

ENERGINET - DANISH OFFSHORE WIND 2030

Cable Burial Risk Assessment

North Sea I - Nymindegab South Export Cable Route

P2719_R6452_Rev1 | 25 June 2024

DOCUMENT RELEASE FORM

Energinet - Danish Offshore Wind 2030

P2719_R6452_Rev1

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North Sea I - Nymindegab South Export Cable Route

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Intertek Metoc is the trading name of Metoc Ltd, a member of the Intertek group of companies.

SUMMARY

Intertek Energy & Water (Intertek) has been appointed by Energinet to conduct a Cable Burial Risk Assessment (CBRA) study for the marine sections of the North Sea Nymindegab South cable route.

Sediment Mobility

Sediment mobility in itself does not pose a threat to a submarine cable, but it can lead to issues with the thermal conductivity of cables (over burial), and exposure of cables (scour); Over burial should be accounted for in the design phase of the cables and is usually dealt with by increasing, universally or locally, the cross-sectional area of the cables. Burial under excess soil can change the thermal properties of the soil and cause hotspots along the cable, while exposure increases the risk of damage due to external aggressors such as trawling and anchoring and potentially mechanical damage from free spans.

There are no areas within cable corridor where there are bedforms present. For the purposes of depth of lowering all depths recommended in this report are assumed to be measured against a horizontal plane which has been determined to be non-mobile and after any required route engineering has been undertaken to flatten mobile sediments.

Fishing Risk

The review of the fishing indicated areas of mobile and static fishing gear along the entire cable route. No fishing protection or exclusion areas from fishing activity were reported.

Moreover, as the entire route is within water depth ranges in which mobile gear fishing could take place, we recommend the cables are given sufficient protection from fishing gear interaction in all sections of the route. The Carbon Trust's guidance indicates that penetration of fishing gear into the seabed is limited to a maximum of 0.3 m penetration even in soft sediment based on previous literature research. Allowing for a Factor of Safety (FoS) of 2 means Recommended Minimum Depth of Lowering (RMDOL) based on fishing risk only would result in a value of 0.60m.

Anchoring Risk

Vessel Automatic Identification System (AIS) data has been used to determine the size and quantity of vessels which operate in the vicinity of the cable route. Vessels are grouped into size categories based on their deadweight tonnage (DWT) from Band A (0-100 DWT) to Band I (150K-200K DWT) and an appropriate associated anchor size is assigned to each band. Analysis of this data determines the probability of anchor-cable interactions for each vessel banding and thus the size of anchor which must be protected against in order to reduce risk to the cable to (As Low as Reasonably Practicable) ALARP.

The probabilistic assessment calculates the annual failure probability of 13% for the entire route (based on anchor risk alone) if surface laid. This value equates to a return period of 7.99 years and a failure probability over the (40 year) lifetime of 99.52%. This is not an acceptable level of risk.

Areas with the highest risk of Annual Failure include zones 1, 7,8 and, 10 These zones are areas of high vessel traffic and soft geology thus; increased anchor drag risk. The lowest zone of risk is zones 12, 14 and 15 given the low vessel traffic reducing all risk of anchor strike.

Note, the key reasons why anchor risk is not the key determinant in most zones is due to both the relatively light vessel densities and also the prevalent presence of soils which prevent anchors from penetrating very deeply.

Recommended Minimum Depth of Lowering (RMDOL)

The above approach results in a RMDOL varying from 0.65m to 1.7m. If these RMDOL values are achieved and maintained over the course of the cable lifetime then this would result in an annual failure rate of 0.00836% which equates to a return period of ~11,957 years and a failure probability over the (40 year) lifetime of 0.33% i.e. "Event rarely expected to occur.".

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GLOSSARY

NTZ

No-Take Zone

O&M

Operation and Maintenance

PPA

Partially Protected Area

PCI

Project of Common Interest

RMDOL

Recommended Minimum Depth of Lowering

SAR

Swept Area Ratio

SBP

Sub-Bottom Profiler

SI

Seabed Index

SSS

Side Scan Sonar

TAC

Total Allowable Catch

TDOL

Target Depth of Lowering

ToP

Top of the Product

VC

Vibro-Core

yr

Year

1. INTRODUCTION

Intertek Energy & Water (Intertek) has been appointed by Energinet to conduct a Cable Burial Risk Assessment (CBRA) study for the marine sections of the North Sea Nymindegab South cable route.

1.1 Project Background

Denmark is developing further offshore wind energy areas and related infrastructure in the Danish North Sea, the inner Danish Waters, and the Danish Baltic Sea as per a decision made by the Danish Parliament in 2022. It is understood that five main subsea cable connections will connect the offshore wind energy in the areas of North Sea I, Kattegat, and Kriegers Flak to the Danish mainland. There will be three cable routes from North Sea I, one from Kattegat, and one from Kriegers Flak as illustrated in the below overview map **[Figure 1-1.](#page-10-2)**

Figure 1-1 Danish Offshore Wind 2030 Investigated Offshore Wind Farm Areas and the Associated Export Cable Corridors (1500m wide)

It is understood that the width of the corridors for the route survey is 1500 m. Energinet anticipates that at least two cables are planned for each corridor. The length of the routes is detailed below in **[Table 1-1.](#page-11-2)**

1.2 Revision List

This is second issue based on comments received from Energinet – Revision 1

1.3 Scope of Work

Intertek has undertaken a thorough analysis and assessment of threats and risks concerning the integrity of the subsea cable throughout its lifetime. We have utilised the geophysical and geotechnical route survey data provided, along with available archive data. We have combined various elements detailed below such as threat identification, frequency analysis, failure assessment, risk assessment, to determine our recommendation for sufficient depth of lowering for installation and operation.

The purpose of this report is to identify any potential areas where activities, such as shipping and fishing, may pose a risk to the integrity of the installed cable and thus derive recommended depth of lowering along the route based on these threats.

The probabilistic method described by the Carbon Trust and used within this report relates to amount of time a vessel spends within a critical distance of the cable and the probability that a vessel might have an incident where the deployment of an anchor is necessary. When an event is certain to occur, its probability is 1.

Assumptions used are considered conservative and 'realistic worst case' which produces higher probabilities than would likely be the case. This enables the route and installation methods to be considered with a higher margin of safety.

Threat Identification:

Intertek completed the identification of an array of potential threats, including but not limited to foundering vessels, dropped objects, anchors, grounding ships, fishing activities, construction undertakings from neighbouring projects, and extraction of raw materials.

Frequency Analysis:

Following the threat identification process, a frequency analysis to evaluate the probability of events associated with identified threats, segmenting the analysis into 100-meter cable sections, was completed. The outcome presented through a series of detailed charts and tables for each individually identified threat, providing a clear understanding of the associated risks.

Failure Assessment:

Based on the frequency analysis and assessment the probability of failure in the event of any encountered threats was calculated. This assessment took into account factors such as the amount of cover on top of the asset and the likelihood of cable failure relative to the frequency of encounters with each identified threat type, ensuring a comprehensive evaluation of potential failure scenarios.

Risk Assessment:

A comprehensive risk assessment, quantifying the total probability of failure (PoF) along the cable route was undertaken.

PoF at intervals of 1 failure per 10,000 years was discussed, determined and agreed by Energinet on the 19/03/2024 as a target failure that provides a robust level of protection. As per Energinet's suggestion, Intertek has used the DNV risk assessment guidelines (see [Table 6-6\)](#page-50-1) aiming for a Category 2 risk " Event rarely expected to occur" that encompasses a 1 in 10,000 PoF.

Additionally, Intertek have provided a representation illustrating how PoF varies with cable depth of lowering. This facilitates informed decision-making regarding risk mitigation strategies.

Recommended Depth of Lowering:

Drawing insights from the risk assessment, Intertek propose a recommended depth of lowering tailored to mitigate the identified risks posed by external threats. This depth of lowering (DOL) varies along the cable route to account for specific risk profiles, ensuring optimal protection of the asset throughout its operational lifespan.

The CBRA study presented in this report has been undertaken following the Carbon Trust's proposed methodology (Carbon Trust, Feb 2015) and steps (see **[Figure 1-2](#page-12-0)**).

Figure 1-2 Burial Risk Assessment Method Flowchart in Line with Carbon Trust CTC835 Guideline

1.4 Definition of Trenching Parameter

Intertek has used the Carbon Trust's definition of Depth of Lowering (DOL) for this study. This is illustrated in **[Figure 1-3.](#page-13-1)**

- **Recommended Minimum Depth of Lowering** A
- B **Target Depth of Lowering**
- C **Target Trench Depth**
- **Depth of Cover** D

Recommended Minimum Depth of Lowering (RMDOL)

This is the minimum DOL recommended for protection from the external threats. It is the direct output of the fishing risk assessment and the probabilistic anchor risk assessment and includes a factor of safety (FoS).

Target Depth of Lowering (TDOL)

This is the depth that will be specified as the target depth to the cable installation contractor. TDOL is a depth which makes best use of what is achievable by industry standard burial tools to gain additional depth beyond RMDOL without incurring a step change in costs. Target DOL is also a practical application of depth which considers the effect burial depth has on tool stability.

Target Trench Depth

This is the trench depth cable installation contractors determine is required to meet TDOL. This is driven by cable properties and the selected trenching tool and is usually the diameter of the cable plus between 0.1 m and 0.4 m beyond the TDOL.

Depth of Cover

The thickness of material on top of the cable after trenching. DOC can vary depending on the sediment type and tidal cycles I.E in areas of fine sand or in stormy locations.

1.5 Relevant Data

Data obtained from the geophysical and geotechnical campaigns and other relevant data sources used in the CBRA are presented in **[Table 1-2](#page-14-2)** below.

Table 1-2 Data Used in the CBRA

Data Type	Name	Information
Survey Bathymetry	NS_ECR1_MBES_XYZ_025m.xyz	0.5m resolution bathymetry over a 1500m survey corridor
	NS_ECR1_CONTOURS_LIN.shp	0.5m bathymetry contours over the extent of the survey corridor
Open-Source Bathymetry	EMODnet Bathymetry	EMODnet Digital Terrain Model (DTM) is generated for European sea regions from selected bathy survey data sets (1975 to 2013 using SBES & MBES) and composite DTMs, while gaps with no data coverage are completed by integrating the GEBCO Digital Bathymetry. 200m Resolution
AIS Data	Intertek P2671 AIS Data	5-minute time series data of shipping from 07/02/2023 to 06/02/2024 +/- 5NM either side of the route centreline provided by Exmile Solutions Ltd
Geology	Shallow Geological Isopach	Draft shallow geological isopach interpreted from sub-bottom profiler data and correlated with side scan sonar imagery and bathymetric digital terrain model data
Geotechnical Samples	Vibrocore, Cone Penetrometer Tests and grab sample logs	Draft geotechnical sample logs from Vibrocore (VC), Cone Penetration Test (CPT) and Grab Sample (GS)
Desktop Study	Screening of seabed geological conditions for the offshore wind farm area North Sea and the adjacent cable corridor area	Geological desktop study of the area undertaken by GEUS
Fishing Intensity	EMODnet	Datasets on fishing intensity in the EU waters by sea basin, created every year by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). In the 2020 Cogea started to collect and harmonize them according to the EMOdnet Human Activities dataset schema. This dataset is updated yearly. The fisheries overview data concern the spatial distribution of average annual fishing effort (mW fishing hours) by ecoregion and by gear type. Fishing effort data are only shown for vessels >12 m having VMS.
Registry information on fishing vessels	Danish Ship Register (DAS)	General registry of the Danish fishing fleet including information on registered vessels by fishing area, method, base port, length, power, etc.
Annual Report on Danish Fisheries	Danish Fisheries Agency	Annual statistics for marine fisheries for 2022 including information on FAO area of catch and species.

1.6 Limitations

The Cable Burial Risk Assessment analysis presented herein has been undertaken using the data listed in **[Table 1-2](#page-14-2)** provided at the time of analysis. It is important to note that, as of the completion of this analysis and the writing of this report, the geophysical interpretation, geotechnical factual and integrated reports were not available from the survey contractor. Additionally, no alignment charts were available. Intertek's analysis of the soils conditions along the route is based solely on the analysis of the draft geotechnical coring and cone penetrometer logs.

This report reflects the most current understanding of the site conditions. It should be noted that the analysis does not take into account future shipping patterns that will result from the construction of the windfarm since to many variables will be assumed for this verification and was not part of the initial methodology. Future revisions of this report may be necessary once the completed geophysical and geotechnical interpretation becomes available for review and integration into the analysis, and as shipping patterns evolve.

2. CABLE ROUTEING

Export cable route was received from Energinet as part of the data package. The export cable route extends from landfall location to the planned offshore wind location, shown below in **[Figure 1-2](#page-12-0)**.

Kilometre Positions (KP) were calculated using a tool in ArcGIS using the provided survey centreline shapefile.

The cable corridor surveyed was 1500m.

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Cable Route

LOCATION OVERVIEW CABLE BURIAL RISK ASSESSMENT NORTH SEA I - NYMINDEGAB SOUTH

3. COLLATION OF DATA AND SUITABILITY REVIEW

This section provides an overview of the bathymetrical and geological data along the surveyed corridor, based on the interpretation of the geophysical and geotechnical data. All data obtained from the geophysical and geotechnical survey has been correlated with each other, and the output from this has been compared to the existing data sources.

3.1 Bathymetric Data

The seabed topography along the route is characterised by the presence of areas of mobile sediments, outcrop of bedrock, boulders, linear features such as furrows or striations of coarser sediment and varying relief. The knowledge of these features is critical to any cable installation feasibility study. This section describes the existing bathymetry data in the study area and the resolution and quality of each dataset.

Sources for the bathymetry datasets can be found in Section 1.5 and is summarised below:

- EMODnet Bathymetry 100m resolution
- Survey Data $-$ 0.5m resolution bathymetric soundings
- Survey Data 0.5m bathymetry contours

The open-source data (EMODnet Bathymetry) was used to define the route centreline for survey. These sources provide a good overview of the surrounding area and highlight large features such as sandwaves. There is good overall correlation between the open-source data and the acquired high resolution survey data.

3.1.1 Suitability of Data

The bathymetric soundings obtained for this study is of very high quality and processed to a high resolution (0.5m). It has highlighted areas of shoaling, potential areas of sediment mobility, areas of outcrop and in some cases confirmed the presence of wrecks and obstructions.

The offshore dataset provided by EMODnet is a dataset suitable to show water depths, areas of shoaling and bathymetric lows. The low-resolution dataset confirms the presence of larger features in the study area, but its resolution is too low to determine any migration rate of mobile bedforms. The acquired, bathymetric data could be used to provide this insight, if compared to a similar, but temporally different data set.

An example of the typical slopes encountered within the survey corridor has been provided by the survey contractor and shown in **Figure 3-1**. The zones were derived from the geological zonation and then refined taking into account the shipping patterns. The bathymetry profile of the cable route is displayed in **Figure 3-2.**

The bathymetric metadata and Digital Terrain Model data products have been derived from the EMODnet Bathymetry portal - http://www.emodnet-bathymetry.eu.; © EuroGeographics, © TurkStat.; © Energinet;

NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

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BATHYMETRY CABLE BURIAL RISK ASSESSMENT NORTH SEA I - NYMINDEGAB SOUTH

Figure 3-2 Bathymetric Profile along the Cable Route Centreline (East to West)

3.2 Geophysical Data

The geophysical data was surveyed by GEOxyz, producing the following results. Side scan sonar (SSS) data has been used for interpretation of surficial geology, identification of seabed features, and to select contacts. Sediment classes distinguished from SSS imagery are correlated with grab sample, vibrocore (VC) and cone penetration test (CPT) results. Topographical features identified from SSS records have been correlated with bathymetric digital terrain models processed from the bathymetric sounds acquired using the multibeam echo sounder (MBES). Shallow geology interpretations are based on sub-bottom profiler (SBP) data correlated with the geotechnical sampling results. SSS and MBES data is also used to corroborate the SBP data interpretation in the uppermost layers. Magnetometer records collected during the survey are used to identify cables and ferrous objects on the seafloor within the survey corridor.

It should be noted that Intertek did not do the initial geophysical interpretation. Furthermore, not all the data was available at the time of writing this CBRA (see sectio[n 3.2.2\)](#page-22-2).

3.2.1 Geophysical Survey

3.2.1.1 Bathymetry and Seabed Morphology

The route is generally characterised by gradually sloping seabed from the landfall to the end of the route. The maximum depth along the route is 23m at KP23.0. Moderate gradients are generally associated with areas of sand and till. No mobile bedforms are present along the route.

3.2.1.2 Seabed Sediments and Features

The surficial sediments vary mainly between very loose SAND to low strength CLAY.

The interpretation of surficial sediment types was derived from the acoustic character of the SSS data, and the interpretations were aided by MBES bathymetric 3D surfaces and SBP data. During the review of the SSS survey data, higher intensity sonar returns (darker grey to black colours) were interpreted as relatively coarser grained sediments, and lower intensity sonar returns (lighter grey colours) were interpreted as relatively finer grained sediments. Bathymetric data was used to correct the interpretation for the effects of seabed slope on sonar returns. The correlation with the geotechnical results was initially based on the field logs and further verified with the final geotechnical results.

Seabed sediment classifications are as follows:

Table 3-1 Seabed Sediment Classification from SSS data

Seabed Feature Classifications are as follows:

Table 3-2 Seabed Feature Classification

Interpreted Seabed Feature	Criteria ¹
Ripples	Wave length <15 m, Height <1.0 m
Megaripples	Wave length 15-25 m, Height 1-3 m
Sandwaves	Wave length 25-200 m, Height >3 m
Boulder Field Occasional boulders All >0.5 m	Concentration of 10 to 20 boulders within a maximum area of 100×100 m
Boulder Field Numerous boulders All >0.5 m	Concentration of >20 boulders within a maximum area of 100×100 m
Trawl Mark Area	Concentration of numerous trawl marks
Current Lineation	Current lineation

¹ Note, there is no standard for bedform descriptions. Criteria presented in **Table 3-2** are as defined by route survey contractor. Alternative criteria are also common.

3.2.1.3 Shallow Geological Features

The shallow geology along the route is characterised by variations of units of, CLAY, CLAY overlying SAND , SAND overlying CLAY and SAND units. No subcropping or outcropping bedrock was noted from the analysis of the geotechnical information provided.

The classifications of the shallow geology have been derived through a combination of analysis and interpretation of the acoustic character of the SBP data and was modified according to the geotechnical results. A comparison with available background information was made and broken down into major sediment types along the route (**[Table 3-3](#page-22-1)**).

Table 3-3 Shallow Geology Soil Types and Lithology

3.2.2 Suitablility of Geophysical Data

It is understood that the client requested early delivery of CBRA before the full geophysical survey data and reports are/were available therefore, they were not used in this project. Therefore, the geophysical data provided for this study is mixture of suitable and not usable;

Seabed features were provided in the form of a shapefiles that were of medium quality highlighting some of the seabed features present. Similarly, surficial deposits and SBP isopach's were deemed of good quality and were useable for this project. However, SSS mosaics were not provided and the RAW SBP was unusable with no TIFS provided.

The final geophysical survey report was not provided

3.3 Geotechnical Data

The geotechnical survey, undertaken by GEO, consisted of vibrocore samples (VC) and cone penetration tests (CPT).

In total, 21 CPT locations were carried out, with 2 re-attempts required.

For the vibrocores, a total of 21 locations were carried out with 2 re-attempts required.

3.3.1 Vibrocores

The vibrocores were recovered using electrically powered vibrocoring units. The corers were fitted with 6m long core barrel and used clear PVC 100mm OD liner. A 'basket-spring type' core catcher was

fitted above the cutting shoe, in the base of the vibrocore barrel, to maximise retention of the penetrated sediment during retraction from the seabed and subsequent retrieval of the unit to the vessel deck.

During VC operations, there were instances of re-attempts being required largely due to initial poor recovery. Poor penetration and subsequent low material recovery were generally a function of dense to very dense coarse granular material or high strength cohesive material being encountered.

3.3.2 Cone Penetration Testing

CPTs were carried out to a maximum depth of 5.5m using 10cm2 electric piezocones operated from a seabed CPT unit,

The aim at each CPT location was to reach the target penetration depth of 6m. Re-attempts were required due to either initial failure to reach the required depth, concern with the overall test application class, or due to electrical power and/or communication issues with the seabed CPT unit.

3.3.3 Suitability of Geotechnical Data

Each VC and CPT log are clearly presented and provided the relevant geological information at each location.

3.4 Installation Constraints Identified from Available Data

- No surficial boulder fields were identified by Intertek from the bathymetric data.
- No bedrock outcrops/subcrops were identified from the geotechnical logs.
- No third-party infrastructure to cross.
- ▪ No Mobile sediments were identified from the bathymetric data.

3.5 AIS Shipping Data

3.5.1 Methodology

AIS (Automatic Identification System) is an automatic tracking system used on ships for identifying and locating vessels by electronically exchanging data with other nearby ships and AIS base stations and satellites. The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) requires AIS to be fitted aboard international voyaging ships with gross tonnage of 300 or more tons, and all passenger ships regardless of size. This would cover almost all commercial vessels and most private vessels that would be of risk to the cable; however, some smaller fishing vessels could be missing from the AIS dataset.

Information provided by the AIS equipment usually consists of unique identification number for each vessel, vessel name, vessel type, vessel position, course, and speed. Other attributes like vessel deadweight tonnage and draught may be completed by the AIS supplier.

To quantify the anchoring risk to the cable, Intertek procured historical AIS data for a 12-month period (Exmile Solutions, 2024) between February 2023 and February 2024. Data were comprised of both terrestrial (AIS-T) and satellite derived (AIS-S) sources. Each record included a series of standardised attributes, as detailed in **[Table 3-4](#page-24-0)**. This wide study area allows a clear insight into vessel movements by vessel type/size in the surrounding geography.

Table 3-4 Standard Attributes used During Data Processing

3.5.2 Data Sources, Gaps and Omissions

The data sources for this section are shown below in **[Table 3-5](#page-24-1)**.

Table 3-5 AIS Data Sources

As an initial quality control measure, a gap analysis was undertaken removing duplicated entries of a ship's position where the same timestamp was reported. The procedure also involved using public databases to fill in missing attributes including vessel length, vessel type and deadweight tonnage. Although a significant portion of the vessels had missing DWT values, these were accounted for by aggregating vessel types into broader and more meaningful categories, reducing the number of classes from 60 to 13. The broad categories were selected to be consistent with the classes reported on the EMODnet Human Activities portal (European Comission, 2024).

Once aggregated, an empirical relationship was established between vessel length and deadweight tonnage for each new vessel type (see section 6.2). From here, records that were missing information on a vessel's deadweight tonnage could be inferred by applying the formula to the vessel length. Records where key attributes could not be sourced from public databases or inferred through empirical formulae were omitted from the analysis as they would not be successfully sorted into anchor band categories for the CBRA.

To ensure the best resolution for the data and future CBRA, data was interpolated from a 5-minute time step to a 1-minute time step using an in-house application. The interpolation process produced regular points between vessel pings with time intervals exceeding 1 minute. Vessel density grids for the area were produced by overlaying a square grid comprising 0.5 $km²$ cells to determine the density of track lines on an overall, yearly/seasonal basis.

3.5.3 AIS Analysis

3.5.3.1 Vessel Traffic

The main vessel traffic crossing the proposed cable route is in the form of tanker, tug, passenger, pleasure crafts, sailing, cargo, fishing vessels, and service. **Figure 3-3** below shows the total vessel density for 12 months.

Seasonal variations show the highest months of vessel traffic are present in Winter (Jan – Mar). The lowest months are in the Autumn (Oct – Dec). The seasonal and vessel heat maps are presented in **[Appendix D](#page-75-0)**

3.5.3.2 Anchorages

No anchorages were identified in the vicinity of the cable route.

3.6 Vessel Incident Data

For this study, Intertek has reviewed information from the Danish Maritime Accident Investigation Board available o[n Home \(dmaib.com\).](https://dmaib.com/) No investigations or accidents were reported in 2024 near the North Sea 1 NS cable corridor.

CABLE BURIAL RISK ASSESSMENT NORTH SEA I - NYMINDEGAB SOUTH

AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS) Vessel Density (February 2023 - February 2024)

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4. ASSESSMENT OF SEABED CONDITIONS

This section presents the breakdown of the North Sea Nymindegab South cable route based on distinct seabed conditions based on our review of the available geotechnical and regional geological data.

Intertek reviewed the provided cone penetrometer test (CPT) logs and the associated core logs to interpret a ground model along the route centreline. The following shear strength classification for cohesive soils and the relative densities classifications for non-cohesive soils. If a unit comprised of CLAY with thin band of SAND then this band was omitted. This creates conservatism in our analysis of the potential anchor penetration. In the absence of isopachs indicating a change of unit (e.g. unit pinching out) transition was made at an equal distance between the geotechnical samples.

Table 4-1 Interpreted Undrained Shear Strength Parameter and Classification

Table 4-2 Interpreted Relative Density Parameter and Classification

Table 4-3 Geotechnical Zones

5. RISK IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT

To specify an appropriate DOL for the North Sea Nymindegab South cable, Intertek conducted a risk identification and assessment considering both the likelihood and severity of the most common external threats to the cable.

Risks that pose a threat to installed marine cables can be classified as either natural or anthropogenic risks. The following sections describe the most common risks affecting marine cables.

The completed Risk Register is provided in **[Appendix B](#page-60-0)**.

5.1 Natural Hazards

5.1.1 Sediment Mobility

Sediment mobility in itself does not pose a threat to a submarine cable, but it can lead to issues with the thermal conductivity of cables (over burial), and exposure of cables (scour); Over burial should be accounted for in the design phase of the cables and is usually dealt with by increasing, universally or locally, the cross-sectional area of the cables. Burial under excess soil can change the thermal properties of the soil and cause hotspots along the cable, while exposure increases the risk of damage due to external aggressors such as trawling and anchoring and potentially mechanical damage from free spans.

There are no areas within cable corridor where there are bedforms present. For the purposes of depth of lowering all depths recommended in this report are assumed to be measured against a horizontal plane which has been determined to be non-mobile and after any required route engineering has been undertaken to flatten mobile sediments.

5.1.2 Waves and Currents

Waves and currents may cause abrasion and stress to an exposed cable where it crosses over rock or rough terrain. Sufficient burial and protection of a subsea cable will reduce the risk of waves and currents to a negligible level.

In addition, wave/currents can mobilise sediment which may lead to increase in the thermal environment for cables if burial depth increases. Sediment mobilisation can also lead to exposure of the cable through de-burial, causing loss of protection against external aggressors.

5.1.3 Extreme Weather

Extreme weather is unexpected, unusual, unpredictable, severe or unseasonal weather and involves weather at the extremes of the historical distribution. While the North Sea Nymindegab South cable is geographically in a relatively weather-stable area, sufficient depth of lowering and protection will be required to deal with the effects of extreme weather such as excessive scour and extensive movement of mobile sediments. For the purposes of burial targets all depths recommended in this report are assumed to be measured against a horizontal plane which has been determined to be nonmobile and after any required mobile bedform engineering has been undertaken to flatten mobile sediments.

5.1.4 Outcropping Bedrock

Bedrock and hard sediment are considered an issue when the seabed proves to have properties that affect, and effectively inhibit, the use of the common trenching methods.

Bedrock and hard sediment may cause problems with reaching the required burial depth. In addition, topographical irregularities in bedrock or hard sediment may cause freespan, point load, and abrasion.

Methods to avoid problems with bedrock or hard sediment include appropriate micro-routing, deployment of heavier trenching machines, or the installation of additional cable protection.

There was no evidence of outcropping bedrock within the cable route corridor in the data provided.

5.1.5 Other Geohazards

Geohazards are geological states that may lead to risk and damage, induced by natural processes or human activity. Marine geohazards include any feature or process that could harm, endanger, or affect seafloor facilities, cables, pipelines etc. Marine geohazards can be a local and / or regional site and soil conditions having a potential to develop into seafloor failure events, which cause losses of life or damage to health, environment or field installations (Camargo *et al.*, Feb 2019).

Various geological processes and features can induce hazards. Some of the more well known, due to their high destructive power are earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides, and associated tsunamis. Others generally do not cause direct damage to societies but can affect engineered structures. These include pockmarks, mud volcanoes, and mobile bedforms. Some manifest themselves on the surface of the seafloor, while others occur in the subsurface.

No evidence of volcanos or landslides were identified in the literature or the provided survey data. Minor earthquakes have been identified within the wider region (Gregersen *et al*.,1998).

5.2 Anthropogenic Hazards

5.2.1 Shipping

Shipping represents an anchoring hazard to a cable on or in the seabed. Vessels that drop their anchors have the potential to interact with the cables if the anchor is dragged along the cable route or dropped directly on the cable. Ships in transit do not typically anchor under normal conditions and planned anchoring normally takes place within a designated area. Contact with an anchor is often catastrophic for the cable as the forces applied by a moving anchor can be extremely large. The anchoring hazard may result from:

- Insufficient protection.
- Emergency anchoring (where an anchor is deployed to prevent collision or grounding).
- Accidental anchoring (where an anchor falls unexpectedly from a vessel due to equipment impact or operator error). Accidental anchoring is accentuated by proximity to a port where, for navigational reasons such as the traffic density, proximity of obstructions, shallow waters and other vessels, anchors are more likely to be readied for deployment.
- **EXECT** A vessel being anchored inadequately (where an anchor is deployed but drags longer than necessary along the seabed prior to embedment).

All charted anchorage areas were identified and avoided as part of the routing study hence accidental anchoring and inadequate anchoring are not relevant to this study. Please refer to **Appendix F** for additional information on Navigation and Shipping in the vicinity of the cable route.

5.2.1.1 Unintentional anchor drags

Intertek is aware that in some cases, unintentional anchor drags are feasible as a potential hazard. However, Intertek has not investigated these deployments, especially for large commercials vessel.

The unintentional anchoring risk for large commercial vessels carrying anchors capable of causing significant damage to a buried cable is considered extremely low. Vessels of this size are usually fitted with secure anchor mechanisms and the redundancy of machinery installed to prevent such a mechanical failure accusing is high (DNV, 2010).

Similarly, the impact of unintentional deployment on smaller leisure vessels is harder to quantify given smaller sizes of anchors and different mechanisms to secure anchors during transit.

Intertek has reviewed literature on this topic and has not been able to determine the likely hood of intentional anchor drop and drag risk. Therefore, the risk of accidental anchor deployment for these vessels is not considered probable enough to include in our assessment

5.2.1.2 Ports and Harbours

There is one port within 30km of the study area this is Hivde Sande, however there are numerous ports and harbours north and south of the study area , ranging from large ferry and goods ports to small fishing and recreational harbours. There are two major ports which have more of an influence on the Project area these are located both northeast and south east of the North Sea 1 study area, there are also various small harbours and marinas located further south of the study area;

- Port of Esbjerg
- Port of Thyboron
- Port of Romo
- Nordby Havn, Fanø
- Hvide Sande
- **Ringkobing**
- Sylt Marina

5.2.2 Summary of Shipping Related Features

Shipping related features within the study area are outlined below.

5.2.2.1 Wrecks

According to UKHO and Navionics data sets, there are nine known Shipwrecks within the study area.

5.2.2.2 Dredging and Waste Disposal

Within the study area there are no waste disposal sites located within the study area or within the vicinity of the study area. There are three dredge site locations which are located within 6 km of the study area (Emodenet, 2023).

5.2.2.3 Lighthouses

There are five lighthouses within study area, four of these are located in the Hvide Sande region in Denmark, and the fifth lighthouse is located Lyngvig.

5.2.2.4 Anchorage

There are no anchorages present within the study area, however the main anchorages outside the study area are;

- Port of Esbjerg
- Port of Thyboron

5.2.2.5 Energy

At the time of writing no offshore wind farms, oil and gas/hydrocarbon platforms or nuclear energy plants are within the study area. Furthermore, one power cable crosses the study area, this is Viking Link interconnector, which runs from Lincolnshire, UK to southern Jutland, Denmark, this is a 1400 MW which cable measures approximately 765km.

There are three active pipelines within the study area, PL1014 PR is operated by Dong Efterforskning og Produktion A/S and is used for gas transportation and measures 0.25 km. PL1017_PR is operated by Maersk Oil and is an active gas pipeline measuring 0.21km. PL1007_PR is an active oil pipeline which measures 0.21m and is operated by Maersk Oil.

5.2.3 Fishing Gear Interaction

Fishing is a risk to the cable as certain fishing activities and gear are in contact with and/or penetrate the seabed. Literature review and analysis of data has shown that there are benthic fishing activities (dredging, trawling, netting) in proximity to the cable route. It is difficult to determine specific types of gear used so the depth of lowering and protection methods are derived from the maximum depth of penetration from fishing.

Further information on the fishing gear and activities in the vicinity of the cable route are provided in **Appendix G.**

5.2.3.1 Overview

There are over 2700 fishing vessels containing 1900 crew and supporting approximately 8000 jobs in Denmark (Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, 2024). The fishing study has been carried out without consultation, however the following key European and Danish Sea fishing organisations were identified as being relevant to the area:

- **Baltic Fishermen's Association**
- **European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO)**
- The Pelagic Advisory Council (AC)
- North Sea AC
- European Bottom Fisheries Alliance (EBFA)
- Association of Sustainable Fisheries (ASF)
- International Coalition of Fisheries Association (ICFA)
- European Fisheries Alliance (EUFA)
- Ministry of Environment and Food
- Ministry for Business
- Danish Fisheries Association (DFA)

5.2.3.2 Data Sources

The principal sources of data and information used in the complication of the fishing section are outlined in **[Table 5-1](#page-32-0)** below.

Table 5-1 Fishing Study Principal Data Sources and Information

5.2.3.3 Data Gaps

Vessels under 12 meters are not included in the AIS data (positional records) that has been used to inform this study. Although these smaller vessels must be taken into account for Navigational Risk Assessment (NRA) and the impact on other sea users, they are not seen as a major risk factor to the assets. The majority of fishing vessels potentially active in area of relevance to the Project that are less than 12 m in length are minor artisanal vessels and to a lesser extent longliners and purse seiners. The fishing gear used by these vessels have limited potential to cause negative interactions with subsea cables. Therefore, this lack of data is not seen as a hindrance to the conclusions of the report with regard to risks to the Project during its operational phase.

The presence of fishing vessels under 12 m in length, particularly those that operate static gears, may result in conflict with the Project during early surveys and installation works. It is recommended that local fisheries organisations are consulted with to gather information on vessels not captured in the AIS dataset that are potentially active in the area of the Project.

5.2.4 Dredging/Aggregate Extraction/Subsea Mining/Dumping

No dredging, aggregate extraction, subsea mining or dumping areas were observed in the vicinity of the cable corridor.

5.2.5 Telecommunication Cables

According to EMODnet, 2024 there at five telecommunication cable that transit through the study area, these cables all make landfall in Denmark. The telecommunication cables include:

- ODIN 2
- TAT14 Segment k(1)
- TAT14 Segment N
- CANTAT 3
- \blacksquare UK DK 4

5.2.6 Other Cables

No third-party assets were identified from the survey data provided or within the cable corridor.

5.3 Risk Assessment and Evaluation Criteria

In this section, the risk acceptance criteria are discussed to allow implementation of the results of the probability of failure and consequence of failure assessment. The key output of this risk register being a probabilistic assessment of the risk to the cable after burial options are completed to a specified depth of lowering.

[Table 5-2](#page-34-1) shows the risk matrix that we developed for the purpose of this project. The generic meaning of the colour code is indicated in the legend below the Figure. The principle works as follows: an event, such as a cable failure, has a probability of happening, and has a severity. The combination gives a location in the risk matrix and from that follows required next steps.

Table 5-2 Risk Matrix

The severities are defined for two different categories, cost and performance, as shown in **[Table 5-3](#page-34-2)**, while the definition of the likelihood is shown in **[Table 5-4](#page-35-2)**.

Table 5-3 Severity Definition

Euros have been converted where £1=€1.18 at 16:34 on 18/02/2024.

5.4 Risk Mitigation

There are several remedial methods of protection that can be considered to reduce the risk to the cable. The principal method of protection for most modern cable systems is burial into the seabed. In general, an activity must penetrate through the material above the burial to interact with the cable.

It may be noted that there are instances in which utility crossings, joints, HDD exits or extremely hard soil conditions (e.g., bedrock) preclude burial or reduce the depth achievable. In such instances, there are three primary means of remedial protection which can be used:

- Concrete mattresses
- Rock placement
- ▪ Articulated shell

5.5 Final Route Zonation

The final route segmentation used for the probabilistic assessment was segmented according to changes in risk profile resulting from changes in:

- Seabed geology
- External risk factors (e.g. Anchoring risk variation by location and water depth)

The final cable segmentation for the cable route is presented in the Cable Burial Risk Assessment (CBRA) Summary Table **(Section [7](#page-52-0)**) and is shown below in **Figure 5-1**

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A

CBRA Zones

LOCATION OVERVIEW CABLE BURIAL RISK ASSESSMENT NORTH SEA I - VEDERSØ KLIT

CBRA Zone

Wind Farm Site

Legend

6. PROBABILISTIC RISK ASSESSMENT

This section describes the methodology and results used to assess the fishing and anchoring risk the North Sea Nymindegab South cable system.

All relevant factors are assessed for a cable route on a section-by-section basis.

6.1 Fishing Risk Assessment Methodology

The review of the fishing assessment indicated mobile and static fishing areas present along the entire cable route. No fishing protection or areas excluded from fishing activity were reported.

Moreover, as the entire route is within water depth range in which mobile gear fishing could take place, we recommend the cable is given sufficient protection from potential fishing gear interaction along the entire route.

The Carbon Trust' guidance indicates that penetration of fishing gear into the seabed is limited to a maximum of 0.3 m penetration even in soft sediment based on previous literature research.

Adding a FoS of 2 to account for measurement errors and deformation of soil beneath fishing gear gives a RMDOL of 0.60m for fishing risk alone.

6.2 Vessel and Anchors Bands

To facilitate easier analysis of the vessel traffic, the vessels were grouped into seven deadweight tonnage bands. This allowed a set range of anchor sizes to be used to characterise those carried by shipping fleets in the tonnage bands. This is shown below in **[Table 6-1](#page-39-0)**

The vessels' DWT were calculated from the vessel length data supplied in the AIS data. The methodology to calculate the vessels' DWT is as follows:

1. Create a list of all unique vessels present in the AIS data set.

For each vessel category (Cargo, Tanker, Passenger, etc) research the DWT information online (https://www.marinetraffic.com/) using vessel MMSI number for a sufficient set of vessels per category (30 to 50 vessels' DWT were researched online per category).

2. For each vessel category, plot the DWT vs Length and derive a conservative power trendline that fits the distribution of data points.

intertek

Based on the above process, the following empirical formulas were derived by Intertek and used to calculate the vessels' DWT:

$$
DWT_{cargo} = 0.0017 \times L^{3.2551}
$$

$$
DWT_{Tanker} = 0.0025 \times L^{3.175}
$$

$$
DWT_{Passerger}^2 = 0.0583 \times L^{2.1278}
$$

$$
DWT_{Vessel < 70m} = 0.0009 \times L^{3.3717}
$$

Where:

DWT = Vessel deadweight tonnage (tonnes)

 $L = V$ essel length (m)

Once the vessel deadweight tonnage is known, the theoretical anchor mass can be calculated by the following empirical formula proposed by Luger as referenced in the Submarine Power Cables book by Worzyk, (this is recognised as an acceptable approach by the Carbon Trust's CTC-835):

$$
y = 7 \times 10^{-13} x^3 - 6 \times 10^{-7} x^2 + 0.1635x + 2162.2
$$

Where:

 $y =$ Anchor mass (kg)

x = Vessel deadweight tonnage (upper DWT boundary of each band) (tonnes)

The Carbon Trust's guidance shows the Luger formula to be a good fit with the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) rules for vessel DWT between 10,000 and at least up to 100,000. Thus, for the vessel Band with a DWT up to 10,000 (Bands A & B), Intertek has used the estimated anchor size from Table 9 of Ref 1, for Bands C-E we have used Luger's formula and for Bands F-G we have used a chart from a presentation given by Luger.

We then used an anchor catalogue to select realistic stockless anchor dimensions based on the theoretical anchor mass calculated. The "Hall" pattern anchor is used for Bands A-E and "Spek" is used for Bands F and G as these are typical stockless anchors in common use, especially on older vessels. These types of anchors have a relatively long fluke length for its unit mass and a large opening angle, which equates to more penetration for a given fluke length.

 $²$ The relationship between DWT and vessel length would normally be expected to be closer to the</sup> cube of the length than the square. However, as demonstrated in the **[Appendix D](#page-75-0)**, the formula is a good fit to the data set obtained from research.

Table 6-1 Vessel and Anchor Size Bands

6.3 Probabilistic Model

Intertek have developed a robust probabilistic assessment to determine the probability of interaction between an anchor and an installed cable based on local data for shipping traffic intensities, derived from historical AIS data. The model predicts the probability of a buried cable being struck because of anchoring. The probability of cable-anchor interaction decreases as DoL is increased beyond the maximum penetration depth of each anchor size.

The method takes account of:

- Shipping traffic intensity by vessel size;
- Probability of engine failure;
- Probability of an emergency anchor deployment;
- Dragging distance of an anchor; and
- **Protection factor provided by soils.**

The assessment provides the annual probability of a failure, which can in turn be used to calculate the mean time to failure (MTTF) due to anchoring. It should be recognised that it does not predict a failure time and that failure in year one is equally as likely as in any subsequent year.

The probabilities are calculated for a range of vessel and anchor sizes. The anchor size for the upper end of the vessel tonnage band is used, as indicated in **[Table 6-1.](#page-39-0)**

The probability of failure of the cable because of damage caused by emergency anchoring is calculated using the following equation:

³ Within this band there are a significant number of vessels present that are too small to carry an anchor of this mass. As such, the selected anchor mass represents a conservative approach

 $P_{anchor\ damage\ per\ km} = K \times P_{loss} \times P_{depth} \times P_{fa}$

Zones of Interest

A vessel does not immediately drop an anchor when it encounters engine problems. It drifts for a period while trying to recover from the engine problem. If unrecoverable, it slows down to below approximately 1 knot before dropping an anchor. Anchoring at speeds above 1 knot will most likely lead to vessel structural damage. Defining a Zone of Interest which is greater than just directly adjacent to the cable route allows for a potential period spent drifting while trying to recover the engine and/or slow down sufficiently to allow anchoring to take place. This means that the cables will not only be affected by vessels that are directly above it.

The Zones of Interest for the cable routes for each individual cable segments are defined as a 2km buffer around each segment. **Figure 5-1** shows the cable route segments and associated Zones of Interest used.

K - Total number of ship hours in sample box

This can be obtained by interrogating the historical AIS data. The AIS data has been interpolated to provide a location every 1 minute.

A fishnet grid at 0.5 km² resolution was created and intersected with the interpolated points. The sum of vessel hours was represented within each grid cell. Each zone of the cable route was intersected with the 0.5km² grid cells and all these values were used to represent each the vessel/hours/year/km² for the route within that zone. This value is then multiplied by the drag distance(m)/1000m. The fishnet grid is shown below in **Figure 6-1**

The Drag distance (D_{ship}) is defined by the following equation derived from the carbon trust (Carbon Trust, 2015).

$$
D_{ship} = \frac{m \cdot V_{ship}^2}{4 \cdot UHC}
$$

Where:

In this case, displacement has been derived from the Carbon Trusts (Carbon Trust, 2015) methodology and vessel speed is assumed to be 2 knots based on industry standards. Intertek is aware the 4 knots is recorded as per the Carbon Trust's guidelines if vessel speed is not known, however 2 knots is used as a very conservative approach, since slower vessels are more likely to drop anchor.

UHC has been derived from Sotra's Anchor and chain handbook (Sorta, 2021). The handbook used provides three different UHC equations for different Seabed types (Sand and Clay, Medium Clay and Very soft clay and Mud), therefore three different UHC values have been used based on seabed geology. UHC and Dship values per vessel bands are presented in **[Table 6-2](#page-43-0)**.

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A

Fishnet Grid Extent

LOCATION OVERVIEW CABLE BURIAL RISK ASSESSMENT NORTH SEA I - VEDERSØ KLIT

Cable Route Fishnet Grid (0.5km²)

Cable Corridor (1.5km)

Wind Farm Site

Legend

Table 6-2 UHC and Dship Values per Vessel Band

Vessel density numbers are provided in **Appendix D**.

Ploss - Probability of engine failure

This is taken from a report compiled by DNV (Det Norske Veritas) for the Marine & Coastguard Agency for coastal waters around the UK. The value used in the calculations is 0.00015 / hr (equivalent to an average of 1.3 / yr of continuous vessel operation). In general, this figure is probably somewhat conservative.

Pdeploy - Probability of anchor operation:

The anchor will not be dropped in every emergency situation. This depends on the local geography, local bathymetry and the Vessel Master's knowledge.

[Table 6-3](#page-44-0) provides the P_{deploy} factors which have been applied in this CBRA.

Table 6-3 Pdeploy Values by Vessel Band and Water Depth

Pfa - Protection factor:

This considers the protection offered by soil cover. P_{fa} is a combination between the anchor penetration depth in different soil condition and the actual cable DOL and is either 0 or 1. If the cable DoL is greater than the maximum anchor penetration depth (including FoS) for a given anchor size then Pfa equals to 0 for that anchor size. Conversely, if cable DoL is less than or equals to the anchor penetration depth (including FoS) for a given anchor size then P_{fa} equals to 1 for that anchor size.

Anchor penetration depths for SANDS and CLAYS (or SAND/CLAY mixes) are typically calculated by taking the sine of the fluke opening angle and multiplying by the fluke length (for Hall anchors this is 45°). This is due to observations that anchor shanks are typically supported by the soil as they are dragged over it. However, EXTREMELY LOW STRENGTH SILTS and CLAYS (i.e. with shear strength \leq 10kPa) are unable to support the shank and as such penetration can be significantly deeper – 3 times the sine 45° of fluke length is typically used in the industry (note these soils are not present on the route). In addition, industry understanding is that HIGH STRENGTH CLAYS (≥100kPa) prevent flukes penetrating at all and where soils with shear strength of this level or above are present on the route in underlying layers we have designated the depth they are at as the maximum depth any anchor will penetrate to.

As above, the industry typically applies Sin 45° of fluke length to calculate anchor penetration in SANDS. However, trials in the German Bight in 2013 suggest that in SANDS anchor penetration are less than previously thought. This report concluded that a 11.5t Hall anchor would have a maximum depth of penetration of 1m in VERY LOOSE SAND, 0.79m in LOOSE SAND and 0.40m in a MEDIUM DENSE SAND which are less than the theoretical value of 1.17m calculated by Sin 45° of fluke length. In addition, the report indicates extrapolation of results to anchors of different size using a scaling factor is valid.

Normally the fluke angle is fixed between 30° to 50°, the lower angle, i.e. less penetration is used in areas of sand or hard or stiff clays, the higher fluke angle, more penetration, is used for holding in softer consolidated clays and provides a greater resistance force (DNV, 2015).

Thus, for each anchor size defined in **[Table 6-1](#page-39-0)**, Intertek calculated the theoretical anchor penetration depth and used the results outlined in the German Bight Anchor Penetration Trials report to scale these anchor penetration depths to more realistic values for areas of SAND sediment type. Areas of SAND sediment type which were dense or very dense were considered as medium dense for the purposes of calculating anchor penetration depths.

A Factor of Safety of 1.5 has been applied on the anchor penetration depths to consider:

- Uncertainty in anchor sizing;
- Uncertainty of soil type; and
- Deformation of the soil beneath the maximum penetration depth.

In addition, all final maximum penetration depths have been rounded up to the closet 5cm to avoid implying a level of accuracy which is not justified. Results of anchor penetration calculations by soil category, without and with the Factor of Safety are provided in **[Table 6-4](#page-46-0)** and **[Table 6-5](#page-47-0)** respectively.

In addition (and as can be expected), there are a number of zones in which there is a surficial sediment layer which has soil properties which vary significantly from the underlying layers. To account for this, we have defined all layers which are present within the soils depths which are relevant to the burial of the cable. Anchor penetration has then been first calculated for the top layer (Layer 1) and if the anchor penetrates through this layer into the underlying layer, then a second calculation has been undertaken to determine penetration depth in Layer 2. The method for calculating Layer 2 penetration is as follows:

- Calculate the remaining anchor penetration potential (in percentage terms) for each anchor size after it has penetrated Layer 1 (e.g. in LOOSE SAND a Band C anchor will penetrate 0.75m, if the top layer is 0.50m then the anchor has ~33% of its penetrating potential remaining after penetrating through Layer 1).
- Multiply the remaining anchor penetration by the maximum anchor penetration in Layer 2 to derive the Layer 2 penetration depth (e.g. in MEDIUM DENSE SAND a Band C anchor will penetrate 0.40m. If only ~33% of its penetrating potential remains after penetrating through Layer 1 then this equates to ~0.13cm penetration into Layer 2).
- The same method is used for Layer 3.

Thus, total penetration is calculated by adding the penetration thicknesses for Layer 1 and (where applicable) Layer 2 together.

Table 6-4 Anchor Sizes and Anchor Penetration Depth by Soil Category

 \sim

6.4 Identification of the Acceptable Risk

6.4.1 Project Requirement

Quantify the depth of lowering to achieve a total probability of failure (PoF) along the cable route of 1 failure per 10,000 years.

6.4.2 Calculations of Probability

The calculation for probability of a cable strike for the entire cable system is given by:

$$
P_{anchor \, damage, total \, system} = \sum P_{anchor \, damage \, per \, km}
$$

Where:

```
P_{anchor\ damage, total\ system} = probability of anchor damage for the entire cable route (-/year)
```
As recommended by the Carbon Trust's guideline, Intertek used an iterative approach to identify a burial depth which results in a "target" residual risk to overall cable system.

The iterative step can be described as follows:

- 3. Calculate the value of P_{anchor damage, total system} for all vessels with a surface-laid cable.
- 4. Identify the value of P_{anchor damage, total system} that would be acceptable to the stakeholders.
- 5. Goal-seek RMDOL which achieves this tolerable level.
- 6. If the RMDOL is considered impractical the acceptable level of risk should be re-considered.

[Figure 6-2](#page-49-0) shows vessel size distribution by DWT. Naturally, vessel densities are overwhelmingly composed of smaller vessels, so risk reduces significantly as DOL increases over and above the penetration depths of anchor sizes associated with smaller vessels.

Figure 6-2 Overview of Vessel Size Distribution

6.5 Probabilistic Risk Assessment Results

For this risk assessment the DNV 2005 risk levels were assigned to the probabilities. **[Table 6-6](#page-50-0)** provides the DNV risk classification (DNV, 2005).

Table 6-6 DNV Risk Classification Used

6.5.2 Results of Surface Laid Cable

[Table 6-7](#page-50-1) presents segment annual failure for a surface laid cable.

Table 6-7 Zone Annual Failure for Surface Laid Cable

The probabilistic assessment calculates the annual failure probability of 13% for the entire route (based on anchor risk alone) if surface laid. This value equates to a return period of 7.99 years and a failure probability over the (40 year) lifetime of 13%.

Areas with the highest risk of Annual Failure include zones 1, 7,8 and, 10 These zones are areas of high vessel traffic and soft geology thus; increased anchor drag risk.

The lowest zone of risk is zones 12, 14 and 15 given the low vessel traffic reducing all risk of anchor strike.

6.5.3 Results for Recommended Minimum DOL

A RMDOL was derived on a zone basis to mitigate the risk from anchoring from the selected vessel band in order to achieve an overall acceptable risk of 1 failure per 10,000 years. The tables below present the RMDOL and associated annual failure probability for the following 10 scenarios:

- 1. Scenario 1: Protection against vessels in Band A
- 2. Scenario 2: Protection against vessels in Bands A to B
- 3. Scenario 3: Protection against vessels in Bands A to C
- 4. Scenario 4: Protection against vessels in Bands A to D
- 5. Scenario 5: Protection against vessels in Bands A to E
- 6. Scenario 6: Protection against vessels in Bands A to F
- 7. Scenario 7: Protection against vessels in Bands A to G
- 8. Scenario 8: Protection against vessels in Bands A to H
- 9. Scenario 9: Protection against vessels in Bands A to I
- 10. Scenario 10: Selected protection section by section

As can be seen in the provided scenarios, anchoring risk is concentrated in Zone 9, both in terms of vessel traffic density and also size of associated vessels. This is followed by Zone 6 and Zone 1.

Note, the key reasons why anchor risk is not the key determinant in most zones is due to both the relatively light vessel densities and the prevalent presence of soils which prevent anchors from penetrating very deeply.

The above approach results in a RMDOL varying from 0.60m to 1.7m. If these RMDOL values are achieved and maintained over the course of the cable lifetime then this would result in an annual failure rate of 0.00836% which equates to a return period of ~11,957 years and a failure probability over the (40 year) lifetime of 0.33% - i.e. "Event rarely expected to occur.".

7. CBRA ASSESSMENT

8. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The cable burial risk assessment has shown that the following hazards are present along the North Sea Nymindegab South cable route:

Sediment Mobility

Sediment mobility in itself does not pose a threat to a submarine cable, but it can lead to issues with the thermal conductivity of cables (over burial), and exposure of cables (scour); Over burial should be accounted for in the design phase of the cables and is usually dealt with by increasing, universally or locally, the cross-sectional area of the cables. Burial under excess soil can change the thermal properties of the soil and cause hotspots along the cable, while exposure increases the risk of damage due to external aggressors such as trawling and anchoring and potentially mechanical damage from free spans.

There are no areas within cable corridor where there are bedforms present. For the purposes of depth of lowering all depths recommended in this report are assumed to be measured against a horizontal plane which has been determined to be non-mobile and after any required route engineering has been undertaken to flatten mobile sediments.

Fishing Risk

The review of the fishing indicated areas of mobile and static fishing gear along the entire cable route. No fishing protection or exclusion areas from fishing activity were reported.

Moreover, as the entire route is within water depth ranges in which mobile gear fishing could take place, we recommend the cables are given sufficient protection from fishing gear interaction in all sections of the route. The Carbon Trust's guidance indicates that penetration of fishing gear into the seabed is limited to a maximum of 0.3 m penetration even in soft sediment based on previous literature research. Allowing for a FoS of 2 means RMDOL based on fishing risk only would result in a value of 0.60m.

Anchoring Risk

Vessel Automatic Identification System (AIS) data has been used to determine the size and quantity of vessels which operate in the vicinity of the cable route. Vessels are grouped into size categories based on their deadweight tonnage (DWT) from Band A (0-100 DWT) to Band I (150K-200K DWT) and an appropriate associated anchor size is assigned to each band. Analysis of this data determines the probability of anchor-cable interactions for each vessel banding and thus the size of anchor which must be protected against in order to reduce risk to the cable to ALARP.

The probabilistic assessment calculates the annual failure probability of 13% for the entire route (based on anchor risk alone) if surface laid. This value equates to a return period of 7.99 years and a failure probability over the (40 year) lifetime of 99.52%. This is not an acceptable level of risk.

Areas with the highest risk of Annual Failure include zones 1, 7, 8 and, 10 These zones are areas of high vessel traffic and soft geology; thus, increased anchor drag risk. The lowest zone of risk is zones 12, 14 and 15 given the low vessel traffic reducing all risk of anchor strike.

Note, the key reasons why anchor risk is not the key determinant in most zones is due to both the relatively light vessel densities and also the prevalent presence of soils which prevent anchors from penetrating very deeply.

Recommended Minimum Depth of Lowering (RMDOL)

The above approach results in a RMDOL varying from 0.60m to 1.7m. If these RMDOL values are achieved and maintained over the course of the cable lifetime then this would result in an annual failure rate of 0.00836% which equates to a return period of ~11,957 years and a failure probability over the (40 year) lifetime of 0.33% - i.e. "Event rarely expected to occur".

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APPENDIX ASr

Geotechnical Boundaries

Table A-1 Geotechnical Boundaries

APPENDIX B

Risk Register

Table B-1 Risk Register

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APPENDIX C

Vessel Density Heat Maps

CABLE BURIAL RISK ASSESSMENT NORTH SEA I - NYMINDEGAB SOUTH

AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS) Vessel Density (February 2023 - February 2024)

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CABLE BURIAL RISK ASSESSMENT

© Esri; © EuroGeographics, © TurkStat; © ENERGINET

CABLE BURIAL RISK ASSESSMENT NORTH SEA I - NYMINDEGAB SOUTH

AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS) Annual Vessel Density by Type - Sheet 2 of 4

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CABLE BURIAL RISK ASSESSMENT NORTH SEA I - NYMINDEGAB SOUTH

AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS) Annual Vessel Density by Type - Sheet 3 of 4

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CABLE BURIAL RISK ASSESSMENT NORTH SEA I - NYMINDEGAB SOUTH

AUTOMATIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AIS) Annual Vessel Density by Type - Sheet 4 of 4

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APPENDIX D

Vessel Density

Table D-1 Vessel Density

Anchor Band Statistics by Zone - Zone 7

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Anchor Band Statistics by Zone - Zone 9

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Anchor Band Statistics by Zone - Zone 16

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APPENDIX E

Probabilistic Risk Assessment

Table E-1 Probabilistic Results for Each Scenario

Table E-2 Probabilistic Results for Each Zone in 0.25m Increments

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APPENDIX F

Navigation and Shipping

F.1 AIS INFORMATION

F.1.1 EMODnet Human Activities Classes Translations

Table F-1 EMODnet Human Activities Classes Translations

F.2 PORTS

There is one port within 30km of the study area this is Hivde Sande, however there are numerous ports and harbours north and south of the study area , ranging from large ferry and goods ports to small fishing and recreational harbours. There are two major ports which have more of an influence on the Project area these are located both north east and south east of the North Sea 1 study area, there are also various small harbours and marinas located further south of the study area;

- Port of Esbjerg
- Port of Thyboron
- Port of Romo
- Nordby Havn, Fanø
- Hvide Sande
- Ringkobing
- Sylt Marina

Figure F-1 Port and Harbour Locations

Information contained here has been derived from data that is made available under the European Marine Observation Data Network (EMODnet) Human Activites and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the European Marine and Fishere NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

F.2.2 Port of Esbjerg

The Port of Esbjerg is located on the southwest coast of Jutland, Denmark and is the world's largest base port for offshore wind activities , it is home to more than 200 companies and supports 10'000 people who work there. The port is managed and owned by the Municipality of Esbjerg and operates in accordance with the Danish Port Act. The port is a hub for cargo transport in northern Europe and one of the world's largest originating ports for wind power. As much as 1,500 MW offshore wind is shipped out of the Port of Esbjerg every year. The annual cargo turnover is 4.3 million tonnes, and port have some 6,000 vessels transiting entering and exiting the port in 2022 (Port Esbjerg, 2022). Sustainability is a key focus area at Port Esbjerg. The Port works consistently to lower their carbon footprint with the aim of becoming a climate-neutral port, in 2022 it was announced that a land power plant is being built which will use excess energy from wind turbines, which will be converted into hydrogen energy which the ships in the port can use (Energy Cluster Denmark, 2022) . The Port works extensively on several green initiatives and partners with national and international sustainability projects, with the focus on waste recycling and on increasing the use of onshore power.

F.2.3 Port of Thyboron

The Port of Thyboron is a dynamic commercial port going back over 100 years, with a strategic location on the Danish North Sea coast and safe navigation in any weather conditions. The Port underwent a full renovation in 2020, this renovation included New quayside unloading facilities had been built for industrial fishing, with high capacity and easy access to services and supplies. The renovation also included the deepen of the entrance to the port to 10m which will accommodate the growing size of vessels for industrial fishing, the cargo sector and the offshore wind energy industry, and the port had been working hard for more than 10 years to achieve this goal (Port of Thyboron, 2024).

F.2.4 Port of Romo

The Port of Romo is one of Denmark's medium sized ports and a port that is under development. For many years, the main activities have been shrimp fishing and ferry services between Sylt and Rømø. Major investments have been made in new facilities, which makes the Port of Romo an attractive partner for offshore activities in the North Sea and for freight transport. The port's geographical position makes it an ideal choice for wind farms in the North Sea.

F.2.5 Nordby Havn, Fano

Nordby harbour at Fanø, the island in the Wadden Se at Esbjerg, Denmark. This harbour has 70 moorings for vessels, vessels of a maximum length of 10m can enter this harbour.

F.2.6 Hvide Sande

The port of Hvide Sande is the only port within the Project's study area, this is the fifth largest fishing port in Denmark, the port has recently evolved into a commercial port that serves the entire mid-Jutland and west-Jutland area (4C Offshore, 2024). The port has a resident fishing fleet, which consists of 60 vessels with a total gross tonnage of approx. 4,000 BT

F.2.7 Sylt Marina

Yacht Club of Sylt is a marina in Hornum municipality on the southern shore of the island of Sylt, close to the Danish border. Vessels of 60m length and 5m draught can enter this marina.

F.3.1 Port of Esbjerg

Port Esbjerg has been the primary base port for all oil and gas activities in the Danish part of the North Sea. Port Esbjerg is the leading port for wind power in Europe From 2021 to 2022 the port of Esbjerg experienced limited growth across the entirety of the port. The amount of passengers stayed the same as 2021 levels at 1.923 million persons, ship calls slightly decreased from 5,342 to 5,376. Table 2-1 to table 2-3 presents an overview of ship calls, cargo volume and offshore wind shipped since 2017.

Source: Port of Esbjerg 2022

Table F-3 Cargo Volume from 2017 - 2022

Source: Port of Esbjerg 2022

Table F-4 Offshore Wind Shipped from 2017 – 2022

Source: Port of Esbjerg 2022

F.3.2 Port of Thyboron Overview

The Port of Thyboron is a unique port which is located on the West coast of Denmark, this port is undergoing huge development Each year there is over 5000 vessels call at the Port of Thyboron each year with rising cargo transportation, lucrative maritime and fishery sidelines and has the potential to increase together with the rise in the offshore wind farm activity in the North Sea (Corporate focus, 2019) . Thyboron port is an independent port was originally a fishing port in 1914 and is now one of the three largest fishing ports in Denmark, 100 fishing vessels are registered at the Port of Thyboron Table 2-4 and Table 2-5 present an overview of ship calls and throughput of goods in the Port of Thyboron.

Table F-5 Ship Calls from 2017 - 2022

Table F-6 Call of Cargo Ships and Cruiser Ships on the Port of Thyboron

Source: (Statistics Denmark, 2024)

Table F-7 Call of Vessels, Passengers and Throughput of Goods in the Port of Thyboron

F.3.3 Port of Romo

The Port of Rømø is one of Denmark's medium-sized ports and a developing port. Shrimp fishing and ferry service between Herring and Rømø have been the primary activities for many years. Large investments have been made in new facilities, which make the Port of Rømø an attractive business partner for offshore activities in the North Sea and for freight transport.

The Port of Romo operates a ferry service between Romo and Slyt. The Syltferries operate all-season between the Danish island Rømø, which is easily accessible via a free causeway from the Danish mainland, and the island Sylt. The modern double ended ferries "SyltExpress" and "RömöExpress" take all cars, motorcycles, pedestrians and cyclists, as well as horse and boat trailers, caravans, motor homes, busses, trucks and even heavy cargo to and from the Island Sylt in a very comfortable way.

Table F-8 Call of Vessels by Type of Vessel

F.3.4 Hvide Sande

Port of Hvide Sande's development in recent years has provided significant advantages for local companies and means they are able to offer greatly enhanced service to their clients across all sectors – bulk, general cargo, special transport, offshore, offshore wind, renewables, and fishing industry.

Table F-9 Call of Vessels by Type of Vessel

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Cargo vessels	63	63	69	72	70	73
Passenger ships and ferries	0	0	0	0	0	0

F.4 NAVIGATIONAL ACTIVITY

The eastern North Sea off the coast of Denmark is highly significant due to the region's strategic importance to maritime trade, fishing offshore oil and gas operations, and wind energy production. The eastern North Sea serves major shipping routes in northern Europe, such as Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. Vessels of various types, including container ships, tankers, bulk carriers, and ferries, traverse these routes, carrying goods and passengers.

The Eastern North Sea is also known for its significant offshore wind energy developments. Denmark, along with neighbouring countries, has invested heavily in offshore wind farms to harness renewable energy. These wind farms require ongoing maintenance and occasional vessel traffic for installation or repair work.

Given the high volume of maritime traffic and the presence of offshore installations, navigational safety is paramount in the Eastern North Sea. This includes the implementation of navigational aids such as buoys, lighthouses, and radar systems, as well as the enforcement of maritime regulations to prevent collisions and protect the marine environment.

Overall, the navigational activity in the Eastern North Sea off the coast of Denmark is diverse and dynamic, driven by various economic, environmental, and regulatory factors. Effective navigation and maritime management are essential to ensure the safety and sustainability of this vital maritime region.

F.4.1 Marine Traffic Trends

F.4.1.1 Global

An estimated 80% of international trade is carried by sea, with higher rates seen in developing countries (UNCTAD, 2023). In 2022, sea transport accounted for 46% of goods traded between the EU and the rest of the world (Eurostat, 2023), showing how important marine traffic routes are globally.

Overall, Seaborne trade and traffic declined by 0.4% in 2022 however, so far in 2023 predictions show growth of 2.4% that is set to increase by 2.1% over the coming years (UNCTAD, 2023). Whilst this growth is down compared to previous 3% over the last 4 decades, its bounce back from the COVID Pandemic has increased (UNCTAD, 2023). Finally, global shipping and trading routes are changing – the average distance travelled is increasing; oil and grain cargo travelled further in 2023 then every year recorded by the UN derived from the current war in Ukraine (UNCTAD, 2023).

Traffic changes can also be initiated the digitization of the industry. The COVID pandemic caused a shift in digital innovation, for example, paperless solutions regarding electronic traffic scheduling (UNCTAD, 2023). In 2020 1 in 20 ports worldwide increased investment into digital technology accounting for increase efficiency in trade facilitation, scheduling, training, and planning (Nic, et al., 2021) (UNCTAD, 2023).

F.4.1.2 Eastern North Sea

The Danish waters of the North Sea, encompass a wide variety of water depths, with the deepest depth of over 480m recorded in the region of Skagerrak. This region is home to a wide range of seabed habitats and flora and fauna species, including species that are priorities for marine conservation at European Union (EU) and international levels (Oceana, 2019). The Eastern North Sea is one of the busiest seas in the world, due to its significant socio- economic value, as a result of its fisheries, oil and gas extraction, ports and harbours and offshore renewable industry (Oceana, 2019). The eastern North Sea is home to several important shipping routes, these include routes connecting the Baltic Sea to the Atlantic Ocean and routes leading to the English Channel and beyond. These lanes are vital for the transportation of goods, energy resources, and passengers. The study area is an area that is a designated area for OWF development, however it is an area that is intensely shipped by all types of vessels, including cargo, fishing and passenger vessels indicated by the red circle in figure 2-2 below (Nilsson et al, 2018).

Figure F-2 AIS Data and Areas Prioritised for Offshore Wind Development (Nilsson et al 2018)

F.5 MARITIME REGULATIONS AND NAVIGATIONAL RULES

Numerous regulations and rules are present within the study area and across the Kattegat Sea.

F.5.1 Global and EU Regulations

Danish waters are influenced by global and EU regulations.

International regulations are governed by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). Key conventions include; SOLAS - International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, MARPOL - International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, ISPS - the International Ship and

Port Facility Security Code and STCW - International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (IMO, 2023). Other laws relating to maritime safety Further information can be found on the International Maritime Organization website: https://www.imo.org/en/about/Conventions/Pages/ListOfConventions.aspx.

EU regulations cover numerous topics including training and qualifications, Marine equipment, Security on ships, Passenger ship safety and digital maritime systems (European Parliment, 2023). Further information on EU laws and regulations can be found on the EU website: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/125/maritime-transport-traffic-and-safetyrules.

Summary of relevant law is presented in **Table F-9**.

Table F-10 Summary of Relevant Global and EU Regulations

F.5.2 Danish Regulations

Denmark's has a comprehensive framework of maritime legislation to govern various aspects of maritime activities. Some of the main maritime legislation in Denmark includes:

- 1. **Merchant Shipping Act (Søloven)**: The Merchant Shipping Act regulates various aspects of Danish merchant shipping, including the registration of vessels, safety standards, crewing requirements, navigation, pollution prevention, and liability issues.
- 2. **Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) Regulations**: The Danish Maritime Authority issues regulations and guidelines covering a wide range of maritime matters, including ship safety, navigation, environmental protection, crewing standards, and port operations. These regulations are often aligned with international conventions and standards.
- 3. **Maritime Labor Law**: Denmark has legislation governing maritime labor matters, including seafarers' rights, employment conditions, wages, working hours, and health and safety standards onboard Danish-flagged vessels. These regulations typically comply with international labor conventions such as those established by the International Labour Organization (ILO).
- 4. **Environmental Regulations**: Denmark has stringent environmental regulations aimed at preventing pollution from ships and offshore installations. These regulations cover issues such as ballast water management, waste disposal, emissions control, and environmental impact assessments for maritime projects.
- 5. **Port Regulations**: Danish ports are governed by regulations covering port operations, infrastructure development, safety standards, port dues, and environmental management. These regulations ensure the efficient and safe operation of Danish ports while promoting trade and commerce.
- 6. **Offshore Energy Legislation**: Denmark has specific legislation governing offshore energy activities, including oil and gas exploration and production, offshore wind energy projects, and marine renewable energy developments. These regulations address licensing, safety standards, environmental impact assessments, and decommissioning requirements for offshore installations.
- 7. **Maritime Security Laws**: Denmark implements maritime security measures in accordance with international conventions and guidelines to enhance the security of ships, ports, and offshore installations against security threats such as piracy, terrorism, and smuggling.
- 8. **International Conventions and Treaties**: Denmark is a party to numerous international maritime conventions and treaties, including those established by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), and International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), among others. These conventions influence Danish maritime legislation and ensure alignment with international maritime standards and best practices.

APPENDIX G

Fishing Information

G.1 MAIN FISHING METHODS

The following provides information on the main types of fishing methods, operating patterns and vessels registered at ports in the proximity of the Project. It should be noted that no direct consultation with the fishing industry in respect of the cable route has been undertaken to collect data on fishing practices to inform this report. As such, the descriptions provided in the following sections are based on publicly available information and do not take account of feedback from the fishing industry on local practices.

Fishing is a significant industry to the Danish economy, there are over 2,700 fishing vessels which contain 1,900 crew ad support around 8,000 jobs in Denmark (DFA, 2024). This section compromises of the fishing study for North Sea 1 export routes. It should be noted that the fishing study has been carried out without consultation. However, the following key European and Danish Sea fishing organisations were identified as being relevant to the area:

- **Baltic Fishermen's Association (BFA)**
- European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO)
- Nordsø AC
- Pelagic AC
- Østersø AC
- European Bottom Fisheries Alliance (EBFA)
- **EXEC** Association of Sustainable Fisheries (ASF)
- International Coalitio of Fisheries Asscoiation (ICFA)
- European Fisheries Alliance (EUFA)
- Ministry of Environment and Food
- **Ministry for Business**
- Daniah Fisheries Association (DFA)

Within the 30km study area there are various forms of fishing that takes places, these include beam trawls, bottom otter trawls, bottom seines, pelagic trawls, and seines, along with static gear fishing. Figure G-1 below is taking from the EMODnet fishing vessel annual totals 2019-2023 data set, heavy traffic can be seen transiting from the port of Hvide Sande, throughout the study area, towards the port of Thyboron in the north and to the port of Esbjerg in the south.

Figure G-1 Fishing Vessel AIS Data, EMODnet Annual Totals 2019-2023

G.1.2 Beam Trawls

According to EMODnet data, beam trawl fishing levels in the study area are notably low. Figure G-2, depicted below, illustrates that beam trawl activity is concentrated primarily in the southern section of the near-shore area. In 2022, over 113 MW fishing hours were recorded in these specific zones. However, the majority of the study area exhibits less than 10 MW fishing hours, indicating that beam trawling is not a predominant fishing method in this region.

Legend Beam trawls Average MW Fishing hours $> 0 \le 1$ $> 1 \le 2$
 $> 2 \le 5$ $> 5 \le 10$
 $> 10 \le 20$ $>$ 20 <= 50
 $>$ 50 <= 100 $100 \le 200$ $>$ 200 \le 500
 $>$ 500

Figure G-2 Fishing Vessel Density

G.1.3 Bottom-Otter Trawling

Bottom-otter trawling, Figure G-3, is the principal fishing gear used in the area, with Otter trawling consists of demersal trawling and the use of otter boards to maintain the opening of the net mouth (Seafish, 2022). Ropes, wires, bridles or sweeps are used to herd fish into the path of the net and allow a large area of seabed to be swept by the gear. Vessel speeds for active bottom trawling are roughly between 1 and 5 knots (NIRAS, 2022).

Figure G-3 Demersal Trawl Net on the Seabed (Seafish, 2022)

Figure G-4 Density Map of Bottom Otter Trawls

G.1.4 Bottom Seines

Anchor seine, also known as Danish seine, fishing involves the use of long ropes on the seabed along with a circular net. When the ropes up, the movement herds demersal fish into the net (Seafish, 2022). Anchor seines vary to other seine gears due to the use of an anchor to moor the boat and the use of opposite end, to that of Scottish seines, of the seine net ropes upon collection. Anchor seine, shown in Figure G-5, originates in Denmark and mainly targets cod and plaice (DTU, 2024). Vessel speeds for active seine gears are roughly between 0.2 and 3 knots (NIRAS, 2022). Anchored seine net fishing is less prominent in the Kattegat than other gears, such as trawlers and gillnets and primarily targets cod and flatfish (NIRAS, 2022).

Figure G-5 Anchor Seining (Seafish, 2022)

G.1.5 Pelagic Trawls

Pelagic trawling, Figure G-6, involves trawling in mid-water in order to target shoaling fish species. Modern pelagic trawls consist of large meshes in the mouth and forward sections of the trawl, with four panels to enable a greater height than demersal trawling (Seafish, 2022). The mesh size of the net decreases as it gets closer to the cod-end of the trawl. Pelagic nets can be towed by two vessels, known as pair trawling, or by one vessel, known as single trawling. Vessel speeds for active pelagic trawling are roughly between 1 and 5 knots (NIRAS, 2022).

Figure G-6 Pelagic Single Trawling (Seafish, 2022)

Figure G-7 Density Map of Pelagic Trawls and Seines

G.1.6 Gill Nets

Gill net fisheries involve the use of passive gear consisting of panels of nets. Typically, gill nets are used along the bottom of the seafloor, as seen in Figure G-8, however can also be used in midwater. In the Kattegat, gill nets target flatfish, cod and lumpsuckers (NIRAS, 2022). Vessel speeds for gill net fishing are roughly between 0.4 and 5 knots (NIRAS, 2022).

G.1.7 Static Gear

Static gears such as pots, traps, hooks and line and fkye nets are also used in the Kattegat. In recent years the use of static gear has increased in Kattegat, mainly for shellfish and whelk fisheries (NIRAS, 2022). Whelk pots consist of plastic containers with a main entrance of which is near impossible to exit. Pots, as seen in Figure G-9, are mainly used to trap crabs and lobsters, including Nephrops. These static gears are often baited and left overnight (NIRAS, 2022; Seafish, 2022).

Figure G-9 Fleet of Pots (Seafish, 2022)

Figure G-10 Density Map of Static Gear

Figure G-11 Total Fish Landings by Danish Vessels (Norwegian Fisheries Agency, 2024)

Landings in Denmark

Type of fish: FISH SPECIES, TOTAL | Region: The North Sea | Unit:

Figure G-12 Landings in Denmark for Various Fish (Norwegian Fisheries Agency, 2024)

Landings in Denmark

Unit: Live weight (kg.) | Region: The North Sea | Type of fish:

G.1.8 All Vessels

Catch data for Danish, German and Dutch vessels in the Central North Sea ICES area 27.4.b is provided in Table G-1 as annual Tonnes Live Weight (TLW) from 2017 to 2021 (ICES, 2023). As shown, pelagic fish such as Atlantic herring, Blue Herring, Atlantic mackerel, Atlantic cod and European Sprat account for a large proportion of the catch by weight. Demersal fish species, such as European plaice and common sole, as well as shellfish, such as Norway lobster, edible crab, blue mussels and whelk are also amongst the main target biota.

It should be noted that the catch data included in Table G-1 is for the top 48 species by TLW and being for the whole Central North Sea (ICES Are 27.4.b), may not be necessarily representative of the main species targeted in the exact area where the Project is located.

Table G-1 IUCN Catch Data 2017 – 2021, Top 50 Species by TLW (ICES,2023)

