SMARTER DATA
STRONGER SEAS
FACTSHEET 2

ENHANCING DATA SHARING IN OFFSHORE WIND AND GRID MONITORING

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL PLATFORMS

Shared environmental monitoring data from offshore wind and grid projects can support regulators, developers, and researchers. At present, developers and transmission system operators (TSOs) collect vast amounts of data, but **the scarcity of platforms for exchange hinders sharing, accessibility, and reusability** of this information.

A system managed by national authorities, but interoperable EU-wide, would make data easy to locate, share, and reuse. **Open access** to raw and aggregated data **improves accountability, supports the mitigation of potential negative impacts, and streamlines future studies**, while tiered access systems balance openness with data protection.

THE POWER OF OFFSHORE WIND AND GRID DATA

The offshore wind and grid sector generates vast data through Environmental Impact Assessments and long-term monitoring. Beyond meeting national and EU requirements, developers collect these data to track project outcomes. **This wealth of information is a powerful resource for strengthening environmental protection**. When shared and connected at international level and across projects, it can help **address cumulative effects and support a more holistic approach** to monitoring, conservation and sustainable development.

DATA VISIBILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Increasing visibility and accessibility of environmental data is key to improve offshore wind and grid development. While developers often collect and share data (see factsheet 1), **access or use across projects and sectors can be difficult** due to fragmented systems and lack of common platforms. Implementing clear frameworks for data exchange can:

- Strengthen trust across sectors to facilitate sharing
- Bolster environmental outcomes
- Enhance monitoring, innovation and cost-effectiveness
- Help overcome barriers by improving business performance

THE SOLUTION: NATIONAL OPEN ACCESS DATA PLATFORMS

Accessible national platforms managed by public entities can make data easier to find, compare and use by:

Enhancing visibility and transparency by providing single access points for environmental data	Ensuring comparability across the EU through harmonised formats and standards	Translating industry-collected data into a shared resource, supporting research and innovation	Balancing openness with data protection, introducing a tiered access system where needed

COMPARING THREE NATIONAL DATA PLATFORMS

These three national platforms share the **goal of improving data access, management, and reuse**. Analysing their governance, standards, accessibility, and functionality highlights key strengths and differences to inform the development of **more coherent and interoperable data systems across Europe**. The analysis shows that the three platforms share similar data standards, governance structures, and privacy rules, laying the groundwork for greater interoperability.

	DATA STORED	MANAGEMENT	COMMITMENT	ACCESS
Marine Data Exchange	Technical, environmental and ecological data throughout project lifecycles. GIS shapefiles, reports, appendices.	The Crown Estate (TCE) hosts the platform. Owners format data to meet TCE and MEDIN quality checks and guidelines.	Sharing of environmental data and metadata with TCE and TCE Scotland is mandatory throughout the lifetime of a lease.	Freely accessible to the public if no longer commercially sensitive. Data owners may defer public release for a few years.
Marine Life Investigator	Ecological and environmental data which must comply with StUK standard formats. Reports, GIS/ spatial data.	The platform is managed by BSH (Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie).	Data collected must be shared with the BSH within 14 months of the survey in specific Excel files.	BSH tables available upon request. Web services on GeoSeaPortal are publicly available. Access levels may depend on project or permit.
Belgian Marine Data Centre	Ecological and environmental data harmonised following international standards. Databases, GIS data, reports, scientific publications.	Managed by BMDC (part of OD Nature), who also handles storage, formatting, and quality control.	BMDC stores data shared under national and international regulations as well as voluntary research data.	General datasets are available on the metadata portal without registration. Research and monitoring data require registration.

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