



# Guidelines for the strategic environmental impact assessments

On the following pages, you will find proposals for common guidelines and requirements for the implementation of the two strategic environmental impact assessment programmes – “title of box for 2025” and “title on the box for the others”.

## Guidelines

The implementation shall be carried out in line with the requirements [of the Offshore Energy Act](#), the EU directive on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment ([SEA Directive](#)) and [OSPAR Guidance](#) on Environmental Considerations for Offshore Wind Farm Development. In summary, the following guidelines were proposed:

- The strategic environmental impact assessment shall firstly assess the impacts of offshore wind in general. Relevant impacts shall be described. Then, the same impacts shall be assessed for each of the identified areas.
- The impact assessments are divided into two projects.
  1. The two areas [Sørvest F and Vestavind F are separated into their own strategic environmental impact assessment](#), as these assessments shall be used directly in an approval process in the run up to any announcement in 2025.
  2. [Strategic environmental impact assessment for the 18 remaining areas](#).
- The assessments shall examine the potential consequences of the proposed expansion in capacity of the approved areas for Sørlige Nordsjø II and Utsira Nord.
- The impact assessments shall, as far as possible, be based on existing, relevant and available knowledge, and the necessary updating of this. The scientific knowledge basis in connection with the work on the management plan for Norwegian maritime zones shall be used where relevant.
- The assessments shall be carried out so that it is possible to both compare and rank the identified areas, and to compare and rank within an area to uncover whether parts of the area have a higher conflict level or technical suitability.
- The assessments shall, as far as possible, describe the impacts of the four primary phases of the life cycle of an offshore wind farm: licence/detail planning, development, operation/monitoring and decommissioning/shut down.
- The assessment shall describe relevant mitigation measures for significant impacts on the environment and society during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases.
- It shall be assessed whether the establishment of offshore wind energy in the identified areas will lead to significant negative environmental impacts for other countries, cf. section 4-2 of the Offshore Energy Act.
- Any lacking knowledge that will be relevant for approving the areas for offshore wind energy production, but which are not covered by this impact assessment, shall be described for the areas where this is relevant.
- Acquiring the necessary knowledge base for assessments pursuant to Chapter II of the Nature Diversity Act shall be emphasised.
- The impact assessment shall cover the [identified areas](#), and include impacts on relevant areas of influence for relevant topics. The area of influence will vary between the different issues.

- Areas for use for both fixed and floating foundations shall be clarified. For fixed foundations, depths of 70 metres are used, and for floating foundations depths between 100 and 1,000 metres are used. The depths between 70 and 100 metres are in the boundary area between the two technologies and, in theory, can be used by both floating and fixed foundations.

## The reporting programme for general technical clarifications

Some of the points in the proposed reporting programme are general technical clarifications that are not geographically related to some of the identified areas. Where appropriate, these general technical clarifications will be amalgamated into a common technical basis.

This part of the impact assessment will be a further development of the [general knowledge](#), which will be published together with this reporting programme.