

Planning offshore wind farms in line with Natura 2000 requirements: legal frame, impacts, investigation standards and procedures

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Off Shore Wind Farms in the Eastern Baltic Sea – the situation

- Currently no wind farm built in EE, LV, LT territorial waters nor in the EEZ
- Applications for projects and related permits submitted, partly started EIA procedures
 - However, the legal basis is insufficient to implement the EIA, building permits cannot be granted in the sea
- Countries are still in process to designate marine PA under N2000 framework
- Sites for wind farm location have not been defined yet – developers propose their “favourite sites”



The problem of the process

- Systematic land use strategies are lacking for the sea territories
 - The process of N2000 designation and definition of other land uses of marine territories is going in parallel and needs coordination;
- N2000 designation is slow due to high costs and limited resources
 - information on best nature values is still lacking.



• Experience & resources are lacking to assess potential impacts from off shore wind farms on the natural environment

- EIA statements are in danger no neglect impacts;

Main goals of the event

- To discuss the current situation, problems and needs concerning planning and impact assessment of offshore wind farms in the Baltic States,
- To learn from experiences of other countries (Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Netherlands) with the aim to avoid negative impacts of this new economic activity on nature values in the Eastern Baltic Sea.



Main discussion points

- Legal framework and procedures;
- Regional plans for optimum location of OWF;
- Consideration of nature conservation aspects (N2000);
- Investigations & impact assessments at different scale;
- Standards for impact assessment and construction of offshore wind farms;
- Monitoring programmes and results at existing offshore wind farms;



Gap assessment and next steps for activities in Baltic States

Best possible expertise at place

- German competent authorities: Environment Agency and Maritime and Hydrographic Agency
- Danish Env. Research institute for impact studies
- Vattenfall wind power operator – a developer
- Swedish competent authority for the EIA: Environmental Agency
- Dutch monitoring and marine ecosystem research institute

