



The Offshore Wind Ecological Programme (Wozep) is an indispensable link in the development of offshore wind

Decisions about offshore wind energy must, by law, include a consideration of ecological effects.

Research

The Offshore Wind Ecological Programme (Wozep) is a multi-year research programme looking at the effects of wind farms in the North Sea on protected species and their habitats.

Field studies

Wozep conducts field studies of the distribution and behaviour of protected species of seabirds and migratory birds, bats and marine mammals.

Models

We develop models to calculate the impacts of future offshore wind farms on protected species.

Insights

The Wozep research leads to new insights into the impact of offshore wind and the options available to mitigate that impact.

Effective mitigation

We are learning more and more about how offshore wind farms affect the North Sea ecology. This knowledge will enable us to pin-point what mitigation measures will be most effective.

Better estimates of impact

The more knowledge and data we add to our models, the better the estimates of effects of future offshore wind farms will be.

Decision-making

Policymakers use the knowledge about the expected effects on protected species to make decisions about offshore wind.

Site decisions

The research results are included in environmental impact assessments for wind farms. For example, they may lead to location-specific regulations in site decisions with the aim of minimising negative ecological effects.

Long-term policy

Insights into the expected cumulative effects of existing and future offshore wind farms are used for offshore spatial planning. For example, the locations in the North Sea where protected species are most vulnerable are taken into consideration.

