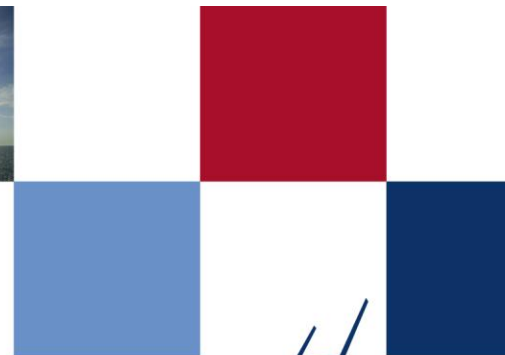


# POWER cluster



## Future maritime spatial decisions become more transparent

The North Sea already is subject to numerous conflicting and incommensurate uses. Expansion of the offshore wind industry not only entails utilization shifts but also has the potential to profoundly change the face of the economic and eco-logical area called the North Sea region.

Maritime spatial decisions of public interest call for tools to increase the transparency of the decision making process. Public involvement into this process is the key to broad acceptance of the pace and the direction of future changes.

### Where is your offshore wind farm?

What do you think are top criteria when choosing where to site offshore wind installations? Energy generated? Porpoise habitats? Impact on visibility?

As a contribution to e-democracy, POWER cluster designed a participatory GIS with a coupled multi-criteria decision analysis allowing you to create your own hierarchy of criteria and get maps reflecting your preferences on where offshore wind farms should be built.

In order to create a user friendly, robust, secure, fast tool, multiple cutting-edge GIS and WEB technologies are integrated into the IT-framework. Information regarding the various uses and eco-system func-

tions were being gathered, conditioned and integrated.

Another tool is an interactive map displaying the current state of operating, under construction, and planned offshore wind farms providing design parameters and a link to the operator for further information.



### Further development needed

Increasing the functionality of the decision tool without decreasing its straightforwardness is our main goal. Given the importance of the energy grid for offshore wind energy, we also look for ways to integrate grid issues.

Another important, yet unresolved issue concerns the comparability of the different support schemas of the North Sea region countries (subsidies, ROCs, feed-in tariff, etc) as this is one of the main factors which affects where offshore wind farms are developed.



### Partners involved

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