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GREENBAT: Migratory bats and offshore wind energy in Ireland

Project Overview/ Background

It is currently unknown whether Irish bats migrate over open marine waters to and from Ireland and whether there is the potential for them to be impacted by ORE development. Our research concentrates on two bat species native to Ireland, which are migratory elsewhere within their native range- Nathusius' pipistrelle and Leisler's bat. Our study aims to determine the extent of migration in Irish bats.



Problem statement

The existing knowledge gap is alarming, as studies worldwide have demonstrated that wind farms can cause high instances of bat mortality, particularly for migratory species.

Research Methodologies

Using tissue and fur samples from bats in Ireland, Britain and continental Europe, we are comparing two methodologies (genomics and stable isotopes) to infer if migration is occurring.



Research Outcomes

We are currently at the data collection stage. Preliminary results indicate that peak bat activity coincides with temporal and climatic conditions recorded for migration in these species in mainland European populations.

Policy Recommendations

Policymakers should factor this emerging evidence and associated uncertainties into their planning for offshore wind farm developments.