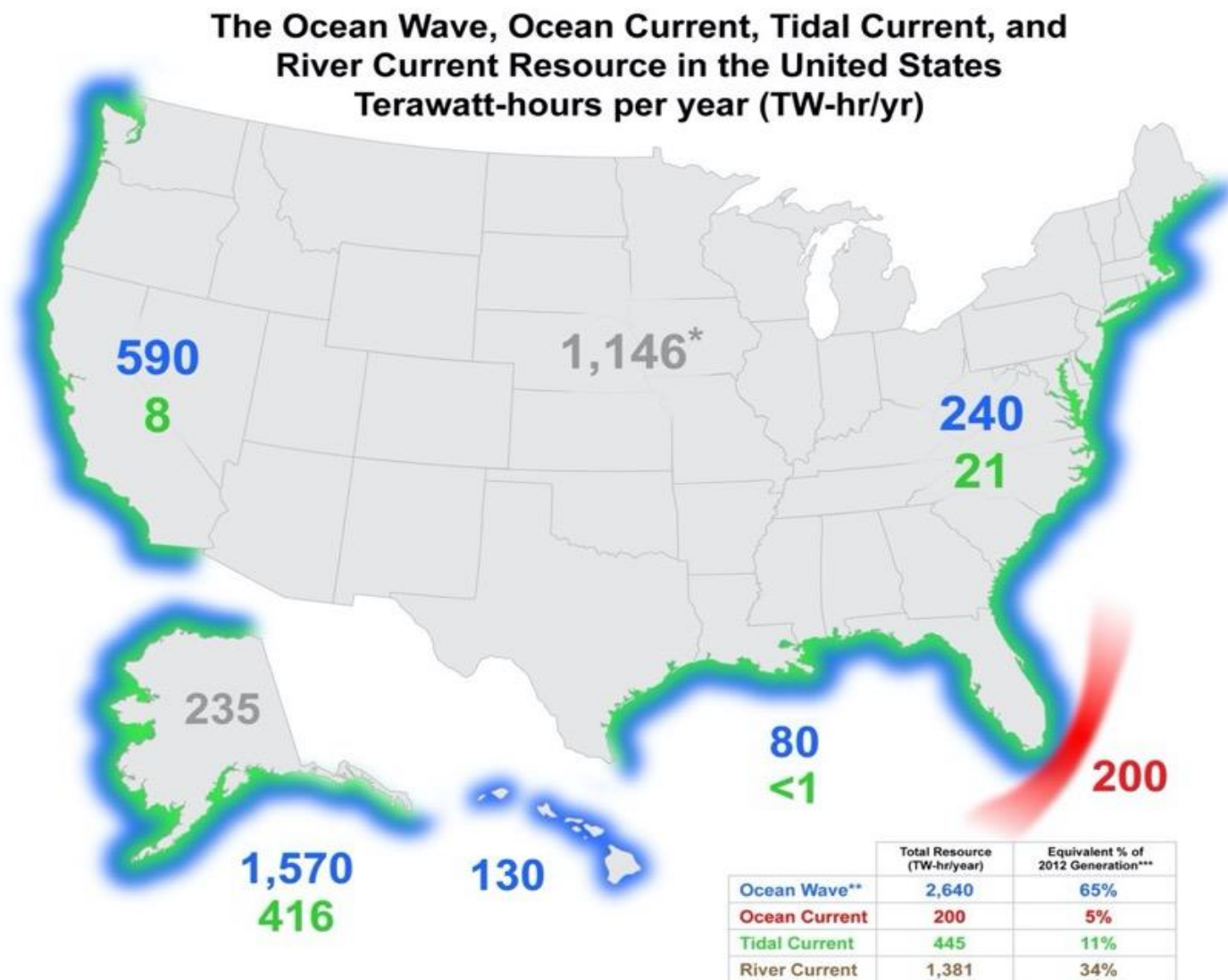
Bottom-fixed offshore wind turbines, wave energy converters, current energy converters

Floating wind turbines, wave energy converters, current energy converters

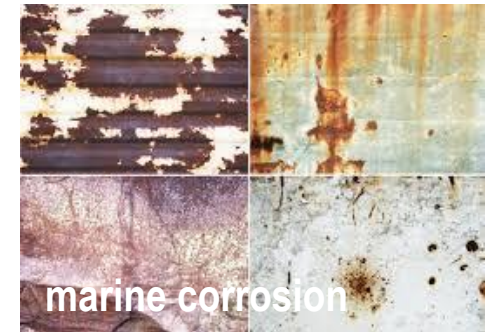
Far offshore wind turbines and energy sailing ships



# How & where are hydrokinetic energy resources available?



# 6 Marine renewable energy; Opportunities and challenges



## Opportunities

Urgency to move to renewable energy dominant portfolios [IPCC 2018]

Vast resources with large power densities close to population centers [NASA 2012]

Blue economy – local energy sources for maritime markets, e.g., desalinization, aquaculture, observation & navigation[USDOE 2019]

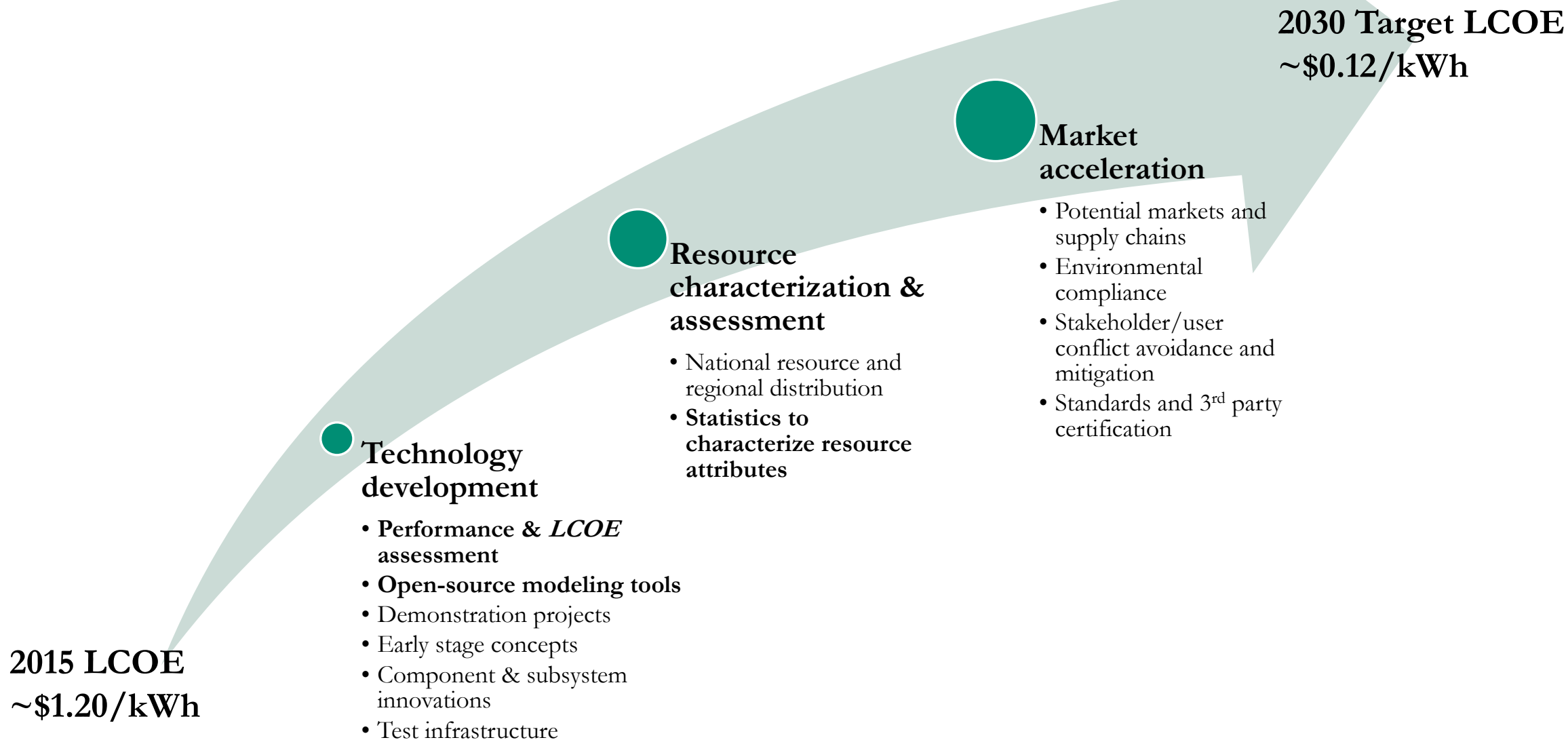
## Challenges

High capital, installation, operation and maintenance (IO&M) costs [Neary et al. 2013]

Difficult engineering - Harsh marine environment

Complex and costly permitting process for environmental compliance

Market opportunities unclear, and no established supply chains







# US wave energy resource characterization

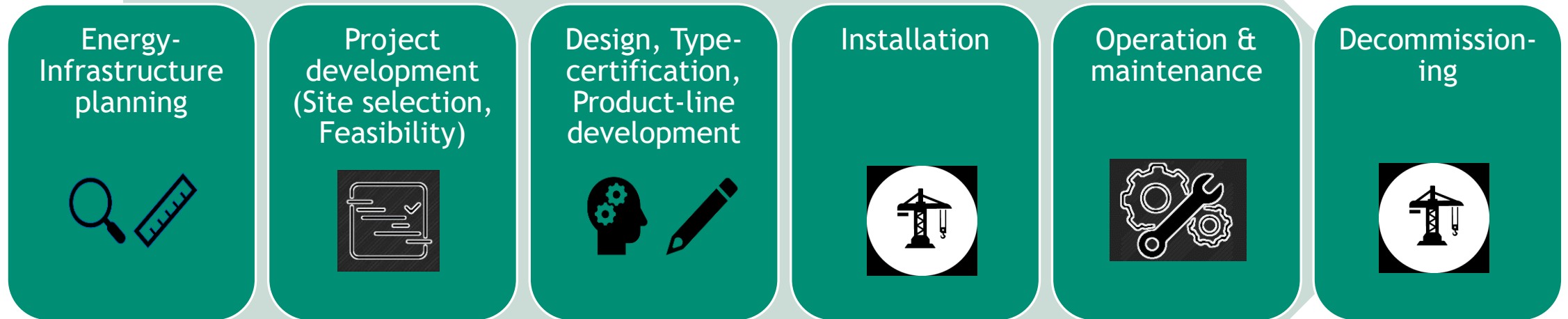




## 9 Resource characterization needs in project life cycle



### Resource information, data



Ocean energy project life-cycle

# Motivation

- National resource assessments quantified potential contribution of wave energy to electricity production nationally and regionally [EPRI 2011, Chawla et al. 2013]
- More refined and comprehensive characterization needed to support energy planning, project development and WEC design
- Three assessment levels (area,  $\Delta x$ ,  $\Delta t$ )
  - Reconnaissance (>300 km), 5 km, 3 h
  - Feasibility (20-500 km), 500 m, 3 h
  - Design (<25 km), 50 m, 1 h



The MHK Atlas wave power density map.

Source:[NREL 2019].<https://maps.nrel.gov/mhk-atlas/>

Resource	Theoretical Resource
<b>Waves</b>	<b>3,500 TWh/year</b>
Tidal streams	445 TWh/year
Ocean currents	200 TWh/year

Source: USDOE 2015 Quadrennial Technology Review, <http://energy.gov/qtr>

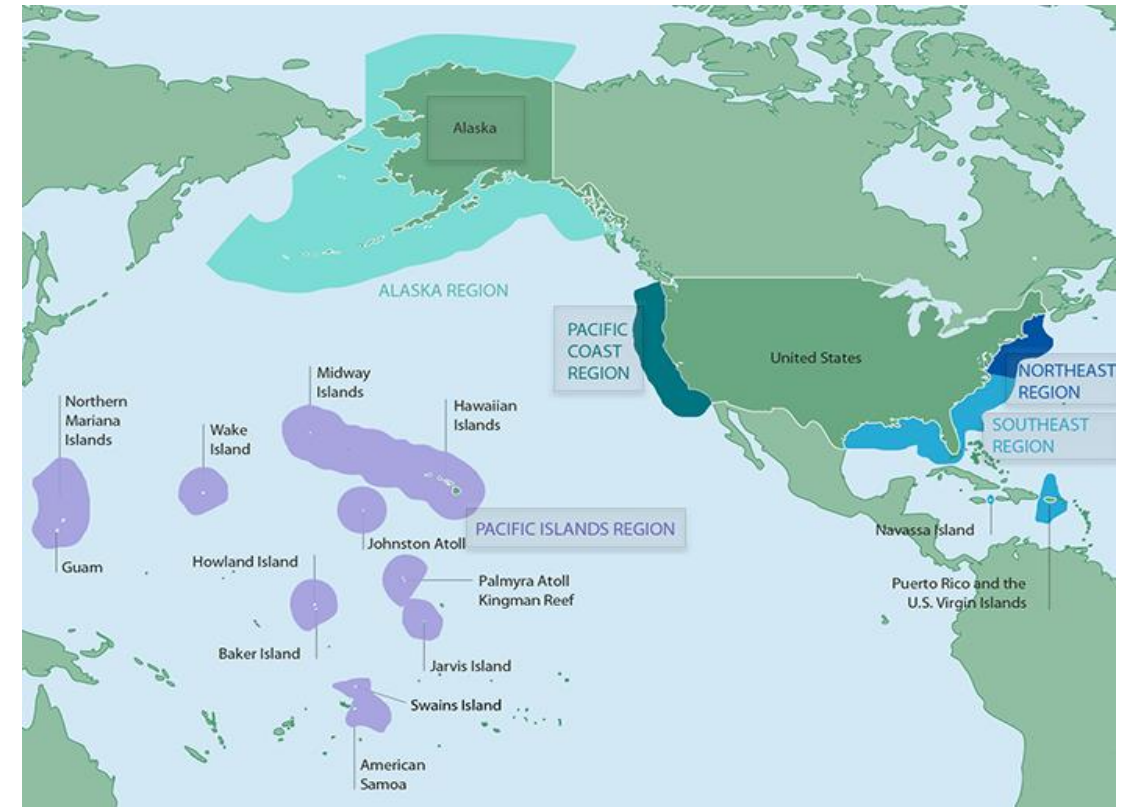
Generate high-resolution resource data source covering all US economic exclusion zones (EEZ) from 32-40 year wave model hindcast

Improve data source ☒

Improve characterization ☒

Improve data/information dissemination ☒

Region	Area, km <sup>2</sup>	Status
West Coast	825,549	Complete
East Coast	915,763	Complete
Alaska	3,770,021	Complete
Hawaii Islands	1,579,538	2019
Gulf of Mexico	707,832	2019
Pacific Islands	3,328,925	2020
Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands	211,429	2020



US Economic Exclusion Zones (EEZ)

U.S. EEZ consists of following sub-regions: (a) Pacific West Coast; (b) East Coast (Northeast and Southeast regions); (c) Alaska; (d) Gulf of Mexico; (e) Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands; (f) Hawaii and Pacific Islands. EEZ is defined as a sea zone that extends 370 km (200 nmi) offshore from its coastal baseline. The image is obtained from NOAA National Ocean Service. <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/countries-with-the-largest-exclusive-economic-zones.html>



# Open source tools: Resource data and information dissemination



## MHK ATLAS upgrade (In-progress)

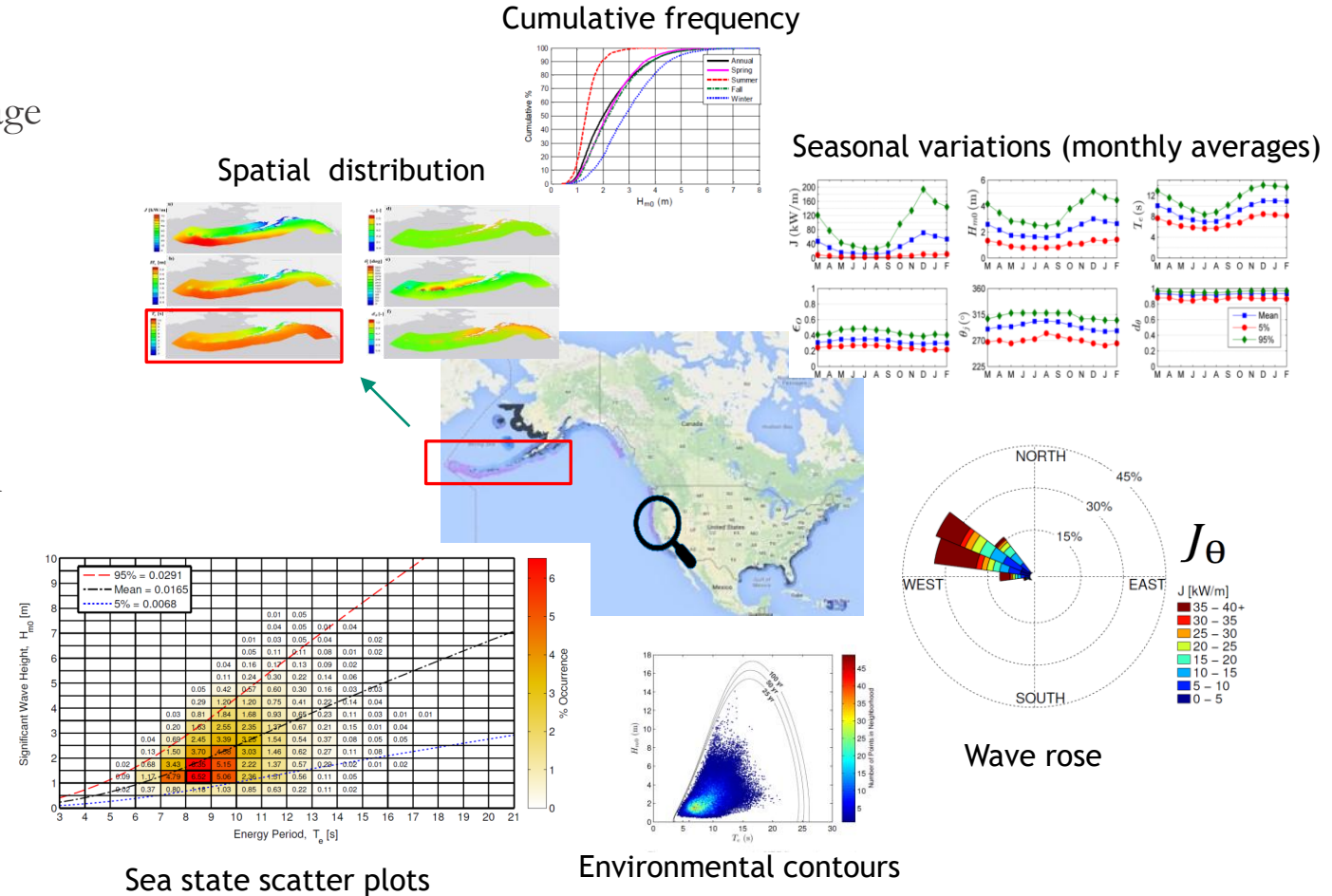
- All 6 IEC parameters, monthly averages and average annual values
- $H_s(50, 5, 1\text{-year})$
- 200-300 m resolution within US EEZ
- Includes shallow nearshore waters

## MHK Data Repository (In-progress)

- 2D spectra,  $\mathcal{O}(100)$  points each region
- Partitioned bulk parameters,  $\mathcal{O}(1,000)$  points each region
- IEC parameter time series,  $\mathcal{O}(1M)$  points

## Functional GIS dissemination platforms (TBD)

- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), US Dept. of Interior (USDOI)
- NOAA, Ocean Project Planning Tool,
- US Dept. of Commerce (USDOC)
- Private vendor, e.g., Open Ocean (Marine data intelligence) <http://www.openocean.fr/en/>





# Open-source modeling tools for WEC design & analysis

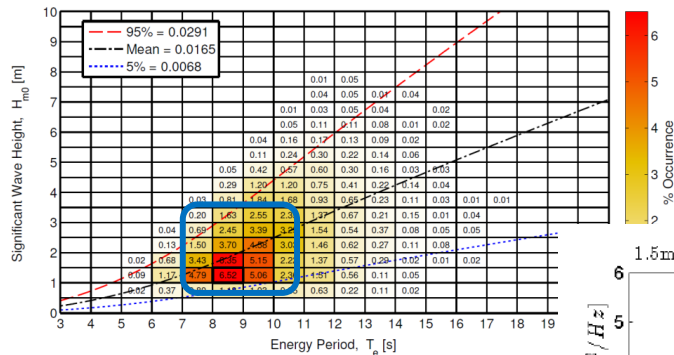
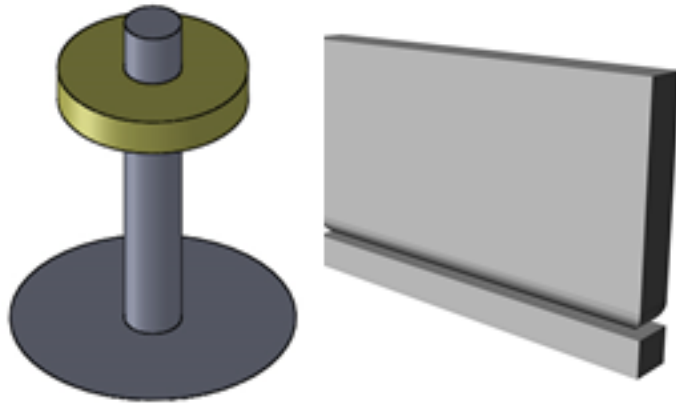




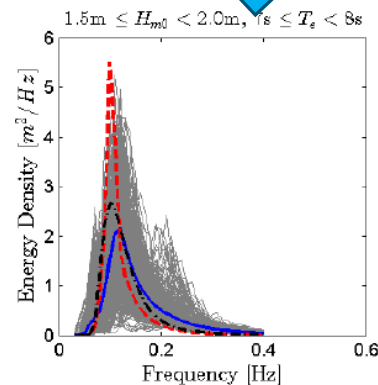
# Open-source tools: WEC-Sim [Coe et al. 2018, Neary et al. 2018]



## WEC device specification



## Sea states scatter plot

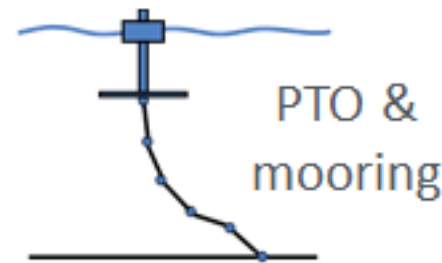
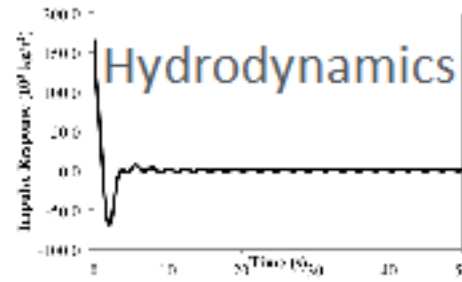


## Hourly wave spectra

## Relevant numerical methods

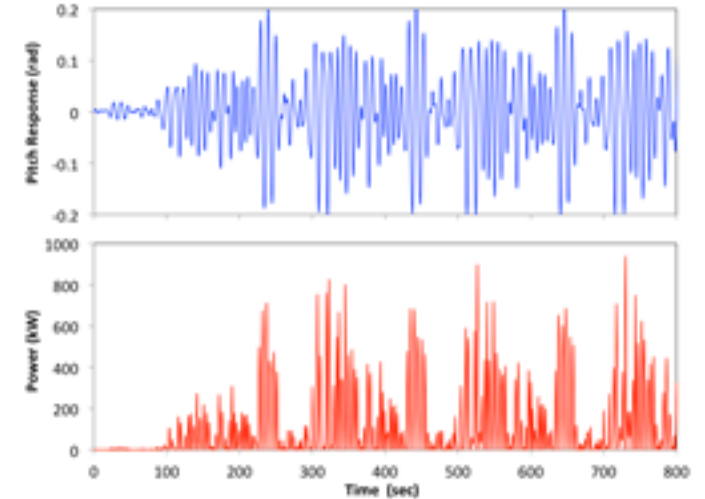


Multi-body  
dynamics



PTO &  
mooring

## WEC performance, motions, and loads

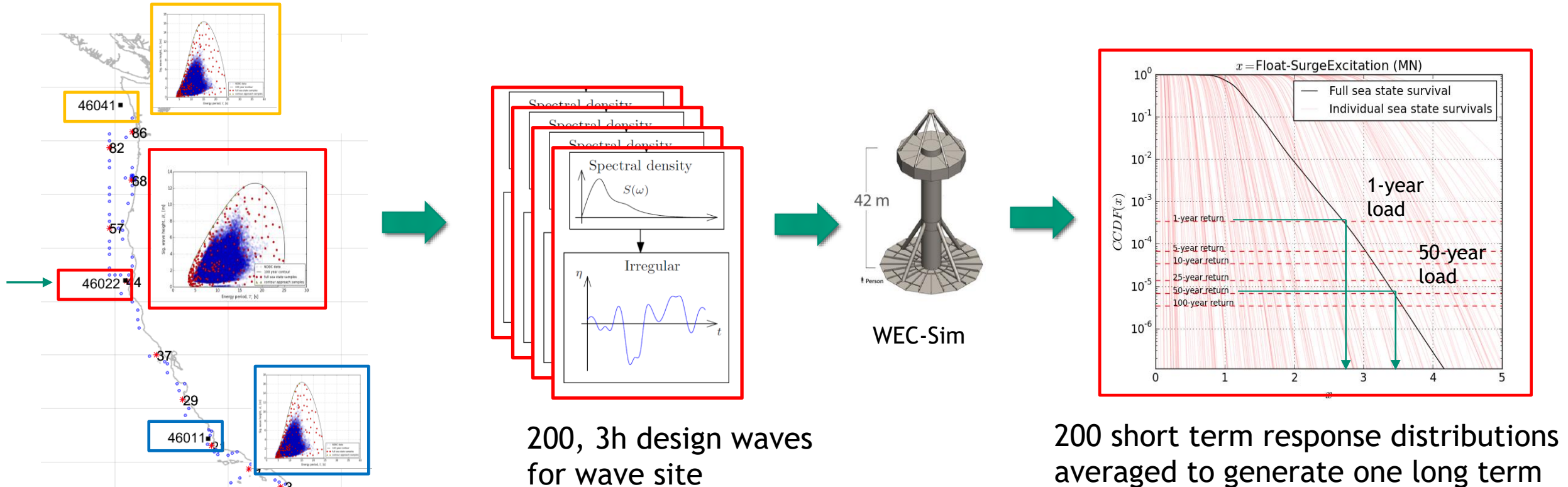


Power Matrix (kW) Cd_float=1.4; Cd_plate=4.25 (Based on CFD)														
		Energy Period (s)												
		5.7	6.7	7.7	8.7	9.7	10.7	11.7	12.7	13.7	14.7	15.7	16.7	17.7
Hs (m)	0.25	0.42	0.71	0.97	1.19	1.36	1.46	1.49	1.45	1.36	1.24	1.11	0.99	0.87
	0.75	3.77	6.36	8.75	10.73	12.22	13.14	13.38	13.02	12.21	11.17	10.03	8.91	7.85
	1.25	10.51	17.66	24.32	29.80	33.96	36.49	37.17	36.15	33.92	31.02	27.86	24.74	21.80
	1.75	21.66	34.79	47.66	58.41	66.55	71.52	72.85	70.86	66.49	60.80	54.62	48.49	42.73
	2.25	37.64	61.75	79.03	96.55	110.02	118.23	120.43	117.14	109.92	100.50	90.28	80.16	70.64
	2.75	57.95	100.66	121.83	144.23	164.34	176.62	179.90	174.98	164.19	150.13	134.87	119.74	105.52
	3.25	81.24	150.37	178.99	204.14	229.54	246.68	251.27	244.40	229.33	209.69	188.37	167.24	147.38
	3.75	108.16	209.85	249.53	279.77	306.79	328.42	334.52	325.38	305.32	279.18	250.78	222.66	196.22
	4.25	138.91	272.93	332.45	371.07	399.54	421.84	429.68	417.93	392.17	358.59	322.12	285.99	252.04
4.75	173.54	340.92	426.99	477.32	509.06	530.38	536.73	522.05	489.87	447.52	402.37	357.24	314.83	
5.25	212.00	416.47	531.26	597.80	634.90	655.75	657.31	637.74	598.43	547.19	491.54	436.41	384.60	



# Open-source tools: WEC design response toolbox (WDRT)

[Coe et al. 2018, Neary et al. 2018, Coe & Neary 2014]



Environmental contours from  
(Hs, Te) time-series  
Select 200 random sea states  
[Eckert-Gallup et al. 2016]

200 short term response distributions  
averaged to generate one long term  
distribution extreme loads (Heave,  
Surge, etc.)

## Concluding remarks



USDOE R&D roadmap provides comprehensive framework for advancing marine energy systems to commercialization with primary goal of reducing LCOE

Knowledge of resource attributes and extreme conditions, critical inputs to planning WEC projects, and design and analysis of WECs

Accurate resource data & information, and validated models and tools critical for reducing LCOE of 1<sup>st</sup> generation technologies

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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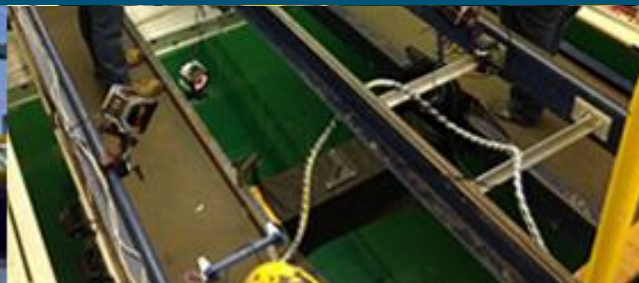
Thank you

Contact: [vsneary@sandia.gov](mailto:vsneary@sandia.gov)





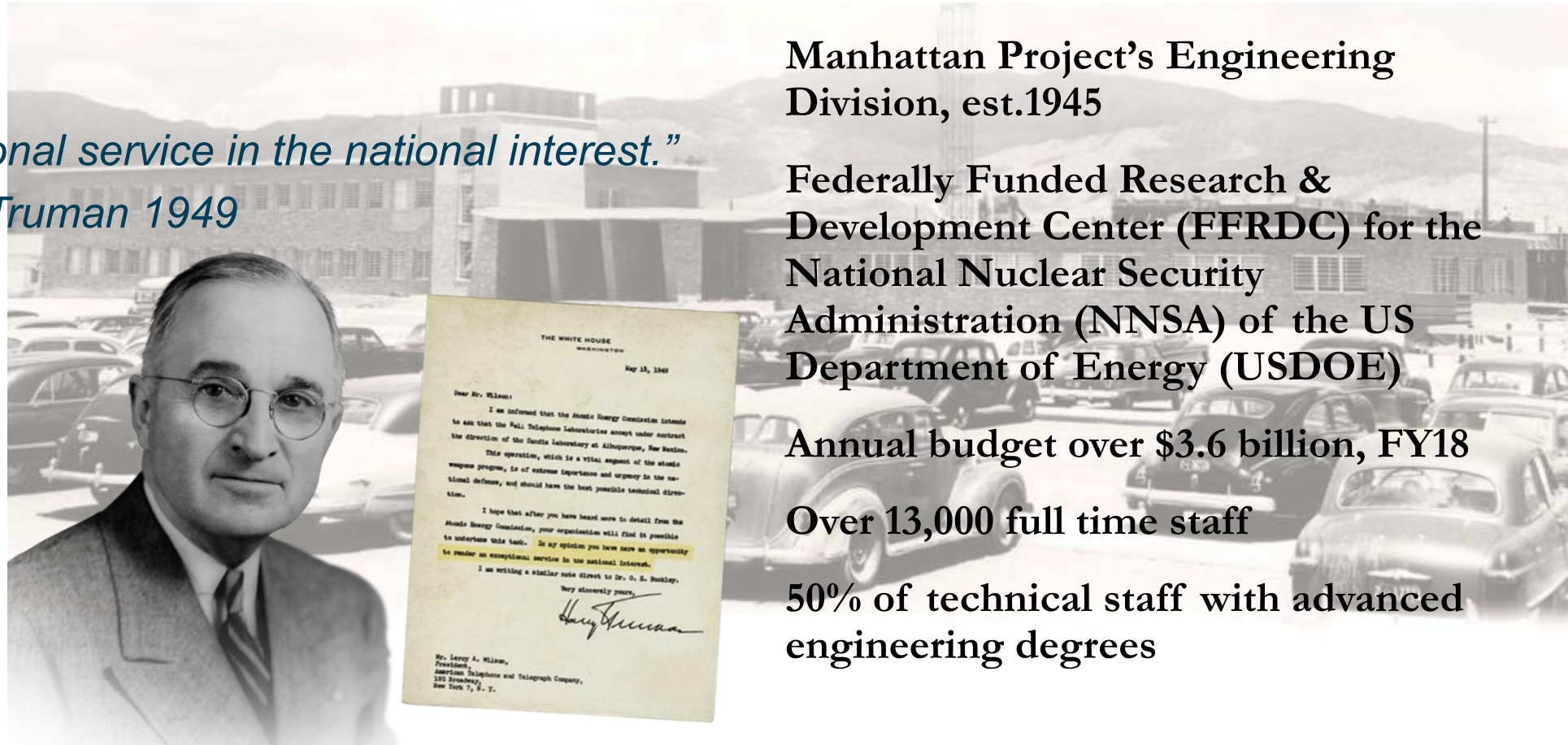
## Extra slides



# Sandia National Laboratories: Background



*“...exceptional service in the national interest.”*  
*President Truman 1949*



**Manhattan Project’s Engineering Division, est.1945**

**Federally Funded Research & Development Center (FFRDC) for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) of the US Department of Energy (USDOE)**

**Annual budget over \$3.6 billion, FY18**

**Over 13,000 full time staff**

**50% of technical staff with advanced engineering degrees**

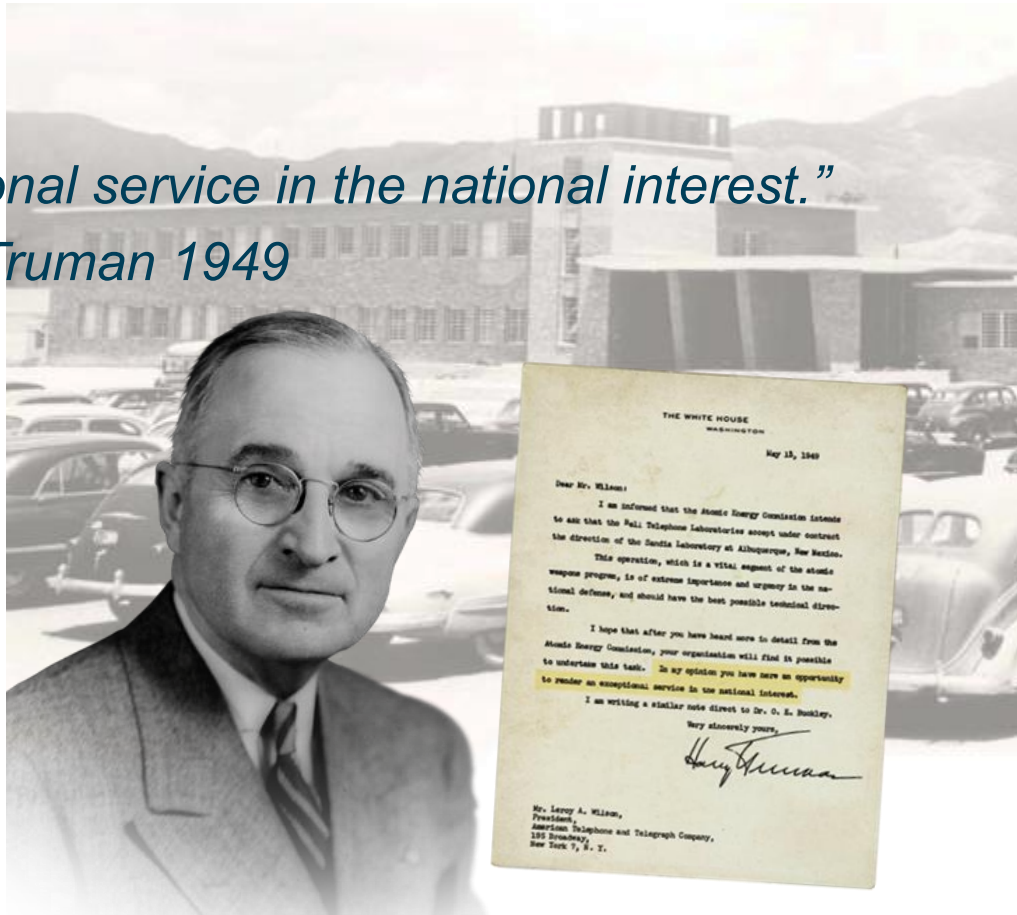
**to undertake this task.** In my opinion you have here an opportunity  
to render an exceptional service in the national interest.



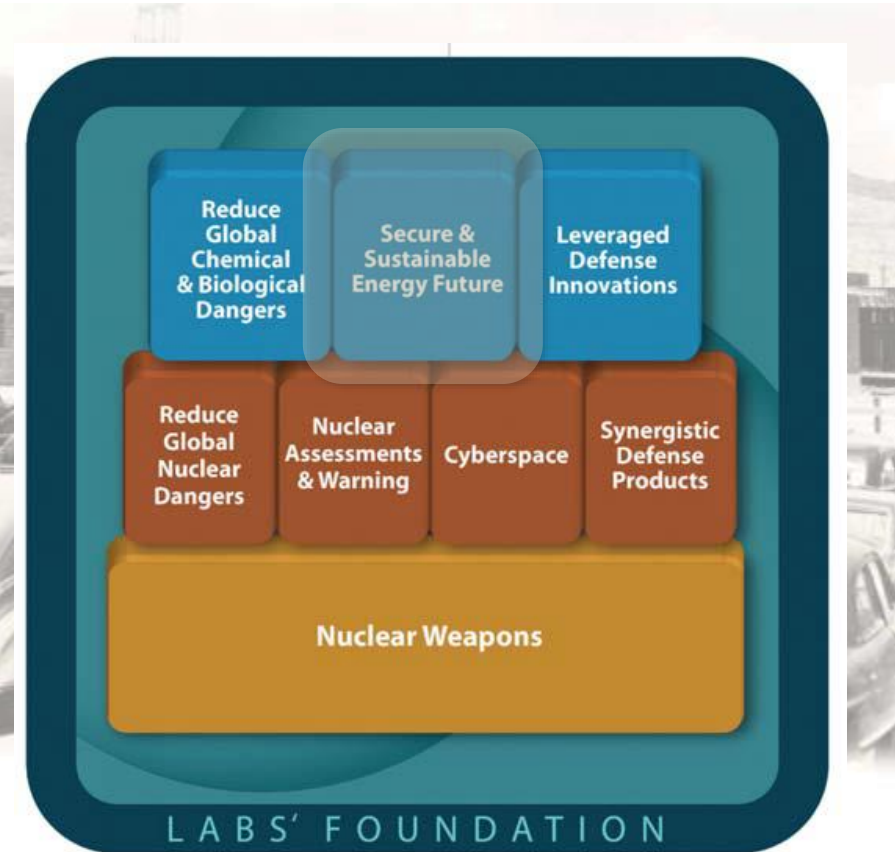
# Sandia National Laboratories: Securing Our Nation's Future



*"...exceptional service in the national interest."  
President Truman 1949*



to undertake this task. In my opinion you have here an opportunity  
to render an exceptional service in the national interest.



Non-NNSA DOE funding FY18,  
\$266 million, includes \$87 million  
from Energy Efficiency and  
Renewable Energy (EERE) Office

# Benchmarking *LCOE* for 1<sup>st</sup> generation marine energy converters

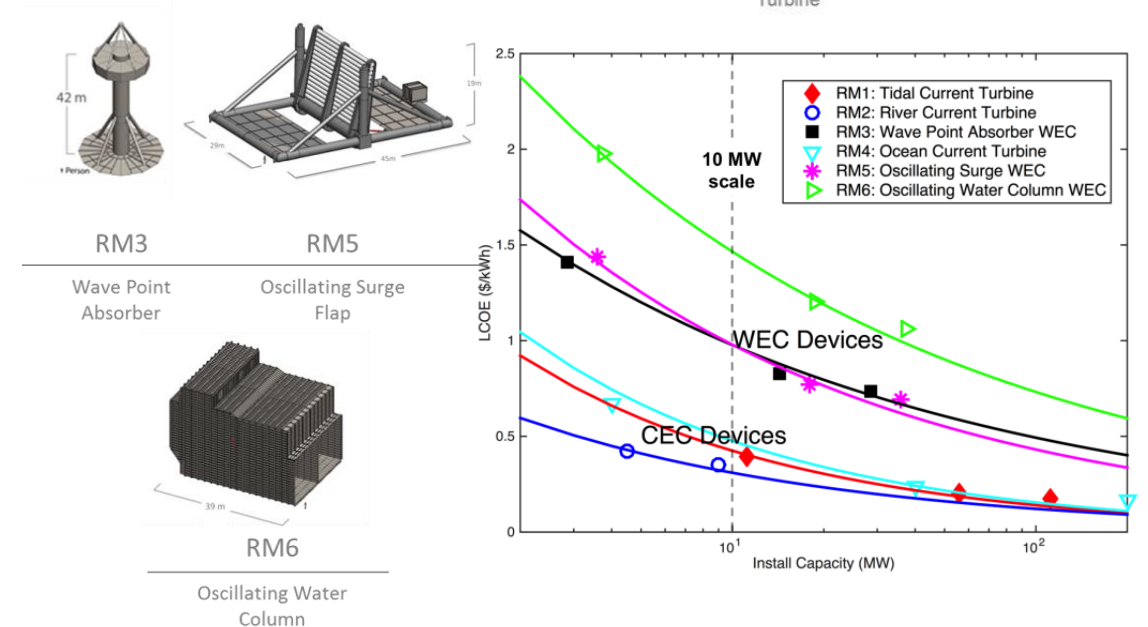
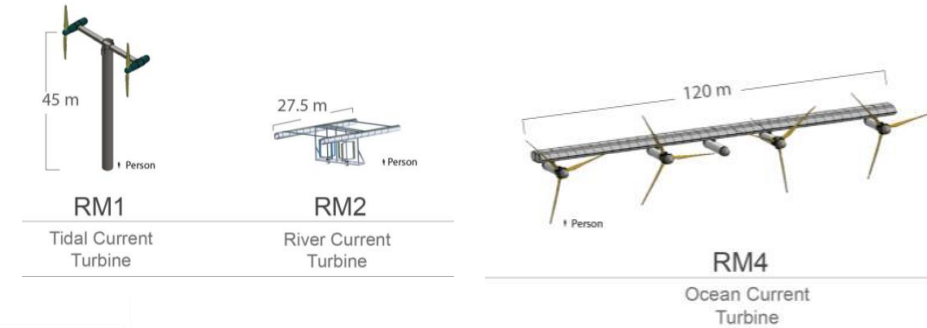


## CECs – 10 MW Projects

- $\approx \$0.31\text{-}0.45/\text{kWh}$
- Cost drivers PTO, structure, O&M

## WECs – 10 MW Projects

- $\$0.98/\text{kWh}$  for RM3, RM5
- $\$1.53/\text{kWh}$  for RM6
- Cost drivers power absorption, structure, mooring, O&M





## References: Opportunities & challenges



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