

Win-Wind

Opportunities for passive lobster and brown crab fisheries in wind farms

What could offshore wind farms (OWFs) look like in 2030? This question will be asked by various actors who are associated with the North Sea. OWFs could be used to set up oyster banks or to enable seaweed cultivation. A number of OWFs could also be suitable for low impact fisheries using pots and cages to catch crabs and lobsters. The Win-Wind project focuses to asses the potential to combine OWFs and sustainable fishing of crabs and lobsters.

What is the challenge?

The number of offshore wind farms (OWFs) in the North Sea is increasing and as a result, the surface of fishing area is decreasing. Fishermen look for alternative options, including multi-use of OWFs. However, commercial fishery activities in OWFs farms are not that easy to exploit. For example, OWF operators must guarantee the safety of OWFs. In addition, much needs to be arranged: who and which vessels will be allowed to fish, during which periods, which licenses will be required, which conditions are needed and who can issue the necessary licenses? Another important question is whether this form of fishing will be profitable. Will the catches and landings of lobster and crabs contribute to an economic and sustainable fishery model for maritime entrepreneurs?

Project:

Win-Wind: 'making offshore wind farms winning for society'

Subthema:

Ecology

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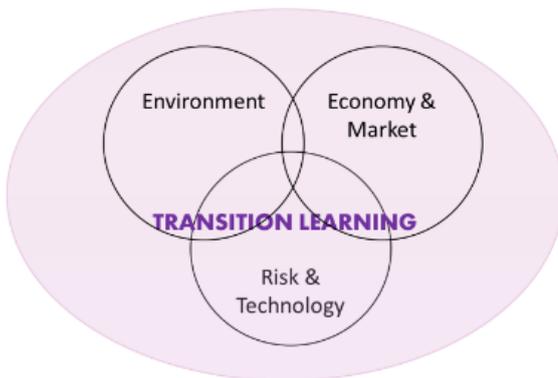
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Photo: Eelco Leemans

Project management



What is the project about?

The Win-Wind project consists of a consortium of fishermen, Wageningen Research, ministries, governmental services and OWF operator ENECO. The partners collaborate on finding answers to the most important questions enabling sustainable fishing in wind farms. These questions relate to the ecology of crabs and lobsters in the North Sea, the risks and technological conditions, market and economic opportunities, the interaction between the various actors and the learning capacity to realise the intended transition.

What is the contribution of the project?

The project aims to contribute to scaling-up commercial fishing in OWFs and realising a transition towards multiple activities (multi-use) in OWFs.

Funding

The project is co-funded by the Topsector Energy (TKI 'Wind at Sea') and own contributions by the partners. The TKI 'Wind at Sea' programme connects research, development and demonstrations. Its aim is to realise a major contribution by offshore wind energy to the intended energy transition, through cost reduction and optimisation, integration in our energy system, spatial integration and ecological development.

Ecology

- What is the stock size of crabs and lobsters in a particular OWF? What do we know about the dynamics of the population?
- How many crabs and lobsters can be caught while maintaining a sustainable stock?
- What can be done to improve stocks?
- What is the impact of the passive fishing activities on crabs and lobsters at the environment within a OWF?

Risc and technology

- What are the obligatory requirements for vessels, the fishery, crew (certificates, training), protocols, etc?
- Are there experiences abroad, in particular in the United Kingdom and Denmark and what can we learn from those?
- Which agreements must be made with the OWF operators and governmental authorities?
- What are the investments and additional costs to realise?

Market and economy

- What is the current market situation and what are the trade channels of crabs and lobsters in the Netherlands?
- What are the future market prospects for crab and lobster sales from wind farms?
- What are the consumer preferences for crabs and lobsters in the Netherlands?
- For which actors is sustainable and cost-effective crab and lobster fishing an opportunity?

Transition

- Which different actors and stakeholders play a role and what interests do they have?
- How can these players contribute to the multi-use of OWFs?
- What stimulates the various actors and parties to contribute to the intended transition?

Partners Win-Wind



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