

North Sea Summit: Moving towards a shared vision for offshore wind, grids and marine ecosystems in the North Seas

Hamburg, January 26 – Today, representatives of the [Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature](#) (OCEaN) attended the third North Sea Summit in Hamburg, where governments, the offshore wind industry, and transmission system operators committed to a series of targeted actions to strengthen the role of the North Seas in the green energy transition through the [Joint Offshore Wind Investment Pact for the North Seas](#).

Beyond its role as a power hub, the North Sea is an ecologically rich and environmentally important area that must be protected and restored alongside the expansion of offshore energy infrastructure. This broader and shared vision was reflected in the Declarations released at the Summit. These include the [Hamburg Declaration of Energy Ministers](#), which sends a strong signal in support of a more regional and coordinated approach to offshore wind and grid development. Among the priority areas identified, it recognises the need for better integration of energy planning, Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), biodiversity and ecosystem protection, and data sharing at sea-basin level.

From the perspective of industry, the [Offshore Wind Industry Declaration](#) outlines clear commitments to decarbonisation, circularity, marine ecosystem protection, and engagement with local communities. This Declaration defines industry pledges on manufacturing, operating, and decommissioning turbines in accordance with circular economy principles. It also reiterates their continued application of the mitigation hierarchy (avoid–minimise–restore–offset), the testing and scaling up of Nature-Inclusive Design, and the development of Nature-Based Solutions within and beyond project boundaries. Furthermore, the industry commits to implementing long-term monitoring and adaptive management, supporting open data sharing and research, and ensuring a transparent and inclusive transition by collaborating with local communities, research bodies and NGOs, including through OCEaN.

These government and industry commitments are aligned with OCEaN's objectives and long-standing work. OCEaN Members therefore look forward to seeing these commitments implemented. Since its foundation, OCEaN has promoted MSP as a key tool to optimise the use of our seas while maintaining their ecological integrity. [OCEaN has also supported](#) better integration of energy planning, nature protection and restoration within MSP, enhanced cross-border cooperation, and improved sharing of environmental data at the sea-basin level to support strategic, sound, and cost-effective conservation measures. OCEaN's joint work is reflected, among other outputs, in our [mitigation report](#) and databases on [mitigation measures, nature enhancement and restoration projects](#). These tools support the identification, sharing and scaling up of solutions to minimise environmental impacts and deliver positive outcomes across offshore wind and grid projects.

Looking ahead, OCEaN and its Members will actively contribute to the implementation of the North Sea Summit outcomes through their engagement with relevant EU, regional and national stakeholders, in particular the North Seas Energy Cooperation (NSEC), the Greater North Sea Basin Initiative (GNSBI), OSPAR and other relevant regional and international initiatives. OCEaN will also contribute to the revision of the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive and the European Ocean Act, which will be key instruments in supporting cross-border coordination and effective implementation at sea-basin level.

Together with our Members, OCEaN is committed to continuing to monitor progress and to contributing evidence-based solutions to deliver on both climate and nature conservation objectives.

Statements of support from OCEaN Members:

Antonella Battaglini, CEO at Renewables Grid Initiative

Integrated regional planning delivers a clear win for offshore wind, grids and nature, especially as infrastructure becomes more vulnerable. We need to do more with fewer resources, while reducing impacts and costs. It is time to bundle objectives and exploit synergies through integrated regional planning. This underlines the need for shared frameworks to monitor progress towards Nature- and People-Positive outcomes and scale solutions at sea-basin level. RGI, together with its initiatives OCEaN and The Global Initiative for Nature, Grids and Renewables ([GINGR](#)), is committed to contributing to these objectives and monitoring progress under a shared assessment framework.



Malgosia Bartosik, Deputy CEO at WindEurope

Today marks a milestone for offshore wind in Europe. The North Sea governments, TSOs, and industry commit to working together to enable scale, predictability, and competitiveness. We stand ready to deliver. We will make offshore wind cheaper, faster, and better – strengthening Europe’s energy security, creating jobs, and driving socio-economic value. And while we do it, we will step up our work on climate mitigation, circularity, and biodiversity protection and restoration. We look forward to operationalising all this!

Ester Asin Martinez, Director at WWF European Policy Office

On behalf of WWF and the NGOs engaging in OCEaN, we support the commitments made today by the North Sea governments, the industry and the TSOs. It is essential that all stakeholders, including civil society, work together towards a healthy and climate-resilient North Sea, while providing Europe with nature-friendly, secure, local, and affordable energy. As a frontrunner sea basin in the field of offshore wind, the North Sea has a great responsibility and will continue leading by example for the rest of the world.

Manon van Beek, CEO at TenneT, on behalf of OTC

Regional planning at both spatial and project level is essential to delivering Europe’s offshore energy transition efficiently while restoring, protecting and enhancing marine ecosystems. By coordinating early across borders and sectors, we can optimise grid and wind development, reduce environmental pressures, create nature-enhancing opportunities and ensure that climate and nature objectives are achieved together in the North Sea.

About OCEaN

OCEaN brings together NGOs, TSOs and wind industry organisations from across Europe to work towards a sustainable deployment of offshore energy and grid infrastructure, while ensuring alignment with nature protection and healthy marine ecosystems. OCEaN is convened and moderated by the [Renewables Grid Initiative](#) (RGI).

Visit [our website](#) to learn more.

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