

Agenda Item 4.4

Priorities in the Implementation of the
Triennium Work Plan (2010-2012)
Review of New Information on the Extent of
Negative Effects of Sound

Document 4-19

**Scope and aims of the symposium
“Towards an Environmentally Sound
Offshore Wind Energy Deployment”,
held in Stralsund, Germany**

Action Requested

- Take note

Submitted by

Germany



NOTE:
IN THE INTERESTS OF ECONOMY, DELEGATES ARE KINDLY REMINDED TO BRING THEIR
OWN COPIES OF DOCUMENTS TO THE MEETING

Report to the 19th meeting of the ASCOBANS Advisory Committee

Scope and aims of the symposium *Towards an Environmentally Sound Offshore Wind Energy Deployment*, held in Stralsund, Germany

Hosted by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

Organized by Kathrin Ammermann⁽¹⁾, Claudia Hildebrandt⁽¹⁾, Ursula Verfuß⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Germany

⁽²⁾Freelance Biologist

Offshore wind energy plays a central role in building a carbon neutral energy system and in meeting the set climate targets. In the coming years, a considerable number of offshore wind turbines will be installed in the North and Baltic Seas. However, the construction and operation of wind farms will affect the marine environment, as already seen with existing facilities.

To set the course towards an environmentally sound offshore wind energy deployment, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation invited to a symposium in Stralsund, Germany, on January 23rd – 26th. The symposium encountered great interest by the invited parties: originally planned for 30 to 35 participants, the symposium was attended by 48 participants out of six countries: Belgium, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden and United Kingdom.

Twenty presentations were given by national and international experts on up-to-date research results, regulations and requirements with regards to nature conservation and offshore wind farms, focused on marine mammals, sea birds, migratory birds and fish. Aim was to identify and describe research priorities and needs of action for the further expansion of offshore wind energy.

The symposium served as platform for experience exchange between scientists, members of consenting and nature conservation bodies, as well as NGOs. Lectures, working groups and discussions gave opportunities to discuss the most relevant impacts on the marine environment and to address solutions. Besides, the symposium gave opportunity for building networks and co-operations between the participating institutions and for enhancing the knowledge exchange between international experts.

The symposium consisted of six theme sessions. Aim of the first three sessions was the determination of the impact of offshore wind energy deployment on marine animals, with special focus on fish (session I), marine mammals (session II) and birds (session III). These sessions furthermore outlined the sensibilities of these animals. Session IV dealt with the concerns and demands of nature conservation agencies and environmental organisations to the deployment of offshore wind energy. Session V aimed for an introduction of the present regulatory framework in different countries with regards to nature conservation issues. Intention of session VI was the presentation of various methods leading towards an environmentally sound offshore wind energy deployment. As an example, an approach for a common data base was shown.

The final report is available from April 2012 and can be downloaded at the BfN webpage www.bfn.de.