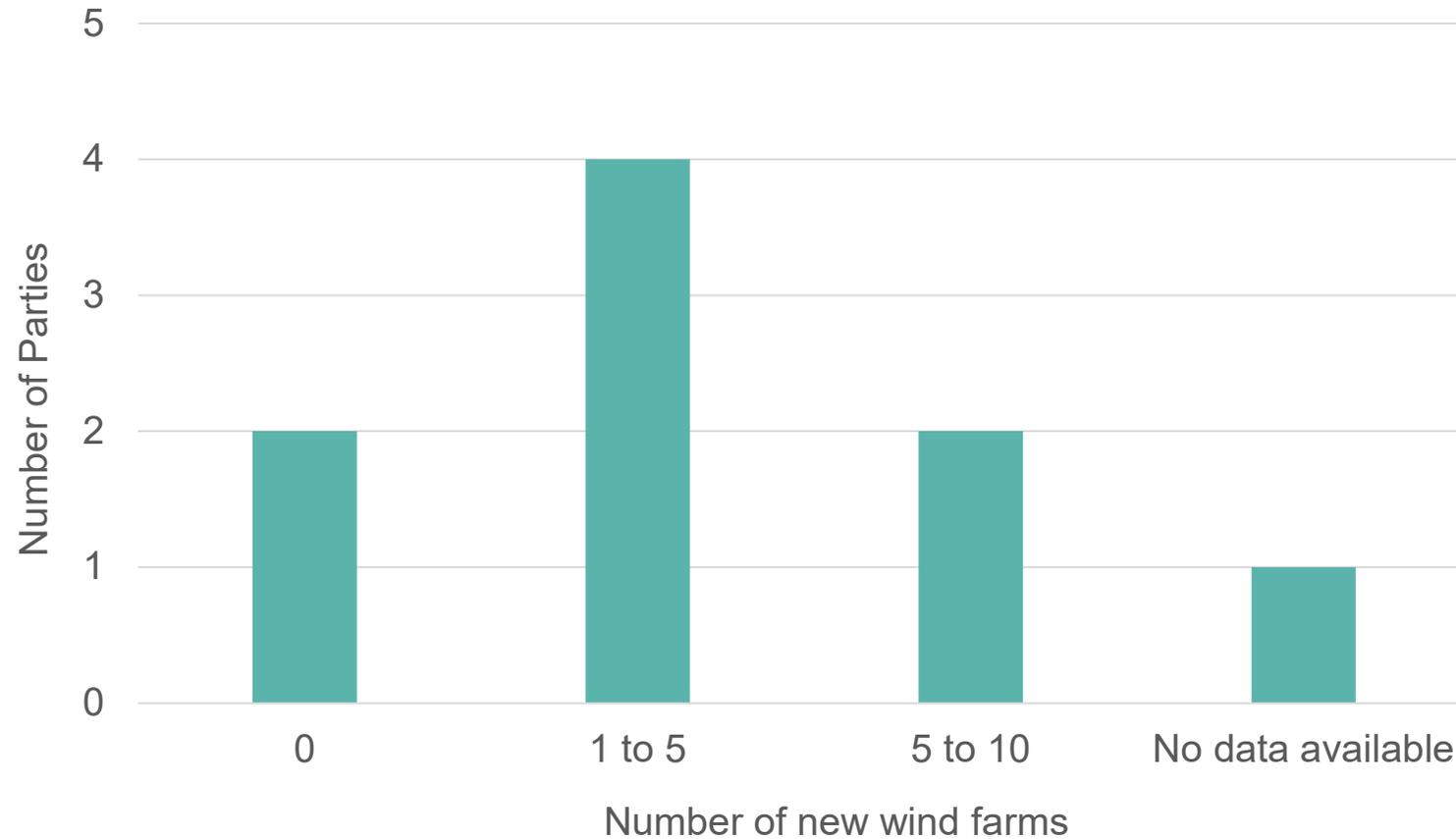


# Ocean Energy – Section II.B.4.

Overview of the responses submitted via National Reports

Arc'hantael Labrière, ASCOBANS Secretariat

## 4.1. Were there any new wind energy farms in development/construction during the reporting period?



**Figure 1** Number of wind farms in development or in construction in 2020

# Questions 4.2., 4.3. and 4.4



© Aaron Crowe

Focussing on January to December 2020:

- No new wave power installations
- No new tidal energy installations
- No new tidal lagoon/barrage

## 4.5. Has there been any other instances/issues related to ocean energy during the reporting period in your country?



Yes: FR

- Ongoing discussions to reorganise the committees dealing with individual ocean energy farms.

No issues: 8 parties

# 4.6. How is the pressure managed, incl. relevant regulations / guidelines and the year of implementation (current and planned)?



BE	DK	FI	FR	DE	LT	NL	PL	SE	GB
<p><b>Environmental permit</b> issued by the minister responsible for the North Sea includes all conditions for exploration, construction and exploitation. The conditions are based on the results of the <b>EIA process</b>.</p>	<p>Guidelines for <b>assessment and mitigation of impulsive noise</b> from pile driving is <b>currently under revision</b> by the Energy Authority. Two background reports are currently available, written in preparation for revision of guidelines (references provided).</p> <p>Until the revised guidelines are presented pile driving is regulated by guidelines based on two background reports (references provided).</p>	<p>During the planning, the current state of the area and the presence of protected animals and plants are always determined. For the most part, subject to the same regulations as other construction. Should always be based on the land use plans drafted in accordance with the Land Use and Building Act. <b>Building permits</b> are always required. It should be noted that land use planning has no means of solving issues related to special legislation. Depending on the location, an obstacle approval pursuant to the Aviation Act, a <b>water permit</b> pursuant to the Water Act or an <b>environmental permit</b> pursuant to the Environmental Protection Act may be required.</p>	<p>The French legislation on the environment requires mandatory <b>impact assessment studies</b>, ERC measures and the measure to follow the impact of offshore wind farms (OWF). In 2017, the Ministry of Environment revised the guideline to realise the impact assessment studies for OWF. In addition, the Ministry of environment chairs a working group about cumulative effects with the aim to elaborate new guidelines in 2021. The pressures on marine mammals are identified as a priority in this working group.</p>	<p>MarineEA RS, Stiftung Offshore Windenergie, <b>BSH underwater sound</b>, GeoSeaPortal.</p> <p>See also 3.4. *</p>	<p>No data.</p>	<p>Windpark development is regulated by <b>Dutch law</b>. To manage the pressure, <b>specific sound level criteria need to be met during construction</b>. These are regularly reviewed. For the construction of Borssele measures to limit or monitor the introduction of impulsive sound included a maximum sound level during piling of SEL @ 750m: 160-172 dB re <math>\mu\text{Pa}^2\text{s}</math>. <b>Noise was to be monitored continuously and mitigated if the criteria were exceeded</b>. The NL has developed the 'Framework for Assessing Ecological and Cumulative effects' (KEC). Sound Exposure Level (SEL) threshold value at 750 metre from the source for piling has been set for the construction of all offshore wind farms on the Dutch Continental Shelf. This <b>threshold</b> will remain subject to review as new information becomes available. In addition to the noise threshold, mitigation measures (ADD, soft start) have to be used to encourage harbour porpoises to move away in order to reduce the risk of hearing damage (Permanent Threshold Shift (PTS)). More information can be found in the <a href="#">Updated Conservation Plan for the Harbour Porpoise in the Netherlands</a>.</p>	<p>Due to the lack of renewable energy installations, there are no studies to assess the environmental impact of such installations. The environmental impact, as well as mitigation and remedial measures of the planned offshore wind farms will be determined within the <b>EIA</b> procedure. Investors applying for <b>permits</b> rely, among others, on the experience of other Baltic countries on this issue.</p>		<p>Managed through statutory consent processes i.e. licensing, environmental assessments, etc. All Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP)&amp; Developments of National Significance (DNS) in Wales required to go through the Planning Inspectorate process in England and undertake <b>EIAs</b> and HRAs under the various national and EU legislation. In relation to offshore wind construction in the Southern North Sea SAC, there is also the requirement for projects to undertake a pre-construction Site Integrity Plan (SIP). <b>Underwater noise guidance</b> for noisy activities in SACs published by JNCC, NE and DAERA (2020). JNCC mitigation guidelines for underwater explosions, seismic activity and pile driving. All marine projects in Scotland licensed through Marine Scotland and required to go through <b>EIA</b> and HRA. All marine projects in Northern Ireland licensed through DAERA and required to go through <b>EIA</b> and HRA. All marine projects in Wales licensed through Natural Resources Wales and required to go through <b>EIA</b> and HRA. The Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) process was introduced to streamline the decision-making process for major infrastructure projects, making it fairer and faster for communities and applicants alike.</p>

## 4.7. Relevant new research/work/collaboration on ocean energy in your country

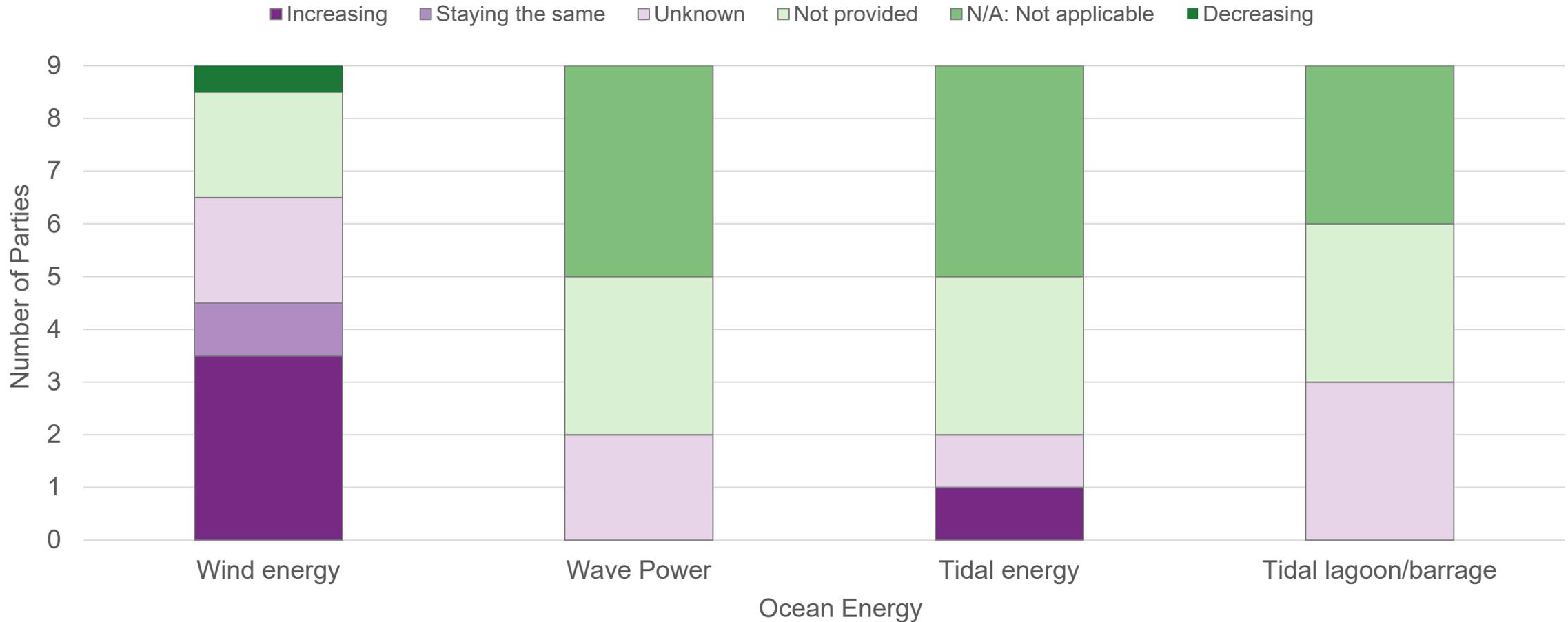


3 countries with none or not aware of any (DK, LT, PL)

Answers included:

- Yearly monitoring reports
- Studies and reports on various underwater noise and their effects
- Project on knowledge gaps of wind farms impact in the North Sea
- Passive acoustic tracking of cetaceans
- Innovations for renewable marine energy

# 4.8. The perceived level of pressure from ocean energy in your country



**Figure 2** The perceived level of pressure per number of Parties depending on the ocean energy type.