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The need for a sustainable plan

Since the very beginning the Save Middles organisation has stated that surfing at the Roshage combines very well with the wish to establish a sea farm plant as well as windmills at the Hanstholm Harbour area. It is now clear that this can actually be done.

The organisation has collected money and hired consulting engineering firm, NIRAS. The purpose of this joint venture has been to investigate two alternatives for the placing of the above mentioned plant which is threatening to destroy Middles – the latter being one of Europes finest surfing spots.

The results of the investigations are presented in an app 50 pages report. This report concludes that nothing prevents placing the windmills as well as the sea farm in alternative places within the Hanstholm Harbour area. The report even indicates that the project might gain from this.

The Save Middles organisation is speaking on behalf of the The Danish Yacht Racing Union, Dansk Danish Boardsailing Organisation and the local surf club North Atlantic Surfing Association as we emphasize that the Jutlandian west coast in the Thy area is holding fantastic places suited for surfing. Middles are by far what make the area so special. The quality of the area is of importance to people locally as well as in all of Denmark and the rest of Europe.

If the decision should be made to carry through with the project of Big Wind Mills at the Hanstholm Harbour (*Store vindmøller ved Hanstholm havn*), we strongly recommend not involving Middles and first and foremost concentrate on alternative placing of the project.

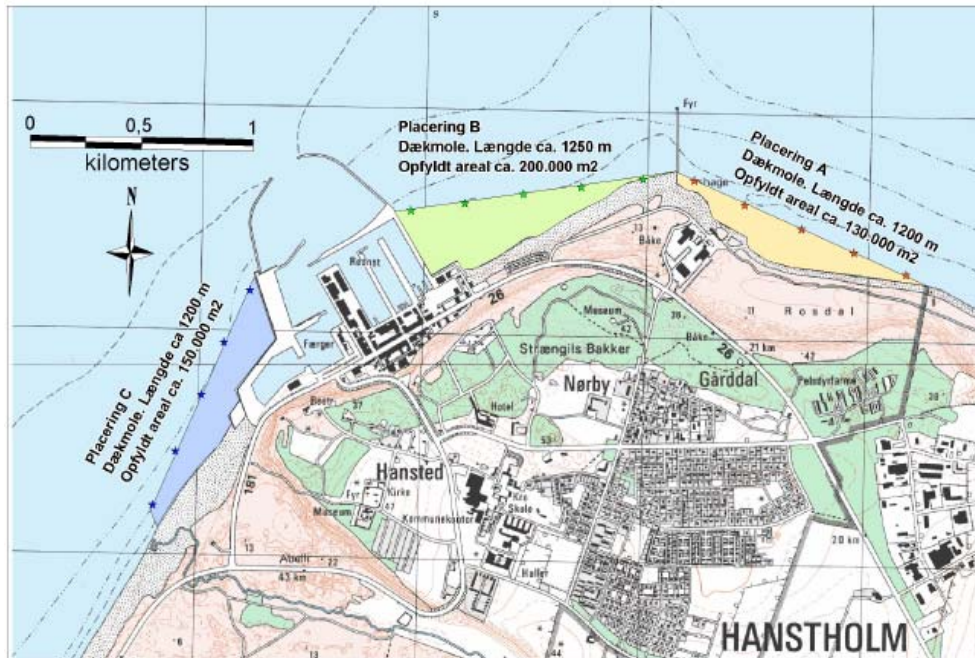
It is a fact that the politicians and the non-surfing local people of the Hanstholm municipality have no general view of what surfing actually is doing for the area. A sustainable plan for surfing is non-existing. There is a need for a general view and a sustainable plan, which integrates surfing in the future concept of marketing the Thy area – otherwise known as The Cold Hawaii.

On behalf of the board

Rasmus Johnsen

Summary of the NIRAS report

The Save Middles organisation has collected money and hired consulting engineering firm, NIRAS, to make a survey uncovering two alternative sites for placing windmills and a sea farm as described in the debate introduction Big Wind Mills at the Hanstholm Harbour (Store vindmøller ved Hanstholm havn). This concerning the sites B and C as shown on the map below:



NIRAS concludes, that no environmental - biological, ecologic or culture historical matters prevents placing the plant in area B and C.

In the municipal scheme the areas A, B and C are all designated for harbour purposes. At all three possible sites the building of a reclaiming pier and windmills according to law is due to an exact prior pointing out in the regional plan. This has to be done through a regional plan ammendment with a prior VVM evaluation. Thus the terms of building the plant are the same for all three possible sites.

East of the harbour, in the B area, the coast is protected from erosion by the Roshage Pier (Roshagemolen). East of the Roshage Pier, area A, the coast is not protected. According to the VVM-statement of 2003 a coastal withdraw of 8 metres has been detected between 1983 and 2000. This equals 47 centimetres per year.

According to NIRAS there are no technical differences when building on all three sites. Not considering the erosion in area A which means that the conditions for placing the plant in area A, B and C are identical.

NIRAS emphasizes that nothing prevents placing the sea farm plant in areas B or C. They furthermore draw to attention the fact that the placing of sea farming is not dependent of a reclaimed area. Rather of relevance in this particular case is a short distance to a salt water resource.

Furthermore the logistic terms for the harbour must be taken into consideration. In relation to the wish to establish a sea farm in the area, NIRAS recommends site B.

NIRAS states that there are some advantages if the plant is placed either in area B or C. They are as follows:

- The wind climate is better: 3 percent in area B and 4 percent in area C. This when considering that the windmills life span is 20 years. It is concluded that the increased energy production in site B and C seen from a corporate economical point of view leads to a more profitable project.
- It is assumed that the height of the windmills in area A is a consequence of the wish to clear the wings from the influence of a nearby slope (65 metres high). Placed in the areas B and C the mills will not be affected by the slope. This means a possibility to reduce the height of the mills without energy production loss. Estimated tower height reduction for area B = 9 metres and for area C = 12 metres. This is not possible in area A. The tower height reduction has a positive influence on construction costs. The foundation size for the windmills can be reduced as well can the materials used for each mill.
- The pier reclaiming area B is expected to have a reducing effect on the current which occurs in the lee zone just east of the harbour. The pier reclaiming area C will make the transition between the coast and the present pier more streamlined. Both are expected to have a reducing effect to the sediment deposit in the harbour and the harbour entrance. Placing a pier and windmills in area A is not expected to have any effects of this kind.
- Straightening the coast line in area A is expected to increase the erosion east of the reclaiming pier. Neither B or C is expected to increase erosion.
- Choosing area B or C makes it possible to use area A for surfing as well for other recreational activities. It will still be possible to arrange sporting events in the area which is of great importance to the surfing sport in general. Furthermore the income from tourist related activities initiated by surfers will be unchanged if choosing either area B or C.
- Choosing area B and C means that approximately 40 surfers mostly young people contributing to local society through working and paying tax have a good reason to continue living in the area. Including families there are 80 to 100 people who directly or indirectly live in the area because of excellent surfing conditions.

NIRAS calls attention to the fact that the sea depths vary in area A and B and C. The overall average depth in area A is app 2 meters . In area B app 3 meters and in area C app 5 meters. This does not have an insignificant effect on the costs for the pier reclaiming the area: The deeper the water the higher the costs.

It is emphasized that there is no general view of the trade and income that surfing brings to the area. This makes it difficult to make an overall reliable estimation of the total economic consequences of the project.