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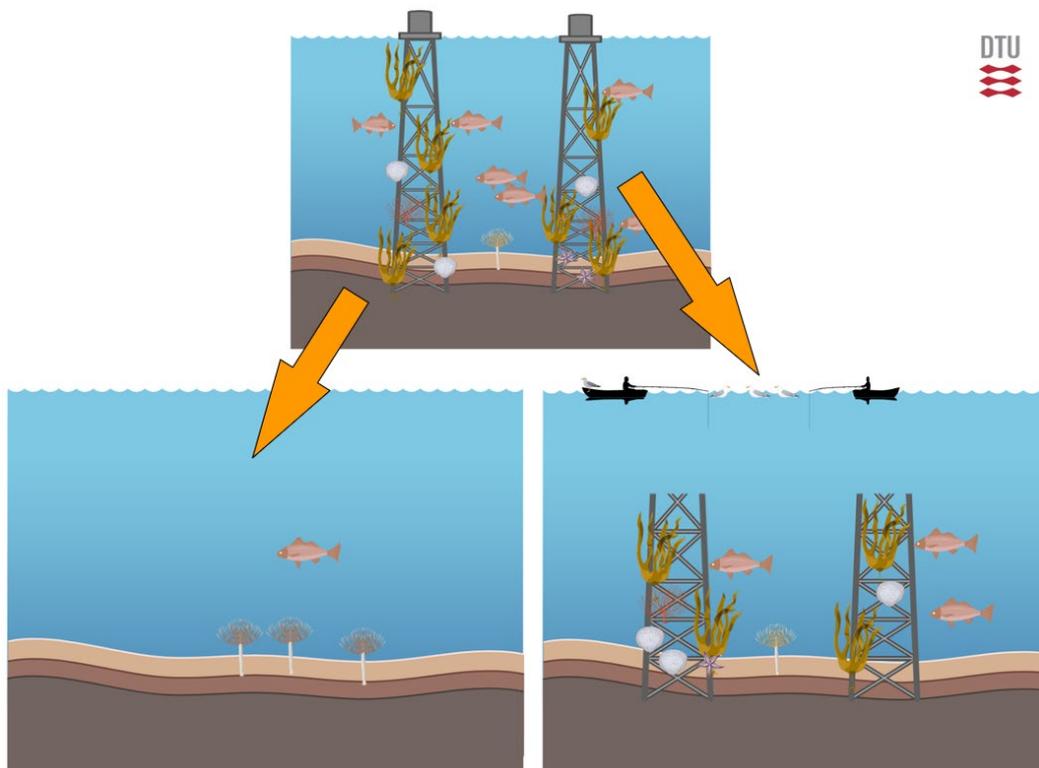
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Are offshore O&G platforms affecting fish abundance and biodiversity?

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International studies indicate elevated fish productivity near offshore oil & gas platforms. For platforms in the Danish North Sea, it remains largely unknown if they affect fish abundance and marine biodiversity. In relation to fisheries, it is important to know if platform decommissioning could affect fish abundance and associated biodiversity. Platforms could play an important role because they may serve as productive offshore reefs and benefit from existing fishing closures surrounding individual platforms. For platform decommissioning, it might therefore be relevant to consider leaving parts of the structure on the seabed as an artificial reef.



The poster will describe a study carried out as a collaboration between DTU Aqua, Aarhus University, TOTAL and DTU Offshore. Field data were collected at platforms situated in the Danish North Sea. Preliminary data analyses indicate elevated fish abundance and biodiversity near the platforms.