REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN GDAŃSK

RDOŚ-Gd-WOO.420.89.2024.AM.7. Gdańsk, July 01, 2025
zpo

DECISION

Pursuant to:

- Article 104 and Article 154 § 2, Article 155 of the Act of June 14, 1960 – Code of Administrative Procedure (consolidated text: Journal of Laws of 2024, item 572);
- Article 75 section 2 point 1 letter c), Article 75 section 1 point 1, letter r) in conjunction with Article 71 section 2 point 1 and Article 87 of the Act of October 3, 2008 on access to information on the environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and on environmental impact assessments (consolidated text, Journal of Laws of 2024, item 1112, as amended);
- §2 section 1 point 5 of the Regulation of the Council of Ministers of September 10, 2019 on projects which may have significant environmental impact (consolidated text, Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1839);

having considered the application:

- of December 23, 2024 (supplemented on December 27, 2024, January 17, 2025 and January 21, 2025), submitted by C-Wind Polska Sp. z o.o., acting through the proxy Ms. Magdalena Kiejzik-Głowińska, EKO-Konsult Sp. z o.o., to amend the decision on environmental conditions, ref. No.: RDOŚ-Gd- W00.420.50.2021.KSZ.AM.10 of September 16, 2022, issued by the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk for the project named: "**BC-Wind Offshore Wind Farm**";

taking into account the information contained in:

- environmental impact assessment report for the project named "BC-Wind Offshore Wind Farm" – Update prepared by Eko-Konsult sp. z o.o. under the management of Ms. Magdalena Kiejzik-Głowińska, Gdańsk, December 2024;
- opinion of the State Border Sanitary Inspector in Gdynia, ref. No.: ZNS.491.2.1.2025 of February 26, 2025;
- approval of the Director of the Maritime Office in Gdynia, decision ref. No.: INZ.9202.10.2025.AD of March 05, 2025;

and having completed the environmental impact assessment for the project

I hereby decide that

I. a change should be made to the decision on environmental conditions, ref. No.: RDOŚ-Gd- W00.420.50.2021.KSZ.AM.10 of September 16, 2022, issued by the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk for the project named: "BC-Wind Offshore Wind Farm" (hereinafter referred to as the "decision on environmental conditions" or "amended decision"), as follows:

1) point I.1. entitled **Type and location of project implementation**, which reads as follows:

The subject of the project is the BC-Wind Offshore Wind Farm (hereinafter referred to as: BC-Wind OWF) with a total maximum power output of 500 MW located in the maritime areas of the Republic of Poland, in the development area of 86.28 km ^{2}, at a distance of approx. 22.6 km north of the seashore, in the proximity of Choczewo and Krokowa communes (Pomorskie voivodship). The planned project covers the construction, operation and decommissioning of the BC-Wind OWF. It will consist of up to 41 wind turbines, 188 km cable routes and up to 6 other facilities.

Geodetic coordinates of the BC-Wind OWF Development Area

Point No.	Geodetic reference system GRS80H [DD°MM'SS.SSS"]	
	λ	φ
1	17°50'29.701" E	55°05'41.945" N
2	17°51'12.921" E	55°05'45.974" N
3	17°54'07.585" E	55°06'01.656" N
4	17°56'01.352" E	55°06'11.346" N
5	17°58'58.043" E	55°06'15.594" N
6	18°01'03.574" E	55°06'18.656" N
7	18°01'52.922" E	55°06'20.769" N
8	18°01'53.282" E	55°06'20.785" N
9	18°03'17.508" E	55°06'24.392" N
10	18°03'30.060" E	55°06'19.193" N
11	18°03'55.078" E	55°06'08.831" N
12	18°04'25.851" E	55°05'54.849" N
13	18°07'58.862" E	55°04'18.065" N
14	18°08'40.068" E	55°03'59.343" N
15	18°08'44.911" E	55°03'50.593" N
16	18°08'45.125" E	55°03'50.205" N
17	18°08'50.792" E	55°02'43.042" N
18	18°08'50.365" E	55°02'40.918" N
19	18°03'56.238" E	55°02'15.151" N
20	18°01'53.405" E	55°02'10.619" N
21	18°01'53.045" E	55°02'10.619" N
22	18°00'00.360" E	55°02'06.000" N
23	18°00'00.360" E	55°03'38.548" N
24	18°00'00.359" E	55°04'18.343" N
25	17°56'28.930" E	55°04'28.352" N
26	17°51'30.273" E	55°04'42.490" N
27	17°49'49.441" E	55°04'47.263" N

The BC-Wind OWF should include:

1) wind turbines (nacelles with rotors, towers and foundations or supporting structures anchored in the seabed or founded on the seabed);
2) offshore substations;
3) Internal power and communication lines.

The list of the most important parameters of the BC-Wind OWF for the option proposed by the Applicant:

Parameter	Unit	Value
Total installed capacity (maximum)	MW	500
Number of wind turbines (maximum)	-	41
Rotor diameter (maximum)	m	280
Clearance between the rotor operation area and water surface (minimum)	m	20
Height of the structure with the rotor (maximum)	m	330
Number of additional structures (maximum)	-	6
Gravity-base foundation (GBS) diameter (maximum)	m	60
Maximum seabed area occupied by a single gravity-base foundation (GBS) (maximum)	m^2	2826
Length of inter array cable routes (maximum)	km	188

to be replaced with:

The subject of the project is the BC-Wind Offshore Wind Farm (hereinafter referred to as: BC-Wind OWF) with a total maximum power output of 500 MW located in the maritime areas of the Republic of Poland, in the area of 86.28 km^2 and with the gross covered area of approx. 78.71 km^2, at a distance of approx. 22.6 km north of the seashore, in the proximity of Choczewo and Krokowa communes (Pomorskie voivodship). The planned project covers the construction, operation and decommissioning of the BC-Wind OWF. It will consist of up to 39 wind turbines, 100 km cable routes and up to 5 other facilities.

The BC-Wind OWF should include:
- wind turbines (nacelles with rotors, towers and foundations or supporting structures anchored in the seabed or founded on the seabed);
- offshore substations;
- Internal power and communication lines.

The list of the most important parameters of the BC-Wind OWF for the option proposed by the Applicant:

Parameter	Unit	Value
Total installed capacity (maximum)	MW	500
Number of wind turbines (maximum)	-	39*
Rotor diameter (maximum)	m	250
Clearance between the rotor operation area and water surface (minimum)	m	20
Height of the structure with the rotor (maximum)	m	300

Parameter	Unit	Value
Number of offshore substations (maximum)	-	1
Number of other civil structures (maximum), (non-productive infrastructure)	-	4
Monopile foundation diameter (maximum)	m	11.5
Seabed surface occupied by a single foundation – monopile with a protective layer (maximum)	m^2	2600
Length of inter array cable routes (maximum)	km	100

** – ultimately, a maximum of 34 wind turbines are planned, the remaining 5 are spare locations*

Geodetic coordinates of the BC-Wind OWF development area (World Geodetic System 1984)

Point No.	Latitude N	Longitude E
	λ	φ
1	55.0949847222	17.8415836111
2	55.0960004176	17.8524786464
3	55.0961037778	17.8535891194
4	55.1004598806	17.9021068222
5	55.1031515417	17.933709
6	55.1043316861	17.9827896556
7	55.1051821944	18.0176595778
8	55.1057692806	18.0313673611
9	55.0362829611	18.0314014944
10	55.0353214942	18.007925178
11	55.0607076414	18.0079301282
12	55.072386505	18.0078561245
13	55.0726849609	18.0077651794
14	55.0729792224	18.007639394
15	55.0732679521	18.0074793393
16	55.0735498375	18.007285742
17	55.0738235974	18.0070594814
18	55.0740879874	18.0068015853
19	55.0743418057	18.0065132254
20	55.0745838985	18.006195712
21	55.0748131654	18.0058504878
22	55.0750285641	18.0054791217
23	55.0752291155	18.0050833016
24	55.0754139079	18.0046648264
25	55.0755821011	18.0042255983

26	55.0757329306	18.0037676138
27	55.0758657106	18.0032929547
28	55.0759798376	18.0028037789
29	55.0760747927	18.0023023101
30	55.0761501442	18.001790828
31	55.0762055495	18.0012716581
32	55.0762407567	18.0007471605
33	55.0790211962	17.942014141
34	55.0829483003	17.8590532077
36	55.0949847222	17.8415836111
37	55.0362830111	18.0315014944
38	55.1057735611	18.0314673417
39	55.1067760796	18.0548730341
40	55.105348542	18.0583201052
41	55.100144273	18.0703811149
42	55.0935640432	18.0848740671
43	55.0865611776	18.1002935438
44	55.0802900869	18.1140934778
45	55.0733849511	18.1292796501
46	55.0664841689	18.1444633525
47	55.0640532041	18.1458109946
48	55.0639479736	18.1458692132
49	55.0501202123	18.1470359017
50	55.0452900172	18.1474434195
51	55.0447039473	18.1473255404
52	55.0375483849	18.065451499
53	55.0362830111	18.0315014944

2) in point I.2. entitled **Conditions of using the area at the stage of implementation and operation or use of the project, with particular focus on the necessity of protecting outstanding natural values, natural resources and monuments, as well as on reducing nuisance to neighboring areas.**

Implementation and operation stage

A) **point I.2.1,** which reads as follows:

Erect subsequent wind turbines on the foundations installed, starting from one place, so that the water region intended for the project is occupied with structures gradually, expanding the area of the BC-Wind OWF to include neighboring wind turbines.

to be replaced with:

If possible, erect subsequent wind turbines on the foundations installed, starting from one

place, so that the water region intended for the project is occupied with structures gradually, expanding the area of the BC-Wind OWF to include neighboring wind turbines.

B) **point I.2.2), which reads as follows:**

Implement the project in such a manner as to exclude the possibility of any pollutants entering the water environment. To this end:

a) if the marine environment is contaminated with solid and liquid waste, immediately and continuously remove the waste from the water surface;
b) in the case of spills of oil and oil derivative products during the works, the generated impurities from the water surface should be removed on an ongoing basis, using in the first place mechanical methods for their collection;
c) equipment and machinery used in the project should be inspected and serviced regularly.

to be replaced with:

Implement the project in such a manner as to minimize the risk of any pollutants entering the water environment. For this purpose, it is required to follow the Plan for combating hazards and pollution for BC-Wind OWF approved by the Maritime Office, updated 6 months prior to the commencement of construction, i.e.:

a) if the marine environment is contaminated with solid and liquid waste, immediately and continuously remove the waste from the water surface;
b) in the case of spills of oil and oil derivative products during the works, the generated impurities from the water surface should be removed on an ongoing basis, using in the first place mechanical methods for their collection and dispersion;
c) equipment and machines used in the project should be checked and serviced in accordance with the equipment maintenance schedule provided by its supplier.

C) **point I.2.3,** which reads as follows:

The process of piling in the period from August to March should be performed under ornithological monitoring. If common guillemots, razorbills, long-tailed ducks and velvet scoters are not observed within a radius of 2 km from the piling site, works preceded by the soft-start procedure may be commenced.

to be replaced with:

The piling in the period from August 1 to March 31 should be accompanied by ornithological monitoring. If common guillemots, razorbills, long-tailed ducks and velvet scoters are not observed within a radius of 2 km from the piling site, works preceded by the soft-start procedure may be commenced. Each piling in this period should be preceded by observations of an ornithologist, and in the case of observations of the listed bird species, the ornithologist should report and indicate to the decision-making person on behalf of the Investor, e.g. the construction site manager the further procedure aimed at protection of the above-mentioned bird species.

D) **point I.2.5,** which reads as follows:

Prepare the as-built documentation for cable laying showing the depth of cable burial or laying in relation to the seabed surface, including a description of the criteria used, an assessment of their compliance, as well as a description of construction products or other

materials used, and also a justification for choosing the target method of cable laying in the seabed or on the seabed. Submit the documentation to the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk within 3 months from the completion of cable laying works.

to be replaced with:

Prepare the as-built documentation for cable laying showing the depth of cable burial or laying in relation to the seabed surface, including a description of the criteria used, an assessment of their compliance, as well as a description of construction products or other materials used, and also a justification for choosing the target method of cable laying in the seabed or on the seabed. Submit the documentation to the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk within 6 months from the completion of cable laying works.

E) **point I.2.6.,** reading as follows:

Provide archaeological supervision in the course of works, and in case of finding an item that has not been located yet, which may be recognized as a heritage asset, actions should be taken in accordance with the provisions of the Act of July 23, 2003 on the protection and care of historical monuments (Journal of Laws of 2021, item 710, as amended), hereinafter referred to as the "Act on the protection of historical monuments," including:

a) suspension of all works that may damage or destruct the discovered item;
b) protection, as far as possible, of the item and place of its discovery using the available measures;
c) immediate notification of the competent Director of the Maritime Office in Gdynia about the discovery of an item located in the Polish maritime areas.

to be replaced with:

Provide archaeological supervision in the course of works, and in case of finding an item that has not been located yet, which may be recognized as a heritage asset, actions should be taken in accordance with the provisions of the Act of July 23, 2003 on the protection and care of historical monuments (consolidated text, Journal of Laws of 2024, item 1292), hereinafter referred to as the "Act on the protection of historical monuments," including:

a) suspension of all works that may damage or destruct the discovered item;
b) protection, as far as possible, of the item and place of its discovery using the available measures;
c) immediate notification of the competent Director of the Maritime Office in Gdynia about the discovery of an item located in the Polish maritime areas.

In case of unexpected or accidental archaeological findings, the Investor should provide the competent authority with the procedure together with the Report on Archaeological Findings 6 months prior to the commencement of construction.

F) **point I.2.12.,** reading as follows:

At the operation stage, reduce light emissions from accommodation and service platforms by using window shields or appropriate lighting.

to be replaced with:

At the operation stage, reduce light emissions from accommodation and service platforms, e.g. by using shields or appropriate lighting, while ensuring safe operation and navigation.

G) **point I.2.13.,** which reads as follows:

After the completion of the construction works for the BC-Wind OWF or accompanying infrastructure, all construction debris and possible pollution should be removed from the seabed.

to be replaced with:

After the completion of the construction works for the BC-Wind OWF or accompanying infrastructure, all construction debris and possible pollution should be removed from the seabed. It is required that the Investor acts in accordance with the Plan for combating hazards and pollution for BC-Wind OWF approved by the Maritime Office.

H) **point I.2.14.,** which reads as follows:

Systematically update information on the scope of area development of the BC-Wind OWF area.

to be replaced with:

Update at least once a week the information on the scope of area development, construction progress, vessels and Contractors located in the BC-Wind OWF construction area and submit it to the Director of the Maritime Office in Gdynia.

Decommissioning stage:

I) **point I.2.16.,** which reads as follows:

After the end of operation of the BC-Wind OWF, all its components should be removed. It is allowed to leave some of the facilities founded in the seabed/on the seabed if they constitute a habitat of valuable communities of marine organisms or after prior arrangements with competent environmental protection and maritime economy authorities, assuming that they will not constitute an obstruction to navigation.

to be replaced with:

After the end of operation of the BC-Wind OWF, all its components should be removed. It is allowed to leave some of the facilities founded in the seabed/on the seabed if they constitute a habitat of valuable communities of marine organisms or after prior arrangements with competent environmental protection and maritime economy authorities, assuming that they will not constitute an obstruction to navigation. Within at least 2 years prior to the end of the OWF exploitation, the Investor should submit to the authority information on the possible leaving of a part of the facilities founded in the seabed/on the seabed.

J) **point I.2.17.,** which reads as follows:

Removal of subsequent wind turbines from the foundations should be carried out starting from one place, i.e. so that the water region occupied by the OWF in question is gradually

freed from structures.

to be replaced with:

If possible, remove subsequent wind turbines from the foundations should be carried out starting from one place, i.e. so that the water region occupied by the OWF in question is gradually freed from structures.

3) in point I.3 entitled **Requirements regarding environmental protection necessary to be taken into account in the building permit design:**

A) point I.3.2., which reads as follows:

Between the BC-Wind OWF area and the area of the nearest neighboring Offshore Wind Farm planned from the west, leave an open migration corridor for birds (undeveloped area), the width of which should not be less than: 4 km and its axis should be a straight line.

to be replaced with:

Between the BC-Wind OWF area and the area of the nearest neighboring Offshore Wind Farm planned from the west, leave an open migration corridor for birds (area free from the presence of wind turbine blades and development of offshore substations), the width of which should not be less than: 4 km and its axis should be a straight line."

B) point I.3.4, which reads as follows:

The BC-Wind OWF should be equipped with a system allowing for short-term stoppage of selected wind turbines during bird migration periods, if the results of operational monitoring indicate that intensive migration of cranes at the collision height takes place above the OWF area, and the above-mentioned system should be used in situations where required.

to be replaced with:

The BC-Wind OWF should be equipped with a system allowing for short-term stoppage/reduction of speed of selected wind turbines during bird migration periods. The system should be activated if the results of operational monitoring indicate that intensive migration of cranes at the collision height takes place above the OWF area and in situations where required.

point I.3.6 with reads as follows:

Design and apply technical solutions that reduce the impact of underwater noise on fish and marine mammals, in particular it is necessary to:

a) apply the soft start procedure;
b) gradually perform construction works at individual stages of foundation of wind turbine structures, i.e. install the foundation of wind turbine successively adjacent to each other, starting from one place, in order to gradually fill the water region with structures, causing the scaring effect to increase and, at the same time, gradual displacement of fish and mammals from the area intended for the investment project.

to be replaced with:

Design and apply technical solutions that reduce the impact of underwater noise on fish and marine mammals, in particular it is necessary to:

a) apply the soft start procedure;
b) if possible, gradually perform construction works at individual stages of foundation of wind turbine structures, i.e. install the foundation of wind turbine successively adjacent to each other, starting from one place, in order to gradually fill the water region with structures, causing the scaring effect to increase and, at the same time, gradual displacement of fish and mammals from the area intended for the investment project.

C) point I.3.7, which reads as follows:

adapt the BC-Wind OWF work execution schedule to the execution schedule of other possible projects carried out in the vicinity, to prevent accumulation of adverse environmental impacts. In order to reduce the noise caused by the piling process, works should be performed simultaneously in up to two locations. This applies to the implementation of the BC-Wind OWF and neighboring offshore wind farms. Piling works at the BC-Wind OWF should be carried out in such a manner so that prior to the commencement of works carried out in its area, consisting in driving foundation piles into the seabed, the piling works on other planned wind farms in the direct vicinity are also taken into account so that the number of simultaneous piling works is not greater than two.

to be replaced with:

Take into account the execution schedules of other possible projects carried out in the vicinity, including: Baltic Power OWF, Baltic East OWF for 46.E.1 area, Baltica 3 OWF, Bałtyk III OWF, Baltica 2 OWF and Bałtyk II OWF in the work execution schedule of the BC-Wind OWF to prevent accumulation of adverse environmental impacts. In order to reduce the noise caused by the piling process, works should be performed simultaneously in up to two locations. This applies to the implementation of the BC-Wind OWF and offshore wind farms located in direct vicinity. Piling works at the BC-Wind OWF should be carried out in such a manner so that prior to the commencement of works carried out in its area, consisting in driving foundation piles into the seabed, the piling works on other planned wind farms in the direct vicinity are also taken into account so that the number of simultaneous piling works is not greater than two.

D) point I.3.8, which reads as follows:

During the implementation of the investment project, use a Noise Reduction System (NRS) implemented by applying technological solutions effective in this respect, the effect of which will be to reduce the noise to a level not exceeding at a distance of 11 km from the piling site the following maximum levels:

- 140 dB re 1 μPa^2s SEL_{cum} and HF-weighted (HF-weighting function for marine mammals with high sensitivity to high frequency noise – porpoises),
- 170 dB re 1 μPa^2s SEL_{cum} and PW-weighted (PW-weighing function for pinniped marine mammals – seals),
- 186 dB re 1 μPa^2s SEL_{cum} unweighted for fish;”

to be replaced with:

During the implementation of the investment project, use a Noise Reduction System (NRS) implemented by applying technical solutions effective in this respect, the effect of which will be to reduce the noise to a level not exceeding at a distance of 11 km from the piling site the following maximum levels:

- 140 dB re 1 μPa^2s SEL_{cum} and HF-weighted (HF-weighting function for marine mammals with high sensitivity to high frequency noise – porpoises),
- 170 dB re 1 μPa^2s SEL_{cum} and PW-weighted (PW-weighing function for pinniped marine mammals – seals),

4) **in point II.1.** entitled **To impose on the Applicant the following obligations: point II.1 which reads as follows:**
in the scope of measures that minimize and mitigate negative environmental impacts related to the necessity to reduce piling noise and related to the necessity to reduce the impact on birds, fish, marine mammals:

a) Each commencement of works should be preceded by a soft-start procedure in order to enable animals such as: fish, birds and marine mammals to leave and move away from the area where the works are performed.
b) Visual observations carried out by qualified marine mammal observers (MMOs) from onboard a vessel in accordance with the methodology specified by the JNCC and Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) based on the use of a set of hydrophones (PAM detectors) placed in the water column.

to be replaced with:

a) Each commencement of works should be preceded by a soft-start procedure in order to enable animals such as: fish, birds and marine mammals to leave and move away from the area where the works are performed.
b) Visual observations carried out by qualified marine mammal observers (MMOs) from onboard a vessel in accordance with the methodology specified by the JNCC and Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) based on the use of a set of hydrophones (PAM detectors) placed in the water column. The use of acoustic deterrent devices (ADD) is also allowed as: a tool to mitigate and reduce the risk of physical injury (death or permanent and temporary hearing loss) to marine mammals, in the immediate vicinity of piling; the use time of ADD should not exceed 15 minutes. A detailed description of the application of the above-mentioned method should be recorded in the documentation, e.g. in the environmental supervision report.

5) **in point II.2** entitled **Obligations of the applicant related to monitoring of the project environmental impact**:

A) **point II.2 which reads as follows: Scope of pre-investment monitoring (prior to the commencement of the construction).**

1. The pre-investment monitoring of the OWF in the scope of surveys of seabirds should include counting of birds staying in the OWF area and in the reference area during the day.

a) The route of the survey cruise should be marked out to include the 5-kilometer zone around the borders of the OWF and to assess the changes in the density of birds staying at different distances from the future wind turbines.

b) These surveys must cover, first of all, the period of the most abundant occurrence of birds in the southern Baltic Sea, i.e. they should last from October to May with a frequency of not less than one cruise per month. In the remaining months the population size of a bird group in the area of the BC-Wind OWF is low and therefore in summer it is enough to carry out two survey cruises, one in August and one in September.
c) The dates of survey cruises should be synchronized so that counting on both these water regions is performed simultaneously. These surveys should be carried out one year prior to the commencement of the OWF construction.

to be replaced with:

The pre-investment monitoring of the OWF in the scope of surveys of seabirds should include counting of birds staying in the OWF area and in the reference area during the day:
a) The route of the survey session should be marked out to include the 4-kilometer zone around the borders of the OWF and to assess the changes in the density of birds staying at different distances from the future wind turbines.
b) These surveys must cover, first of all, the period of the most abundant occurrence of birds in the southern Baltic Sea, i.e. they should last from October to May with a frequency of not less than one survey session per month. In the remaining months the population size of a bird group in the area of the BC-Wind OWF is low and therefore in summer it is enough to carry out two survey sessions, one in August and one in September.
c) The dates of survey sessions should be synchronized so that counting on both these water regions is performed simultaneously. These surveys should be carried out one year prior to the commencement of the OWF construction.

B) Remove condition No.: II.2.1.2, which reads as follows:

Monitoring of the presence of porpoises carried out with the use of C-POD devices or similar devices:
a) At least 5 devices should be placed in the same locations as during environmental monitoring and additional 5 devices should be placed in a gradient system covering an area not smaller than 20 km outside the impact zone (for the range of behavioral reactions related to piling).
b) The surveys should be commenced not later than 6 months prior to the planned construction.

C) point 2.2. entitled **<u>Scope of monitoring at the construction stage:</u>**

2.2.1. Underwater noise monitoring:
a) The location of the noise measurement station should be determined in a manner enabling assessment of the underwater noise level at the boundary of the Natura 2000 site: Ostoja Słowińska PLH220023 for the works performed in the BC-Wind OWF area.
b) Noise measurements should be performed using calibrated hydrophones in the frequency range from 10 Hz to 20 kHz, with monitoring at two different depths (at 33% and 66% of water depth, but always > 2 m below sea surface), specifying the SEL for each pile driver impact (if used).

c) Carry out the monitoring throughout the construction period of the OWF.
d) The results of underwater noise monitoring must be submitted to the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in the form of periodic reports. If exceeding the indicated noise levels is demonstrated, impact preventive or mitigation measures should be proposed together with indication of the methods of their implementation and results control.
When presenting the results of the above-mentioned monitoring surveys, they should be compared with the previously performed monitoring surveys for this project and with other available surveys in this respect. Moreover, the results of the monitoring should be submitted to the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk within 3 months from the end of a given test cycle.

to be replaced with:

a) The location of the noise measurement station should be determined in a manner enabling assessment of the underwater noise level at the boundary of the Natura 2000 site: Ostoja Słowińska PLH220023 for the works performed in the BC-Wind OWF area.
b) Noise measurements should be performed using calibrated hydrophones in the frequency range from 10 Hz to 20 kHz, with monitoring at two different depths (at 33% and 66% of water depth, but always > 2 m below sea surface), specifying the SEL for each pile driver impact (if used).
c) Carry out the monitoring throughout the piling period in the OWF area.
d) The results of underwater noise monitoring must be submitted to the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in the form of periodic reports. If exceeding the indicated noise levels is demonstrated, impact preventive or mitigation measures should be proposed together with indication of the methods of their implementation and results control.
e) When presenting the results of the above-mentioned monitoring surveys, they should be compared with the previously performed monitoring surveys for this project and with other available surveys in this respect. Moreover, the results of the monitoring should be submitted to the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk within 6 months from the end of a given test cycle.

D) point 2.2.2. which reads as follows:

Monitoring of the presence of porpoises carried out with the use of C-POD devices should be carried out during the entire construction phase, in accordance with the pre-investment monitoring methodology (prior to the commencement of the construction works), with the equipment placed on the same stations.

to be replaced with:

Monitoring of the presence of porpoises carried out with the use of C-POD devices should be carried out during the entire piling period based on the assumptions of the pre-investment monitoring methodology performed for the purposes of the EIA report.

E) . In point 3 entitled **Scope of post-development monitoring**
point 2.3.1 which reads as follows:

Monitoring of ichthyofauna should be carried out both during the operation of the OWF

and after its decommissioning. The surveys should be performed in spring and summer – after one year and 5 years from the completion of the construction and one year after the decommissioning phase.

a) As part of the monitoring, a set of survey tools should be used in the form of multi-panel bottom meshes, and in the case of early development stages – a Bongo type ichthyoplankton net.
b) The survey stations should be located in both the OWF Area and at a certain distance from it, on a water region not intended for offshore energy generation and characterized by similar parameters of the marine environment (depth, distance from the shore, etc.).
c) Assess whether the artificial reef effect will be limited only to attracting fish to its area from the nearby water region or whether a real increase in productivity will be found.
d) In the case of decommissioning of the OWF, the degree of changes that will occur after destruction of the artificial reef, potentially constituting a place of living, feeding, sheltering and reproduction of many fish species, will be assessed.

to be replaced with:

Monitoring of ichthyofauna should be carried out both during the operation of the OWF and after its decommissioning. The surveys should be carried out in spring and summer immediately after completion of construction works and 4 years before decommissioning of the farm.

a) As part of the monitoring, a set of survey tools should be used in the form of multi-panel bottom meshes, and in the case of early development stages – a Bongo type ichthyoplankton net.
b) The survey stations should be designated both in the OWF area, observing the safety rules which will apply within the farm area and will be also connected with numerous cables placed in the seabed or on the seabed, as well as at a certain distance from it, in a water region not intended for offshore energy and characterized by similar parameters of the marine environment (depth, distance from the shore, etc.).
c) In the case of monitoring 4 years prior to decommissioning of the OWF, it is necessary to assess the degree of changes that occurred as a result of the functioning of the OWF, i.e. whether a habitat was created that was a place of living, feeding, sheltering and reproduction of many fish species and, therefore, to propose a method of decommissioning the farm.

F) point 2.3.3. which reads as follows:

The monitoring of seabirds should include counting of birds staying in the OWF area and in the reference area during the day. The route of the survey cruise should be the same or very similar as in the pre-investment monitoring (prior to the commencement of the construction).

a) These surveys must cover, first of all, the period of the most abundant occurrence of birds in the southern Baltic Sea, i.e. they should last from October to May with a frequency of not less than one cruise per month (optimally two cruises per month). In the remaining months the population size of a bird group in the area of the BC-Wind OWF is low and in summer it is enough to carry out two survey cruises, one in mid-August and one in mid-September.
b) The dates of survey cruises should be synchronized so that counting on both these water regions is performed simultaneously.
These surveys should be carried out for 2 consecutive years (2 first years of the OWF

operation stage), if the construction is not staged. Otherwise, these surveys should be carried out after the completion of the first construction phase and after the completion of the construction of the entire OWF.

to be replaced with:

The monitoring of seabirds should include counting of birds staying in the area of the OWF and in the reference area during the day. The route of the survey session should be the same or very similar as in the pre-investment monitoring (prior to the commencement of the construction).

a) These surveys must cover, first of all, the period of the most abundant occurrence of birds in the southern Baltic Sea, i.e. they should last from October to May with a frequency of not less than one survey session per month (optimally two survey sessions per month). In the remaining months the population size of a bird group in the area of the BC-Wind OWF is low and in summer it is enough to carry out two survey sessions, one in mid-August and one in mid-September.
b) The dates of survey sessions should be synchronized so that counting on both these water regions is performed simultaneously.
c) These surveys should be carried out for 2 consecutive years (2 first years of the OWF operation stage), if the construction is not staged. Otherwise, these surveys should be carried out after the completion of the first construction phase and after the completion of the construction of the entire OWF.

G) point 2.3.4. which reads as follows:

Monitoring of the presence of porpoises should be carried out for at least 2 years after the completion of the construction of the planned project using the same methods as during the pre-investment monitoring.

to be replaced with:

Carry out the monitoring of the presence of porpoises for at least 2 years after completion of the construction with selection of C-POD locations based on the methodology presented to the authority for approval at least 6 months prior to the planned commencement of monitoring

H) point 2.3.5. which reads as follows:

Monitoring of benthic organisms aimed at the survey of colonization of artificial hard substrates by animal and plant periphyton (epiphyte) communities.

a) Benthos monitoring surveys:
   - The program of monitoring surveys of benthos in the OWF area in the scope of surveys of flora and periphyton will be carried out on 5 underwater structural elements of wind turbines and the accompanying infrastructure.
   - Video and photographic documentation will be prepared for each investigated facility for the entire vertical structure overgrown with macroalgae and epiphyte fauna.
   - Starting from the water surface to the depth of the maximum identified range of epiphytic organisms, at individual depths, at maximum 2 m intervals samples should be collected by a diver or a ROV vehicle from a specific surface for surveying the taxonomic composition and biomass of flora and periphyton.

- The surveys will be carried out once a year in June. First surveys should be carried out after at least 3 months have passed since the completion of the construction of the wind turbine selected for monitoring. Subsequent surveys should be performed 2 and 4 years after the first survey. The last surveys should be performed one year before the planned disassembly of the wind farm.

a) Macrozoobenthos monitoring surveys:

- The surveys should be performed within 5 foundations or support structures of wind turbines selected so that they represent possible staging of the construction (structures constructed at different stages) and that they are located in different parts of the OWF area.
- In the vicinity of a single foundation or support structure, 6 stations are to be designated, including 3 stations on the transect of the main profile (in the near-bed current axis) at a distance of 20, 50 and 100 m from the foundation or support structure, and 3 stations on the transect perpendicular to the main profile (reference profile) at the same distances.
- The surveys should be performed after completion of the construction of the structures selected for monitoring, once in a period similar to inventory surveys (from May to June). The first surveys should be performed within the indicated period after completion of the construction, and the following surveys after 2 and 4 years since the first survey. The last surveys should be performed one year before the planned disassembly of the wind farm.

to be replaced with:

a) Benthos monitoring surveys:

- The program of monitoring surveys of benthos in the OWF area in the scope of surveys of flora and periphyton will be carried out on 5 underwater structural elements of wind turbines and the accompanying infrastructure.
- Video and photographic documentation should be prepared for each investigated facility for the entire vertical structure overgrown with macroalgae and epiphyte fauna.
- Starting from the water surface to the depth of the maximum identified range of epiphytic organisms, at individual depths, at maximum 2 m intervals samples should be collected by a diver or a ROV vehicle from a specific surface for surveying the taxonomic composition and biomass of flora and periphyton.
- The surveys will be carried out once a year in June. First surveys should be carried out after at least 3 months have passed since the completion of the construction of the wind turbine selected for monitoring. Subsequent surveys should be performed 2 and 4 years after the first survey. The last surveys should be performed 4 years before the planned disassembly of the wind farm.

b) Macrozoobenthos monitoring surveys:

- The surveys should be performed within 5 foundations or support structures of wind turbines selected so that they represent possible staging of the construction (structures constructed at different stages) and that they are located in different parts of the OWF area.
- In the vicinity of a single foundation or support structure, 6 stations are to be designated, including 3 stations on the transect of the main profile (in the near-bed current axis) at a distance of 20, 50 and 100 m from the foundation or support structure, and 3 stations on the transect perpendicular to the main profile (reference profile) at the same distances.

The surveys should be performed after completion of the construction of the structures selected for monitoring, once in a period similar to inventory surveys (from May to June). The first surveys should be performed within the indicated period after completion of the construction, and the following surveys after 2 and 4 years since the first survey. The last surveys should be performed 4 years before the planned disassembly of the wind farm.

I) point 2.3.6. which reads as follows:

Monitoring of bats aimed at determination of the species composition and population size.

a) The equipment used should allow automatic recording and meet the minimum requirements for equipment used for surveys at the stage of wildlife survey. The equipment may be mounted, e.g. on the mast of the research and measurement station.
b) Post-development monitoring should cover a period of 3 years – the first year after the wind turbine is handed over for operation as well as the 2nd and 3rd year of the OWF operation. Monitoring must cover the period of spring migration (April–May) and autumn migration (August–October).

to be replaced with:

Bat monitoring aimed at determining the species composition and abundance should be carried out during spring migration from April 1 to May 30 and autumn migration from August 1 to October 1.

a) The equipment used should allow automatic recording and meet the minimum requirements for equipment used for surveys at the stage of wildlife survey. The equipment may be mounted, e.g. on the mast of the research and measurement station.
b) Post-development monitoring should cover a period of 3 years – the first year after the wind turbine is handed over for operation as well as the 2nd and 3rd year of the OWF operation. The monitoring must cover the period of spring and autumn migration.

J) point 2.3.2. which reads as follows:

The monitoring of migratory birds should include both the observation of the flight with a radar and the counting of birds staying in the OWF area during the day.

a) Radar surveys should target the trajectory of birds flying towards the OWF and their response to the barrier in the form of an OWF they encounter, as well as to determine the intensity of migration in the OWF Area and in its immediate vicinity in order to enable comparative analysis with other surveys that are available in this respect, as well as providing new data for analyzing the barrier effect and the frequency of avoidance (birds turning back).
b) Radar surveys to be carried out during the migration period, in the months from March to May and from the end of July to mid–November.
c) The monitoring should consist of simultaneous visual and radar and acoustic observations (at night, in order to identify species), allowing identification not only of the flight direction and response, but also of the species.
d) The survey stations should be located on a permanent platform (e.g. an OWF substation) or an anchored vessel so that to allow for observation of the OWF from the direction from which birds arrive at a given migration stage (on the south-western side of the OWF in spring and on the north-eastern side of the OWF in autumn).

e) In each migration season, observations should be carried out for not less than 20 days in 2–5-day sessions, distributed evenly throughout the migration season.
f) Monitoring should to be performed in two cycles per year, resulting from two birds migration periods, i.e. from March to May and from July to November, in 4 monitoring sessions:
   - 2 survey cycles in migration periods, in the fourth year after the commencement of operation (due to the possibility of construction duration for more than 4 years from the commencement of operation and the need to verify the assessment assumptions);
   - 2 cycles in migration periods, in the first year since the completion of the construction.
g) Monitoring of migratory birds mortality:
   - conduct for a period of 5 years after the completion of construction of the entire OWF, during seasonal spring migrations (from early March to late May) and autumn migrations (from mid-July to late November);
   - monitoring of mortality of birds should be conducted using an automatic system for recording bird collisions with offshore wind turbines / victims of collisions or using other acceptable method, with the possibility of conducting measurements at both nighttime and daytime.

to be replaced with:

The monitoring of migratory birds should include both the observation of the flight with a radar and the counting of birds staying in the OWF area during the day.

a) Radar surveys should target the trajectory of birds flying towards the OWF and their response to the barrier in the form of an OWF they encounter, as well as to determine the intensity of migration in the OWF Area and in its immediate vicinity in order to enable comparative analysis with other surveys that are available in this respect, as well as providing new data for analyzing the barrier effect and the frequency of avoidance (birds turning back).
b) Radar surveys to be carried out during the migration period, in the months from March to May and from the end of July to mid–November.
c) The monitoring should consist of simultaneous visual and radar and acoustic observations (at night, in order to identify species), allowing identification not only of the flight direction and response, but also of the species.
d) The survey stations should be located on a permanent platform (e.g. an OWF substation) or an anchored vessel so that to allow for observation of the OWF from the direction from which birds arrive at a given migration stage (on the south-western side of the OWF in spring and on the north-eastern side of the OWF in autumn).
e) In each migration season, observations should be carried out for not less than 20 days in 2–5-day sessions, distributed evenly throughout the migration season.
f) Monitoring should to be performed in two cycles per year, resulting from two birds migration periods, i.e. from March to May and from July to November, in 4 monitoring sessions:
   - 2 survey cycles in migration periods, in the fourth year after the commencement of operation (due to the possibility of construction duration for more than 4 years from the commencement of operation and the need to verify the assessment assumptions);
   - 2 cycles in migration periods, in the first year since the completion of the construction.

g) After two survey years, a radar and camera system covering the entire wind farm should be used – for the next four years.

6) **point IV.** entitled: **Find it necessary to carry out a reassessment of the environmental impact as part of the procedure for the issuance of the building permit decision, with particular emphasis on the following:**

1. Determination of the width and importance of safety zones around individual wind turbines and between neighboring OWF areas for bird migration.
2. Determination of the methods of foundation and accurate determination of the area permanently occupied for foundations and, based on this, assessment of the impact of this project stage on various components of the natural environment, along with an analysis of the method of maintaining the structural components of the farm.
3. Determination of the location and parameters of individual turbines and platforms and the impact of the above-mentioned elements on the availability of this area for animals, including in particular sea birds and marine mammals, and determine the impact on long-distance migration routes of birds and on local flights.
4. Determination of key parameters of wind turbines and, potentially, a research and measurement platform and potentially, an accommodation and service platform.
5. Indication of exact locations and parameters of offshore substations, as well as the type and size of foundations on which they will be founded.
6. Model calculations as regards the range of propagation and concentration of suspended matter in water as a result of works disturbing bottom sediments.
7. Model calculations as regards underwater noise propagation, which will be based on the size and type of wind turbine foundations.
8. Model calculations as regards the bird collision rate, which will be based on the parameters of wind turbines in the BC-Wind OWF area.
9. Proposed solutions to minimize the impact of noise and to reduce its impact range, adequate to the adopted foundation methods.
10. Analyses of the possibility of using a system for temporary shutdown of individual wind turbines or groups of wind turbines for a larger number of bird species flying at a collision height, e.g. for velvet scoters and for flights of larger groups of birds.
11. Indication of detailed methodology of the ornithological monitoring at the project implementation stage.
12. Indication of detailed methodology of pre-execution monitoring (prior to the commencement of construction works) as regards seabirds.
13. Indication of detailed methodology of post-development monitoring in the scope of: ichthyofauna and seabirds.

to be replaced with:

It should be pointed out that the environmental impact assessment of the project does not indicate the need to conduct an environmental impact assessment as part of the procedure for issuing a building permit.

The local authority does not deem it necessary to reassess the environmental impact of the project in question. The information contained in the environmental impact assessment report is sufficient to determine the conditions for the building permit design. The above does not preclude a reassessment of the project environmental impact if:

- the entity planning to undertake the project submits an application to the authority competent to issue the decision;
- the authority competent to issue the aforementioned decision determines that the

application for the decision has been amended in relation to the requirements specified in the decision on environmental conditions.

II. The Project characteristics should constitute Appendix No. 1 to this decision.

III. Pursuant to Article 76 section 1 point 1 of the Act of December 17, 2020 on promoting electricity generation in offshore wind farms (Journal of Laws of 2025, item 498), this decision is enforceable immediately.

IV. The remaining part of the decision of the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk of September 16, 2022, ref. No.: RDOŚ-Gd-W00.420.50.2021.KSZ.AM.10 **should remain unchanged.**

GROUNDS

On December 23, 2024 the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk received an application of C-Wind Polska Sp. z o.o., acting through the proxy Ms. Magdalena Kiejzik-Głowińska, EKO-Konsult Sp. z o.o., to amend the decision on environmental conditions, ref. No.: RDOŚ-Gd- WOO.420.50.2021.KSZ.AM.10 of September 16, 2022, issued by the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk for the project named: "**BC-Wind Offshore Wind Farm**" (hereinafter referred to as the BC-Wind OWF);

The application was enclosed with an appropriate number of copies, required by Article 74 of the Act of October 3, 2008 on providing access to information on the environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and on environmental impact assessment *(consolidated text, Journal of Laws of 2024, item 1112, as amended)* – hereinafter referred to as the EIA Act:

1) environmental impact assessment report for the project named: "Offshore Wind Farm" – UPDATE, prepared by EKOKONSULT, Gdańsk, December 2024, hereinafter referred to as EIA report;
2) map on the scale guaranteeing the legibility of the presented data, with a marked planned area where the project will be implemented and with a marked planned area on which the project will have an impact, together with a record of the map in an electronic form.

Subsequently on December 27, 2024 the Applicant submitted an adjustment to the above-mentioned documentation, i.e. an updated Appendix No. 3 to the EIA report "Modeling of underwater noise propagation at the construction stage" and on January 03, 2025 it applied for withdrawal of the original version of Appendix No. 3 to the EIA report (submitted on December 23, 2024).

On January 09, 2025, the local authority with letter ref. No. RDOŚ-Gd-WOO.420.89.2024.AM.1 of January 09, 2025 requested the Applicant to submit a duly certified power of attorney. On January 17, 2025 and January 21, 2025 the Applicant submitted a relevant supplement, thus the application to amend the decision became complete in terms of formal requirements.

In view of the above, acting on the basis of Article 155 of the Code of Administrative Procedure, in conjunction with Article 87 of the EIA Act, the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk, by letter ref. No.: RDOŚ- Gd-WOO.420.89.2024.AM.2. of January 24, 2025, notified the parties to the procedure about the submission of an application to amend the environmental decision and initiate the said procedure, as well as for the possibility of reading the case documents and submitting comments and applications if any. The Applicant did not request to cover any of the documents presented with the

submission or during the procedure with confidentiality clause.

Information about the submitted application has been posted in the publicly available *Ekoportal* data list (*www.ekoportal.pl*), maintained on the basis of Article 22 of the EIA Act, under number 697/2024.

The proposed project consists in the construction of the BC-Wind OWF offshore wind farm with a total maximum power output of 500 MW located in maritime areas of the Republic of Poland, at a distance of approx. 22.6 km from the coastline. The area covered by the environmental decision is approx. 86.28 km^2, whereas the gross covered area is approx. 78.71 km^2, in the proximity of Choczewo and Krokowa communes, Pomorskie voivodship. The proposed project is qualified in accordance with **§ 2 section 1 point 5** of the Regulation of the Council of Ministers of September 10, 2019 on projects which may have significant environmental impact (*Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1839, as amended*) i.e. as *plants using wind energy for the generation of electricity with a total nominal capacity of the wind turbines of not less than 100 MW and located in the maritime areas of the Republic of Poland*.

Bearing in mind that the project may exert a permanent impact on the environment and due to its location in a maritime area, pursuant to Article 75 section 1 point 1), subpoint c) of the EIA Act, the authority competent to analyze the case is the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk. Pursuant to Article 59 section 1 point 1) of the EIA Act, the implementation of the planned project likely to create a permanent significant environmental impact, requires mandatory performance of the project environmental impact assessment.

Since the provisions of Article 155 of the Code of Administrative Procedure and Article 87 of the EIA Act apply to the change to the decision on environmental conditions, therefore, pursuant to them, the provisions on obtaining the decision on environmental conditions shall apply accordingly to the change of the decision on environmental conditions. Consequently, a change to the decision on environmental conditions for a project for which an environmental impact assessment is required requires an environmental impact assessment to assess the impact of the updated conditions of project implementation and operation on the previously assessed environmental impacts.

Therefore, in view of the above, in the case in question, it is required, among others, to approve the conditions of implementation of the project in question with the Director of the Maritime Office in Gdynia pursuant to Article 77 section 1 point 1) of the EIA Act and to seek the opinion of the State Border Sanitary Inspector in Gdynia pursuant to Article 77 section 1 point 2) of the EIA Act. Pursuant to Article 6 of the EIA Act, the requirement for approval or providing opinion does not apply if the authority in charge of the procedure is also the approving authority or authority providing the opinion.

In view of the above, by letter ref. No.: RDOŚ-Gd-WOO.420.89.2024.AM.3 of January 24, 2025, the local authority applied to the Director of the Maritime Office in Gdynia for approval of the implementation conditions of the project in question. The Director of the Maritime Office in Gdynia, by virtue of decision ref. No.: INZ.9202.10.2025.2025.AD of March 05, 2025, approved the terms and conditions of implementation of the project in question as regards the amendments requested by the Investor, with the following comments:

1. *The proposed amendment to the wording of point 1.2.14 of the decision on environmental conditions which reads as follows: "Update at least once a week the information on the area development, construction progress, vessels and Contractors located in the BC-Wind OWF construction area" should read as follows: "Update at least once a week the information on the area development, construction progress,*

vessels and Contractors located in the BC-Wind OWF construction area and submit it to the Director of the Maritime Office in Gdynia;"

2. *The proposed amendment to the wording of point 1.3.2. of the decision on environmental conditions which reads as follows "Between the BC-Wind OWF area and the area of the nearest neighboring Offshore Wind Farm planned from the west, leave an open migration corridor for birds (area free from the presence of wind turbine blades), the width of which should not be less than: 4 km and its axis should be a straight line" should read as follows: "Between the BC-Wind OWF area and the area of the nearest neighboring Offshore Wind Farm planned from the west, leave an open migration corridor for birds (area free from the presence of wind turbine blades and development of offshore substations), the width of which should not be less than: 4 km and its axis should be a straight line;"*
3. *The proposed amendment to the wording of point 11.2.3.2 point g) which reads as follows: "After the first survey year, a radar and camera system covering the entire wind farm should be used – for the next four years" should read as follows: "After two survey years, a radar and camera system covering the entire wind farm should be used – for the next four years." The wording of point 11.2.3.2 point f) of the decision on environmental conditions should remain unchanged or read as follows: "Monitoring should be carried out in two cycles within 2 years, resulting from two bird migration periods, i.e. from March to May, and from July to November."*
4. *The proposed amendment to the wording of point 11.2.3.4 which reads as follows: "Carry out the monitoring of the presence of porpoises 1 year after completion of the construction with selection of C-POD locations based on the methodology presented to the authority for approval at least 6 months prior to the planned commencement of monitoring" should read as follows: "Carry out the monitoring of the presence of porpoises for at least 2 years after completion of the construction with selection of C-POD locations based on the methodology presented to the authority for approval at least 6 months prior to the planned commencement of monitoring."*

The other amendments to the wording of the decision on environmental conditions issued by the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk on September 16, 2022, ref. No.: RDOŚ-Gd.WOO.420.50.2021.KSZ.AM.10 resulting from the content of decision of the Director of the Maritime Office in Gdynia of December 1, 2021, ref. No.: INZ.8103.135.2021.AD, proposed in the Investor's application, the Director of Maritime Office in Gdynia approves without comments. "

The above was taken into account in the content of the decision.

By letter ref. No.: RDOŚ-Gd-WOO.420.89.2024.AM.3 of January 24, 2025, the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk applied for an opinion from the State Border Sanitary Inspector in Gdynia, who provided the opinion about the implementation conditions of the project in question in letter ref. No.: ZNS.491.2.1.2025 of February 26, 2025.

The opinion of the State Border Sanitary Inspector in Gdynia was taken into account in its entirety in the content of this decision.

The environmental impact assessment report for the project in question, submitted together with the application to amend the environmental decision, was prepared for the needs of the procedure conducted under Article 87 of the EIA Act in conjunction with Article 155 of the Code of Administrative Procedure, and thus it focuses on the changes planned to be implemented in the project, and consequently on the modifications that must be implemented into the decision on environmental conditions in order for the planned changes to take place.

The report has been listed in the publicly available Ekoportal list (http://www.ekoportal.pl) under the number 216/2025.

Pursuant to Article 79 of the EIA Act, prior to issuing the decision on environmental conditions, the authority competent to issue this decision ensures the possibility for the public to participate in the procedure under which the environmental impact assessment is to be conducted.

Consequently, the local authority published information in the form of announcement ref. No.: RDOŚ-Gd-WOO.420.89.2024.AM.4 of April 11, 2025, information specified in Article 33 of the EIA Act, in particular, on the possibility of submitting comments and applications, indicating the place and a 30-day deadline for their submission (from April 16, 2025 to May 15, 2025 inclusive). The announcement was posted on the website of the local authority and on the notice board in the authority's headquarters. In addition, the aforementioned announcement was submitted to the following officials for publication: the Director of the Maritime Office in Gdynia, the Mayor of Gdańsk, the Mayor of Gdynia, the Mayor of Sopot, the Head of Ustka Commune, the Mayor of Ustka, the Head of Smołdzino Commune, the Mayor of Łeba, the Head of Wicko Commune, the Head of Choczewo Commune, the Head of Krokowa Commune, the Mayor of Władysławowo, the Mayor of Jastarnia, the Mayor of Hel, the Head of Puck Commune, the Mayor of Puck, the Head of Kosakowo Commune, the Head of Stegna Commune, the Head of Sztutowo Commune, and the Mayor of Krynica Morska.

In each of the above-mentioned places, the announcement of public disclosure of information about the project in question was posted for 30 days. No requests or comments from the public were submitted for the procedure with the participation of the public within the specified time limit.

Having analyzed the evidence gathered in this case, the local authority found and considered as follows:

The proposed project consists in the construction of the BC-Wind OWF offshore wind farm with a total maximum power output of 500 MW located in maritime areas of the Republic of Poland, at a distance of approx. 22.6 km from the coastline. The area covered by the environmental decision is approx. 86.28 km^2, whereas the gross covered area is approx. 78.71 km^2. The basic assumptions for implementation of the BC-Wind OWF have not changed, but the basic parameters have been clarified as a result of the progress of design works. The performed geotechnical surveys made it possible to preliminarily determine the location of the wind turbine within the OWF area, and further to arrange cables inside the farm and narrow the foundation technology. All basic parameters defining the project have been narrowed in relation to the parameters of the issued environmental decision, i.e.:

- reducing the number of planned wind turbines from 41 to 39 (with a maximum of 34 completed, the rest being spare locations),
- reducing the height of wind turbines from 330 m to 300 m,
- reducing the rotor diameter from the previous 280 m to 250 m,
- reducing the number of offshore substations from the previous 2 to 1,
- shortening the length of cable routes from 188 km to approx. 100 km,
- indicating the preferred foundation type – monopile (optionally, a jacket for offshore substations and wind turbines (occasionally)).

The parameters of the requested option selected for implementation of the OWF, compared to the Project parameters approved by the Environmental Decision are presented in table No. 1.

Table No. 1 – List of basic parameters of BC-Wind OWF included in the decision on

environmental conditions and the requested changes.

Facility name or parameter definition	Unit	Value/data in the decision on environmental conditions	Current project parameters
Total installed capacity (maximum)	MW	500	500
Number of wind turbines (maximum)	pcs	41	39*
Height of the structure with the rotor (maximum)	m	330	300
Rotor diameter (maximum)	m	280	250
Clearance between the rotor operation area and water surface (minimum)	m	20	20
Number of offshore substations (maximum)	pcs	2	1
Number of other civil structures (maximum) – non-production infrastructure	pcs	4	4
Gravity-base foundation diameter (maximum)	m	60	will not be used
Foundation diameter – monopile	m	12	approx. 11.5**
Seabed area occupied by a single gravity-base foundation (maximum)	m^2	2826	will not be used
Seabed surface occupied by a single foundation – monopile with a protective layer	m^2	-	approx. 2,600
Length of cable routes of the systems inside the OWF (maximum)	km	188	approx. 100
Foundation method for the wind turbines	-	gravity, monopile, jacket, tripod	monopile, occasionally a jacket is possible
Foundation method for offshore substations	-	-	monopile, jacket

** – ultimately, the Investor plans to build up to 34 wind turbines; however, the change of the decision on environmental conditions also includes 5 spare locations.*
*** – total diameter of the monopile including the attached structure for cables (J-Tube) is approx. 24 m*
Source: Investor's data

The use of a jacket instead of a monopile foundation may occur in case of difficult soil conditions and problems with driving the monopile to the assumed depth; the use of a jacket foundation involves driving piles with a much smaller diameter compared to the monopile.
The above is included **in condition No. 11) of this Decision.**

The analysis of options carried out in the EIA Report concerns two options:

- the option proposed by the Applicant, approved by the decision on environmental conditions as the most environmentally advantageous option – then referred to as the OPA (2021) and currently treated as the Reasonable Alternative Option – RAO 2024;
- the option created as a result of specifying the parameters of the OPA 2021 option – approved by the decision on environmental conditions – currently treated as the option selected for implementation – OSI 2024.

The OPA (2021) option is a reasonable alternative accepted by the environmental decision. Both analyzed project options presented in this Report are technically feasible, fall within the parameters specified by the previously obtained permits, i.e. permit for erection and use of artificial islands, structures and devices No. MFW/7/12 (amended by the decision of May 10, 2022, ref. No.: DGM-3.530.23.2022) and permit for erection and use of artificial islands, structures and devices No. MFW/4/13 (amended by the decision of May 10, 2022, ref. No.:

DGM-3.530.22.2022).

The option selected by the Investor for implementation (OSI 2024) is the option based on the modification of the option of the approved by the decision on environmental conditions, adapted to the current design stage of the BC-Wind OWF. The following have been modified: turbine parameters, their number and limited foundation technologies. The option selected for implementation ensures, to the maximum extent, the achievement of the project's objective of generation of electricity, while optimizing the costs of construction. In the option selected for implementation, it is planned to use monopile foundations in all supporting structures, i.e. for wind turbines and substations. If it is not technically possible to install such foundations, it is planned to use a jacket type foundation; however, this may apply to a few foundations. The locations of 39 wind turbines and one offshore substation and the resulting cable arrangement were determined. Geotechnical surveys were carried out for 46 locations, out of which 39 locations assessed in the Report were selected as the OSI 2024 option, with a maximum of 34 wind turbines likely to be constructed. Some (few) of 39 locations within the boundaries of the current development area may be subject to change in the course of designing or implementation.

The assessment of the approved option included in the EIA Report of 2021 was based on the concept of the envelope description of the project, followed by the envelope assessment. The envelope concept meant that, when assessing the selected parameter and the possibility of applying different technical solutions, the environmental impact assessment was carried out for the potentially most environmentally onerous solution. It has been assumed that, if the most onerous solution does not have a significant negative impact on the environment, the remaining solutions, as less onerous ones, will be acceptable as well. Therefore, the approved option accepted, among others, four technologies for the foundation of supporting structures: monopile, jacket structure, tripod and gravity-base foundation.

The option selected for implementation is safer for the environment than the original implementation option approved by the environmental decision. Both options cause environmental impacts of the same nature; however, the OSI 2024 will cause impacts of a smaller scale due to reducing the project scope, i.e.: reducing the number of turbines, reducing the rotor diameter and, consequently, the height of the entire structure, significantly reducing the length of cables inside the farm (resulting from the turbine foundation determined at the current stage), excluding the gravity-base foundation from the technology of the wind turbine foundation. Construction and operation of a smaller number of wind turbines under the OSI 2024 in relation to the RAO 2024, consequently, means less interference with the environment as a result of: shorter duration of the construction and decommissioning phase, fewer risky lifting and offshore operations, lower consumption of construction materials and consumables.

The proposed project will be located in the Polish Exclusive Economic Zone, north of Choczewo and Krokowa communes, at a distance of 22.6 km from the coastline. The boundaries of the proposed project remain unchanged in relation to the boundaries for which the decision on environmental conditions was obtained.

The area where the Project is planned to be located is entirely situated in the POM.46.E water region intended in the *Spatial Development Plan for Polish Maritime Areas on a Scale of 1:200,000, adopted by the Regulation of the Council of Ministers of April 14, 2021 on the adoption of a spatial development plan for internal sea waters, territorial sea and exclusive economic zone on a scale of 1:200,000 (Journal of Laws of 2021, item 935, as amended)* for the needs of renewable energy generation. Pursuant to *§ 6 section 1 point 1* of the general arrangements of this Plan the erection of offshore wind turbines is accepted only in water

regions with the primary function of renewable energy generation (E). Taking into account both the nature of the Project subject to the application and the conditions of the area intended for its location, it shall be concluded that the Project implementation complies with the provisions of the Plan and, at the same time, it is possible to implement the Project in the area specified by the Applicant.

Figure No. 1 – Proposed location with the arrangement of wind turbines with accompanying infrastructure.

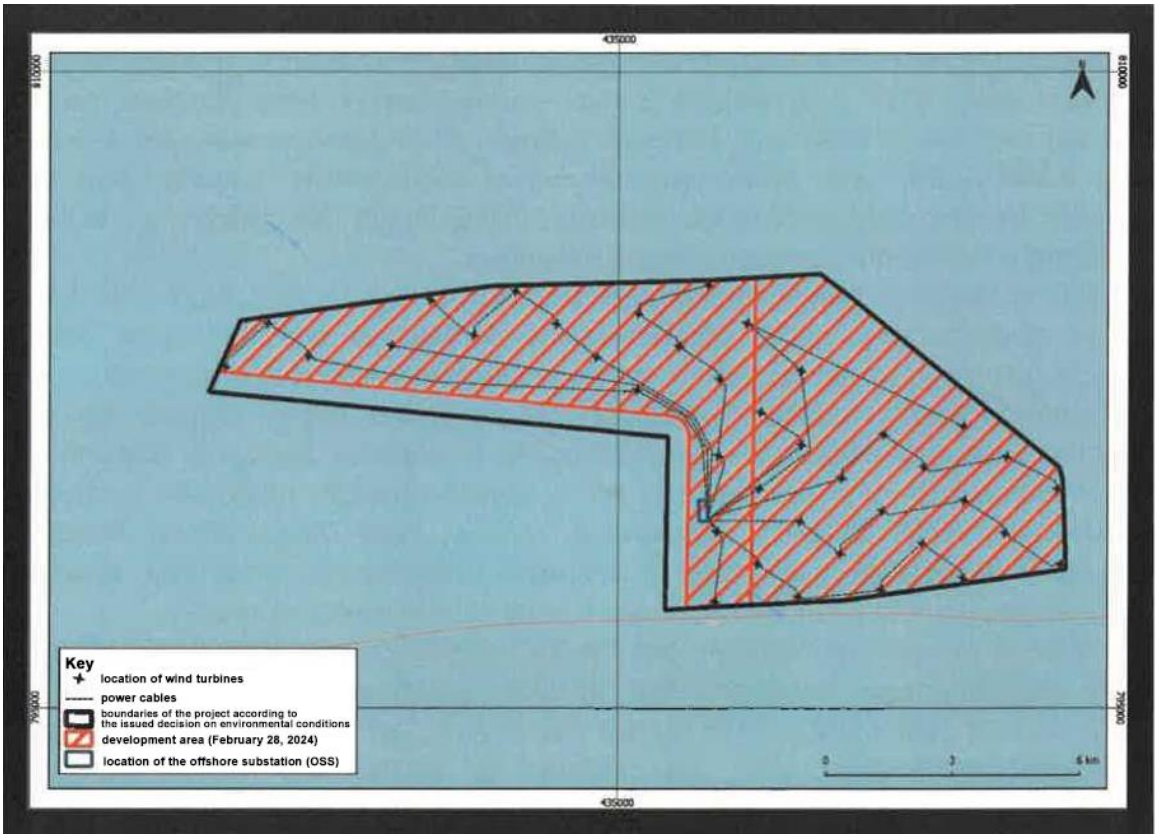


Table No. 2 – *Geodetic coordinates of the development area (in WGS 84*)

Point No.	Latitude N	Longitude E
	λ	φ
1	55.0949847222	17.8415836111
2	55.0960004176	17.8524786464
3	55.0961037778	17.8535891194
4	55.1004598806	17.9021068222
5	55.1031515417	17.933709
6	55.1043316861	17.9827896556
7	55.1051821944	18.0176595778
8	55.1057692806	18.0313673611
9	55.0362829611	18.0314014944
10	55.0353214942	18.007925178
11	55.0607076414	18.0079301282
12	55.072386505	18.0078561245
13	55.0726849609	18.0077651794

14	55.0729792224	18.007639394
15	55.0732679521	18.0074793393
16	55.0735498375	18.007285742
17	55.0738235974	18.0070594814
18	55.0740879874	18.0068015853
19	55.0743418057	18.0065132254
20	55.0745838985	18.006195712
21	55.0748131654	18.0058504878
22	55.0750285641	18.0054791217
23	55.0752291155	18.0050833016
24	55.0754139079	18.0046648264
25	55.0755821011	18.0042255983
26	55.0757329306	18.0037676138
27	55.0758657106	18.0032929547
28	55.0759798376	18.0028037789
29	55.0760747927	18.0023023101
30	55.0761501442	18.001790828
31	55.0762055495	18.0012716581
32	55.0762407567	18.0007471605
33	55.0790211962	17.942014141
34	55.0829483003	17.8590532077
35	55.0841584453	17.8336117518
36	55.0949847222	17.8415836111
37	55.0362830111	18.0315014944
38	55.1057735611	18.0314673417
39	55.1067760796	18.0548730341
40	55.105348542	18.0583201052
41	55.100144273	18.0703811149
42	55.0935640432	18.0848740671
43	55.0865611776	18.1002935438
44	55.0802900869	18.1140934778
45	55.0733849511	18.1292796501
46	55.0664841689	18.1444633525
47	55.0640532041	18.1458109946
48	55.0639479736	18.1458692132
49	55.0501202123	18.1470359017
50	55.0452900172	18.1474434195
51	55.0447039473	18.1473255404
52	55.0375483849	18.065451499
53	55.0362830111	18.0315014944

The above data concerning the location of the project are included in **condition No.: I.1) of this Decision.**

In accordance with the Investor's application and the EIA report, the basic assumptions of the project, i.e. construction, operation and decommissioning of the BC-Wind OWF, have

not changed, but the basic parameters related to the progress of design works have been clarified. Geotechnical surveys were performed, which made it possible to preliminarily determine the location of turbines within the OWF area, and further to arrange cables inside the farm and narrow the foundation technology. These factors influenced the Investor's decision to update the environmental impact assessment of the BC-Wind OWF to adjust the content of the decision to the current technical and organizational assumptions of the project and to specify the possible environmental impact of its implementation. The basic parameters of the project were narrowed in relation to the parameters analyzed at the stage of issuing the environmental decision. In the updated *EIA Report*, the characteristics of the project were based on the most current parameters, which result from the preliminary stage of design works. The clarification of the data made it possible to repeat the modeling: distribution of suspended matter, propagation of underwater noise and possible collisions of birds with turbine blades and verification of possible impacts, which resulted in the necessity to verify and change the conditions specified in the decision of September 16, 2022.

In view of the above, the local authority decided in this decision to change some of the conditions proposed by the Investor, i.e.:

As regards the change of the conditions for the necessity to install wind turbines in the immediate vicinity. According to the submitted documentation, the implementation of the project in question may take place in a continuous process as well as in stages. Taking into account the logistics of production, transport of components, erection and difficult weather and soil conditions which may result in the need to install the wind turbines on foundations which will not be adjacent to each other, it seems justified to change the condition which allows for the possibility of erecting subsequent wind turbines not necessarily in a way that they are directly adjacent to each other. Maintaining the condition concerning the necessity to carry out works in such a way as to extend the development area only to directly adjacent wind turbines could result in longer duration of the construction and, consequently, longer duration of disturbances occurring in the marine environment. Thus, the local authority accepted the proposed amendment and included it **in condition No.: I 2) A) and in condition No.: I 3) C) of this Decision.**

Similarly, the logistics of decommissioning the farm facilities and difficult weather and soil conditions may result in the necessity to remove non-adjacent wind turbines. Therefore, compliance with condition No.: I 2) 17. of the amended decision on environmental conditions of September 16, 2022 in its original wording could result in longer duration of the decommissioning phase and, consequently, longer duration of disturbances occurring in the marine environment. Thus, the local authority accepted the proposed amendment and included it **in condition No.: I 2) J) of this Decision.**

For the BC-Wind OWF there is a Plan for combating hazards and pollution, approved in January 2024. However, the plan needs to be updated a few months before commencement of construction. The said update will include, among others, a procedure to be followed when any object is dropped into water , the so-called “drop object”, which clearly specifies the form of submission of information to the Maritime Office. In accordance with this procedure, all dropped objects should be reported within 24 hours and attempts should be made to recover the object unless this is impracticable. Thus, wording was added to **condition No.: I 2) G)** referring to the applicable regulations on marine pollution. Moreover, for spills, depending on the nature of the spilled liquid, the Maritime Office (Search and Rescue) will consider each case on a case-by-case basis. Thus, it was necessary to verify the condition included in **point**

I 2) B) of this Decision.

Regarding the content of condition No.: I 2) 14. of the amended decision on environmental conditions of September 16, 2022, i.e. the wording *"Systematically update the information on the scope of area development of the BC-Wind OWF area",* the Investor proposed the amendment which reads as follows: *"Update at least once a week the information on the scope of area development, construction progress, vessels and Contractors located in the BC-Wind OWF construction area".* At the same time the Director of the Maritime Office in Gdynia (decision ref. No.: the INZ.9202.10.2025.AD of March 05, 2025), taking into account the experience from the currently ongoing construction of the offshore wind farm, is of the opinion that updating information on such variable parameters as: changing the area development, vessels moving around the construction area and the progress of the construction once a month is not sufficient. Therefore, in order to maintain the safety of navigation and to enable coordination over the performance of works in the Polish maritime areas, the Investor was obliged to update the information on the scope of area development, construction progress, vessels and Contractors located in the BC-Wind OWF construction area at least once a week and to provide this information to the Director of Maritime Office in Gdynia, which was included in condition **No.: I 2) H) of this Decision.**

By the environmental decision of October 16, 2022 in condition No.: I 2) 6. an obligation of archaeological supervision was imposed on the Investor in accordance with the agreement with the Director of Maritime Office in Gdynia (decision ref. No. INZ.8103.135.2021.AD of December 01, 2021). At the Investor's request, this condition was clarified by the Director of Maritime Office in Gdynia in letter No. INZ1.8103.43.2022.MG of August 04, 2022, quote. *"The provision of the Director of Maritime Office in Gdynia indicates the necessity to oblige the Investor to provide a legal entity with qualifications required by law, which is to perform archeological supervision by:*

1) *being ready to provide archeological supervision throughout the construction period,*
2) *preparing guidelines on the method of performance of works in accordance with the results of exploratory archeological surveys obtained by the Investor in the process of preparation of the project implementation, and*
3) *if a monument not yet located is found, undertaking supervision and actions on the construction site, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of July 23, 2003 on the protection and care of monuments;"*

In accordance with the Investor's current application, the proposed amendment concerns the addition of a condition for submission to the competent authority, 6 months prior to the commencement of construction, of the procedure for handling unexpected or accidental archeological findings together with the Report on Archeological Findings. For the purposes of general site management issues, an appropriate procedure shall be prepared, which shall include, among others, such information as:

- location of the object and type of unexpected object and determination of the time necessary for notification;
- width of the protection zone around small findings in order to protect them against unintentional damage;
- width of the protection zone potential important findings in order to protect them against unintentional damage;

  possibility of using a guard vessel to enforce the compliance with the established protection zone by vessels.

Due to the acceptance of the proposed amendment by the Director of Maritime Office in

Gdynia, the local authority accepted the suggested amendment to this decision under **condition No.: I. 2) E),** at the same time updating the publication of the quoted Act and changed the word order proposed by the Investor.

With regard to the wording of point 1.3.2 of the amended decision on environmental conditions, i.e. the wording "*Between the BC-Wind OWF area and the area of the nearest neighboring Offshore Wind Farm planned from the west, leave an open migration corridor for birds (area free from the presence of development), the width of which should not be less than: 4 km and its axis should be a straight line*" the Investor proposed an amendment which reads as follows: "*Between the BC-Wind OWF area and the area of the nearest neighboring Offshore Wind Farm planned from the west, leave an open migration corridor for birds (area free from the presence of wind turbine blades), the width of which should not be less than: 4 km and its axis should be a straight line*." The Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk as well as the Director of Maritime Office in Gdynia unanimously considered this provision insufficient and allowing for the possibility of installation of offshore substations in the area of the migration corridor. The 4-kilometer migration corridor left should enable safe migration of birds to the wintering site and return to the breeding sites. Due to the fact that it will be used by species moving at different heights, this area should not be developed with technical facilities. Considering the above, the wording of **condition No.: I (3) (A) of this Decision** has been amended as follows: *"Between the BC-Wind OWF area and the area of the nearest neighboring Offshore Wind Farm planned from the west, leave an open migration corridor for birds (area free from the presence of wind turbine blades and development of offshore substations), the width of which should not be less than: 4 km and its axis should be a straight line."*

With regard to the wording of point 1.3.7. of the amended decision on environmental conditions, it has been reformulated into **condition No.: I 3) D) of this decision,** by specifying the farms adjacent to the BC-Wind OWF: i.e. from the west of Baltic Power at a distance of 4 km and from the south of Baltic East OWF in area 46.E.1, which will be planned to be implemented in Phase II. At the same time, the following OWFs should be taken into account: Baltica 2 (35 km) and Baltica 3 (17 km) and Bałtyk II (55 km) and Bałtyk III (21 km), which due to their remote location may cause the accumulation of impacts related to the emission of underwater noise during foundation piling. Moreover, the condition has been reformulated in terms of "taking into account" the construction schedules of other investors (the current wording of the condition refers to the adaptation of the schedule). In accordance with the explanation of the Director of Maritime Office in Gdynia (letter of August 04, 2022), in the original version of the condition, it was indicated that *"It is necessary to oblige the Investor to take such action when preparing and implementing the construction schedule of the BC-Wind OWF, which will take into account the schedules of other projects carried out in the vicinity of the BC-Wind OWF, including neighboring offshore wind farms, published or made available at the request of this Investor. Taking into account the aforementioned data should ensure simultaneous compliance by all investors, on a reciprocal basis, with the requirements resulting from legally binding or implemented administrative decisions or administrative decision with concurrent schedules concerning the BC-Wind OWF and other projects. This requirement is instructional (coordinative) in the course of construction and does not mean that the commencement of the implementation of the BC-Wind OWF depends on the development or implementation of schedules of other projects. Nor does it mean that any of the schedules of other entities, regardless of the date of commencement of the project resulting therefrom, prevails over other schedules. No schedule forms the basis for prioritizing projects commenced*

earlier than the BC-Wind OWF, and it does not force the BC-Wind OWF execution schedule to be subordinated to the progress of other projects." The currently proposed amendment includes the action of the Investor of the BC-Wind OWF consisting in taking into account, when preparing and implementing the construction schedule of the BC-Wind OWF, the execution schedules of other projects carried out in the vicinity of the BC-Wind OWF, including neighboring offshore wind farms (made public or made available at the request of the Investor) to ensure simultaneous compliance by all investors, on a reciprocal basis, with the requirements resulting from all legally binding or enforceable administrative decisions concerning the BC-Wind OWF and other projects within the scopes, which potentially require application of these principles of mutual consideration of requirements imposed by law.

Moreover, the content of this decision allowed to approve extension of the reporting period by 3 months as proposed in accordance with the Investor's request. It was taken into account that the Applicant may not be able to prepare the as-built documentation for the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk within 3 months. Therefore, in **conditions No.: I 2) D) and No.: I 5) C) of this Decision** the deadline was extended from 3 to 6 months.

The change of the term "survey cruise" to "survey session" was also approved (conditions No. I.2.1 and No.: II.2.3.3 of the amended decision). The proposed amendment allows for the possibility of using digital surveys from flight survey sessions, which allow collecting a constant record of the number of birds, not approximate numbers, to the level of the species and their exact location, within approx. 2 hours of the survey. Leaving only a term "survey cruises" will limit the Investor to perform surveys only from a vessel. Monitoring in the reference area was also abandoned. In accordance with the guidelines recommended by the General Directorate for Environmental Protection in the scope of environmental impact assessment of offshore wind farms (prepared by Maciej Stryjecki with the team, Warsaw 2025), there is also no justification for conducting surveys in reference areas or in buffer zones, outside the zones of potential impacts.
The above was used in **conditions No.: I. 5 A) and I. 5 F) of this Decision.**

Subsequently, the change of the conditions resulting from the current progress of the BC-Wind OWF project (indication of the proposed turbine locations) and the more advanced modeling of noise propagation resulted in the necessity to introduce changes to the condition specified in the decision on environmental conditions for fish by verifying (abandoning) the threshold which was the reference point in the previous modeling. Currently, the modeling results attached to the report, due to the use of more precise forecasting methods, differ from those attached to the original version, which were the basis for introducing a threshold for fish in the decision on environmental conditions. The conducted analysis showed that the adoption of the noise reduction system for the protection of porpoises (critically endangered with extinction) is a type of umbrella, which at the same time protects fish against a significant range of noise impact and that the final selection of the noise reduction system in combination with the soft-start procedure will be prepared in the so-called "piling strategy". The piling strategy will be prepared after the Investor has finally selected the location of 34 wind turbines, designed foundations and contracted the piling machine, which will allow for noise modeling for realistic assumptions and adaptation of appropriate measures to mitigate underwater noise, taking into account marine mammals and fish. Thus, the noise reduction condition was changed – **I. 3) E) of this decision.** At the same time, the word "technological" in this condition was replaced with "technical", which takes into account both technological and organizational solutions.

The local authority in **condition No. I. 2.** (I) of this decision, has taken into account the amendment proposed by the Applicant as regards the decommissioning of the BC-Wind OWF. As of today, it is difficult to determine what environmental conditions will be created on foundations and other underwater structures. At the same time, the Investor does not know what legal requirements in this respect will be, i.e. in approx. 25 years. The costs of possible removal of any components are also unknown. Therefore, the decision on the method of decommissioning the farm should be postponed. A period of 2 years was proposed to enable the authority to verify the presented method of decommissioning of the farm and mobilization of equipment. The method of decommissioning the farm will take into account the conditions of navigation safety and possible value of the habitat generated during 25 years of the farm operation.

Based on the verified assessment and based on the current state of knowledge, the Investor proposed mitigation measures and further specification of the monitoring program covering the period: before the commencement of the construction, during the construction, after the completion of the construction and before the planned decommissioning of the farm. The proposed mitigation measures and monitoring program require adaptation of the conditions included in the decision on environmental conditions.
In particular, it should be indicated that:

a) reduction in the number of wind turbines will lead to:
   - shortening the time of exposure of mammals to noise emission related to piling of foundations at the construction stage;
   - reduction in the probability of bird collision with wind turbines at the operation stage;
b) limitation of the types of foundations used for the wind turbine foundation to monopile or jacket foundations will lead to:
   - reduction in the area of destroyed benthic habitats;
   - reduction in the significance of impacts relating to disturbance of seabed sediments and increased concentration of suspended matter in water caused thereby.

As regards pre-execution monitoring, the local authority in **condition No. 1.5) B)** approved the Investor's application and deleted the condition concerning the pre-execution monitoring for porpoises (point 11.2.2 of the amended decision). As justification, regardless of the results of this monitoring, it is indicated that it will be necessary to apply all available measures to protect the porpoise against noise, so such monitoring will not provide additional information that would allow for better or more effective mitigation measures. The Investor carried out monitoring of the presence of porpoises in the period from October 2019 to November 2020. Therefore, it has monitoring results for the BC-Wind OWF area. At the same time, the Investor will use the available monitoring results on the planned neighboring OWFs and the results of international surveys carried out as part of the SAMBAH project.

Next the condition for monitoring the presence of porpoises at the construction stage was changed. The change consists in specifying that the monitoring of porpoises refers to the construction period related to piling, as during this period pulse noise is generated, which may cause a threat to this species. At the same time, regardless of the results, it is required to use a noise reduction system in accordance with the conditions imposed in the amended decision on environmental conditions. The monitoring should be carried out on the basis of available data and on the basis of the monitoring methodology carried out at the stage of wildlife survey prepared for the needs of the EIA Report and in accordance with the results of noise modeling. In this condition **(condition II. 5. D) of this decision)** the wording *"C-POD equipment"* has been changed to *"C-POD <u>type</u> equipment",* which allows for the use of newer models already

existing on the market. C-POD detectors are currently replaced by newer types of F-POD detectors. In order to avoid the consequences of future changes in the types of detectors available on the market, the content indicates the need to amend the provision. It is expected that the change of the condition will not result in the introduction of a negative impact on the environment, including in the area.
Moreover, in the scope of measures that minimize and mitigate negative impacts related to the necessity to reduce noise at the piling stage, the use of acoustic deterrent devices (ADD) was allowed under **condition II 4) of this decision**.

In **condition No. I. 5 E)** of this decision, the condition regarding post-development monitoring was changed (conditions of point II.2.3 of the amended decision of September 16, 2022) concerning ichthyofauna monitoring. Due to disturbances caused by the construction phase and uncertainty of forecasting how it will affect ichthyofauna, the Investor proposed to carry out the ichthyofauna monitoring immediately after the completion of construction works. The purpose of this monitoring is to confirm that the construction phase did not cause significant changes in ichthyofauna behavior. At the same time, it was proposed to abandon ichthyofauna monitoring in further years, including after decommissioning of the farm. However, it was proposed that such monitoring should be carried out 4 years prior to the decommissioning of the farm in order to determine whether a valuable habitat for ichthyofauna was created and whether, therefore, the demolition of the farm components will not result in the destruction of a valuable habitat for ichthyofauna. Conducting such surveys seems justified, therefore the local authority accepted the proposed change.

Moreover, the Investor requested that the condition concerning monitoring of migratory birds be changed, i.e.: point II. 2. 3. 2. With regard to the content of the above-mentioned point II.2.3.2 point g) of the decision on environmental conditions, i.e. the provision concerning post-development monitoring of migratory birds, which would be replaced with the provision which reads as follows: *"After the first survey year, a radar and camera system covering the entire wind farm should be used – for the next four years".* Moreover, in the application, the provision of point II.2.3.2. point f) which reads as follows*: "Monitoring should to be performed in two cycles per year, resulting from two birds migration periods, i.e. from March to May and from July to November, in 4 monitoring sessions: - 2 survey cycles in migration periods, in the fourth year after the commencement of operation (due to the possibility of construction duration for more than 4 years from the commencement of operation and the need to verify the assessment assumptions); - 2 cycles in migration periods, in the first year since the completion of the construction", the Investor suggested that it be shortened* to the provision "*Monitoring should be carried out in two cycles per year, resulting from two bird migration periods"* despite the fact that it has not been proposed for amendment. The requested limitation of ornithological surveys to one year of monitoring is too short a period for obtaining reliable results concerning bird migration, especially as the planned artificial intelligence system requires the delivery of samples for learning, as well as verification and checking of its effectiveness. Therefore, monitoring of bird migration should be carried out by qualified ornithologists over two years, allowing for verification of the operation and testing of the system based on automated identification of migratory bird species. Considering the above, the wording of point II.2.3.2. point f) of the decision on environmental conditions remains unchanged.

With regard to the content of point II.2.3.4 of the amended decision on environmental conditions, i.e. the wording "*Monitoring of the presence of porpoises should be carried out for at least 2 years after the completion of the construction of the planned project using the same*

methods as during the pre-investment monitoring", the Investor proposed the amendment which reads as follows*: "Carry out the monitoring of the presence of porpoises 1 year after completion of the construction with selection of C-POD locations based on the methodology presented to the authority for approval at least 6 months prior to the planned commencement of monitoring."* In this decision **(condition No.: I. 5) G)),** the Investor was obliged to monitor porpoises for at least 2 years after completion of the construction. Performance of the surveys for at least 2 years will allow obtaining information on possible use by and return of the porpoise to the BC-Wind OWF area. These surveys are important because the Applicant intends to use *"acoustic deterrent devices (ADD) as: a tool to mitigate and reduce the risk of physical injury (death or permanent and temporary hearing loss) to marine mammals, in the immediate vicinity of piling; the use time of ADD should not exceed 15 minutes".* Therefore, it is very important to obtain information whether marine mammals will use the OWF area during the operation phase after the construction stage and shutdown of the ADD system. A single year of survey is too short a time to acquire sufficient knowledge in this area.

As regards the proposed changes concerning post-execution monitoring of bats, the local authority partially approved the Investor's request to specify the date of the above-mentioned monitoring, i.e. to limit the period of expected seasonal migration of bats to the periods of spring migration from April 1 to May 30 and autumn migration from August 1 to October 1 (and not, as requested, from August 15 to September 30). Moreover, the local authority does not agree with the reduction by one year of the period to be covered by the above-mentioned monitoring, as it would be insufficient, given that wind farms are an environment that attracts the presence of bats. This monitoring is particularly important in the context of long-term effects of wind farm operations and their impact on migratory populations and allows minimizing the negative impact of the OWF, e.g. by introducing temporary limitations of turbine operation, which minimizes the risk of collisions. **Condition I. 5. l) of this decision.**

The Regional Director for Environmental Protection would like to emphasize that by imposing the condition of a temporary shutdown of turbines in the period of the most intensive bird migrations (condition No.: I.3.4 of the amended decision of September 16, 2022), the local authority aimed at minimizing bird collisions with the project in question.

By the content of this decision **(condition No.: I 3) B))** the condition was changed in order to minimize the negative impact of the project in question on birds. In the part concerning the slowdown of the wind turbine operation. The local authority agreed to mitigate the content of the condition in question by replacing the word *"stoppage" of* wind turbines with *"stoppage/reduction of speed".* The grounds for the application indicate that rapid braking of the turbine is at the same time a risky procedure that may cause mechanical damage to the rotor as a result of a high angular momentum. Therefore, the rotor must be stopped by deceleration. Resumption of turbine operation also involves additional energy input, which, if it is necessary to stop more turbines, may cause significant losses in energy generation, thus it was necessary to verify the contents of this condition. At the same time, it should be emphasized that the system of stoppage/speed reduction of individual wind turbines will be activated only when bird flights are detected, during periods of their most intensive migration and only in the case of flights at a collision height.

Moreover, the local authority did not agree to delete the phrase "*and the above-mentioned system should be used in situations where required"*, as requested by the Investor. It should be emphasized that flocks of other bird species also migrate through the area of the planned wind farm. Therefore, at the moment it is impossible to exclude a dependence

between the mortality of individual populations of a migratory species as a result of collision with OWF components and the preservation of the conservation status (population index) of a given species. The provision in question allows for a significant reduction of the risk that as a result of the operation of the wind turbine in question, the population of any of the protected species, not only of the crane, will be reduced. It should also be emphasized that due to the cumulative impact of the wind farm in question and other wind farms in its vicinity, it is not possible to predict whether and how migration routes of individual bird species will change, and thus whether their collisions with the planned wind farm will increase. At the same time is pointed out that the wording of the condition concerning periodical stoppage/speed reduction of individual wind turbines or, if it is impossible, of the entire farm during the periods of the most intense, peak seasonal migrations of birds at collision heights (i.e. in the period from March 15 to April 30 and from September 1 to October 31, with particular emphasis on adverse weather conditions). The flights' intensity will be determined on the basis of indications of the flights' intensity monitoring system.

The proposed modifications to the conditions of the Environmental Decision contribute to further reduction of impacts related to implementation, operation and decommissioning. Thus, the proposed modifications will not result in the possibility of significant adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites.

When analyzing the validity of the change to the content of point IV (reassessment) of the Environmental Decision, the local authority took into account the scope of specification of the Project's parameters and the results of the environmental impact assessment of the detailed parameters of the Project and, at the same time, the validity of the preconditions indicated as the grounds for imposing the obligation to perform the reassessment.

As indicated in the submitted EIA Report, the introduced Project modifications not only fall within the previously defined environmental conditions of its implementation, but result in the limitation of the Project impacts by reducing the number of infrastructure elements comprising the Project, both wind turbines and substations, and also in further specifying the remaining Project parameters. In particular, it should be emphasized that the types of foundations possible to be used for the purposes of the wind turbine foundation have been specified, i.e. monopile and jacket foundations.

As indicated in the EIA Report, for the parameters of this project after the proposed modifications, only monopile and jacket foundations may be used for the installation of wind turbines. Due to the varying seabed depths in the water region intended for the implementation of the OWF and the diversified geological conditions of the seabed, it is necessary to allow the use of both monopile and jacket foundations. The assessment of the foundation process for selected foundations carried out in this report implements one of the guidelines for conducting the reassessment from among those indicated in the Environmental Decision.

In view of the above, in the opinion of the local authority, the updated conditions of implementation and operation of the Project together with the environmental impact assessment for the proposed changes in the conditions of the Environmental Decision and the new knowledge on the environmental status in Polish maritime areas and on the impacts caused by the OWF, as well as the consequences of decisions made in other procedures on the decision on environmental conditions for the OWF projects, cause that the rationale for imposing the obligation to conduct an environmental impact re-assessment during the procedure on the building permit for the BC-Wind OWF project disappeared. Therefore, the local authority with the content of this decision in **condition No. I. 6)** accepted the Investor's

request to waive the obligation to perform a reassessment of the environmental impact of the project.

As indicated in the submitted EIA Report, the update of the Project parameters does not result in an increase in the significance of any of the identified impacts relating to the implementation, operation or decommissioning of the OWF; on the contrary, in the case of a significant part of the impacts, their significance is reduced. There are also no new circumstances, changes in the factual situation, that would result in the occurrence of new impact receptors or scientific knowledge that would indicate a greater sensitivity of the identified receptors to impacts, the source of which may be the implementation, operation or decommissioning of the BC-Wind OWF. Thus, according to the local authority the project in question with updated parameters does not result in the obligation to conduct the environmental impact assessment of the proposed change in the conditions of the Environmental Decision in a cross-border context.

The environmental impact assessment of the Project update carried out in the submitted EIA Report takes into account, among others, changes in the actual state, including, in particular, changes related to the new knowledge in the scope of impacts of offshore wind farms and related to the development of other offshore wind farm projects in the Polish maritime areas. The update of the Project parameters is related primarily to the development of the project, which allows to significantly specify the technical parameters of the Project.

In conclusion, the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk, made amendments to the Environmental Decision as per point I hereof. The applied changes lead either to the limitation of the maximum scope of the conditions specified in the Environmental Decision or to the limitation of the scope of methods of the project implementation or technical solutions. None of the changes in the parameters of the project in question exceed the boundary conditions specified in the Environmental Decision.

Taking into account the changes in the parameters of the project in question, the local authority considered it justified to update the Project characteristics constituting Appendix No. 1 to the Environmental Decision, ref. No.: RDOŚ-Gd-W00.420.50.2021.KSZ.AM.10 of September 16, 2022. The updated Characteristics of the project in question constitutes Appendix No. 1 to the decision.

The Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk, by virtue of the letter ref. No.: RDOŚ-Gd- W00.420.89.2024.AM.6 of May 29, 2025, acting on the basis of Article 10 of the Code of Administrative Procedure, notified the parties to the procedure about the completion of the collection of evidence in the case and about the possibility to read and comment on the collected evidence and materials, indicating that the decision terminating the procedure in question will be issued not earlier than 7 days from the date of delivery.
No comments or requests have been submitted within the set time frame.

Therefore, the decision should be as aforementioned herein.

The decision is subject to announcement on publicly accessible data list.

For the issuance of this decision, a stamp duty in the amount of PLN 205 was paid (Appendix No. 1, part I, item 45 of the Act of November 16, 2006 on stamp duty *(consolidated text, Journal of Laws of 2023, item 2111, as amended).*

INSTRUCTION

This decision may be appealed against to the General Director for Environmental Protection

through the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Gdańsk, ul. Chmielna 54/57, 80-748 Gdańsk, within 14 days from the date of its receipt, in accordance with Article 76 section 1 of the Act of December 17, 2020 on promoting electricity generation in offshore wind farms *(Journal of Laws of 2025, item 498)*.

In the course of time period for lodging an appeal, a party may waive the right to lodge an appeal against the public administration authority which issued the decision. The decision shall become final and valid on the date on which the last party to the procedure has served on the public administration authority its representation on waiver of the right to appeal.

Regional Director for
Environmental
Protection in Gdańsk

Anna Tchórzewska

Copies to:
1. C-Wind Polska Sp. z o.o. through the proxy Ms. Magdalena Kiejzik-Głowińska, Eko-Konsult Sp. z o.o., ul. Narwicka 6, 80-557 Gdańsk
2. to file

Prepared by: Agata Mach, (phone 58 68 36 804 from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.)

Attn:
1. Director of the Maritime Office in Gdynia, ul. Chrzanowskiego 10, 81-338 Gdynia
2. State Border Sanitary Inspector in Gdynia, ul. Kontenerowa 69, 81-155 Gdynia Regional Director

REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN GDAŃSK

Appendix No. 1 to decision ref. No.: RDOŚ-Gd-WOO.420.89.2024.AM.7

pursuant to Article 84 section 2 of the Act of October 3, 2008 on access to information on the environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and on environmental impact assessments (consolidated text, Journal of Laws of 2024, item 1112, as amended)

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT

The proposed project consists in the construction of the BC-Wind OWF offshore wind farm with a total installed capacity not exceeding 500 MW. The proposed OWF will be located in the Polish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The scope of the project covers three main phases: construction, operation and decommissioning.

The proposed project includes the following components:

- maximum 39 wind turbines consisting of nacelle with rotors, tower and foundations or supporting structures founded on the seabed (max. 34, the remaining 5 are spare locations),
- one offshore substation,
- approx. 100 km of internal power and communication lines.

List of the most important parameters of BC-Wind OWF:

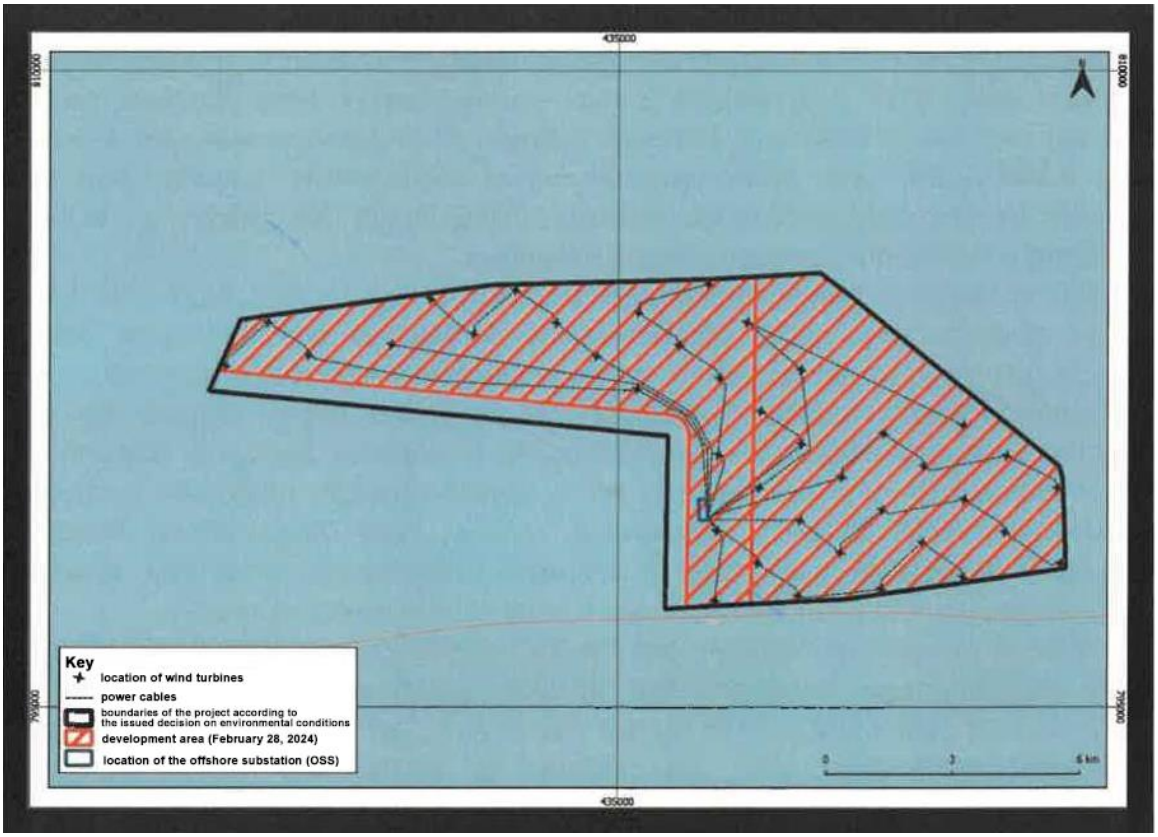
Parameter	Unit	Value
Total installed capacity (maximum)	MW	500
Number of wind turbines (maximum)	-	39*
Rotor diameter (maximum)	m	250
Clearance between the rotor operation area and water surface (minimum)	m	20
Height of the structure with the rotor (maximum)	m	300
Number of substations (maximum)	-	1
Foundation diameter (monopile)	m	approx. 11.5**
Seabed surface occupied by a single foundation – monopile with a protective layer (maximum)	m^2	approx. 2,600
Length of inter array cable routes (maximum)	km	approx. 100

** – ultimately, the Investor plans to build 34 wind turbines; however, the change of the decision on environmental conditions also includes 5 spare locations.*

*** – total diameter of the monopile including the attached structure for cables (J-Tube) is approx. 24 m*

Source: EIA Report

The proposed location of the analyzed 39 wind turbines in the BC-Wind OWF area together with the location of cable routes is presented in the figure below:



The proposed project will be located in the Polish Exclusive Economic Zone, north of Choczewo and Krokowa communes, at a distance of 22.6 km from the coastline.
The BC-Wind OWF area is a water region inside which all facilities of the offshore wind farm will be founded. The surface of the development area of the BC-Wind OWF is 78.71 km^2. The development area should be understood as the area inside which all components of the project will be located, in the case of wind turbines, determined by the range of rotors, and not only the area that may be used for installation of foundations for wind turbines. The surface area of the seabed occupied by one monopile together with the protective layer of the rip-rap is 2,600 m^2, the total seabed occupied by all 39 turbines is 101,400 m^2, which constitutes 0.13% of the development area. The surface area of direct interference with the seabed related to seabed preparation and cleaning and the trench will occupy only a strip with a width of approx. 25 m and will be approx. 2.5 km^2, which constitutes 3.18% of the development area. The estimated average width of the trench for one cable will be only approx. 7.5 m. Moreover, small parts of the seabed will be occupied periodically for vessel anchoring.

Electricity generated by means of wind turbines will be transmitted by means of inter array cables laid on the seabed to the offshore substation. In the offshore substation, electricity will be converted to higher voltage, which results in less energy loss during its transmission. Then, the energy will be transmitted to the shore using the 220 or 275 kV export cables, which connect the offshore substation with the onshore substation, and then the electricity is connected to the national grid.

Geodetic coordinates of the BC-Wind OWF Development Area

Point No.	Latitude N	Longitude E
	λ	φ
1	55.0949847222	17.8415836111
2	55.0960004176	17.8524786464
3	55.0961037778	17.8535891194
4	55.1004598806	17.9021068222
5	55.1031515417	17.933709
6	55.1043316861	17.9827896556
7	55.1051821944	18.0176595778
8	55.1057692806	18.0313673611
9	55.0362829611	18.0314014944
10	55.0353214942	18.007925178
11	55.0607076414	18.0079301282
12	55.072386505	18.0078561245
13	55.0726849609	18.0077651794
14	55.0729792224	18.007639394
15	55.0732679521	18.0074793393
16	55.0735498375	18.007285742
17	55.0738235974	18.0070594814
18	55.0740879874	18.0068015853
19	55.0743418057	18.0065132254
20	55.0745838985	18.006195712
21	55.0748131654	18.0058504878
22	55.0750285641	18.0054791217
23	55.0752291155	18.0050833016
24	55.0754139079	18.0046648264
25	55.0755821011	18.0042255983
26	55.0757329306	18.0037676138
27	55.0758657106	18.0032929547
28	55.0759798376	18.0028037789
29	55.0760747927	18.0023023101
30	55.0761501442	18.001790828
31	55.0762055495	18.0012716581
32	55.0762407567	18.0007471605
33	55.0790211962	17.942014141
34	55.0829483003	17.8590532077
35	55.0841584453	17.8336117518

36	55.0949847222	17.8415836111
37	55.0362830111	18.0315014944
38	55.1057735611	18.0314673417
39	55.1067760796	18.0548730341
40	55.105348542	18.0583201052
41	55.100144273	18.0703811149
42	55.0935640432	18.0848740671
43	55.0865611776	18.1002935438
44	55.0802900869	18.1140934778
45	55.0733849511	18.1292796501
46	55.0664841689	18.1444633525
47	55.0640532041	18.1458109946
48	55.0639479736	18.1458692132
49	55.0501202123	18.1470359017
50	55.0452900172	18.1474434195
51	55.0447039473	18.1473255404
52	55.0375483849-	18.065451499
53	55.0362830/11	18.0315014944

Regional Director for
Environmental
Protection in Gdańsk

Anna Tchórzewska