



UiT Norges arktiske universitet

The Norwegian case study & connection to the guidance documents

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The Norwegian case study

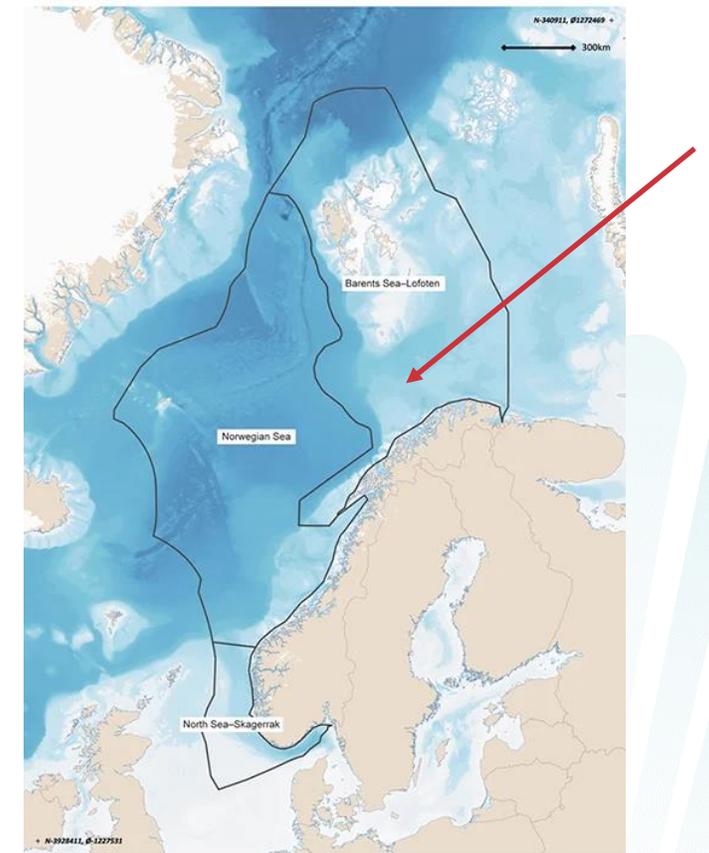
Meeting (Nov. 2020) in dialogue forum: Decision to have three sub-cases of industries in various stages of development:

- Offshore petroleum activity
- Offshore aquaculture
- Offshore wind energy production

All partly in conflict with fisheries and environmental interests as well as each other

Scope / questions:

- Characteristics of marine conflicts
- How conflicts unfold, institutionalize, and transform
- How they shape and are shaped by sustainability discourses and framings
- What insights are relevant and generalizable to other contexts



Geographical focus: Barents Sea – Lofoten area

Marine conflicts and the «environmental state»

Marine conflicts:

- Commonplace
- Complex
- Partly unpredictable
- Transcend scales
- Not necessarily negative
- Might promote innovation and more sustainable solutions

Environmental state:

A concept to understand the institutionalization of national environmental policy, including four dimensions

1. Administrative apparatus
2. System of regulation
3. Corpus of ideas and expert knowledge
4. Sites of contestation and decision



Offshore petroleum activity



- A long history on the Norwegian Continental Shelf
- Controversial from the very beginning
- Focus on the Barents Sea from the late 1990s – strong protests from fisheries and environmental organizations, especially about
 - Pollution
 - Seismic surveys
 - Opening of Lofoten - Vesterålen
 - Delimitation of the marginal ice zone
- Focus:
 - How have these conflicts played out?
 - Which actors are involved?
 - What institutions have been established to handle conflicts?
 - How are sustainability issues raised and dealt with?

Offshore aquaculture

- Vision: doubling of production by 2030 and five-doubling by 2050
- Environmental and social challenges
- Solutions: land-based (closed systems) and offshore aquaculture (beyond baseline + 1NM)
- No regulatory system yet for offshore aquaculture
- Possibility to apply for development permits 2015 - 2017
- Mapping of suitable offshore areas (2019+)

Focus:

- Follow Salmar Smart Fish Farm and mapping of suitable areas
- How do conflicting actors relate to / engage with sustainability?



Offshore wind power



- Slow development, large ambitions
- Drivers: climate goals, electrification of NCS
- Offshore Energy Act 2010; requires that government has opened areas before companies can apply for licenses
- Process of site identification started in 2009, followed by a strategic assessment in 2012
- Focus of the work:
 - Analyze process of site selection and opening
 - Follow conflict development around Sandskallen-Sørøya nord



Connections to WPs (and challenges)

- **WP2: Conflict analysis and sustainability frameworks**
 - Implementation: Focus on mapping of conflicts; their characteristics; and how sustainability discourses and framings structure and transform conflicts
 - We see no large challenges to implement this
- **WP3: Conflict transformation**
 - Implementation: Focus on knowledge production, power relations, equity, and processes of inclusion / exclusion
 - Challenge: role of facilitator/practitioner vs. researcher
- **WP4: Institutionalizing sustainability pathways**
 - Implementation: Analyses of institutional change focusing on plurality/diversity, contestability, scalability, legitimacy, accountability, effectiveness, and formal versus informal aspects (“hard” and “soft” practices);
 - Challenge: engage with and transform power / implement change
- **WP5: Knowledge-action and social learning:**
 - Implementation: Transdisciplinarity through collaboration with the dialogue forum
 - Challenge: capacity building, reflexive practices