**Planning Criteria Offshore Renewable Energy – Update 16th of April 2019**

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| Energy | Belgium | Denmark | Germany | Netherlands | Norway | Scotland | Sweden |
| MSP’s role in locating OWE | MSP is used to designate spatial areas for renewable energy and for offshore wind, the wind turbine area | Until now sectoral decision-making and planning by the Danish Energy Agency.  MSP’s role is to coordinate use of the sea areas for different uses. | Designation of priority areas is indicative.  OWF can be built outside the designated areas. | MSP is used to designate wind energy areas and all the conditions required to build wind farms (location, permit and grid connection etc.) | No zones have been opened for OWE yet but 15 possible or suitable areas have been identified by SEA | MSP particularly focuses on the development of the marine renewable  energy sector  MSP is used to identify spatial ‘Plan Options’ for offshore wind, tidal and wave energy. | National interest areas from energy authority taken into MSP plan, but MSP suggest also new areas.  OWE can be built outside the designated areas. |
| OWE distance from the shore | 12 NM | Smaller OWF located between 4 and 20 km  Large OWF are located > 15 km distance | Not defined, but visibility and the National Park has been a reason why far from the coastline. Hub height limited to 125m if visible from coast | Current OWF 6-34 NM off the coast. All new designated OWF areas are at least 10 NM out of the coast. | Not defined, there are is currently no OWE | No minimum distance set, plan options can be within and out with 12NM (cut-off point for devolved powers) | Not defined (case by case) |
| MSP linked to permit procedure | MSP shows wind turbine area |  | Shows suitable areas in EEZ.  Indicative designation of suitable areas in EEZ.  Permissions outside designated areas possible | Wind farm site decisions are based on MSP designated areas. Wind farms are not permitted to be built outside these designated areas. | No zones opened yet therefore there is no existing practice on licensing for commercial OWE projects | MSP identifies spatial Plan Options. Seabed lease and marine licensing applications are expected to be located within the Plan Options. Applications within Plan Options are not guaranteed to obtain a licence.  Scotland’s National Marine Plan provides the framework for the licensing and consents process | MSP has a guiding influence, municipalities have a veto right. |
| Initiative from the operators or from the authorities/planning process? | The authorities define the area, the operators develop the windfarm layout |  | Until now initiatives from the operators. New scheme for OWF installations from 2021: designation of OWF areas by authorities. Preliminary assessment included | The State is responsible for designating offshore wind farm areas. |  | Initiatives from the planning authorities (sectoral planning) | Initiatives come from the operators |
| Use of planning criteria | Set of criteria has been developed by the authorities and stakeholders together | Set of criteria has been used by the energy authority | Technical and spatial planning criteria defined for the indication of OWF areas and development | Set of criteria being used – design and technical criteria | Set of criteria used to identify zones | Spatial and technical planning criteria used by the planning authority to show ‘Plan Options’ for offshore marine renewable energy | Has an indicative list, but always case by case |
| Existing OWF | 6 offshore wind farms (182 turbines) | 13 offshore wind parks (516 turbines)  3 under preparations | 18 (North Sea):  EEZ (942 turbines – 4495 MW)  6 OWF in construction  9 under preparation  (11/2018) | 5 OWF ( 957 MW) +  10 areas designated for OWF  See offshore wind energy roadmap 2030. www.noordzeeloket.nl/en | 1 turbine | 12 bottom-fixed foundation OWFs and 3 floating OWFs have been granted consent | 5  77 turbines, 7 OWF approved + several projects in preparation |

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| Similarities | Differences | Actions |
| * MSP process has at least started * Most countries have designated OWF areas * No minimum distances from shore was applied so far * Strong influence of MSP on OWF licensing | * No one size fits all -> different legislation, planning &maturity level * Different levels of exclusivity, incl. Fishing, MPAs, shipping (e.g. Sweden and Germany) * Technical layers per country differ -> bathymetry, visual impact, Natura 2000) * Licensing duration & process differ * OWF initiative differs: top-down, bottom-up and unknowns * Planning criteria themselves of different origins, nature & weighting | * Awareness where other countries are in the process * Tools can help: timeline, living Q * Communicate differences better * Harmonisation of transnational EU level regulation * Interpretation -> Natura 2000, SEA, HRA, (it´s a framework) * Make distinction between developer and operator |