Maritime Spatial Planning in the German Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

The revised Spatial Planning Act of 2004 allows the federal government to extend the well-established spatial planning regime from the land to the sea. The maritime spatial plan works within the framework of international law (above all the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea). It needs to coordinate the scientific and economic uses of the sea with the interests of navigation and environmental protection.

Between 2005 and 2009 the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie – BSH) – working for the Federal Ministry of Transportation – prepared the maritime spatial plan including its public consultation.

The plan comprises maps, textual regulations, and an extensive environmental report. It was enacted by ministerial decree on 26 September and 19 December 2009 for the North Sea and Baltic Sea respectively.

The plan is binding for governmental agencies, for example when approving windfarms and cables.

The plan supports the Energiewende (energy transition) by designating priority areas for windfarms. At the same time, priority and reservation areas for navigation ensure that important shipping routes remain free of obstacles. The plan bans the construction of windfarms in Nature2000-areas, that make up about 30 % of the EEZ in the North Sea and 50 % of the Baltic EEZ.

The maritime spatial plan thus balances the use and the protection of the sea, while promoting sustainable development.

www.bsh.de | posteingang@bsh.de

BSH Hamburg
Bernhard-Nocht-Str. 78 · 20359 Hamburg
Phone: +49 (0) 40 3190-0 · Fax: +49 (0) 40 3190-5000

BSH Rostock
Neptunallee 5 · 18057 Rostock
Phone: +49 (0) 381 4563-5 · Fax: +49 (0) 381 4563-948

M52_002 00/14

BUNDESAMT FÜR SEESCHIFFFAHRT UND HYDROGRAPHIE

Maritime Spatial Planning and Offshore Grid Plan

Maritime Spatial Planning and Offshore Grid Planning

Rather than being the empty space many imagine, today's ocean is a place where many – sometimes conflicting – uses compete for space. Shipping and fisheries had to share the ocean for decades with the industrial extraction of natural resources (oil and gas, as well as sand and gravel) and other uses such as military exercises and marine scientific research. Less visible, the sea is used to transport gas, power and information in undersea pipelines and cables. More recently, environmental protection and nature conservation became increasing concerns. But with the advent of large scale offshore wind farms, conflicts became more pronounced.

To harmonise spatial needs, avoid conflicts at an early stage, and achieve a sustainable, balanced development the ocean needs forward-looking, integrative planning and governance based on comprehensive assessments. That is the task of maritime spatial planning. It coordinates conflicting uses, balancing their demands to secure, plan, and direct future activities.

Offshore Grid Plan

The BSH developed the first Offshore Grid Plan in Europe. In 2011, as a part of the Energiewende, the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency was tasked by the revised Energy Management Act to develop an Offshore Grid Plan to ensure that the necessary infrastructure will be in place to transport the power generated offshore to the consumer on land.

The Offshore Grid Plan establishes a coordinated and comprehensive plan based on common planning principles and standardized technical guidelines for the transport of power from offshore windfarms in the German EEZ. It enhances investor security and creates a reliable planning framework.

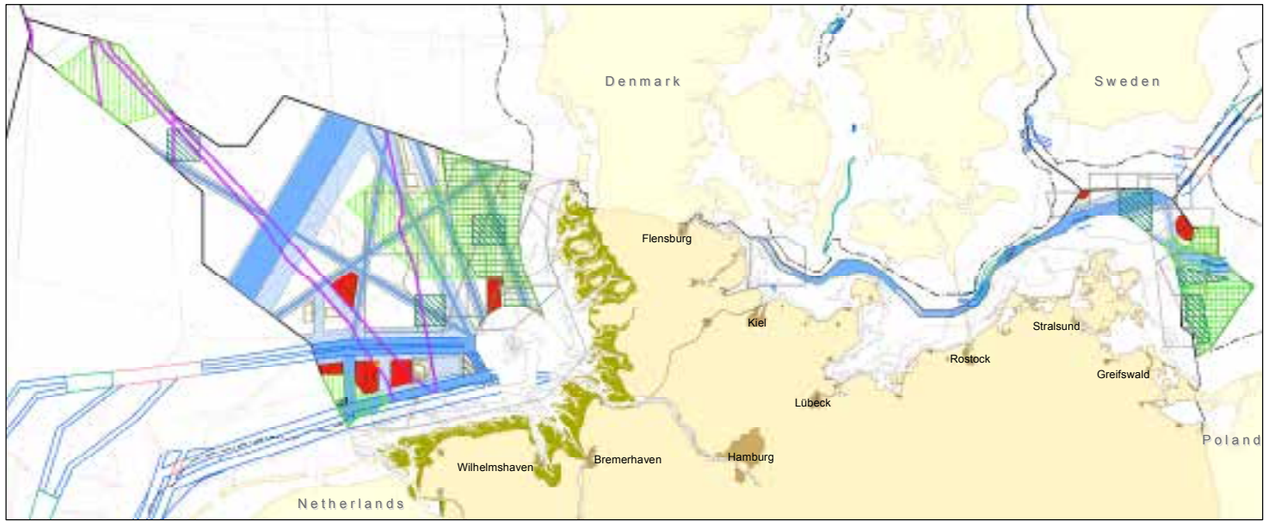
The Offshore Grid Plan identifies spatial clusters of windfarms. For each cluster, the necessary space for offshore power converter stations and cable systems for the grid connection is then determined. The plan also establishes corridors for cross-boundary grid connections and for cross-connections of windfarm grid connections.

The plan was established following a strategic environmental impact assessment, making sure that there are no or only very few adverse effects on the environment.

The Offshore Grid Plan for the North Sea was published on 22 February 2013, for the Baltic Sea on 7 March 2014. The plans will be updated yearly to reflect ongoing developments and guarantee a consistent and reliable framework for investors and developers of offshore wind farms. The plans secure the space for grid connections for about 25 GW of wind power in the EEZ by 2030 and support the construction of an offshore power grid.

It is important to note that the Offshore Grid plans are concerned with the spatial aspect of planning only. The timing of grid connections is regulated by the Federal Network Agency (Bundesnetzagentur).

Maritime Spatial Planning in the EEZ (2009)



Regulations
- Priority Area Shipping
- Reservation Area Shipping
- Priority Areas for Offshore Wind Energy
- Priority Area Pipelines
- Reservation Area Pipelines
- Reservation Area Research

For Information Only

Shipping
- Traffic Separation Scheme
- Deep Water Route
- Precautionary Area
- Deep Water Road
- Anchoring Area

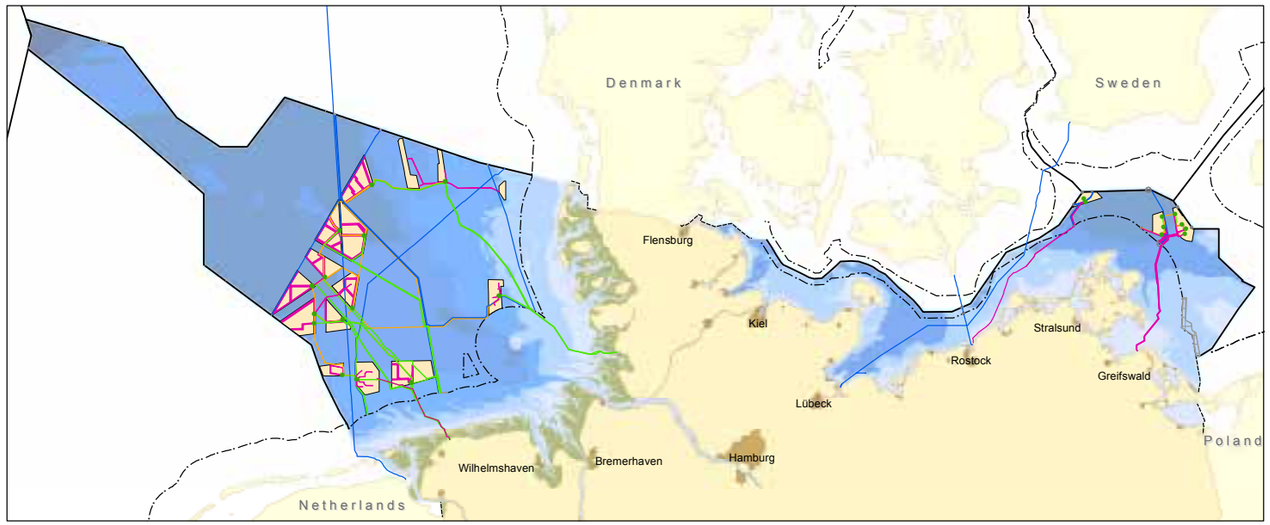
Energy
- Offshore Wind Farms approved

Nature Conservation
- Natura 2000 - SCI Habitat Directive
- Natura 2000 - SPA Bird Directive

Please see the BSH website for more information

Maritime Spatial Planning: www.bsh.de/en/Marine_uses/Spatial_Planning_in_the_German_EEZ
Offshore Grid Plan: www.bsh.de/en/Marine_uses/BFO

Offshore Grid Plan (2012/2013)



- Cluster for Offshore Wind Farms
- Energy Platform
- DC Subsea Cable
- AC Subsea Cable
- Gate
- Interconnector
- Cross Connection