



Offshore wind energy: Ecology in the policy process

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Our approach

Our approach

- > Avoid negative impact
- > Limit impact through mitigation
- > Nature development in wind farms
- > Focus on nature reinforcement

This requires

- > Knowledge
- > Joint effort of North Sea users
- > International cooperation





Ecology in each step



Step 1: Designation of wind farm zones

- > Outside Natura2000 areas
- > In areas with relatively low ecological value

Step 2: Wind farm site decisions

- > Assessment against nature legislation
- > Mandatory mitigation measures
- > Monitoring effects and mitigation

Step 3: Tender

- > Previous tenders: Focus on innovative ecological measures/monitoring
- > Future tenders: Subsidy/CfD's means redesigning



Research and enhancement efforts

Focus on knowledge development

- > Research programmes such as Wozep, MONS, DEM, NWO-calls and international bodies
- > Additional research programme on 'critical species'
- > Monitoring campaigns before and during the construction and operation of wind farms

Focus on nature restoration

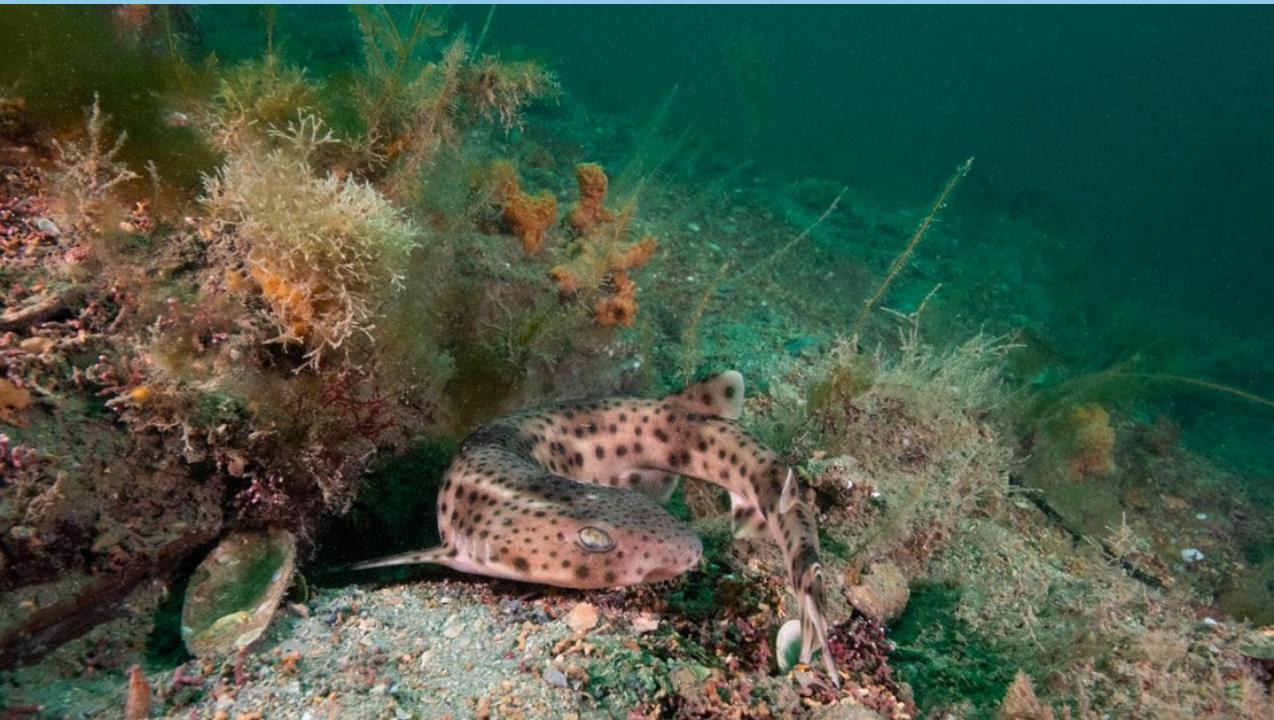
- > North Sea Nature Enhancement Programme
- > Nature-inclusive construction





Challenges

- > Ecological impact of wind farms
- > Knowledge gaps and worst-case assumptions
- > Pace of offshore wind rollout vs. knowledge development
- > Cumulative impact of (less regulated) other pressure factors
- > Compensation more effective outside wind farm or even internationally
- > Coordinating the various government projects (Wozep, critical species, MONS, DEM, NN) and deriving added value and acceleration from that





International cooperation

- > Exchange of knowledge and data
- > Focus on harmonising (cumulative) assessment methods and regulations
- > Effective compensation at location with the greatest positive impact
- > Joint research in bodies such as GNSBI, NSEC, OSPAR, ICES





A joint effort



- > It is our duty to do our utmost to realise offshore wind energy within the carrying capacity of the North Sea ecosystem and to strengthen it as much as possible.
- > To enhance the North Sea ecosystem it is also necessary that other activities contribute to this effort.