



SWEDISH
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
AGENCY

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The Swedish reply to the notification pursuant of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) regarding the planned offshore wind farm *Saare-Liivi*

On September 8, 2022 the Ministry of Environment in the Republic of Estonia notified Sweden concerning the plans to develop an offshore wind farm [OWF] known as *Saare-Liivi* located in the Gulf of Riga. The developer, Utilitas Wind OU, plans to establish an OWF consisting of 299 turbines with maximum capacity of 14 – 20 MW.

Pursuant to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessments in a Transboundary Context [Espoo Convention], a country [originating party] that intends to implement a plan or program likely to have significant transboundary effects on the environment or health of another country [designated party] shall notify the country concerned and, if the designated Party so wishes, enter consultations.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency is the responsible authority for submitting and receiving notifications and otherwise fulfilling obligations for environmental impact assessments in a transboundary context [Espoo Convention] in Sweden, according to the Environmental Assessment Regulation (2017:966). The consultation was directed to the organizations which had previously submitted their comments and lasted from the September 14 to November 4, 2022. The consultation documents have also been available for the public and other potential interested parties on the SEPA's website.

Remarks received during the consultation

A brief summary of the statements received is included below, please note that the summary is written on behalf of the Swedish EPA and not for the body to which the proposal is referred for consideration.

All statements are enclosed in full to this letter.

Bird Life Sweden strongly emphasizes the development and implementation of techniques that combine weather/radar data and instantaneous shut-down of wind turbines when high-risk conditions occur. In addition to what BirdLife Sweden has already expressed in the process, the organization feel obliged to stress the importance of taking into serious consideration the opinion of BirdLife Estonia, being the expert organization of Estonian avifauna.

The **Swedish Pelagic Federation PO [SPF]** welcomes that the EIA will include studies on fish reproduction and abundance in the area. SPF is of the opinion that these studies need to be concluded before any decision can be made on whether the wind farm can be allowed. If the wind park at a later stage should be approved and built, we are of the strong opinion that long-term studies on the fish community should be conducted in and around the park to further the knowledge on effects from wind parks on different fish species.

The **Swedish Transport Administration** emphasizes the importance of effective navigation in the Baltic Sea, in this case, the availability of shipping lanes between Sweden and Estonia and Latvia as described in the Swedish Maritime Spatial Plan. Nationally designated shipping lanes much be considered in all aspects of maritime wind farm planning.

This decision has been made digitally and therefore lacks signatures

For the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

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Acting Head of Unit

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CC

Emma Sjöberg at the Swedish Ministry of Environment

Enclosed, statement made in English by:

BirdLife Sweden
The Swedish Pelagic Federation PO
The Swedish Transport Administration