



Marine
Management
Organisation

Lancaster House
Hampshire Court
Monarch Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7YH

www.gov.uk/mmo

Federal Maritime and Hydrographic
Agency Department
[REDACTED] (Management of the Sea)
Bernhard-Nocht-Str. 78 20359
Hamburg
[REDACTED]

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RE: 800O1-5442-001

RE: First Draft of Revised MSP for the German EEZ - International Consultation

Thank you for forwarding the consultation on the first draft of the revised maritime spatial plan for the German Exclusive Economic Zone in the North and Baltic Sea, received by email on 10th December 2020. We appreciate the opportunity to comment.

We are providing our comments on the English version of the documents at:

https://www.bsh.de/EN/TOPICS/Offshore/Maritime_spatial_planning/Revision/revisio_n_node.html

Please note that our response is in relation to marine plans around England and specifically the East Inshore and Offshore and the North East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans. The Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency should approach Scotland independently for matters concerning marine planning within their waters.

General Comments

The MMO suggests that the transboundary issues relating to shipping, cables and offshore wind farms would merit further consideration. Authorities in Germany and England will be aware of the value and need to co-operate, where appropriate, in planning for future offshore wind developments. We therefore look forward to further discussion on this and related sectors in planning to meet the ambition for an increase in wind energy generation in both English and German marine areas. In the meantime, we note a possible concern in relation to the proposed wind farm reservation site and associated cable routes within the German EEZ that borders the



north east offshore marine plan area. Further detail regarding these comments can be found below.

Interaction with adjacent marine plans in England

The German EEZ of the North Sea shares a small boundary with the English north east offshore marine plan area and is near to the east offshore marine plan area.

The [East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans](#) were adopted in 2014. Under Section 61 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, marine plans are required to be reviewed and reported on every three years. The most recent [three-year report on the East Marine Plans](#) was published in April 2020. Following the publication, a decision was made to amend or replace the East marine plans. There is no statutory deadline or timeline attached to the decision. We will inform you when the process to amend or replace the plans is scheduled to begin.

The Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency were informed about the preparation of the [Draft North East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan](#) during the planning process. As you will be aware, the draft plan and associated documents were made available for comment during a consultation that ran from the 14th January 2020 for 14 weeks. We anticipate that the final plan will be adopted in spring 2021 subject to approval by ministers.

Within the Environmental Report for the North Sea, we recommend that you amend Section 1.3.1.4 to include the most up to date information regarding marine plans in England, specifically on the North East and on the East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans.

We would encourage the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency to consider relevant policy topics and supporting information in the North East and East Marine Plans, particularly those which may have cross-border impacts and considerations:

- Cables
- Shipping
- Offshore wind
- Cross-border cooperation (North East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans policy only)
- Heritage
- Seascape
- Disturbance to migratory species (North East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans only)
- Marine protected areas (MPAs)
- Biodiversity
- Underwater noise (North East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans policy only)

The MMO's [Seascape marine character assessment](#) may also be of relevance, with the *Dogger Bank Edge Marine Character Area 27* being the most relevant marine character area to the German EEZ.



The draft plan document (Figure 56) shows a proposed offshore wind reservation site (EN19) adjacent to the border with the north east offshore marine plan area. This site has the potential to impinge on several economically important shipping routes in the north east England offshore marine area that continue into the German EEZ. For reference, see [Draft North East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan](#) Technical Annex Figures 10, 11 and 12 in conjunction with plan policies PS-3 and PS-4 that relate to ports and shipping. We understand that due to lack of data, site EN19 is not considered a priority site. We would welcome clarification about how the potential impacts of site EN19 on bordering marine plan areas have been or will be accounted for.

In addition to the proposed offshore wind site, Figure 910 shows cable site LN15 bordering the north east marine plan area, which we assume serves the EN19 reservation area for offshore wind. Based on Section 2.2.3 of the draft plan document, it is not clear if the cable routes in relation to EN19 are anticipated to lie entirely within the German EEZ or to extend into the English north east marine plan area?

Further information on marine plans in England

For further information on marine plans in England referred to above, we recommend using our [Explore Marine Plans](#) service which includes data on marine licenses, environmental designations and specific policy information from English regional marine plans. Supporting evidence underpins all policies and draft policies in the East and North East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans respectively. Policy areas of interest from a cross-border perspective include those for shipping, energy (including cables and offshore wind) and the natural environment.

We will continue to keep you informed of progress with relevant marine plans in England.

We trust these comments are helpful and will assist in your consideration of cross-border matters. If you have any questions about our response, please contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Head of Marine Planning

CC'd



