



**10. Međunarodna konferencija o obnovljivim
izvorima električne energije**

**10th International Conference on Renewable
Electrical Power Sources**

Beograd, 17. i 18. oktobar 2022 | Belgrade, October 17 & 18, 2022

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**pisanih za 10. Međunarodnu konferenciju o
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**Predsednik Društva za
obnovljive izvore
električne energije
pri SMEITS-u**

Prof. dr Zoran Lazarević

Urednik

V.prof. dr Aleksandar Savić

Za izdavača

Vladan Galebović

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**President to the Society
for Renewable Electrical
Power Sources
within the SMEITS**

Prof Zoran Lazarević, Ph. D.

Editor

Assoc. prof Aleksandar Savić, Ph. D.

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Vladan Galebović

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ISKORIŠĆENJE ENERGIJE TALASA ZA DOBIJANJE KINETIČKE ENERGIJE

USE OF WAVE ENERGY TO OBTAIN KINETIC ENERGY

Nenad STANISAVLJEVIĆ¹, Aleksandar SAVIĆ²

¹ Institut of Transportation CIP, Nemanjina 6/IV 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

² University of Belgrade, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Bulevar kralja Aleksandra 73,
11000 Belgrade, Serbia

Energija talasa u velikoj meri predstavlja neiskorišćen resurs za dobijanje električne energije, gde se putem kinetičke energije pretvara u električnu. Postoje niz prednosti usvajanjem ovog rešenja. Dve najbitnije su: ne narušava se izgled morske obale raznim objektima kao i to da se ne zagađuje morsko dno. Eksploatacija počinje odmah po postavljanju uređaja u moru. Mogućnost upotrebe betona kao građevinskog materijala u ove svrhe je diskutovana u radu. Dati su osnovni principi projektovanja sastava betona za ove uslove i diskutovani karakteristični detalji o kojima treba voditi računa kod ovih specifičnih konstrukcija.

Ključne reči: energija talasa; beton; čelik; materijali; zahtevi; primena;

Wave energy is largely an unused resource for generating electricity, where it is converted into electricity through kinetic energy. There are a number of advantages to adopting this solution. Two of the most important are: the appearance of the sea coast is not disturbed by various objects, and the seabed is not polluted. Exploitation begins immediately after placing the device in the sea. The possibility of using concrete as a construction material for these purposes is discussed in the paper. The basic principles of designing the composition of concrete for these conditions are given and the characteristic details that should be taken into account for these specific structures are discussed.

Key words: energy; concrete; steel; materials; requirements; application;

1 Introduction

At a time when the whole world depends dominantly on oil and gas, it is necessary to activate the theme of renewable energy sources, especially in coastal and island countries where the petroleum products are much more expensive. The advantages of wave energy from wind generators are that the waves are always present during the year, so the profitability is multiple. Waves are created by the wind which in turn is caused by the Sun. This makes wave energy a renewable resource. A solution of the structure that makes this kind of effect is given in the Figure 1. The main constituents of these structures include: light - a flashing beacon on top of the device alerts passing ships; float - as the surface of the water moves up and down, the float moves with the waves while pulling on a cable below; magnets - the column of magnets moves up and down with the waves inside the generator coils; generator coils - an electric current is induced in the coils of wire as the magnets move up and down; foundation- the wave energy machine is securely anchored to the seabed; cables- the electric current from the machine is carried through cables to the shore.

All structure elements are available today, and with their combination such a construction element that will be stable due to the influence of sea water can be produced. It is very easy to achieve pre-fabrication of elements from sulfate concrete and thus the entire construction can be produced as prefabricated. Utilization of potential and kinetic energy principle is given in the Figure 2.

2 Key advantages and disadvantages of the energy wave concept

From a construction standpoint, a larger percentage of parts tend to be prefabricated and mass-produced. In this case, structures for the accumulation of kinetic energy can be of different shapes, depending on the need for consumption. They can be made to be easily transportable using road as well as sea transport. The largest percentage of material that can be used for production of such a

structure is concrete, together with specific kinds of elements for sea water applications with additional measures for greater durability.

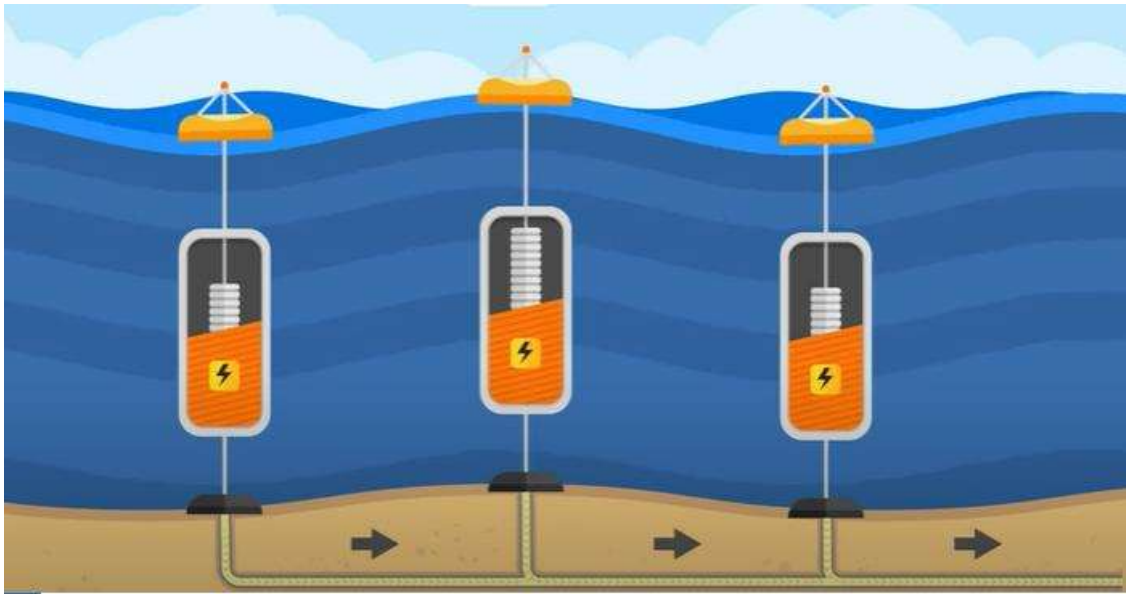


Figure 1: A device that takes wave energy and transfers it into kinetic energy [1]

Considering that the concept is ideal from the point of view of exploitation, this model also brings some disadvantages. Foundation elements cannot be standardized, due to the extremely diverse geological nature of the seabed. Therefore, that part must be unique for certain structure, designed and constructed depending on the terrain configuration and soil material below sea level. In some applications, the piles have to be longer and in others shorter, thereby increasing the cost of construction.

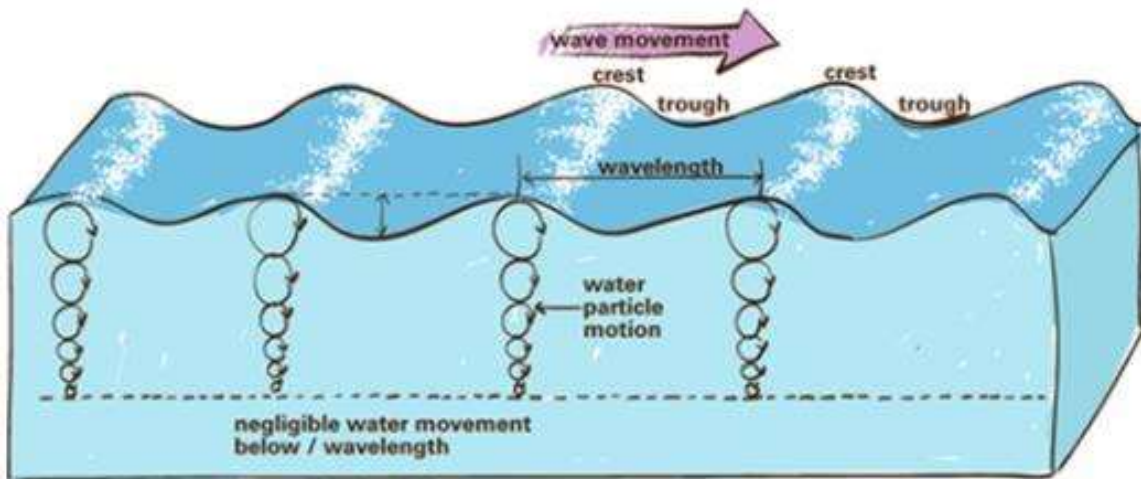


Figure 2: Utilization of potential and kinetic energy [2]

Corpus of basic advantages and disadvantages of marine conditions for concrete in the construction sector is summarized in Table 1. These aspects will be discussed further in the paper.

Table 1 – The principal advantages and disadvantages of marine conditions for concrete

| Advantages | Disadvantages |
|---|--|
| If concrete is made from bio-blocks, it has a pH value close to that of seawater. | Classical concrete has a pH of 12-13, which is not favorable for the colonization of marine life. Therefore, environmentally acceptable materials for installation in seas and oceans must have a pH value of 9 to 10. |
| Synthetic fibers, if added to the concrete mix, can reduce abrasive wear from sand. | Concrete usually is, but must not be smooth due to the colonization of organisms. |
| When the concrete is made according to the appropriate recipe, it is not necessary to do any more rehabilitation. | If classic concrete is produced, subsequent protection of the concrete must be done using various protective layers and sealants. |
| Durability of the properly designed, produced and placed concrete is higher. | The non-standard concrete mixtures usually have higher price. |
| Promotion of sustainability through the use of recycled materials and industrial by-products can be done. | |

3 Materials and technology of the concrete energy wave concept with respect to the energy efficiency

Contemporary construction accentuates the use of the alternative materials that have less impact on the environment. Those alternatives may already exist. Among them is a material called ECONcrete (bio-block concrete), developed as environmentally friendly concrete [3]. It is made using a mixture that is almost entirely made from by-products and recycled materials, meaning that no carbon is released to produce this material. This mixture is combined with slag (about 70%) which gives this material a high chloride resistance, which is suitable when used in saline environments.

Unlike traditional concrete, which is highly alkaline (pH of 12-13), bio-block concrete has a pH value close to that of seawater (close to 8), which helps promote the growth of marine species such as crabs, mollusks, clams, mussels and oysters. A relatively neutral pH value of bio-blocks of 9-10 can be achieved when Portland cement is replaced by slag [3].

However, it is also the nature of the contact between concrete and water that makes the difference in the natural environment. The smooth concrete surfaces of artificial seawalls are not habitable for marine organisms. However, their subsequent treatment with ecological slabs with a rough surface texture allows marine flora and fauna to colonize, ultimately leading to improved seawall biodiversity.

While environmentally friendly concrete requires further testing, there are other potential solutions, such as bio-cement which may be particularly suitable for marine infrastructures [4]. Bio-cement is created by mixing sand or other forms of aggregate, then adding bacteria and urea, a component of urine. Urea triggers the bacteria to produce calcite – a form of calcium carbonate – binding the mixture into a solid limestone-like material. There are advantages of such a cement, firstly it can improve coastal stability, second much lower CO₂ emission (one-third of the conventional concrete), and the possibility of shaping it into a bio-friendly structure. Nevertheless, there is still not enough data on the pros and cons of its' use, due to the scarce application evidences.

Generally, seawater contains 3.5 per cent of soluble salts (salinity) by weight. The ionic concentration of Na⁺ and Cl⁻ are maximum in seawater, normally 11,000 and 20,000 mg/lit respectively. Seawater also contains Mg²⁺ and SO₄²⁻ about 1400 and 2700 mg/lit, respectively. As already stated, the pH of seawater fluctuates between 7.5 and 8.4. The average pH of seawater amounts to about 8.2.

Seawater also contains a certain amount of CO₂. If higher concentration of CO₂ dissolved in seawater, then the pH may fall below 7.5. Table 2 gives the major ions concentration in some of the world seas.

Table 2: Major Ions Concentration in some of The Famous World Seas [4]

| World seas/ Major Ions | Concentration of ions (mg/lit) | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|----------|---------|-------|-----------|
| | Sodium | Magnesium | Chloride | Sulfate | TDS | TDS Ratio |
| Black Sea | 4900 | 640 | 9500 | 1362 | 17085 | 3.9 |
| Marmara Sea | 8100 | 1035 | 14390 | 2034 | 26409 | 2.52 |
| Mediterranean Sea | 12400 | 1500 | 21270 | 2596 | 38795 | 1.72 |
| North sea | 12200 | 1110 | 16550 | 2220 | 33060 | 2.02 |
| Atlantic Sea | 11100 | 1210 | 20000 | 2180 | 35370 | 1.88 |
| Baltic Sea | 2190 | 260 | 3960 | 580 | 7110 | 9.37 |
| Arabian Gulf | 20700 | 2300 | 36900 | 5120 | 66650 | 1 |
| BRE** Exposure | 9740 | 1200 | 18200 | 2600 | 32540 | 2.05 |
| Red sea | 11350 | 1867 | 22660 | 3050 | 40960 | 1.63 |

The analysis of the conditions that takes into account these differences in salinity has to be done from case to case. For instance, the sea around the Arabian Gulf is the saltiest, with a significantly higher proportion of chlorides and other elements. This is a very high figure that the waters of the sea could reach due to the hot, dry climate of the coast. When evaporation of water is very high, and the incoming less salty water is limited, there is no time to dilute the already made solution. Therefore, the conclusion would be that on the coast of this bay, special attention must be paid to the unique recipe for concrete and its durability.

4 Theoretical aspects of concrete use in salt water conditions

If concrete structure is built in seawater, then the most affected area of the structure is well above the high-water mark. The area between low water level and high-water level is less affected while the area which is continuously submerged under the seawater is least effected. The reason behind this is, when the seawater forcibly contacts the area above the high-water mark due to wave action, some salty water gets deposited in the concrete pores. When this area dries, the water will crystallize into salt particles, and due to that crystallization, a disruption of concrete takes place. Similarly, when the water in concrete pores is allowed to freeze in cold climates, the concrete will expand and lost its durability. Figure 3 is a depiction of seawater effect on concrete.

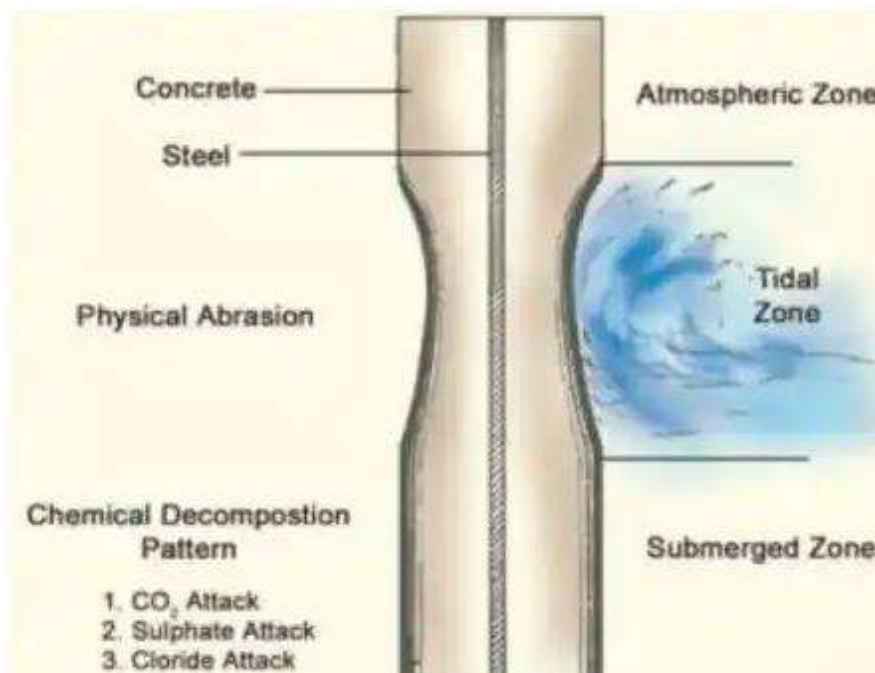


Fig 3: Diagrammatic Representation of Concrete Exposed to Seawater [5]

To improve durability of concrete structure which are exposed to marine conditions, several methods can be applied, regarding the composition and design of this concrete, as follows:

1. Cement with low C3A content should be preferable to make concrete;
2. Low water to cement ratio can be applied, which makes the concrete impervious; In this case the pores in concrete are very small and they cannot contain seawater.
3. To make it workable for placement of fresh concrete, water reducing admixtures should be added to the concrete.
4. The admixtures should not contain chloride in any form, otherwise corrosion of reinforcement takes place.
5. Adequate cover should be provided for reinforcement in concrete structure to enhance durability. Cover layer of concrete over the reinforcement bars recommended values are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Cover recommended for reinforcement bars

| Zone | Cover over reinforcing steel, mm | Cover over post tensioning ducts, mm |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Atmospheric zone not subjected to slat spray | 50 | 75 |
| Atmospheric zone subjected to slat spray | 65 | 90 |
| Submerged zone | 50 | 75 |
| Cover of stirrups | 12 mm less than above | 12 mm less than above |

6. Good compaction and well-made construction joints in the structure both help the concrete structure to withstand against expansion caused by seawater;
7. Use of pozzolanic material and slag in the preparation of concrete are good against salt water;
8. For better durability, high pressure steam cured concrete elements can be used for construction in marine conditions;
9. Aggregates used for production of concrete should be thoroughly washed with fresh water to reduce the chloride ion concentration in it;

10. The use of Self-Compacting Concrete with recycled or industrial pozzolanic by-products, on site or precast, and with the aid of fibers can improve the durability of such structures, while promoting the idea of sustainability [6,7].

5 Conclusion

Switching from the oil and coal-based energy industries to clean energy harvesting can incorporate solutions such as marine generators - structures for harvesting this type of energy through wave energy. Concrete, as a suitable low-cost material can be used in such conditions too, but with respect to the specific requirements that outcome from the harsh environment conditions that act on these elements. On the other hand, modern concrete, which is based on Portland cement, has to be altered in order to produce a viable solution that could be considered sustainable and environmentally friendly.

The research discussed in this paper opens up several new perspectives for concrete production, also taking into account the corrosion processes that actually create the extremely useful mineral cement that will lead to the permanent durability of the concrete, and maybe even increasing it over time.

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