Offshore Wind Farms Around the World And Assessment of Bird Collisions

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Operating Offshore Wind Farms Sept. 2009

OF WIND FARMS

1

7

1

3

1

1

5

1

4

9

BELGIUM DENMARK FINLAND GERMANY IRELAND ITALY NETHERLANDS NORWAY SWEDEN UK

TOTAL

NATION

33

Operating Offshore Wind Farms Sept. 2009 # OF WIND FARMS ≥ 3 mi

BELGIUM DENMARK FINLAND GERMANY IRELAND ITALY NETHERLANDS NORWAY SWEDEN UK

1713115149

1300112126

17 (51.5%)

33

TOTAL

Offshore Wind Farms Under Construction (Completed by 2012)

NATION

CHINA DENMARK GERMANY SWEDEN UK

TOTAL

OF WIND FARMS

19

Offshore Wind Farms Under Construction (Completed by 2012)

NATION	# OF WIND FARMS	≥ 3 mi
CHINA	1	0
DENMARK	5	2
GERMANY	4	3
SWEDEN	1	0
UK	8	6
TOTAL	19	11
		(57 9%)

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Wind Farms by 2012

NATION	OPERATING	UNDER CONSTRUCTION	≥ 3 MI
BELGIUM	1	0	1
CHINA	0		0
DENMARK	7	5	5
FINLAND	1	0	0
GERMANY	3	4	3
IRELAND	1	0	1
ITALY	1	0	1
NETHERLANDS	5	0	2
NORWAY	1	0	1
SWEDEN	4	1	2
UK	9	8	12
TOTAL	33	19	28

"God breathed, and the Armada was scattered" – Elizabeth I, 1588



Where are the Infamous Bird Killers?

 Zeebrugge, Belgium – Turbines along eastern breakwater in Zeebrugge harbor

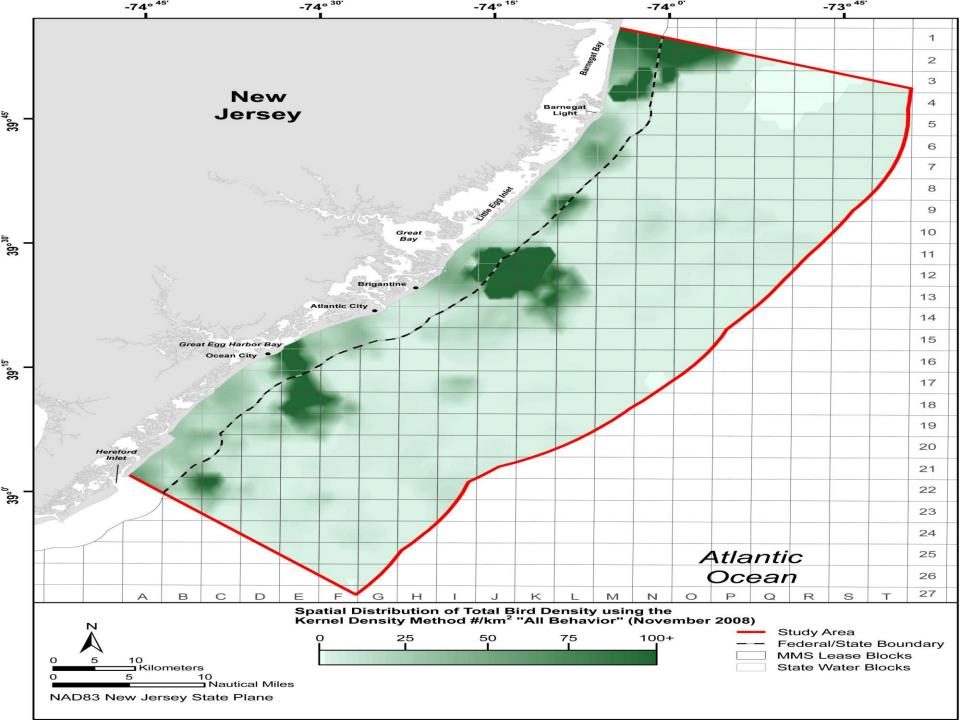
- Located between tern nesting beach and primary foraging site
- Closest turbine just 20 m from beach
- Smola Wind Farm, Norway
 - Located on island archipelago off coast of Norway

NEITHER IS "OFFSHORE." BOTH ARE ADJACENT TO OR ON THE COASTLINE

GOOD NEWS ABOUT OFFSHORE WIND FARMS AND BIRDS

Truly offshore wind farms are minor bird killers

- Most development interest is 10-20 mi. offshore
- Few birds \geq 8 mi. from LAND on Atlantic OCS
- No need for towers and transmission lines



TAKE-HOME MESSAGES ABOUT OFFSHORE WIND FARMS AND BIRDS

- Literature confuses "offshore" with "coastal" and so do scientists!
- bird abundance is orders of magnitude greater along coast than offshore
- must classify wind farms into 3 categories instead of two: terrestrial, COASTAL, and offshore
- 3 different levels of impact not just 3 geographic locations
- Offshore wind farms have so far not been shown to be bird-killers
- Proven bird-killers are "shore-hugging"
- Must read the fine print to distinguish between truly "offshore" and "coastal" wind farms

