Reconciling Energy and Nature in Offshore Wind and Grid Development. The power of collaborations.

Cigre Webinar Collaboration in the North Sea Powerhouse 6 April 2023



The Renewables Grid Initiative

We promote fair, transparent, sustainable grid development to enable the growth of renewables to achieve full decarbonisation in line with the Paris Agreement.





The Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature

Together we work towards a sustainable deployment of offshore energy and grid infrastructure, while ensuring alignment with nature protection and healthy marine ecosystems.





Aims of OCEaN

Plan together

- Integrated planning combining generation, transmission and nature protection
- Plan energy infrastructure and nature across borders for the entire sea basin
- Find new solutions in design and engineering

Plan in line with marine conservation objectives

- Understand impacts, including cumulative impacts, and identify mitigation measures
- Explore the use of sensitivity maps
- Promote consistent environmental monitoring
- Identify compensatory measures designed at basin level

Plan ahead

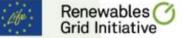
- Plan all the way to full decarbonisation
- Plan with a lifecycle perspective



Our work

Create a common understanding

Essential Environmental Concepts for the Offshore Wind Energy Sector in Europe Discussion Paper







A REVIEW OF
BIODIVERSITY DATA NEEDS
AND
MONITORING PROTOCOLS

for the Offshore Wind Energy Sector in the Baltic Sea and North Sea

A Review of Biodiversity Data Needs and Monitoring Protocols for the Offshore Wind Energy Sector





How to improve Maritime Spatial Planning to reach European climate, energy and biodiversity targets

Oceans have an face increasing eutrophication, uncoordinated many countries fair managementhe way thanks Planning (MSP)

October 2022

According to t Maritime Spatia following an eco pressure of mar Good Environm

Offshore wind very EU to meet its of projects in the incrementally confishore project environment protential of offs adequate space process can help with the aim of parallel with the maritime activity marine ecosystem renewable encondered independence.

As laid out by the Spatial Plans by have a plan in good moment taken, and idenall human activ

¹ Which has been ecosystems and m solutions for the m of Good Environm induced changes maritime spatial of ² Directive 2008/56

October 2022



ocean
Offshore Coalition for

Case Study
Marine environmental data monitoring for
nature-friendly offshore wind

The Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) process allocates space for traditional and emerging human activities at sea. Data forms the foundation of Maritime Spatial Plans (MSPs) and is crucial for their revision and adaptation based on new scientific knowledge. Since MSP is key to identify areas for offshore renewable energy (ORE) and the connecting electricity grid, marine environmental data is essential for a nature-friendly deployment and to achieve conservation and restoration targets as well as Good Environmental Status in all European seas.

Member States (MS) utilise different environmental data collection and management schemes. In the MSP context, they are responsible for using the best available data and deciding how to share necessary information across marine regions. The Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature (OCEaN) identifies innovative models and initiatives which allow for better environmental data collection and management for ORE, with the aim of inspiring their replication by MS. One such positive example is the Belgian Offshore Wind Monitoring Programme, WinMon.be. This post-decision monitoring programme for the construction and operation phases of ORE projects after the permit-granting, has been running since 2005, coordinated and executed by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) and commissioned by the Belgian Federal Government.

- It simplifies project developers' work and enables needed funds. All Belgian offshore wind farm concession holders contribute on a yearly basis to the funding of this monitoring programme as part of their environmental license conditions. In exchange, environmental monitoring is conducted centrally and independently by advising authorities, RBINS and other partners, for all ORE projects.
- It enables systematic and long-term data collection. The programme creates a solid framework for the systematic collection of marine environmental data. RBINS and partners conducting the monitoring ensure that environmental data is continuously collected and streamlined through standardised protocols and harmonised monitoring as per latest scientific knowledge. Long-term (min. 5-10 years) and continuous monitoring provide reliable environmental data and allow for adaptive processes.
- It allows better understanding of ORE impacts. Through an observation phase, it is possible to assess and anticipate impacts of ORE in marine





OCEAN Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature

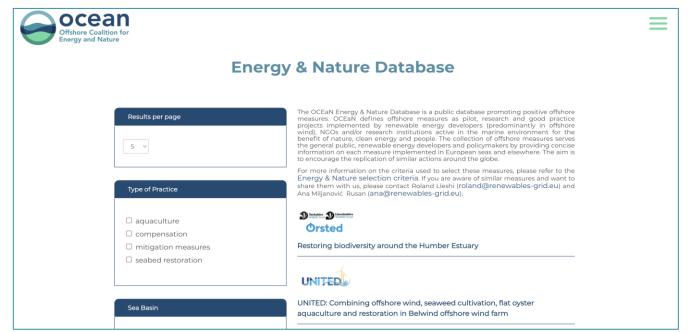
Advocate together



Collect and disseminate solutions









Engage with the broader public





Ambition

- Build a pact between energy & nature to find joint solutions to speed up the development of offshore wind and electricity grid infrastructure through the identification of concrete measures to protect and restore nature in European seas.
- Expand from the North and Baltic seas to other sea basins, with newly established OCEaN branch in the Mediterranean sea and working group in EU Atlantic.
- Support the establishment of collaborations in the Black Sea.



WindEurope Conference, 25-27 April Copenhagen



- OCEaN ExhibitionStand
- Presentations at Members' Stands
- Conference Sessions

To learn more:

https://offshore-coalition.eu/events/





Thanks for your attention!

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