

# STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ON NORTH SEA ENERGY

## WHO IS INVOLVED?

The project will be carried out by Maritime Spatial Planning authorities and appropriate institutes in the countries bordering the North Sea: the Netherlands (Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management/Rijkswaterstaat), Germany (Maritime and Hydrographic Agency/BSH), France (French Hydrographic Office/SHOM), Denmark (Danish Maritime Agency/DMA), Scotland (Marine Scotland) and the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR).

**Project period** February 2018 - February 2020

**Budget** € 1,364,135

**Funding Programme** European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

**Call** EASME/EMFF/2016/1.2.1.6

**Get to know us at** [www.northseaportal.eu](http://www.northseaportal.eu)



marinescotland



BUNDESAMT FÜR SEESCHIFFFAHRT UND HYDROGRAPHIE



Co-funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund of the European Union

as an aid for Maritime Spatial Planning

SEA NSE



Co-funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund of the European Union

## IMPORTANCE

"The construction of large-scale wind farms will affect the marine environment and other users of the North Sea. Marine mammals, such as the harbour porpoise, will be driven out of their feeding grounds, because they suffer from underwater noise. Seabirds, that forage at sea, will have to move their flight paths because of the wind turbines or could encounter a collision risk. It is important that species can migrate to suitable areas with sufficient food and rest. This is becoming more important if wind farms are being constructed at the same time in different locations. In order to master cross-border cumulative effects of large scale wind farms, new arrangements must be made to foster a uniform, coherent evaluation system that applies to the entire North Sea. This is the purpose of this project." [Leo de Vrees, Project Coordinator, Rijkswaterstaat, NL]

## BACKGROUND

In 2016, North Seas countries signed a Political Declaration on energy cooperation as a follow up of the Paris Climate agreement. North Sea countries are now in the process of preparing Maritime Spatial Plans (MSPs). The growing need for offshore wind park construction in the North Sea will have cross-border impacts. Strategic Environmental Assessment can be used as a decision-making tool during the setup of MSPs, the involvement of stakeholders and implementation of cross-border projects in specific areas. However, EU regulation leaves space for interpretation on how to assess environmental effects which complicates the comparison of results.

## OBJECTIVE

This project SEANSE focuses on a Common Environmental Assessment Framework (CEAF) in 2019, through:

- Developing a coherent approach to SEAs, with a focus on renewable energy and testing it in practice through case studies;
- Creating a coherent understanding of how and when to use this part of the SEA through knowledge transfer and information exchange;
- Demonstrating the benefits of the implementation of a coherent SEA approach for the preparation of national MSPs;
- Facilitating the efficient implementation of the "Political Declaration on energy cooperation between the North Seas Countries".

## COMMON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK (CEAF)

Political Declaration on energy cooperation between the North Seas Countries

Knowledge transfer and information exchange

Demonstration of the benefits

Coherent approach + case studies

SPECIES FOR TESTING THE APPROACH

Common Guillemot (*Uria aalge*)

Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

Harbour Porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*)

### CASE STUDY

### RESPONSIBILITY

East Anglia and IJmuiden Ver  
German Bight  
Dogger Bank

BSH, Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency, DE and RWS, Rijkswaterstaat, NL

Belgium - France North Sea area

SHOM, French Hydrographic Office; FR; contributions by CPMR

East Region of Scotland

Marine Scotland, UK

Pre-analysis of SEA in Danish MSP

DMA, Danish Maritime Authority, DK