



Public Consultation on the Offshore Renewable Energy Strategy

EBI response

EBI supports the development of offshore renewable energy to decarbonise energy production and achieve the climate neutrality targets of the European Green Deal. With this response, EBI provides input on areas where there is overlap and common issues between offshore renewable energy and recreational boating that should be considered in the new EU strategy.

Positioning of offshore wind parks and navigational safety

The safe positioning of offshore wind parks needs to consider the requirements for safe navigation of recreational boats, especially in the context of the European Commission's plans to substantially increase offshore renewable energy production in the next years. If not considered and implemented properly, there is a risk recreational boating is pushed into commercial shipping routes. This would lead to safety risks and can decrease the attractiveness of boating in the region with economic impact.

A permission for boating in offshore wind parks should be the benchmark with limited exceptions and promotion of multi-use. Weather and wind patterns, recreational navigation routes, and access to marinas should be considered in planning. Maritime Spatial Planning processes should carefully consider the interplay between recreational boating and offshore wind parks, as well as other maritime activities. Information on navigational barriers must be made available to recreational boaters. The economic and social value of boating and nautical tourism should be considered, and the industry and user perspective consulted and included in relevant planning processes.

Decommissioning and recycling solutions

The composite material used for wind turbines is largely similar to that used for recreational boats, as well as in other composite use sectors. Scale-up of recycling technologies across all use sectors can provide added value. EU and national research and innovation programmes should focus on supporting this effort and developing alternative composite materials with environmental sustainability at their core across use sectors.

About the recreational boating industry

There are around 6 million boats in European waters, 80% of which are below 8m, with 36 million regular boaters. The recreational boating sector is predominantly made up of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) at over 95% of the 32,000 companies in the sector. Across Europe, the sector employs around 280,000 employees and creates economic opportunities for peripheral and coastal regions of Europe, as well as along inland waterways.

About EBI

European Boating Industry (EBI) represents the recreational boating industry in Europe. It encompasses all related sectors, such as boatbuilding, equipment manufacturing, marinas and service providers. EBI is an established stakeholder at EU level, defending and promoting the interests of its

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members on key issues ranging from Single Market legislation to blue growth, tourism and trade policy. More information here: europeanboatingindustry.eu

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