

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 July 2025 14:56  
**To:** South East Anglia Link <[SouthEastAngliaLink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:SouthEastAngliaLink@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Response Netherlands to ESPOO notification Sea Link (Ref: EN020026)

[REDACTED]

Dear Planning Inspectorate,

Thank you for your letter sent on 15 May 2025 regarding the proposed development Sea Link. We apologise for our late response and would like to ask whether our contribution can still be considered in the remainder of the process.

We would like to inform you that the Government of the Netherlands would like to participate in the procedure under Regulation 32 in relation to this application and we appreciate to be kept up-to-date. As of yet, my colleagues have only one comment on the proposed development, regarding electromagnetic fields.

*As the demand for clean energy rises, more windfarms are being developed with a growing amount of subsea power cables. It has been found in previous research that the Electromagnetic fields (EMF's) from these cables affect a range of animals including rays, sharks, and migratory fish. Rays and sharks have been found to change their behavior, for instance changes in foraging and predation. Migratory fish, like eels, have been found to move slower when crossing cables. What the effect is of EMFs from subsea power cables on the success of their respective populations is still unknown and should be investigated and carefully considered, also in this initiative. Especially fish species that migrate over large distances should be considered as these species will also be affected by cables elsewhere, creating a transboundary cumulative effect potentially deteriorating the chances of survival of offspring after migration.*

*Furthermore, sediment plumes can also affect life on the Dutch Continental Shelf if operations like dredging or jet-trenching happen relatively close to the border, which is needed to lay cables on the necessary depth. Sediment plumes affect life, since the higher turbidity of the water makes light penetrate the water column less deep, making photosynthesis more difficult or even impossible depending on the depth. Higher turbidity also makes foraging more difficult for species using sight. Depending on the species, they will be able to forage elsewhere, but this comes at the expense of using more energy to evade the plume. Lastly, the sediment plume will also cause quick sedimentation of the bottom, potentially burying the endangered and protected Sabellaria reefs or Arctica islandica, which are very vulnerable for disturbances. It is therefore necessary to investigate and rule out whether these species are present in a radius of the disturbance contour around the project area.*

With kind regards,



[Redacted]  
Advisor North Sea

**Rijkswaterstaat Zee en Delta**

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