



Office/department
Offshore wind

Date
16-09-2024

J no. 2023 - 12449

/ALFSK

Introduction to the report *Compensation Measures*, suggested measures considered applicable to compensate for potential negative implications for the special protection area F113 Sydlige Nordsø

A public consultation of the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of the “plan for Nordsøen I” (offshore wind farms, OWF’s, in an area in the southeastern North Sea) was performed in the period 6th of June to 12th August 2024. On the basis of the Natura 2000 impact assessment, it was assessed in the SEA that with the realization of offshore wind turbines in the planning area Nordsøen I, on the current basis, negative implications for the special protection area SPA113, Sydlige Nordsø, in the form of a displacement effect on the population of wintering Red and Black-throated loons, cannot be ruled out.

There is currently an ongoing public procurement procedure for development of OWFs in the Nordsøen I-area with a tender submission deadline on 5th of December 2024. Following finalization and signing of the concession agreements between the future concessionaires and the Danish Energy Agency (DEA), and in order to obtain a construction license, the concessionaires must perform an environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the concrete OWF-project.

It must be stressed that, it is currently unknown if an EIA for a concrete OWF-project will result in a negative assessment of the implications for the special protection area (SPA), and therefore also to what extent such implications may actually occur. Several factors may influence such an assessment. First of all, the actual size, outline and technical installation of the future OWFs are currently unknown, and the effect on marine birds can, therefore, currently not be assessed precisely. Furthermore, future concessionaires will as part of the EIA need to gather more field data on the distribution of marine birds in order to better assess the possible effects of OWFs on the birds.

If a project must be carried out despite of a negative assessment of the implications for the SPA, a derogation from the [habitat directive](#) may be necessary. Such a derogation will, among other things, demand compensatory measures to be taken to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected.

In order to consider possible options in an early stage in the planning of development of OWFs in the Nordsøen I-area, the DEA has asked NIRAS to

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elaborate a report containing a catalogue of possible measures considered applicable to compensate for potential negative implications for the SPA. This report, including a longlist of possible compensatory measures, is available on ens.dk from the 16th of September 2024. The report was previously made public in its draft form because information therein could be relevant to stakeholders. This catalogue of possible measures is also in its final form only preliminary in the sense that the possible implications on the SPA are uncertain, until an EIA for a concrete OWF-project has been made. At this stage, it is therefore not possible to conclude whether any of the suggested compensatory measures or a combination of the measures are necessary to implement, or whether other measures may be applicable. Furthermore, it is not possible at this point to qualify the possible extent of any individual compensatory measure needed.