Offshore wind and tourism: Could the two happily co-exist?

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SUBMARINER Network for Blue Growth EEIG

The communication & cooperation platform for actors & initiatives in the Baltic Sea Region involved in sustainable and innovative uses of marine resources.
UNITED project pilot visit, Middelgrunden, September 2020
What is Ocean Multi-Use?

Reduced Demand For Ocean Space

Environmental Benefits

Socio-Economic Synergies

Efficiency and Cost Reductions
Type of offshore wind & tourism multi-use

- **Sightseeing boat tours**;
- **Specially designed platforms** serving as a resting ground for seals, facilities for divers...;
- **Unique wind farm design and layout** - a tourist attraction and regional landmark;
- **On land information centres and museums**;
- Boat tour operators can be engaged in **OWF related monitoring activities**;
- **Helicopter flights** around OWF.

Examples available in Denmark, Belgium, Sweden, Germany and the UK

→ BUT regulation differs across countries, and
→ offshore wind farms also host different conditions and designs
Benefits of the offshore wind & tourism multi-use

- **Mitigation of potential conflict**
  OWF project acceptance and the “NIMBY” phenomenon (Not In My BackYard)

- **Improved awareness about the importance of renewable energy**

- **Additional income for local tourism operators**
  & can support tourism all year round

- **Source of pride for locals**
  esp. if the design and layout is done in an innovative visually appealing way
Building On Lessons To Move Forward

Multi-use has been supported not only by a series of the EU research funding programmes, but also by the international, national funds and planning policy.
UNITED project multi-use pilots
UNITED Danish Pilot: Offshore wind & tourism

**KEY FACTS**

- **THE MIDDENGRUNDEN WIND FARM IS LOCATED OFF THE COAST OF COPENHAVEN**
- **IT IS ELECTED AS THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT CITY LANDMARK**
- **MORE THAN 150 PEOPLE CLIMB THE TURBINE DURING ITS OPEN DAYS**
- **IT HAS AN ESTIMATED POWER OF 40 MW: 20 TURBINES, EACH PRODUCING 2 MW**
- **THE FARM HOSTS MORE THAN 30 BOAT VISITS ANNUALLY**
- **THE FARM PRODUCES 3% OF THE TOTAL POWER USED IN COPENHAVEN**
- **50% OF THE WIND FARM IS OWNED BY A LOCAL COOPERATIVE WITH 8,553 MEMBERS AND 50% BY THE UTILITY COMPANY HOFOR**

@BlueGrowthCommunity
Danish Pilot: Offshore wind & tourism
Lessons learned

Challenges of adding tourism to existing offshore farms

• **Who is to cover the costs of adapting** the offshore facilities to the new situation, and how does this relate to the already obtained offshore wind farm permit conditions received from the government;

• **Costs of damages to the wind farm infrastructure and increased operational expenses**, which were **not part of earlier business plans**.

→ Implementation is easier if taken into consideration already at the planning stage
Lessons learned

Challenges that may still be present even when starting the two uses together:

• **Lack of viable design** solutions and operational solutions with proven benefits;

• **Permitting not necessarily ‘easier’** if uses are combined;

• **Low awareness** about business opportunities;

• **Low interest** from the tour operators, and local communities;

• **Lack of capacities** and financial resources on the side of tourism operators;

• **Operational challenges** imposed to the offshore wind operators and liability issues in case of accidents within the safety zone.

→ To identify viable opportunities **discussions should start early** involving all three sides: offshore wind developers, tourism boards and government.
Key recommendations

• 1) **Improve involvement of the local tourism sector** early in Maritime Spatial Planning and offshore wind project planning to jointly identify opportunities;

• 2) **Facilitate transfer of good practices** across Member States/sea basins, generated from existing examples;

• 3) **Support the development of viable business models and capacity building** for local tourism operators.
Ocean Multi-Use Knowledge Network

- Building on its experience in multiple multi-use related projects the SUBMARINER Network is forming the Ocean Multi-Use Knowledge Network
- The aim is to engage interested actors and support the exchange of knowledge and opportunities on the topic of multi-use

- More information about the Ocean Multi-Use Knowledge Network at: https://www.submariner-network.eu/ocean-multi-use-knowledge-network

- Or get in touch with us directly:
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