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## Tracking individual Atlantic cod at an offshore wind farm – implications for fisheries

*Baktoft, H, Olesen, FME, Koed, A & Svendsen, JC*

Offshore wind farms (OWF) in the Danish North Sea could host substantial abundances of fish, partly because of reef effects associated with the wind turbine foundations and scour protections, and partly because the areas covered by OWFs may act like *de facto* marine protected areas (MPA) with limited or no ongoing fishing. The overarching objective of this project is to provide an understanding of the role that OWFs are playing for fish and fisheries in the Danish North Sea, using Atlantic cod as a case study. Atlantic cod is used as model species since it is a commercially and culturally important fish species and is tightly associated with reef habitats. This project will deploy underwater acoustic receivers (hydrophones) to track the presence of individually tagged Atlantic cod. The tracking will map the fish and reveal which areas of the OWF are being used by the tagged fish. The tracking is also expected to reveal whether Atlantic cod utilize the OWF as a spawning habitat. Our research provides input for upcoming OWF decommissioning plans and outcomes.



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