

EN

E-002240/2025

Answer given by Mr Jørgensen
on behalf of the European Commission
(2.9.2025)

The roll-out of offshore renewable energy is key to achieve EU's renewable energy objectives. The EU framework enables a robust planning of offshore renewable operations and supports co-existence with other human activities while safeguarding the achievement of environmental and nature protection.

The EU's maritime spatial planning (MSP)¹ mandates Member States to manage their seas through an integrated ecosystem-based planning. The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea highlights MSP as a key tool for mitigating conflicts between offshore renewable energy (ORE) and fisheries. Cumulative impacts assessment methodologies are being developed with the support of the Regional Sea Conventions² as also required by the Marine Strategy Framework Directive³, where Member States in their marine strategies also need to apply an ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities. In addition, a Technical Expert Group⁴ was established in 2020 under the Member States' Expert Group on maritime policy⁵ to support Member States with all data-related issues when developing and updating their plans.

Furthermore, the Commission is working with Member States and sector representatives to ensure a close dialogue with the fisheries sector when preparing and revising maritime spatial plans. The Commission supports studies, projects and regional cooperation on co-existence and multi-use of the marine space as well as mitigation measures of ORE developments.

Following recommendation from the European Court of Auditors (ECA), the Commission is conducting a study on employment, skills and social implications of ORE developments in the EU. The study will feed into a Commission report to the ECA before the end of 2026.

¹ Directive (2014/89/EU): <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2014/89/oj/eng>.

² For example, the Spatial Pressure and Impact assessment tool (SPIA tool) by HELCOM <https://maps.helcom.fi/website/bsii/>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32008L0056>.

⁴ <https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/msp-resources/technical-expert-group-teg-data-msp>.

⁵ Maritime Policy Member State Experts Group (E01682).