

Notification

of the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency in the procedure for assessing the suitability of sites N-13.1 and N-13.2 in the German Exclusive Economic Zone of North Sea intended for offshore wind energy

Public display of the draft of the suitability assessment, the draft of the determination of suitability and the draft of the environmental report

Discussion hearing

According to Section 12 para. 4 Offshore Wind Energy Act (WindSeeG), the body responsible for the preliminary investigation of sites shall examine the suitability of a site in accordance with Section 10 para. 2 WindSeeG. The Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH) performs this task on behalf of the Federal Network Agency (BNetzA), Section 11 sentence 2 no. 1 WindSeeG.

If the suitability assessment shows that the respective site is suitable for being put out to tender pursuant to Part 3 Section 5 of the WindSeeG, as the basis for the subsequent invitation to tender by the BNetzA this result and the capacity to be installed on this site shall be determined by ordinance, Section 12 para. 5 sentence 1 of the WindSeeG.

BSH is currently conducting the suitability assessment of sites N-13.1 and N-13.2. Accordingly to the Amendment of the Site Development Plan 2025 from 30 January 2026 these sites are expected to be put out to tender by the BNetzA in 2027 in accordance with Part 3 Section 5 of the WindSeeG and shall be put into operation in 2032.

BSH has examined whether the construction and operation of offshore wind energy installations on these sites would cause impairments to the criteria and interests pursuant to Section 10 para. 2 sentence 1 in conjunction with Section 5 para. 3 and Section 69 para. 3 sentence 1 WindSeeG. A Strategic Environmental Assessment has to be carried out according to Section 35 para. 1 no. 1 Federal Law on the Environmental Impact Assessment (UVPG) in conjunction with no. 1.18 of Annex 5 UVPG. In this context, a national public and authority participation as well as a transboundary participation are carried out.

The initiation of the procedure for the preliminary investigation of sites N-13.1 and N-13.2 on the basis of the draft Site Development Plan 2023 was notified in accordance with Section 12 para. 1 WindSeeG on 16 November 2023. In addition, BSH published an accompanying document on the object and scope of the preliminary investigations. The investigation framework for sites N-13.1 and N-13.2 were established on 31 May 2024 and published on the BSH website.

BSH has prepared a draft of the suitability assessment, a draft of the determination of suitability (draft of the Sixth Offshore Wind Energy Ordinance) the sites N-13.1 and N-13.2.

The **draft of the Sixth Offshore Wind Energy Ordinance by the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency has not yet been coordinated within the Federal Government.** In the course of the procedure it is therefore possible that changes may occur. Especially content within brackets is up for further discussion and concretisation between the Federal Ministries. Most notably, the necessary area of evasion for the protection of oceanic birds against disturbances has yet to be contextualized within the draft.

The **public display of draft documents** (drafts of the suitability assessment, the determination of suitability (6. WindSeeV) and the environmental report for Sites N-13.1 and N-13.2) are available for inspection in the period **from 24 August 2026 to 24 September 2026.**

The draft documents as well as decision-relevant reports currently available to the BSH can be accessed online at the [Application and Participation portal for Transport and Offshore Projects](#). The aforementioned drafts (only available in German language) as well as decision-relevant reports (available in English and in German) can also be downloaded on the BSH's website www.bsh.de (Themen → Offshore → Preliminary Investigation of Sites).

Upon request, an alternative, easily accessible option can be provided. To arrange this, please contact the BSH during the public display period by E-Mail to EingangOdM@bsh.de.

The public has the opportunity to comment on the draft documents until **26 October 2026**. After this date, all statements that are not based on specific titles under private law are excluded. Notification of the decision on the statements may be replaced by public notification if more than 50 notifications or deliveries are to be made.

Due to the legally set time frame for the completion of the suitability assessment, the deadline for submitting comments is generally **not** extendable.

Comments and statements shall be submitted digitally via the [Application and Participation Portal for Transport and Offshore Projects](#) through **26 October 2026**.

To do so, you have to log in using a BundID account or "Mein Unternehmenskonto." For more information, visit <https://beteiligung.bund.de/DE/VorhabenFindenUndBeteiligen/InfoseiteOeffentlichkeitsbeteiligung/infoseite-oeffentlichkeitsbeteiligung-node.html>.

It is also possible to send your comments in written form to Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie, Abteilung O/O15 (Ordnung des Meeres), Bernhard-Nocht-Str. 78, 20359 Hamburg or by e-mail to EingangOdM@bsh.de.

BSH may publish the submitted comments and statements in full or in part. If you do not agree to full publication, please additionally submit a redacted version suitable for publication.

A **discussion hearing** to discuss the main points of the draft of the suitability assessment, the main contents of the draft environmental report as well as the comments and statements will take place on

Dienstag, 24 November 2026
Start: 10:00 a.m.

as an Online Conference.

If you are interested in participating at the discussion hearing please write your full name and, if applicable, the organisation to which you belong by **17 November 2026**

by e-mail to EingangOdM@bsh.de.

The provisions on oral proceedings in the formal administrative procedure, Section 67 et seq. Administrative Procedure Act (VwVfG), apply to the discussion hearing. The hearing will take place without the presence of all involved.

Reference is made to the general data protection declaration of the BSH at <https://www.bsh.de/DE/Service/Datenschutz/datenschutz.html>.

For the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency

Max Ahlheim

Hamburg, 21 August 2026

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