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Nationality: Spanish

Date doctoral degree: 14/05/2019



Orientation: Integrated Management of the Sea

Specialization Area: Coastal Planning

Research Line: 3.12 Governance of marine and coastal environment, integration of public land and marine policies and social responsibility

PhD project: The influence of International, EU, national and regional legislation in the development of offshore wind farms. The case of Galicia (Spain)

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Summary: The main results highlight the need to: i) develop a one-stop-shop or an electronic single window system through which a collegiate body –composed of representatives of both the state and autonomous regions affected by the installation– is established; ii) introduce the scoping phase as a mandatory step both in the simplified and the ordinary environmental impact assessments in order to avoid further delays in proceeding and ensure an early involvement of the public affected by the installation of offshore wind farms; iii) introduce in Royal Decree 363/2017 a detailed compensation system in order to compensate those sea users whose activities and livelihoods may be displaced by a new use (such as the development of offshore wind farms); iv) establish specific coordination mechanisms between maritime spatial plans and marine strategies and between maritime spatial plans and coastal (terrestrial) management plans, as well as improve the participation of the coastal autonomous regions in the process of elaborating maritime spatial plans. v) Regarding the planning effort in which the region of Galicia has been taken as a case study, despite the fact that the largest wind power density has been identified in the northwestern area, the high number of legally protected interests that may be affected by such facilities (e.g. marine reserves, special protection areas for birds, wetlands) suggest that it could be advisable to consider other sites identified in the northeastern corner of Galicia or the south of the Vigo estuary, in spite of their lower wind potential.

