

Baltic Sea (Estonia) Case study

Conflict type: blue growth vs. Blue justice

OWF vs. Local tourism, socio-cultural values, national defense, marine conservation, & history & sense of place, intergenerational justice

Conflict parties (OWF developers, community group, municipalities, marine planners, Ministries of Defence & Environment).

Conflict Scale: local, in Hiiumaa, but with implications nationally & internationally (ambitions to up OWE, reduce GHG emissions & strengthen blue growth).

Conflicting Agendas: 1. large-scale OWFs vs. Small-scale OWFs in combination other RE sources; 2. statutory vs. detailed SEA studies.

Geography: 1. EU RE Directive puts pressure on Estonian Government to expand OWF; 2. Estonia & Hiiumaa formerly under USSR control (fear that large-scale OWFs may reintroduce Russian control).

Governance: MSP seen as tokenistic participation & favoring OWF

Conflict Development: adoption of a marine plan; failure of MSP to resolve conflict led to legal battles resulting in Supreme Court cancellation of OWF.

Power tools: media, courts, & discourse coalition – drawing on EU nature protection legislation to create “insitutional fit”.

Knowledge: rationalist (planners & developers) vs. Ecological, local/historical & legalist (Supreme Court & community).

Sustainability Implications: OWF cancellation will entail reduced climate benefits & local development opportunities, but also positive change in terms of establishment of local environmental NGO; better consideration of local voices, and potentially a multispecies understanding of justice.

Challenges and envisioned solutions

Challenge 1

- Difficulties designing dialog b/n community & OWF actors due to
- (1) deteriorated relations over the years
- (2) disparate visions in terms of size & location of wind farms
- (3) ministries with RE infrastructure responsibilities seem unequipped/unwilling to institute collaborative change processes.

Envisaged solution

- While challenging, equitable collab. can be possible if developers could relinquish some power e.g. via recognition of & engagement with community as legitimate stakeholders.
- Conversely, community group can continue to draw coalitions with EU environmental policies to disrupt the influence of the RE sector.

Challenge 2

- **Limited co-production:** Due to conflict sensitivity, conditions for agonistic power sharing & mutual recognition & respect for one another's views, values & visions are limited.

Envisaged solution

- **Preferred Methodology:** Shuttle Diplomacy – active bricolage (listening to parties separately & laying their needs to the other, & vice versa. Gives researcher freedom to make bold propositions which would be difficult if parties shared the negotiation table).

Challenge 3

- **Institutionalizing change:** deteriorated relations, as well as institutional fragmentation – mix of institutions with overlapping responsibilities (e.g. Ministry of Environment for environmental compliance, Ministry of Finance for MSP, & Ministry of Economic Affairs for energy sector & marine policy).

Envisaged solution

- Baltic Sea Dialog Forum consisting of planners from Estonia, Sweden, Lithuania, as well as representative of HELCOM. Aim is to share understanding on conflict in Estonia & Baltic Sea, strengthen collaboration between researchers & practitioners, & create opportunities for formalizing & upscaling conflict transformation practices at the national & multilateral level

Challenge 4

- Learning network & related workshop: conflict sensitivity

Envisaged solution

- Nonetheless, we can build on Baltic Sea DF with planners & HELCOM as part of this knowledge network to share case findings and experiences with ocean planning elsewhere.

Challenge 5

- **Institutionalizing change:** deteriorated relations, as well as institutional fragmentation – mix of institutions with overlapping responsibilities (e.g. Ministry of Environment for environmental compliance, Ministry of Finance for MSP, & Ministry of Economic Affairs for energy sector & marine policy).

Envisaged approach

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