

WE ARE IN A NATURE AND CLIMATE CRISIS.

It is imperative that we rapidly cut global emissions and take ambitious action to protect and restore marine ecosystems. Healthy seas are our ally in the fight against climate change, capturing and locking away carbon, as well as supporting human livelihoods and wellbeing.

Offshore wind is a low cost, proven technology that has a vital role in the energy transition. However, it is being developed in already busy seas and will increase the overall pressure on marine ecosystems, which are in a degraded state due to a legacy of impacts from past and present human activities.

To avoid further degradation and losses of nature we need a Nature Positive energy transition at sea, which BirdLife defines as:

Industry and government-led action that goes above and beyond halting nature loss and is delivered at scale to restore thriving and resilient seas in tandem with the expansion of renewable energy at sea, ensuring a just transition of other marine sectors.

The protection and restoration of marine ecosystems must be pursued hand in hand with, and with equal ambition to, the expansion of offshore renewables.

WE MUST PROTECT, RESTORE AND ENHANCE NATURE.

We call on governments, working together with industry, civil society, and other relevant parties, to take all possible measures to minimise impacts on nature and incorporate large-scale nature restoration and enhancement as integral components of the planning and development of offshore renewable energy.



SCAN HERE TO FIND OUT MORE

For more information see the position paper of BirdLife Europe & Central Asia: Winds of Change: Powering Healthy Seas through a Nature Positive Energy Transition by scanning the QR code.

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A NATURE POSITIVE RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION AT SEA

TO PROTECT, RESTORE AND ENHANCE NATURE



NATURE PROTECTION

Halting loss from renewable energy developments.

1

AVOID IMPACTS

Identify and address cumulative impacts from multiple developments.

2

MITIGATE IMPACTS

Implement effective mitigation measures in all developments, for example:

Measures (e.g., bubble curtains) to reduce underwater noise during installation of turbine foundations for whales, dolphins and seals.

NATURE RESTORATION & ENHANCEMENT

Achieving healthy, thriving and resilient seas.

- Nature inclusive design of wind farms.

An illustration of a coastal scene. In the foreground, a dolphin leaps from the water. To its left, a fishing boat with a net is visible. In the background, a penguin stands on a rock, and a sailboat is on the water. The scene includes green islands, blue water, and various sea life like ducks and coral.

3

COMPENSATION

Implement measures to address residual impacts after avoidance and mitigation.

4

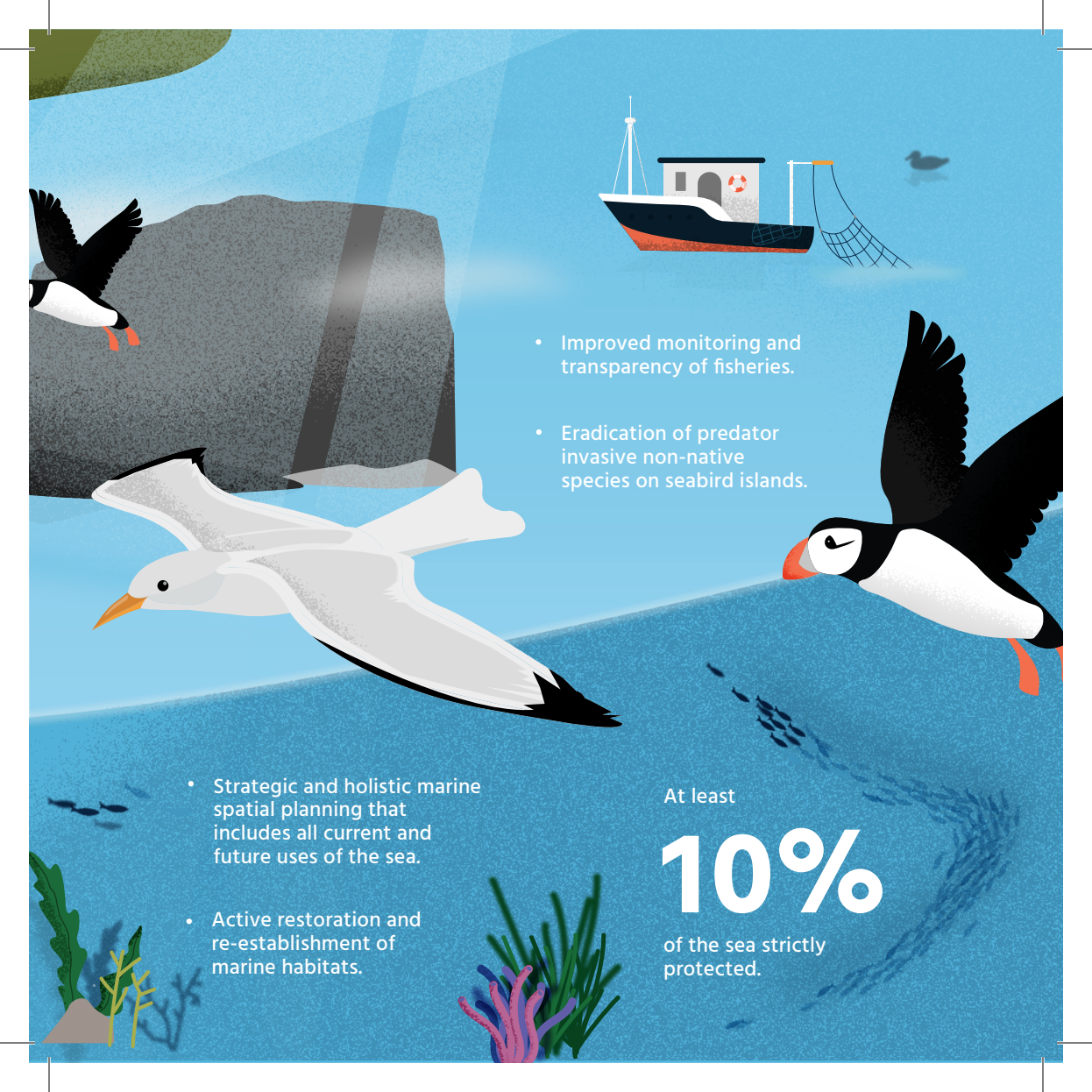
MONITORING

Undertake monitoring to understand the impacts from developments, the effectiveness of mitigation and compensation measures, and inform management decisions.

- Transition to low-impact and low-carbon fisheries.
- Protection of marine predator's food sources (forage fish).
- Measures to minimize bycatch of sensitive species.

An ecologically coherent and effectively managed network of Marine Protected Areas covering at least

30% of the sea.

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- An illustration of a coastal scene. In the upper right, a fishing boat with a white cabin and red hull is shown with a net being pulled up. A small dark bird is flying nearby. In the upper left, a black and white seabird with an orange beak and feet is flying. In the center, a large grey rock formation is partially submerged. In the foreground, a large white seabird with a black wingtip and orange beak is flying. To the right, another black and white seabird with an orange beak and feet is flying. The background is a blue sky and sea. At the bottom, there are illustrations of green seaweed and purple coral.
- Improved monitoring and transparency of fisheries.
 - Eradication of predator invasive non-native species on seabird islands.

- Strategic and holistic marine spatial planning that includes all current and future uses of the sea.
- Active restoration and re-establishment of marine habitats.

At least

10%

of the sea strictly protected.