DNV Restricted

TECHNICAL REPORT OF KA OWF 2030 Underwater Noise Kattegat OWF

ENERGINET

Report no.: R2023-0950, Rev. 3 **Date:** 15.08.2024

Objective:

The objective is to perform an analysis of the propagation of underwater noise from pile-driving based on project assumptions provided by the Client.

Prepared by: V erified by: \sim Approved by:

Matias Helleve **Engineer**

Mohammad Ghasemi Senior Engineer

Øystein Solheim Pettersen Head of Section

Copyright © DNV 2024. All rights reserved. Unless otherwise agreed in writing: (i) This publication or parts thereof may not be copied, reproduced or transmitted in any form, or by any means, whether digitally or otherwise; (ii) The content of this publication shall be kept confidential by the customer; (iii) No third party may rely on its contents; and (iv) DNV undertakes no duty of care toward any third party. Reference to part of this publication which may lead to misinterpretation is prohibited.

Remark: DNV Maritime Advisory acts independently and autonomously from other organisational divisions within DNV. DNV Maritime Advisory is in a different reporting line than DNV Classification / Certification units. If applicable, DNV Classification/Certification will independently verify the given statements and therefore may come to other conclusions than Maritime Advisory. This principle is founded on DNV`s management system

The information in this document is classified as:

Table of contents

1 LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In order to accelerate the expansion of Danish offshore wind production, it was decided with the agreement on the Finance Act for 2022 to offer an additional 2 GW of offshore wind for establishment before the end of 2030. In addition, the parties behind the Climate Agreement on Green Power and Heat 2022 of 25 June 2022 (hereinafter Climate Agreement 2022) decided), that areas that can accommodate an additional 4 GW of offshore wind must be offered for establishment before the end of 2030. Most recently, a political agreement was concluded on 30 May 2023, which establishes the framework for the Climate Agreement 2022 with the development of 9 GW of offshore wind, which potentially can be increased to 14 GW or more if the concession winners – i.e. the tenderers who will set up the offshore wind turbines – use the freedom included in the agreement to establish capacity in addition to the tendered minimum capacity of 1 GW per tendered area.

In order to enable the realization of the political agreements on significantly more energy production from offshore wind before the end of 2030, the Danish Energy Agency has drawn up a plan for the establishment of offshore wind farms in three areas in the North Sea, the Kattegat and the Baltic Sea respectively.

The area for Kattegat Offshore Wind Farm (OWF) is located in Kattegat, approximately 20 kilometer east of Djursland and approximately 30 kilometers north of Zealand. The area for the OWF is approximately 122 km². The Kattegat OWF will be connected to land via subsea cables making landfall close to Grenaa.

Commissioned by Energinet, DNV's section for noise and vibration has carried out an assessment of the underwater noise generated by installation of foundations of wind turbines for Kattegat (KA) offshore wind farm (OWF).

A study of underwater noise emitted from the installation of wind turbine foundations has been conducted. The study is based on the requirements of the Danish Energy Agency (DEA) for underwater noise emission from the installation of an offshore wind farm. The noise emitted from the installation was modelled using dbSEA modelling software. The cumulative sound exposure noise levels were numerically modelled and calculated for the whole piling sequence for two different hammer types and sequences, and two different pile diameters defined in Section 3. The required noise mitigation and distance-to-threshold (DTT) were calculated for each scenario.

The 13-meter monopile require noise mitigating measures to adhere to DEA's guidelines, specifically for the low frequency auditory weighting (LF) group. The necessary attenuation of the mitigating measures is up to 11 dB. Conversely, the 18 meter monopile needs a reduction of up to 13.3 dB, for the weighting groups low frequency (LF), Phocid Carnivores in Water (PCW) and very high frequency (VHF)

If the distance-to-threshold (DTT) for all scenarios remains under 50 meters, provided that the safe radius r_{safe} exceeds 50 meters, piling can proceed without requiring acoustic deterrent devices. This remains valid when utilizing both a double bubble curtain (DBBC) and a hydro sound damper (HSD), with their combined effect assumed to be at least 18 dB according to [1]

In the absence of mitigating measures, it is assumed that the radius to the pressure thresholds r_{PTS} exceeds the safe radius r_{safe} thus prohibiting piling activities as per DEA's guidelines.

3 INTRODUCTION

In order to accelerate the expansion of Danish offshore wind production, it was decided with the agreement on the Finance Act for 2022 to offer an additional 2 GW of offshore wind for establishment before the end of 2030. In addition, the parties behind the Climate Agreement on Green Power and Heat 2022 of 25 June 2022 (hereinafter Climate Agreement 2022) decided), that areas that can accommodate an additional 4 GW of offshore wind must be offered for establishment before the end of 2030. Most recently, a political agreement was concluded on 30 May 2023, which establishes the framework for the Climate Agreement 2022 with the development of 9 GW of offshore wind, which potentially can be increased to 14 GW or more if the concession winners – i.e. the tenderers who will set up the offshore wind turbines – use the freedom included in the agreement to establish capacity in addition to the tendered minimum capacity of 1 GW per tendered area.

In order to enable the realization of the political agreements on significantly more energy production from offshore wind before the end of 2030, the Danish Energy Agency has drawn up a plan for the establishment of offshore wind farms in three areas in the North Sea, the Kattegat and the Baltic Sea respectively.

The area for Kattegat Offshore Wind Farm (OWF) is located in Kattegat, approximately 20 kilometer east of Djursland and approximately 30 kilometers north of Zealand. The area for the OWF is approximately 122 km². The Kattegat OWF will be connected to land via subsea cables making landfall close to Grenaa.

DNV's Section for noise and vibration, commissioned by Energinet, has carried out an analysis and modelling of underwater noise generated by installation of pile-driven foundations for wind turbine in the Kattegat area, off the Danish east coast.

An example of a wind farm layout for Kattegat OWF is presented in [Figure 3-1](#page-5-1) and the scenario presented in the figure is a so-called overplanting case using 27 MW turbines. Coordinates can be found in Appendix A.

The modelling follows DEA's guidelines for underwater noise, and its requirement to include two cases. The first case is the reference case, where the calculated results based on installation without use of noise mitigating measures are presented in Chapter 9. The second case is the planned construction case presented in Chapter 10. These scenarios will be described more thoroughly in their respective chapter. Detailed information about the reference case and the planned construction case, can be found in in DEA's guidelines.

Figure 3-1 OWF Layout

4 MAIN PARTICULARS OF OWF

For the Kattegat OWF the type of foundations, size of turbines and final layout has not been decided. For the purpose of this underwater noise study two scenarios have been established. The Main Particulars and piling sequence detailed below are provided solely as example parameters and are not indicative of those that will be implemented. These parameters are intended to illustrate hypothetical scenarios.

Table 4-1 Main Particulars of OWF

The hammer sequences are given i[n](#page-6-1)

[Table](#page-6-1) 4-2 an[d Table 4-3](#page-6-2) for the 4000 kJ and 6000 kJ hammer respectively.

Table 4-2 – Piling sequence for the 4000 kJ hammer.

Table 4-3 – Piling sequence for the 6000 kJ hammer.

5 THEORETICAL BACKGROUND AND MODEL ASSUMPTIONS

5.1 Sound Exposure Level (SEL)

The sound exposure level, SEL, is defined as ten times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio of the time-integrated sound exposure level E_n to a reference value in ISO 18405:2017 [2]. The convention for underwater noise is to use a reference value of $E_{p,0} = 1 \ \mu \text{Pa}^2 \text{ s}$, which was used in this report.

$$
L_{E,p} = 10 \log_{10} \frac{E_p}{E_{p,0}} \text{ dB}
$$

where

 $L_{E,p}$ = Sound exposure level (SEL),

 E_p = Time integrated sound exposure level,

 $E_{p,0}$ = Reference sound exposure level.

The cumulative sound exposure level (SEL_{cum}) used in this report is defined as

$$
L_{E,cum} = 10\log_{10}\frac{E_{cum}}{E_0}~\text{dB}
$$

The values that will be calculated in this report will be the cumulative sound exposure level for the whole hammer sequence. Only one piling sequence is assumed during a 24-hour period. Note that multiple piling operations each day, is not covered in this report.

$$
L_{E, cum, 24h, xx} = 10 \log_{10} \sum 10^{\frac{L_{E,p}}{10}}
$$

5.2 Root-mean-square sound pressure level (SPL)

The rms SPL is defined as the mean of the squared pressure given as

$$
p_{rms} = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} p^2(t) dt
$$

where

 p_{rms} = Mean Squared Pressure,

 $\Delta t = t_2 - t_1 =$ Time interval.

The associated dB – value is defined as

$$
L_{p,rms} = 20 \log_{10} \left(\frac{p_{\rm rms}}{p_0} \right) \, \mathrm{dB}
$$

where

 $L_{p,rms}$ = Sound Pressure Level (SPL),

 p_0 = Reference value. Conventionally 1 µPa for underwater sound.

The threshold for behavioral reactions is determined by the Sound Pressure Level (SPL) within a time interval that corresponds to the average integration time of the mammalian ear, estimated to be 125 ms and further denoted as $L_{p,rms,125ms}$.

$$
L_{p,rms,125ms} = L_{E,p} + 10 \log_{10}(0.125) = L_{E,p} + 9 dB
$$

DNV – Report No. R2023-0950, Rev. 3 – www.dnv.com Page 5

6 REFERENCE SOURCE LEVELS

The source levels were scaled by third octave band frequency SEL levels based on piling of monopile wind turbine generator (WTG), measured at a distance of 750 m as reported in [3]. The scaling is based on hammer strike energy and pile diameter, using the following equation, taken from [3]

$$
L_{E,p} = L_{E,p,0} + k_E \log_{10} \left(\frac{E_i}{E_0}\right) + k_d \log_{10} \left(\frac{d_i}{d_0}\right)
$$

where

 $L_{E,p,0} =$ Unscaled sound exposure level,

- k_F = Hammer strength energy scaling coefficient,
- k_d = Pile diameter scaling coefficient,
- E_i = Hammer Energy,
- E_0 = Hammer Energy Reference,
- d_i = Pile diameter,
- d_0 = Reference Pile Diameter.

The scaling coefficient follows [3] as $k_E = 10$ and $k_D = 16.7$. The reference sound exposure level per third octave band is taken from [4] and shown in Figure 6-1 – SEL 1/3 – [Octave band reference values.](#page-8-1) The blue line is the idealized values which was used. The SEL levels can be linearly scaled for diameter and power.

Figure 6-1 – SEL 1/3 – Octave band reference values [4]

The depicted octave band reference values further are back tracked to 1 m using [5], assuming a 4.5 dB increase for each halving of distance. The estimated propagation loss for sound travelling over a distance of 750 meter to 1 meter is calculated to be 43.1 dB, which was added to the scaled SEL values on which the source levels are based. The sound exposure levels outside the frequency band 16 – 20k Hz is unknown. However, the highest values are between 125 Hz

and 750 Hz, with decaying values for both sides of this band indicate negligible amplitudes for frequencies outside the 16 – 20k Hz band. The resulting source levels backtracked from 750 m given in SEL's single strike are shown in Figure [5.2](#page-7-2)

Figure 6-2 - Scaled SEL @ 1 meter for different piling energies.

7 CALCULATION METHODOLOGY

For calculations of sound field from the applicable noise sources, DNV will utilize dBSea, which is developed by Marshall Day Acoustics and provides support for relatively complex scenarios.

Different methods for calculations of the sound field such as ray-tracing, normal modes and parabolic equation can be used depending on the characteristics of the propagation conditions such as the geometry of the site as well as frequency of the sound. These methods can be combined to account for a broader frequency range. In some cases, simple approximations using spherical attenuation or a combination of spherical and cylindrical attenuation, both combined with frequency dependant attenuation can be utilized in calculations of the sound field.

The propagated sound from the piling was modelled using dbSEA, which performs numerical modelling. The sound propagation models used were both normal mode (NM) and acoustic ray-tracing method (RT) complying with DEA's guidelines [6]. The solver utilizes different algorithms in different frequency ranges, i.e., a split solver. The frequency range from 12.5 – 500 Hz is calculated by NM, while RT is used for frequencies f > 500 Hz. The choice of using a split solver is based on [7], and aims to use an optimal solver for each frequency.

A pulse duration of 0.2 seconds is assumed following ISO 18405, to consider a worst-case scenario. Effect of prolonged pulses due to mitigating measures or propagation is not considered.

The source solution is calculated with 36 radial slices and 7000 range points. An example of this is shown in [Figure 7-2.](#page-11-0) The calculation grid is defined to comply with the guidelines [6] which requires a resolution of 20 m resolution in the horizontal plane, and under 1 m resolution in depth resolution. The max length of the transects is ~100km. The values outside the numerical modelling is interpolated. The calculation stops when it reaches the shoreline.

The location of the assumed point source was determined to simulate the worst-case scenarios. The chosen position is based on where the sound is assumed to propagate the farthest. Generally, sound propagates further in deeper waters due to reduced interaction with the seabed and sea surface. I[n Figure 7-1,](#page-11-1) darker grey indicates deeper water, suggesting that the eastern points at KA represent the worst case. The specific eastern point was selected based on the proximity to the Natura 2000 areas, which are protected habitats of the relevant protected species.

Figure 7-1 - Worst Case Scenario

Due to insufficient research on source modelling for the piling of monopiles, it is assumed that the source behaves as a point source. The point source is further assumed to be at 5 m depth under the assumption that the energy is highest close to the hammer impact, but also considering some lower vibrations at deeper waters.

Figure 7-2 Example figure of calculation grid.

8 OCEAN CHARACTERISTICS

Received data from Energinet shows different seabed-substrate compositions. A single seabed composition assumption must be made for the entire calculated area. The seabed composition is estimated to comprise a 2-meter-thick upper layer of sand, followed by an infinite layer of moraine, following received data from Energinet. Note that the uncertainty that stems from the seabed composition is small compared to the magnitude of the calculations.

The sound speed profile (SSP) is calculated using salinity and temperature data from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA, 2019). The model used for the sound speed estimation is based on MacKenzie [8].

Figure 8-1 - Calculated monthly average sound speed profiles.

Bases on received data, the salinity is decided to be on average 32 ppt. The temperature is assumed to be on average 8 degrees through the water column. The pH value is based on typical values for the relevant area.

- Temperature is assumed to be 8°,
- Salinity(ppt) is given as 32,
- pH value is assumed to be 8

The above factors affect the sound absorption in the sea volume. The sound speed profile for a worst-case scenario was determined by running a test model of one of the scenarios, with two different sound speed profiles. The two sound speed profiles represent the edge cases in the sound speed profile. Determining the worst-case was done by checking the resulting sound levels across the calculated grids for the two sound speed profiles. The mean difference between the two resulting grids was 2.64 dB. The sound speed profile of February resulted in the highest sound levels was considered to represent the worst-case scenario.

In the model, the ocean is assumed to have a calm sea state, which results in lower dispersion and therefore the reflection at the sea surface is close to ideal. This means that the largest possible amount of sound energy is reflected at the surface, resulting in a worst-case scenario.

9 AUDITORY FREQUENCY WEIGHTINGS

Following DEA's guidelines [6], the relevant marine species for Inner Danish waters, including Kattegat, are:

- Low frequency (LF) cetaceans
- High frequency (HF) cetaceans
- Very high frequency (VHF) cetaceans
- Phocid carnivores in water (PCW)

The weighting was conducted using dbSEA, which utilizes the weightings as described in Southall [9].

There are three different types of thresholds which are assessed in this report, the Permanent Threshold Shift (PTS), Temporary Threshold Shift (TTS) and Behavioural Disturbance. The thresholds are described in DEA's guidelines [6].

Table 9-1 – Permanent and temporary threshold shift limits and limits for behavioural disturbance for relevant species.

10 REFERENCE CASE RESULTS

The reference case is a scenario which represents a practical worst-case scenario without noise mitigating measures. The goal is to determine the magnitude of noise reduction needed for a marine mammal to be able to have a starting position of 200 m from the piling, and still be exposed to less than the PTS criteria.

The SEL_{cum} has been calculated with appropriate frequency weightings and compared to the PTS levels in [Table 9-1,](#page-13-1) presented with required noise mitigation to comply with the PTS levels. This is calculated for both pile diameters and hammer sequences, and the results are shown in [Table 10-1](#page-14-1) to [Table 10-4.](#page-14-2)

The position was chose based on the worst-case scenario, shown in [Figure 7-1.](#page-11-1) The maximum required noise reduction by mitigating measures was calculated to be 13.3 dB.

Table 10-1: 6000 kJ 13 m

Table 10-2: 6000 kJ 18 m

Table 10-3: 4000 kJ 13 m

Table 10-4: 4000 kJ 18 m

11 CONSTRUCTION CASE WITH MITIGATION MEASURES

The following represents a realistic scenario of the installation of monopiles in Kattegat OWF. It assumes the piling to be the only active noise source. The goal is to determine a distance-to-threshold (DTT) corresponding to PTS, TTS and BD criteria, denoted as $r_{\rm PTS}$, $r_{\rm TTS}$ and r_{RD} . The DTT's were calculated with and without noise mitigating measures, based on a model where a marine mammal starts at 50 meters from the source and flees directly away at a speed of 1.5 m/s.

The effect of the double bubble curtain (DBBC) depends on the density and size of the bubbles. According to Bellmann [10] that for a double bubble curtain (DBBC), the effect is assumed to be minimum 8 dB, and the minimum effect from the hydro sound damper (HSD) can be assumed to be 10 dB. These will be the proposed noise mitigating measures during the piling operation. The DEA guidelines state that before any pile driving activity begins, there must be a designated distance within which no animals are present, denoted as r_{safe} , which shall be assumed. Assuming a use of an acoustic deterrent device (ADD) for 15 minutes, the assumed r_{safe} is 15 minutes times the estimate fleeing speed of an animal of 1.5 m/s, corresponding to 1350 meters. using an acoustic deterrent device (ADD) for 15 minutes, a assumed r_{safe} can be 15 minutes times the estimate fleeing speed of an animal of 1.5 m/s, corresponding to 1350 meters. Appendix B show some example figures of the modelling.

The results are presented i[n Table 11-1](#page-16-0) to [Table 11-8.](#page-17-0) In general, the results indicate that the auditory group LF will have the longest $r_{\rm PTS}$ and $r_{\rm TTS}$. Note that according to the modelling results the 6000 kJ hammer with a 13 m diameter generates a higher noise level than the 4000 kJ hammer with an 18 m diameter. According to the DEA's guidelines, piling is permitted only if $r_{\text{PTS}} < r_{\text{Safe}}$. As shown in Tables 11-1 through 11-8, $r_{\text{PTS}} < r_{\text{safe}}$ for all configurations. Additionally, piling is allowed without the use of an ADD since all $r_{\rm PTS}$ values are less than 50 m, concurring with DEA's guideline of $r_{\rm PTS}$ < 200 m.

Table 11-1: Worst case rPTS and rTTS for relevant species with 6000 kJ hammer and 18 m pile diameter.

Table 11-2: Worst case for VHF species with 6000 kJ hammer and 18 m pile diameter.

Table 11-3: Worst case rPTS and rTTS for relevant species for hammer with 6000 kJ and 13 m pile diameter.

Table 11-4: Worst case r_{BD} for VHF species for relevant species for hammer with 6000 kJ and 13 m pile diameter.

Table 11-5: Worst case rPTS and rTTS for relevant species for hammer with 4000 kJ and 18 m pile diameter.

Table 11-6: Worst case r_{BD} for VHF species for relevant species for hammer with 4000 kJ and 18 m pile diameter.

Table 11-7: Worst case rPTS and **PTTS** for relevant species for hammer with 4000 kJ and 13 m pile diameter

Table 11-8: Worst case r_{BD} for VHF species for relevant species for hammer with 4000 kJ and 13 m pile diameter.

12 REFERENCES

- [1] M. A. Bellmann, A. May, T. Wendt, S. Gerlach, P. Remmers and J. Brinkmann, "Underwater noise during percussive pile driving: Influencing factor on pils-driving noise and technical possibilites to comply with noise mitigation values.," ITAP, 2020.
- [2] ISO, "Underwater acoustics Terminology," *ISO,* no. 1, 2017.
- [3] J. v. Pein, "Scaling laws for unmitigated pile driving: Dependence of underwater," *Applied Acoustics 198,* 2022.
- [4] M. Bellmann and J. Brinkmann, "Noise mitigation ofr large foundations (Moopile L& Xl) Technical ptions for complying with noise limits, Noise mitigation ofr the constrctuion of increasingly large offshore wind turbines.," 2018.
- [5] R. Thiele, "Propagation loss values for the North Sea. Handout Fachgespräch: Offshore-Windmillssound emissions and marine mammals," 2002.
- [6] DEA, Danish Energy Agency, "Guideline for underwater noise," 2022.
- [7] P. C. Etter, "Review of Ocean Acoustic Models," Norhtrop Grumman Corporation Electronic Systems, Baltimore, Maryland.
- [8] J. M. Hovem, Marine Acoustics The Physics of Sound in Underwater Environments, Los Altos Hills: Peninsula Publishing, 2012.
- [9] B. L. Southall, J. J. Finneran, C. Reichmuth, P. E. Nachtigall, D. R. Ketten, A. E. Bowles, W. T. Ellison, D. P. Nowacek and P. L. Tyack, "Marine Mammal Noise Exposure Criteria: Updated Scientifific Recommendations for Residual Hearing Effects," 2019.
- [10] D. M. A. Bellmann, "Underwater noise during percussive pile driving:," Oldenburg, 2020.
- [11] G. G. R. Francois R. E., "Sound absorption based on ocean measurements: Part II:Boric acid contribution and equation for total absorption," *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America,,* vol. 72, pp. 1879-1890, 1982.

APPENDIX A

Table A-1 Proposed Coordinates of KA OWF

DNV Restricted

APPENDIX B

Figure B-1 Noise map with different DTT's for TTS with 6000 kJ Hammer and 18 diameter without damping

Figure B-2 Visualization of Sound Field

DNV Restricted

About DNV

DNV is the independent expert in risk management and assurance, operating in more than 100 countries. Through its broad experience and deep expertise DNV advances safety and sustainable performance, sets industry benchmarks, and inspires and invents solutions.

Whether assessing a new ship design, optimizing the performance of a wind farm, analyzing sensor data from a gas pipeline or certifying a food company's supply chain, DNV enables its customers and their stakeholders to make critical decisions with confidence.

Driven by its purpose, to safeguard life, property, and the environment, DNV helps tackle the challenges and global transformations facing its customers and the world today and is a trusted voice for many of the world's most successful and forward-thinking companies.