

Major Concerns Offshore Renewable Energy

Dear MEP,

We European fishermen are deeply concerned about our future, the future of the North Sea and the future of the coastal water ecosystems. Both are in serious threat of being devastated by the current planned construction of offshore wind farms.

We wish to share our concerns with you:

1. We **fear for the future of fishing communities** because our employment is at risk. This concerns not only the fishermen themselves but also employment in the fish processing plants, fish auctions, suppliers and other fisheries related companies
2. Enormous forces are required to drive the turbine piles into the seabed, which can measure 8 to 10 meters in diameter! It requires **3000 kJ of force** to drive these piles into the seabed, an enormous explosion of power that **far exceeds the legal standard of 160 decibels and kills fish** or causing acoustic damage to fish in a wide radius.
<https://northsearegion.eu/jomopans>
<https://nos.nl/op3/artikel/2255572-zo-veel-herrie-maken-wij-achter-de-horizon.html>
3. When a wind farm becomes operational, the turbines cause an **infrasonic noise** that propagates over great distances. This low noise chases the fish from the wind farms.
<https://www.windturbinesyndrome.com/2010/fish-and-wind-turbines-dont-mix/>
4. The submarine transport cables create an **electromagnetic field**, which is an **artificial wall on the seabed** that disturbs natural migration of fish, crustaceans and shellfish. We observe this effect as fishermen every week.
5. The **sea and air currents change**. This is confirmed by satellite photos from NASA. The sediment from the **seabed flows away**. To counter this, thousands of tons of rock are dumped inside and around the wind farms. But this does not really help. Important links to check out the above mentioned statements:
<https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/89063/offshore-windfarms-make-wakes>
<https://www.noordzeeloket.nl/functies-gebruik/windenergie-zee/ecologie/wind-zee-ecologisch-programma-wozep/ecosysteemonderzoek/>
6. It is not inconceivable that **environmental disasters** will occur in the future, especially in the North Sea, the sea with the most ship movements per year. Where the planned wind farms will be placed along shipping lanes (Traffic Separation Schemes). A blackout or navigation error on a merchant ship can have disastrous consequences.
7. EIA reports (Environmental Impact Assessments) are inadequate. In addition, the **ecology and dynamics of the designated wind farms have not been properly mapped out** and do **not meet the EU guidelines**. Important links to check out the above mentioned statements:
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/NL/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32001L0042&from=NL>

Justice verdict from the European Court:

<http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?jsessionid=EAD3441C990F568CE5DD397C03AC351B?text=&docid=227726&pageIndex=0&doclang=NL&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=7242532>

8. The planned wind farms will be **located precisely in spawning grounds** which are important **for a lot of fish species**. We are therefore afraid that entire **fish populations will be destroyed** for the above mentioned reasons.
9. In practice, there is unfortunately little or no good communication between the fishing industry and the energy sector.

The undersigned fishermen request the following to prevent more damage to the ecosystem:

- A **moratorium** on the further construction of wind farms and submarine electro-transport cables at sea.
- **More research** into the consequences of wind farms and the associated electrical transport cables on the **marine environment**. Especially on the bottom structure, flatfish, organisms, larvae and bacteria.
- Respect **historical fishing grounds**.
- Right to participate and input (AARHUS).
- Observing the **precautionary approach** in the realisation of wind farms. Research into possible effects first, then place them.
- Compliance with the **OSPAR** convention. This is completely ignored www.ospar.org/work-areas/eiha/offshore-renewables.
- **Protection of fishing communities**.

We urge you to take the above written arguments very seriously and we want to ask you to reconsider whether massive wind energy at sea is beneficial for the marine environment.

Fishermen are not against an energy transition, on the contrary, but the marine environment should not suffer from it. We are completely dependent on nature! Please take us and the environment seriously!

Yours sincerely,

EMK Foundation and the undersigned fishermen.
Represent **1950** fishing vessels.

Dutch fishermen

EMK
Visned
Nederlandse Visserbond

German fishermen

Landesfischereiverband Schleswig – Holstein
Landesfischereiverbandes Weser-Ems
Fischerei Genossenschaft Elsfleth
Fischereiverein Büsum

Portuguese fishermen

Vianapesca OP

Danish fishermen

DFPO

Swedish fishermen

SFPO

Artisanal French fishermen

Collectif Pêcheurs Artisans

Belgian fishermen

Rederscentrale

