Press release

RWE and The Oyster Restoration Company complete feasibility project for large-scale native oyster restoration

- **RWE and TORC prove oyster reef restoration is feasible within offshore wind farms**
- **Six-month study delivers blueprint for guiding the deployment of biodiversity gains**
- **Project improves RWE's preparedness for implementing net-positive marine impacts.**

Swindon, 21 July 2025

RWE, one of the world's leading offshore wind companies, and The Oyster Restoration Company (TORC) have successfully completed a feasibility project that proves large-scale native oyster reef restoration can be executed at offshore wind farms in the North Sea.

This is an important achievement for RWE and a pathfinder for the wider offshore wind industry, to identify credible biodiversity solutions that are scalable and verifiable, in line with efforts to positively impact on the marine environments around its offshore projects.

Throughout the feasibility testing, RWE and The Oyster Restoration Company jointly developed a series of technical assessment, evaluations and solutions from engineering and deployment to verification frameworks (1).

Flat oysters are an important species because they can create reefs that provide food and breeding grounds for many other species. Due to the harmful impacts of factors such as overfishing, pollution, and parasites, only 5% of the pre-industrial population remains across the North Sea. The project is a research initiative, which is supported by RWE and carried out at TORC's hatchery in Scotland. Through laboratory tests, the project evaluated different natural and artificial hard substrates, such as shells or bricks, and to decide which could be deployed to maximize the creation of new reefs.

"The question is no longer if we can restore oysters at scale offshore" said **Dr Nik Sachlikidis, CEO of The Oyster Restoration Company.** "Together with RWE, we've combined hatchery capacity, engineering know-how, and science to deliver a pathway for measurable biodiversity gain. Practically, affordably, and now."

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Dr Thomas Michel, RWE COO Offshore Wind, added: "By acting early, RWE is stepping up its capability and readiness to help benefit marine biodiversity in and around its offshore wind projects. We have a firm responsibility to not just mitigate but also to enhance the environments in which we build and operate. Through this promising initiative with The Oyster Restoration Company, we have established a verifiable tool that demonstrates tangible results, and supports the credibility of RWE's net positive ambitions on biodiversity."

The learnings from this project are expected to support the ambitions of offshore wind companies to contribute to the restoration of important marine habitats across wide areas of the North Sea in the UK and Europe. These efforts are key to driving progress among offshore wind companies, to achieving a net-positive impact on biodiversity.

Pictures for media use (credit: RWE) are available at the RWE Media Centre

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Editors note

(1) *Substrate testing and ecological assessments, reef-based engineering solutions and the evaluation of deployment logistics, the analysis of the permitting and regulatory pathways and the blueprint for a monitoring and verification frameworks.*

RWE

RWE is leading the way to a modern energy world. With its investment and growth strategy, RWE is contributing significantly to the success of the energy transition and the decarbonisation of the energy system. Around 20,000 employees work for the company in almost 30 countries worldwide. RWE is one of the leading companies in the field of renewable energy. RWE is investing billions of euros in expanding its generation portfolio, in particular in offshore and onshore wind, solar energy and batteries. It is perfectly complemented by its global energy trading business. Thanks to its integrated portfolio of renewables, battery storage and flexible generation, as well as its broad project pipeline of possible new builds, RWE is well positioned to address the growing global demand for electricity, particularly driven by further electrification and artificial intelligence. RWE is decarbonising its business in line with the 1.5-degree reduction pathway and will phase out coal by 2030. RWE will be net zero by 2040. Fully in line with the company's purpose - Our energy for a sustainable life.