



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 34E/1

SAFEGUARDING IMPORTANT BIRD HABITATS
AND MIGRATION ROUTES IN THE BALTIC SEA
FROM NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF WIND AND WAVE
ENERGY PRODUCTION AT SEA

Article 15 of the Helsinki Convention

- *“the Contracting Parties undertake to individually and jointly take all appropriate measures with respect to the Baltic Sea Area and its coastal ecosystems influenced by the Baltic Sea to conserve natural habitats and biological diversity and to protect ecological processes and that to this end, the Contracting Parties shall aim at adopting subsequent instruments containing appropriate guidelines and criteria”*



The Recommendation

- [HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 34E/1: SAFEGUARDING IMPORTANT BIRD HABITATS AND MIGRATION ROUTES IN THE BALTIC SEA FROM NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF WIND AND WAVE ENERGY PRODUCTION AT SEA](#)
- Co-lead countries for this recommendation are Sweden and Germany.



Actions in the Recommendation

- RECOMMENDS the Contracting Parties of the Helsinki Convention to map migration routes and staging areas (i.e. wintering, feeding, moulting and resting) of birds in the Baltic Sea Area and to enhance research and monitoring in order to improve the understanding of the impacts of wind energy facilities, both during and after construction, on birds in the Baltic Sea,



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- RECOMMENDS the Contracting Parties of the Helsinki Convention to **map migration routes and staging areas (i.e. wintering, feeding, moulting and resting) of birds in the Baltic Sea Area** and to enhance research and monitoring in order to improve the understanding of the impacts of wind energy facilities, both during and after construction, on birds in the Baltic Sea,



Actions in the Recommendation

- ALSO RECOMMENDS the Governments to apply the precautionary principle by undertaking measures to avoid or minimize negative effects of wind energy facilities on birds in the Baltic Sea, such as disturbance during and after construction, including barrier effects and hampering of migration, habitat modification or loss, and collisions with turbines, through the application of ecosystem-based approach in strategic planning for wind energy facility developments in the Baltic Sea,



Actions in the Recommendation



RECOMMENDS FURTHER to:

- a) continuously compile and exchange information on existing, on-going as well as planned developments for wind energy facilities and wave energy installations in the Baltic Sea Area and well as on migration routes and staging areas of birds in the Baltic Sea Area
- b) jointly assess cumulative impacts of wind energy facilities and wave energy installations in the Baltic Sea Area on birds, including risks of collisions and adverse effects to migration routes,
- c) enable appropriate planning of the use of marine space that incorporates conservation need of seabirds in the Baltic-wide context thus contributing to reaching their favourable conservation status;
- d) support development and use of nature friendly wind energy technology to minimize collision risk and other negative impacts on birds and intensify the research;
- e) avoid that wind energy facilities and wave energy installations are sited in areas important for birds, and that the loss of off-shore staging habitats will be halted;
- f) avoid that wind energy facilities are situated within major migrating routes of birds,
- g) ensure that plans for offshore wind energy development and individual wind energy facilities will be established only following strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment, respectively, where cumulative regional Baltic Sea scale and sub- basin scale impacts and benefits of the different development options to birds have been thoroughly assessed;
- h) include into construction and operating permissions the obligation for the operator to carry out adequate monitoring of impacts on birds during the operation phase.

Actions in the Recommendation



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- d) support development and use of nature friendly wind energy technology to minimize collision risk and other negative impacts on birds and intensify the research;
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- h) include into construction and operating permissions the obligation for the operator to carry out adequate monitoring of impacts on birds during the operation phase.

Reporting on the Recommendation

- Action taken by the Contracting Parties in accordance with this Recommendation should be reported to the Commission on request.

