

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Project Name: *SWM SANDBANK OFFSHORE WINDPARK*  
Project Number: *20140445*  
Country: *GERMANY*  
Project Description: *288 MW Offshore wind farm located approx. 90 km west of the island Sylt in the German sector of the North Sea.*

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

**EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social outcomes at Project Completion.**

By virtue of its technical characteristics the project fell under Annex II of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2011/92/EU. According to national law the project was subject to a mandatory EIA, which was undertaken in 2003. Following rounds of public consultation and expert advice, the competent authority approved the EIA in 2004 and granted a general, conditional construction and operating permit. With adequate precautionary and mitigation measures, the impacts on fauna and flora, including on local and migrating birds, marine mammals, benthos and invertebrates were considered to be acceptable.

A key concern was the need for underwater noise prevention measures during the installation of foundations (hammering) to protect harbour porpoise populations. As there was no such technology available allowing to stay below acceptable noise limits, appropriate noise mitigation concepts therefore had to be developed during implementation. The project applied different noise mitigation systems (Hydro-Sound-Damper, Big Bubble Curtain, Double Big Bubble Curtain) and applied these either individually or in combination. These noise mitigation systems have proven their offshore ability, and noise emissions below a level the competent authority deems appropriate could be achieved for the large majority of foundation works.

The national permitting system for offshore wind farms is strictly regulated and projects have to comply with a set of given standards. This implied that the environmental permit included a number of collateral conditions to be fulfilled subsequently during implementation. Satisfactory compliance with a condition required and triggered clearance by the competent authority to continue with the next phases of the implementation. All these intermediate clearances were granted.

No significant environment or social issues were noted during implementation.

**Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:**

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the promoter during construction that the project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.