



# Article An Improved Failure Mode and Effect Analysis of Floating Offshore Wind Turbines

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**Abstract:** This paper proposes an improved failure mode and effect analysis method for a comprehensive failure analysis that provides a holistic perspective of actions on the potential failures of floating offshore wind turbines. A new way of constructing risk priority numbers was developed by considering the background knowledge of the specialists involved in the failure analysis. The failure analysis was conducted based on an extensive dataset from multiple specialists that covers five floating offshore wind turbine systems, 15 main components, 42 failure modes, and 104 failure causes. Consequently, 21 recommendations are suggested for designers and operators to prevent and mitigate the risk of unexpected failures of floating offshore wind turbines. Furthermore, a comparison analysis was conducted to illustrate the similarities and differences between the proposed failure mode and effect analysis and the conventional method.

**Keywords:** failure analysis; floating offshore wind turbine; failure mode and effect analysis; floating offshore wind energy



Renewable energies are changing the global energy supply structure that used to consist mainly of fossil energy [1]. In recent decades, human beings have witnessed an increasing demand for renewable energies, such as wind energy, to eliminate the side effects of environmental pollution associated with fossil fuels [2,3].

The exploration of wind energy for generating electricity can be traced back to the 1880s when three wind turbines were installed in the United States (1883), in Scotland (1887), and in Denmark (in 1887) [4]. Since then, multiple types of onshore and bottom-fixed offshore wind turbines have been manufactured to explore wind energy inland and offshore.

The floating offshore concepts represent the next step of the offshore wind energy market, which allows energy production from waters deeper than 50 m where the wind profile is more stable, and the capacity factors (ratio of actual electrical energy output over a given period to the maximum possible electrical energy output over that period) are typically higher [5–7]. Accordingly, it is possible to seek higher investment returns for floating wind projects [8,9]. The first floating offshore wind farms (Hywind Scotland in the UK and WindFloat Atlantic in Portugal) have been put into operation, and several additional floating wind farms are under construction worldwide [10,11]. However, it is still challenging to explore more economical wind resources far from shore with offshore wind turbines with floating offshore wind turbines is to cut down the electricity price until it can be comparable to the price of electricity generated by fossil energy sources [17–19]. This calls for operational reliability, availability, and energy generation efficiency of those concepts to a higher degree than onshore and bottom-fixed facilities [20,21].



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**Copyright:** © 2022 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/). Operational reliability is the probability that a floating offshore wind turbine generates electricity as designed during an observed time at the sea. It represents the capability of floating offshore wind turbines to produce electricity without failures over a given period [9,16,22–26].

Availability is the degree to which a floating offshore wind turbine is in an operational state at an arbitrary operation time. It can be measured as the ratio of time a floating offshore wind turbine is working during an observed period. Production availability denotes the electricity generation capacity of floating offshore wind turbines during a given period [4,27,28].

Energy generation efficiency is the instantaneous capability that a floating offshore wind turbine converts wind energy into electricity. It reflects the electricity production strength of floating offshore wind turbines [4,29,30].

Operational reliability, availability, and energy generation efficiency of floating offshore wind turbines are the basis of floating offshore projects' financial feasibility. These indices rely on an insightful and comprehensive understanding of inherent and extrinsicmotivated failures of floating offshore wind turbines by having recourses to failure analysis since they can [31,32]:

- Identify critical items related to failures of floating offshore wind turbines such as systems, components, failure modes, and failure causes. These critical items have serious failure consequences, high failure frequencies, or both.
- (2) Ascertain the local and widespread impact of each failure of floating offshore wind turbines.
- (3) Explain the failure behavior of floating offshore wind turbines by assessing how each failure cause results in the corresponding failure mode(s), further gives rise to malfunctions of component(s), and then passes to the upper system level.
- (4) Suggest corrections to improve the system and structural designs by finding proper measures to avoid the occurrences of critical failure causes.
- (5) Determine downtime and evaluate maintenance costs to suggest preventive actions for maintenance implementations.

However, several challenges should be recognized when referring to the failure analysis of floating offshore wind turbines [32–36]:

- (1) As a typical complex system composed of thousands of elements, detailed failure analysis is time-consuming and it is unpractical when the analysis is deepened to each basic element level, owing to the limited knowledge of analysts.
- (2) Failures are rare throughout the life cycle of floating offshore wind turbines, and only a few failures could be observed due to the lack of operational experience for such relatively new installations.
- (3) The credibility of failure analysis results significantly relies on collected personal knowledge, such as the specialists' judgments. It also requires reasonable pretreatment of collected data in advance of failure analysis.

The analysis of failure features and failure behavior are essential for floating offshore wind turbines' performance. They are the basis of the following activities: (i) Determining economical maintenance strategies; (ii) Conducting robust designs to reduce potential failures; (iii) Estimating the expected return on investment. However, the reality is that floating offshore wind structures are relatively new, and therefore their failure information is unavailable. To overcome the limited information on the failure of floating offshore wind turbines, analogous data from onshore or bottom-fixed foundation wind turbines have been used as a reference. This data, however, introduces additional uncertainty and reduces the credibility of failure analysis outcomes. To this end, this paper proposes an improved failure mode and effect analysis (FMEA) that is then applied in a comprehensive failure analysis of floating offshore wind turbines based on extensive data collection from multiple specialists who are designers or analysts of floating offshore wind turbines. To be specific, this study aims to:

- (1) Complete a failure analysis of floating offshore wind turbines by comprehensively collecting data from wind energy industry designers, or research institutions' analysts to avoid using similar data from onshore or bottom-fixed foundation sectors as has previously been done. Accordingly, the failure analysis outcomes could be more credible and convincing.
- (2) Create a new way of constructing the risk index by considering the background of the employed specialists.
- (3) Open the collected data to motivate further investigations in the floating offshore wind sector.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 introduces the improved FMEA methodologies. The results of the proposed approach are presented in Section 3. Comparisons between the proposed FMEA and the conventional method are shown in Section 4. Conclusions are provided in Section 5.

# 2. Failure Mode and Effect Analysis

Failure analysis includes qualitative (e.g., Cause-Consequence Analysis, Checklist Analysis, What-If Analysis), quantitative (e.g., Markov analysis), and semi-quantitative (e.g., Failure Mode and Effect Analysis (FMEA), Fault Tree Analysis (FTA), Event Tree Analysis (ETA)), methods [23,37,38]. They have been developed to identify and evaluate the root or basic causes that contribute to the failure of the system to accomplish its designated functions.

FMEA and its developed version, namely Failure Modes, Effects and Criticality Analysis (FMECA), have commonly been applied in the failure analyses of systems or devices such as onshore and offshore wind turbines, due to their features of highly hierarchical structure, understandability, and being easy-to-construct [16,19,32]. FMEAs are systematic processes of identifying and ranking failure items in a bottom-up approach [19]. A subjective index, known as Risk Priority Number (RPN), is typically used to assess the overall risk degree of each failure item, e.g., failure mode or failure cause [39,40]. An *RPN* is a product of values of the severity, occurrence, and detection of a failure item. These values are designed by specialists or engineers in the field. Specifically, severity represents failure consequences. Occurrence describes the likelihood of failure modes. Detection reflects the difficulty of a failure mode to be discovered. The primary process of conducting an FMEA includes:

(1) Recognition of systems and components of floating offshore wind turbines

A conceptual model of a floating offshore wind turbine with 5 systems and 15 components is constructed according to publications available, see Table 1 and Figure 1.

Table 1. Floating offshore wind turbine system levels.

	System Level						
Code	System	Code	Component	Code	Component	Code	Component
ER	Energy Receiving System	BL	Blade	GB	Gearbox	FF	Floating Foundation
EP	Energy Producing System	HB	Hub	CV	Converter	TP	Transition Piece
ET	Energy Transforming System	MB	Main Bearing	TR	Transformer	PS	Pitch Subsystem
SS	Support Structure	MS	Main Shift	MF	Mooring Facilities	YS	Yaw Subsystem
AS	Auxiliary System	GE	Generator	TO	Tower	CS	Control System
		LP	Lubrication	NC	Nacelle	CB	Coupling and Brake
		CF	Cooling Fan	CLS	Cooling System	CE	Controllers and Electrical
		CR	Crane	HS	Hydraulic Station	CE	Facilities



Figure 1. Typical configuration of floating offshore wind turbines.

The energy-receiving system consists of three blades and a hub that converts wind energy into the torque of the main shaft. The energy-producing system is composed of the main bearing, the main shaft, a generator, and a gearbox, which transform the mechanical energy of the main shaft into electricity. The energy-transforming system is designed for voltage regulation and includes a converter and a transformer. The support structure is made up of mooring facilities, a tower, a floating foundation, and a transition piece, which is assembled to support the upper wind turbine. The auxiliary system, which includes a pitch subsystem, a yaw subsystem, as well as several controllers and electrical facilities, guarantees the energy generation efficiency of the floating offshore wind turbine.

## (2) Selection of failure modes and their corresponding causes

Three designers from two wind energy companies, and one researcher who has worked on failure and risk analysis of floating offshore wind turbines for several years and has several publications on the topic were employed to complete the tasks in this section, see Table 2. Specifically, three designers with master's degrees have worked with floating offshore wind turbines for three to four years. Before this, they had more experience and extended working periods on bottom-fixed offshore wind turbines; the researcher with a doctorate has the longest working time on the failure and risk analysis of floating offshore wind turbines compared with designers. The consultation of the specialists was conducted in two continuous rounds: failure items selection, as well as values of severity, occurrence, and detection design. The former was put forward to ascertain potential failure modes and failure causes of the floating offshore wind turbine. The second round of consultation is to obtain information for RPNs calculation.

Table 2. Specialists involved in the failure analysis of floating offshore wind turbines.

Code	Employer	Duty	Working Period *		
<1>	Wind Energy Company	System Design	4 Years		
<2>	Wind Energy Company	Components Design	3 Years		
<3>	Wind Energy Company	Quality Engineer	4 Years		
<4>	University	Researcher	6 Years		

\* Refers to the working time in floating offshore wind turbines.

#### Round 1: Failure modes and failure causes identification

In the initial round of consultation, a list of 29 failure modes with 53 failure causes taken from publications was distributed to each specialist, who was suggested to delete unlikely failure items and simultaneously add new failure modes (with corresponding failure causes) or new failure causes to existing failure modes. Subsequently, a new failure item is added to the final list if one specialist suggests it, or is deleted if recommended by more than two specialists. Ultimately, 42 failure modes corresponding to 104 failure causes of floating offshore wind turbines were identified, see Appendix A.

Round 2: Design values of severity, occurrence, and detection

The second round aims to attribute values of severity, occurrence, and detection of failure items that were identified in the previous round. Two documents were distributed to specialists: a final list of failure modes and failure causes (Appendix A) as well as a rating guidance for the severity of failure modes together with the occurrence and detection of failure causes. The rating guidance provides the specialists with a standard to normalize their knowledge about failures of floating offshore wind turbines, see Table 3.

Table 3. The rating guidance of severity, occurrence, and detection [16].

Dating	6 annaithe	Occurrence		
Katilig	Seventy	Probability		Detection
1	The effect is not noticed	$P < 10^{-5}$	Extremely less	Certain
2	Very slight effect noticed	$P = 10^{-5}$	Remote	Very high
3	Slight effect causing annoyance	$P = 10^{-5}$	Very slight	High
4	Slight effect causing return of product	$10^{-5} < P < 4 \times 10^{-4}$	Slight	Moderate
5	Moderate effect causing return of product	$4 \times 10^{-4} < P < 2 \times 10^{-3}$	Occasional	Medium
6	Significant effect	$2 \times 10^{-3} < P < 1 \times 10^{-2}$	Moderate	Low chance
7	Major effect	$10^{-2} < P < 4 \times 10^{-2}$	Frequent	Slight
8	Extreme effect, system inoperable, safety issue	$4 \times 10^{-3} < P < 0.2$	High	Remote
9	Critical effect, system shutdown, safety risk	0.2 < P < 0.33	Very high	Very remote
10	Hazardous, without warning, life-threatening	<i>P</i> > 0.33	Extremely high	No chance, no inspection

## (3) <u>RPNs calculation</u>

The *RPN* is a unidimensional index, without physical meaning, used to rank and assess failure modes. A failure item with a higher *RPN* is more critical than those with lower RPNs. However, RPNs are criticized for drawbacks in their implementation in actual engineering cases [16,19,31,32], for instance: (i) Various combinations of severity, occurrence, and detection may result in the same RPN, and the hidden meaning of each could be completely different; (ii) Indices (like severity, occurrence, and detection) and employed specialists are treated equally when calculating PPNs, in other words, the importance of the indices and the differences of specialists are ignored.

Aiming at removing the aforementioned restrictions, a new way of constructing RPNs is proposed in this study. The experts are weighted based on years of experience, which is an objective and explainable parameter. Other subjective dimensions like educational level (doctor, master) and professional activity (system designer, component designer, quality engineer, researcher) can also be considered in weighing experts, like in Refs. [41,42]. However, these dimensions are subjective, and no evidence shows that a specialist with a doctorate is more reliable than others with master's degrees or industrial specialists who may have better knowledge of failures of floating offshore wind turbines. Introducing such dimensions to weigh experts would bring additional uncertainties and make the results debatable. In this regard, this paper takes individuals' years of experience as the basis to weigh the experts, considering that years of experience can directly reflect the reliability of knowledge and experience on the failures of floating offshore wind turbines.

The weighted values of indices e.g., severity, occurrence, and detection of FMEA can be computed as:

$$\varphi_{ij} = \alpha_k \varphi_{ijk} \tag{1}$$

where,  $\varphi_{ij}$  represents the weighted value of severity, occurrence, or detection of failure cause *j* of *i* th failure mode of the floating offshore wind turbine. The variable  $\varphi_{ijk}$  reflects the original values of FMEA indices given by specialist *k* and  $\alpha_k$  denotes the weight of specialist *k* which is defined as:

$$\alpha_k = \frac{WP_k}{\sum\limits_{k=1}^4 WP_k} \tag{2}$$

where,  $WP_k$  is the working period of specialist *k*, see Table 2.

1

Hence, the *RPN* for failure cause *j* of the failure mode *i* of the floating offshore wind turbine  $(RPN_{ii}^{FC})$  can be determined by:

$$RPN_{ij}^{FC} = \varphi_{ij}(Severity) \times \varphi_{ij}(Occurance) \times \varphi_{ij}(Detection)$$
(3)

Subsequently, the *RPN* of failure mode i (*RPN*<sub>*i*</sub><sup>*FM*</sup>) is defined as the summation of the RPNs of all its failure causes, which can be represented by:

$$RPN_i^{FM} = \sum_j RPN_{ij} \tag{4}$$

Accordingly, RPNs for component h ( $RPN_h^{COMP}$ ) and system g ( $RPN_g^{SYST}$ ) can be obtained by:

$$RPN_{h}^{COMP} = \sum_{i} RPN_{i}^{FM}$$
(5)

$$RPN_g^{SYST} = \sum_h RPN_h^{COMP} \tag{6}$$

The weighted values of severity, occurrence, or detection of failure causes of the offshore wind turbine together with RPNs calculated (and their ranking) are listed in Appendix B.

## (4) <u>Recommendations</u>

The failure analysis of floating offshore wind turbines aims at answering the following questions:

- (1) What are the key failure items that contribute most to the global failure risk of floating offshore wind turbines?
- (2) What are the effects, behavior, and root causes of each key failure item?
- (3) What measures can be implemented to prevent the occurrence of key failures?

Hence, the inherent features of floating offshore wind turbine failures are expected to be explored. Accordingly, recommendations associated with reliable designs and activities related to maintenance and operations are suggested by the specialists employed after they are delivered by the critical failures and their root causes. These recommendations are to guarantee economic benefits and efficient electricity yielding of floating offshore wind turbines by avoiding critical failures. These recommendations are discussed in Section 3.6.

#### 3. Results

This paper aims to demonstrate the failure features of floating offshore wind turbines, and to suggest potential measures to improve the performance of the system. The measures provide procedures to prevent floating offshore wind turbines from unexpectedly catastrophic failures.

The support structure is the most critical system, as it contributes some 46% of the RPNs of the system, which is significantly higher than that of systems installed within nacelles such as the energy-producing system (33%), auxiliary system (11%), energy-receiving system (5%), and energy-transforming system (5%), see Figure 2a,b. Floating assemblies are key elements of floating offshore wind turbines over onshore structures. Furthermore, floating assemblies incur considerable risk to the floating offshore wind turbines. This is also confirmed by the relative higher criticalities of components assembled in support structures, that are, mooring facilities (NO.1, with an *RPN* share of 22%), floating foundation (NO. 4, 11%), transition pieces (NO. 5, 7%), and tower (NO. 7, 6%), see Figure 2c.



**Figure 2.** Failure analysis of systems and components of floating offshore wind turbines/(**a**) RPNs of systems; (**b**) RPNs shares of systems; (**c**) RPNs and their corresponding shares of components.

The results show that the support structure and the energy-producing system have the largest shares of RPNs of the floating offshore wind turbine, which is in line with the knowledge of the specialists who have put greater emphasis on such systems. Specifically, more than 50% of the components, nearly 60% of failure modes, and over 77% of failure causes of the floating offshore wind turbine (collected by this study) are related to the two aforementioned systems. Figure 2 also demonstrates that: (i) systems with more components, or components having diverse failure modes and failure causes, tend to be distributed by larger RPNs; (ii) systems or components with more complex structures and functions, or subject to inclement working conditions are risk-prone parts of the floating offshore wind turbine.

#### 3.1. Energy-Receiving System

The energy-receiving system collects kinetic energy from the wind and transforms it into the mechanical energy of the main shaft by rotating blades and the hub. The energy-receiving system accomplishes the first step of energy production of the floating offshore wind turbine, that is, from kinetic energy to mechanical energy. One distinguishing property of this system is its particularly huge size, especially the large-scale blades.

Blades are the weak links of floating offshore wind turbines when such facilities enter the seas. Designers are devoted to guaranteeing the survival of these huge structures from irregular wind stress. Two catastrophic failures potentially lead to the floating offshore wind turbine shut down, which are, cracks (RPN = 126) and delamination (RPN = 89) of the blades. The mentioned failures call for the special attention of designers and maintenance teams. A blade crack is a consequence of defective manufacturing, while the blade delamination is due primarily to insufficient lightning protection. Failure of the hub is infrequent. However, manufacturing and fitting errors (RPN = 88) should be avoided to reduce severe consequences, such as blades breaking away from the hub.

### 3.2. Energy-Producing System

Energy producing system is the most complex system in terms of structure, function, and technological demand. The system is responsible for the second step of electricity generation, which is transforming mechanical energy into electricity. Specifically, the main bearing and main shaft transform mechanical energy from the energy-receiving system to the gearbox. The gearbox converts the received movement into low torque and high-angular velocity rotations. The generator is an electromechanical system designed to transform the rotational motion of the gearbox into electricity by the electromagnetic induction principle.

The generator is more important than other components of the energy-producing system. Both mechanical and electrical components failures can be discovered. Mechanical failures are more severe, while electrical components fail more frequently. To be more specific, bearings failures leading to a lack of, abnormal, or unbalanced electricity generation, and are more critical than the other components of the generator. Root causes of bearings failures can be attributed to electric corrosion of rollaway nests, improper grease, and over-tightening. Moreover, overheating of the generator is a typical failure most likely caused by cooling system failures.

The main reasons for gearbox malfunction are the failures of gears and bearings. Gearbox failures are typical common cause failures since most of them can be associated with lubrication failures. The common cause failures are an explanation for the chain failure form of the gearbox (a slight failure can lead to disastrous failures of other elements) and its severe consequences. Worn gears, fractured gear teeth, and overheating of the gearbox are critical failure modes that lead to vibration and shutdown of the floating offshore wind turbine. Wear, fatigue and lubrication failures are the causes of gearbox failures.

Failures of the main bearings are more critical than those of the main shaft. Common failure modes of these components are abnormal vibration, and cracks resulting primarily from wear, fatigue, substandard lubrication, and welding defects. Details on the failure features of the energy-producing system are presented in Figure 3.



**Figure 3.** Failure features of the energy-producing system failures/Hierarchical relations among systems, components, failure modes, as well as failure causes are listed in Appendix A; #: Failure cause.

### 3.3. Energy-Transforming System

The energy-transforming system is a combination of electrical components including a converter, transformer, cable (mainly among wind turbines, distribution stations, and the grid), power distribution stations, and other support equipment for power transmission from the generator to the shore. The energy transforming system is responsible for adjusting unstable and low voltage electricity generated by the generator into stable and required voltage electricity of the grid. Converters and transformers are considered in this analysis, since they are installed within wind turbines, and other items like power distribution stations and cables, which are not parts of floating offshore wind turbines, are neglected.

Open and short circuits are distinguished failures of the converter and transformer. Failures of the converter are more critical than failures of the transformer. Open circuits result in a disconnection between the generator and the grid. Short circuits, the main reason for fires, lead to the direct shutdown of the converter and the transformer.

Short circuits of the converter and the transformer are consequences of overheating. The root reasons for open circuits of the converter and the transformer are much more complex. The converter's open circuits are more critical than the same failures of the transformer. On one hand, the primary origins of converter open circuits are cooling system failure and load mutation, which can be compared with those of the transformer: iron core corrosion, overcurrent, and over-voltage. On the other hand, under comparable levels of severity of consequences and likelihood of occurrence, the occurrence of open circuits of the converter is much more difficult to be detected in advance.

#### 3.4. Auxiliary System

The auxiliary system consists of a pitch system, a yaw system, as well as a controller and electrical facilities. This system is not directly involved in electricity production. Instead, it is designed to improve energy production efficiency to guarantee the economy of the floating offshore wind turbine. Pitch and yaw systems adjust blades and the wind turbine to maintain appropriate angles to the wind. Controller and electrical facilities are the "brain" of the floating offshore wind turbine. These systems connect and control several systems and components of the floating offshore wind turbine.

Failures of the pitch system are more critical than those of the yaw system, as well as the controller and electrical facilities. Particularly, the criticality of failures of the pitch system can be attributed to their disaster-causing causes e.g., poor calibration of the pitch angle, wear, fatigue, and the excessive vibration of pitch bearings. Yaw system failures, such as seizure bearings as well as bearing and gear corrosion, are caused by hydraulic system failures e.g., the poor lubrication and wear (or degradation) of hydraulic lines. Failures of the controller and electrical facilities are not critical. These failures can be easily discovered. Failure consequences of the controller and electrical facilities are minor, but these failures are likely to happen frequently. To date, failure warning and detection modules have already been embedded into wind turbine monitoring software, which confirms that the criticality of the controller and electrical facilities failures will further decline.

#### 3.5. Support Structure

Various types of support structures of floating offshore wind turbines, e.g., spar-buoy, semi-submersible, and tension-leg platforms, have been developed to enable offshore wind turbine installations in deep water where bottom-fixed systems are no longer feasible [43]. Except for the larger size and higher reliability requirements for each component, the main difference between floating and bottom-fixed offshore wind turbines is the employed support structure. Support structures are the most failure-prone part of the system due to their destructive damage and unexpected vulnerabilities raised by harsh sea conditions.

In this failure analysis, the authors and the specialists have particularly focused on the support structure by expecting that this analysis will provide details and insights into the failure features of this relatively new system to the designers and operators of floating offshore wind farms.

Support structures are designed to sustain wind turbines located at the required height above the sea so that they can access the desired wind resources. Mooring facilities, towers, floating foundations, and transition pieces are typical items of the support structure. The mooring facilities keep the floating offshore wind turbine at the selected location with anchors and mooring lines. The floating foundation provides indispensable buoyancy to the massive upper structures. The transition piece connects the floating foundation and the tower. The tower determines the height of the floating offshore wind turbine. Failure features of the support structure at the failure mode level are listed in Figure 4.

The mooring facilities are much more critical than other components. Mooring line failure is highlighted by its considerably high *RPN* (*RPN* = 693.41, 9% of the total). Mooring line failure is harmful to the stability of the support structure and the wind turbine. Devices, such as anchor pickup devices, accumulators, and connectors, that failed to accomplish their functions are responsible more often than other degenerative root causes (e.g., wear of the transitional chain and friction chain). An abnormal mooring line is an initial failure mode of the mooring facilities, such as mooring lines breaking. It is a consequence of mooring line wear, fatigue, and unknown abnormal stress. Moreover, several human failures e.g., insufficient emergency measurement and calculation faults, are not neglectable as failures of the mooring lines. Fairlead and anchor failures are not critical. The details of the failure features of the mooring system are demonstrated in Figure 5.





Figure 4. Failure features of the support structure at the failure mode level.



Figure 5. Failure features of the mooring system.

Regarding tower failures, tower crack is recognized to be critical. Specifically, tower cracks result from faulty welding or material fatigue. Other failures are either merely not possible e.g., tower collapse, or are easy-to-be detected e.g., abnormal vibration. Transition piece failures mainly associated with cracks have not been reported in previous publications. The criticalities of failure causes such as material fatigue, corrosion, plastic deformation of structures, cyclic degradation, strong wind or waves, and faulty welding are considerably high. Details on the failure features of the tower and the transition piece are illustrated in Figure 6.

The huge volume, massive weight, and inclement sea conditions introduce considerable vulnerability to the floating foundation, particularly to its underwater seals. Virtually, all seal failures result from pipe joint defects such as welding defects, corrosion, and fatigue. The floating foundation is a complex system assembled by multiple devices. Devices' failures of the floating foundation are diverse, but with low criticalities. Sensors (for platform monitoring), manholes, pumps, and towing brackets are fragile and fail frequently. Dropped objects may result in unexpected and unforeseen damages to the floating foundation and contribute to vast economic losses. This failure is the consequence of harsh and uncertain sea conditions e.g., strong wind/waves, operational failures e.g., plane crashes, or unpredictable events e.g., bird collisions. The details of the failure features of the floating foundation are demonstrated in Figure 7.



**Figure 6.** Failure features of the tower and the transition piece/SS-TO-FM36: Tower collapse; SS-TO-FM37: Tower abnormal vibration; SS-MS-FM38: Tower crack; SS-TP-FM42: Transition piece crack.



**Figure 7.** Features of failures of the floating foundation/SS-FF-FM39: Hit by dropped objects; SS-FF-FM40: Watertight fault; SS-FF-FM41: Additional structures fail.

#### 3.6. Recommendations

Failure analysis enables the analysts to comprehensively understand the failure characteristics of the components of floating offshore wind turbines and provide the basis for preventing critical failures from occurring. The conducted analysis includes the development of recommendations to designers and operators (particularly in the maintenance sector) to update designs and optimize maintenance strategies. Accordingly, better economic performance is expected to be achieved by such recommendations formulated as follows:

#### (1) Energy-Receiving System

Improve manufacturing processes and enhance testing in advance of blades being delivered to wind farms; Enhance lightning prevention by designing more reliable and less vulnerable systems for blades; Improve manufacturing and installation processes, especially for connection parts between hubs and blades.

## (2) Energy-Producing System

Strengthen surfaces of bearing tracks (inner ring, outer ring, and rolling elements) of main bearings; Pay attention to main shaft welding and conduct more strict welding quality inspections; Improve electric corrosion prevention of generators; Upgrade cooling systems to enhance the heat dissipation of generators; Introduce wear and fatigue prevention actions to the gears in gearboxes; Guarantee high-quality lubrication by periodical lubrication inspection and replacement.

## (3) Energy-Transforming System

Guarantee reliable operation of the cooling system to avoid overheating of converters and transformers; Implement additional design activities for instantaneous voltage or current overload offsetting of converters and transformers.

# (4) Auxiliary System

Develop control-and-feedback module to monitoring software of wind turbines to precisely adjust pitch angles; Better design of the hydraulic systems, particularly its embranchments of yaw and pitch systems.

#### (5) Support Structure

Enhance the strength of mooring lines to eliminate abnormal stress; Improve the reliability of anchor pickup device, transitional chain, mooring winch, fairlead, and accumulators in mooring systems; Improve the training of operators and maintenance members to avoid human failures; Reinforce tower welding quality; Enhance pipe joint design and welding quality of floating foundations to avoid watertight fault; Improve the sensors of platform monitoring and pay more attention to manholes failures; Implement measures to avoid transition pieces from corrosion, fatigue, and life cycle degradation; Consider the impacts of strong wind/waves in the full life cycle of support structures.

# 4. Comparisons

This study has collected the knowledge of four experts to complete a failure analysis of a floating offshore wind turbine. This approach takes the specialists' working experience as weights of their knowledge rather than a traditional analysis that treats values of severity, occurrence, and detection from each specialist as nondistinctive.

A comparative analysis between the ranks of failures obtained by the proposed method and by the conventional model, based on a single expert, was conducted, see Appendix C. The results show that: (i) rankings of failures based on a single expert are inconsistent with the results of this paper that includes four experts for group decision-making; (ii) the years of the experts' experience affect the failures' ranking. To be specific, the overall failure ranking difference between expert #4 (with 6 years of working experience) and the results of the group decision-making in the paper is the smallest, followed by expert #1 (4 years), expert #3 (4 years), and expert #2 (3 years); (iii) two experts with the same working period show some 40% difference in their ranking of failures, which indicates that individual properties of experts impact their judgments.

A comparative analysis was also carried out to show the rank differences between the conventional and the proposed FMEA methods based on the group of 4 experts, see Figure 8, where failure items with the same *RPN* of both FMEAs are not displayed. The figure reveals that: (i) the proposed FMEA reclassifies most failure causes of the floating offshore wind turbine. To be specific, 89 of 104 failure cause ranks were changed, since this analysis distributed higher priorities to experienced specialists and decreased the credibility of specialists who have short working periods in the field; (ii) the *RPN* ranks of failure modes changed slightly, and failure modes with fewer root causes change more distinctly than those with more causes; (iii) Experienced specialists consider pitch system failures to be more critical; (iv) RPNs of systems of the floating offshore wind turbine calculated by the proposed FMEA are superior to that of the conventional FMEA technique. It reflects that experienced specialists for failure analysis, and simultaneously the prioritization of their knowledge according to their experience, is in line with practice and can provide convincing results.



**Figure 8.** Comparison of results of proposed and conventional FMEAs/Rank (P): *RPN* rank computed by proposed FMEA; Rank (T): *RPN* rank calculated by traditional FMEA; Definition of items refers to Appendix A (#: Failure cause).

Overall, this paper identifies possible failures of floating offshore wind turbines, and identifies the most critical failures and their causes from a risk management point of view by considering the influence of the experts' backgrounds. In addition, actions to prevent the occurrence of the root causes of critical failures are determined.

Although the recommendations for failure prevention summarized in this paper are applicable, additional ranking criteria can also be considered. Economic factors, like failure cost, and operational factors, like downtime, may also be used as criteria for ranking the criticality of failures from other perspectives. The joint consideration of various criteria will contribute to more robust conclusions.

# 5. Conclusions

This paper develops a comprehensive failure analysis of a floating offshore wind turbine, focused on its support structure, which represents the main difference between floating offshore wind turbines and those onshore and offshore but with bottom-fixed foundations. The objective is to provide practitioners of the floating offshore energy sector with relevant information on the failure features of a relatively new floating offshore wind turbine concept. For this purpose, an improved FMEA method is suggested in which the risk priority number, the basis of the failure mode and effect analysis, is formulated considering the background knowledge of the specialists that contributed to the failure analysis.

Overall, 15 main components, 42 failure modes, and 104 failure causes of the floating offshore wind turbine are considered and ranked according to their criticality levels. This analysis concludes that:

- Support structures and energy-producing systems are more critical than other systems, which call for special attention by the designers, operators, and maintenance teams of floating offshore wind farms;
- (2) Components with complicated functions e.g., gearboxes and generators, as well as those experiencing difficult working conditions e.g., mooring facilities and floating foundations are recognized to be more fragile against the occurrence of failures;
- (3) Critical failure modes and corresponding failure causes are identified and ranked by their calculated RPNs;
- (4) 21 recommendations are suggested to designers and operators to avoid floating offshore wind turbines from unexpected failures. Moreover, a comparison analysis was carried out to show the similarities and differences between the proposed method and the conventional method.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization, H.L. and A.P.T.; methodology, H.L. and A.P.T.; writing—original draft preparation H.L. and A.P.T.; writing—review and editing, C.G.S.; supervision, C.G.S.; project administration, C.G.S. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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Code         Failure Modes         End Effects         Code         Failure Causes           ER-BL-PM1         Blades cracks         Wind turbine stop working         #1         Marufacturing error           ER-BL-PM3         Geor teeth stip         Blades fail to attack         #3         Wear, fatigue, etc.           ER-BL-PM4         Fracture in the shell         Rotor break         #4         Marufacturing error           ER-HB-FM4         Fracture in the shell         Rotor break sway from         #6         Wear, fatigue, etc.           EP-MB-PM6         Bearing damage         Wind turbine stop working         #6         Wear, fatigue, etc.           EP-MB-PM6         Bearing vibration         #7         Substandard lubrication         #7           EP-MS-PM8         Cracks         Collapse of wind turbine         #8         Welding defects           EP-MS-PM8         Fracture         Collapse of wind turbine         #1         Orer host (GF)         Offshore wind turbine         #1           FP-GE-FM10         Bearing deformation         No, abnormal or unbalanced         #11         Cooling system failure           FP-GE-FM12         Winding failure         No, abnormal or unbalanced         #11         Colar system failure           FP-GE-FM12         Winding failure         N		Failure Mode Le	Failure Cause Level			
FR-BI-PM1     Biddes cracks     Wind turbine stop working     #1     Manufacturing error       FR-BI-PM2     Delamination     Wind turbine stop working     #2     Insufficient lighting protection       FR-BI-PM3     Gent teeth slip     Biddes fail to attack     #4     Manufacturing error       FR-BI-PM3     Error in positioning     Biddes break wavy from     #5     Manufacturing error       FP-MIF-PM3     Bearing vibration     #6     Wanuf durbine stop working     #6     Wanufacturing error       FP-MIF-PM3     Bearing vibration     Ahnormal working condition     #7     Substandard thebrication     #6       FP-MIF-PM3     Cracks     Collapse of wind turbine     #9     Fatigue 8     No.exhormal or unbalanced     #11     Over highting       FP-MS-FM9     Fracture     Collapse of wind turbine     #9     Fatigue 8     No.exhormal or unbalanced     #11     Core righting       FP-GE-FM11     Overheat (GE)     Offshore wind turbine     #16     Connecting put fail Off     Tarbine vore load       FP-GE-FM12     Winding failure     No, abnormal or unbalanced     #18     Tarbine vore load     100       FP-GE-FM13     Wear gans     Fxceeded vibration or     #20     Winding failure     101       FP-GE-FM13     Wear ganse     Fxceeded vibration or     #21 <th>Code</th> <th>Failure Modes</th> <th>End Effects</th> <th>Code</th> <th>Failure Causes</th>	Code	Failure Modes	End Effects	Code	Failure Causes	
ER.BL-PM2     Delamination     Wind turbine stop working     #2     Insufficient lighting protection       ER.BL-PM3     Gear teeth slip     Blades fail to statck wind properly     #3     Wear, faigue, etc.       FR-HB-PM4     Fracture in the shell     Blades break away from the hub     #5     Manufacturing error and/or fitting error       ER-HB-PM5     Bearing damage     Wind turbine stop working     #6     Wear, faigue, etc.       EP-MB-PM6     Bearing vibration     Abnormal working condition     #7     Substandard lubrication       EP-MB-PM9     Fracture     Collapse of wind turbine     #8     Welding defects       EP-GE-FM10     Bearing deformation     No, abnormal or unbalanced electricity generation     #11     Over tighten       EP-GE-FM11     Overheat (GE)     Offshore wind turbine shutdown     #16     Cooling system failure       EP-GE-FM13     Wear gears     Feveded vibration or unstable electricity output     #12     Staft wear deformation       EP-GE-FM13     Wear gears     Feveded vibration or unstable electricity output     #22     Ditry output defail off       EP-GE-FM14     Seized gears     No electricity output     #23     Stadten shock exceed limitation       EP-GE-FM14     Seized gears     No electricity output     #23     Stadten shock exceed limitation       EP-GE-FM15     Fratigue<	ER-BL-FM1	Blades cracks	Wind turbine stop working	#1	Manufacturing error	
ER-BL-FM3     Gear teeth slip     Blades fail to attack wind properly wind properly     #3     Wear, fatigue, etc.       ER-HB-FM4     Fracture in the shell     Rotor break     #4     Manufacturing error and/or fitting error       FR-HB-FM5     Error in positioning     Blades break away from the hub     #5     Manufacturing error and/or fitting error       EP-MB-FM6     Bearing vibration     Abnormal working condition     #7     Substandard lubrication       EP-MS-FM8     Cracks     Collapse of wind turbine     #8     Wedding defects       EP-MS-FM8     Cracks     Collapse of wind turbine     #8     Wedding defects       EP-GE-FM10     Rearring deformation     Mon abnormal or unbalanced effect     #11     Overtheat (GE)       EP-GE-FM11     Overheat (GE)     Offshore wind turbine shutdown     #13     Shate word doformation       EP-GE-FM12     Winding failure     Offshore wind turbine shutdown     #16     Paraila short circuit       EP-GE-FM13     Wear gars     Exceeded vibration or winstable electricity output     #22     Subter dates gal to the shut down       EP-GE-FM14     Seized gears     No abnormal or unbalanced     #18     Connecting plug fail off       EP-GE-FM14     Seized gears     No electricity output     #23     Sudden shock exceed limitation       EP-GE-FM14     Seized gears	ER-BL-FM2	Delamination	Wind turbine stop working	#2	Insufficient lighting protection	
ER-HB-FM4       Fracture in the shell       Rotor break       #4       Manufacturing error         ER-HB-FM5       Error in positioning       Blades break avay from the hub       #5       Manufacturing error and / or fitting error         EP-MB-FM7       Bearing vibration       Abnormal working condition       #7       Substandard lubrication         EP-MB-FM8       Cracks       Collapse of wind turbine       #8       Weaking defects         EP-MS-FM8       Cracks       Collapse of wind turbine       #10       Improve grasse         EP-GE-FM10       Bearing deformation       No, abnormal or unbalanced       #11       Convertication stature winding         EP-GE-FM11       Overheat (GE)       Offshore wind turbine shutdown       #14       Turbine overload         EP-GE-FM12       Overheat (GE)       Offshore wind turbine shutdown       #13       Slatt wear deformation         EP-GE-FM11       Overheat (GE)       Offshore wind turbine shutdown       #16       Connersystem failure         EP-GE-FM13       Wear gears       Exceeded vibration or unstable electricity output       #22       Dirty or lacking lubrication         EP-GE-FM14       Seized gaars       No deterrity output       #23       Studden shock exceed limitation         EP-GE-FM15       Fractured gaar treeth       Exceeded vibration o	ER-BL-FM3	Gear teeth slip	Blades fail to attack wind properly	#3	Wear, fatigue, etc.	
ER-HB-FM5     Error in positioning     Blades break away from the hab     #5     Manufacturing error and/or fitting error the hab       FP-MB-FM6     Bearing damage     Wind turbine stop working     #6     Wear, faigue, etc.       FP-MB-FM8     Cracks     Collapse of wind turbine     #8     Welding defects       EP-MB-FM9     Fracture     Collapse of wind turbine     #8     Welding defects       EP-GE-FM10     Bearing deformation     No, abnormal or unbalanced     #11     Over tighten       EP-GE-FM11     Overheat (GE)     Offshore wind turbine shutdown     #13     Shaft were deformation       EP-GE-FM12     Winding failure     No, abnormal or unbalanced electricity generation     #13     Connecting plug system failure       EP-GE-FM13     Wear gaars     Exceeded vibration or unstable electricity output     #13     Stadten shock exceed limitation       EP-GE-FM13     Wear gaars     Exceeded vibration or unstable electricity output     #22     Uitry or lacking lubrication       EP-GB-FM14     Sized gaars     No electricity output     #23     Stadden shock exceed limitation       EP-GB-FM14     Sized gaars     No electricity output     #23     Stadden shock exceed limitation       EP-GB-FM14     Stort circuit     Converter shutdown     #24     Uubrication dired out       EP-GB-FM16     Wear bearing	ER-HB-FM4	Fracture in the shell	Rotor break	#4	Manufacturing error	
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EP-MBF-M7       Bearing vibration       Abnormal working condition       #7       Substandard lubrication         EP-MS-FM9       Cracks       Collapse of wind turbine       #9       Fatigue         EP-GE-FM10       Bearing deformation       No, abnormal or unbalanced electricity generation       #11       Over tighten         EP-GE-FM11       Overheat (GE)       Offshore wind turbine shutdown       #14       Turbine overload         EP-GE-FM12       Winding failure       No, abnormal or unbalanced electricity generation or #14       #18       Cooling system failure         EP-GE-FM12       Winding failure       No, abnormal or unbalanced electricity output       #18       Cooling system failure         EP-GE-FM13       Wear gears       Exceeded vibration or unsable electricity output       #22       Ditty or lacking lubrication         EP-GB-FM14       Seized gears       No electricity output       #23       Sudden shock exceed limitation         EP-GB-FM15       Fractured car teeth shutdown       #24       Sudden shock exceed limitation         EP-GB-FM16       Wear bearing       Exceeded vibration or shutdown       #23       Sudden shock exceed limitation         EP-GB-FM16       Wear bearing       Exceeded vibration       #24       Sudden shock exceed limitation         EP-GB-FM17       Overheat (CB)	EP-MB-FM6	Bearing damage	Wind turbine stop working	#6	Wear, fatigue, etc.	
EP-MS-FM9     Cracks     Collapse of wind turbine     #8     Welding defects       EP-MS-FM9     Fracture     Collapse of wind turbine     #9     Fatigue       EP-GE-FM10     Bearing deformation     No, abnormal or unbalanced     #11     Over tighten       EP-GE-FM11     Overheat (GF)     Offshore wind turbine     #14     Shuft wear deformation       EP-GE-FM11     Overheat (GF)     Offshore wind turbine     #15     Collaps system failure       EP-GE-FM12     Winding failure     No, abnormal or unbalanced     #18     Partial short circuit on stator winding       EP-GE-FM12     Winding failure     No, abnormal or unbalanced     #18     Connecting plug fall off       EP-GB-FM13     Wear gears     Exceeded vibration or     #21     Wear, faigue       EP-GB-FM14     Seized gears     No electricity output     #22     Dirty or lacking labrication       EP-GB-FM14     Seized gears     No electricity output     #23     Sudden shock exceed limitation       EP-GB-FM16     Wear bearing     Exceeded vibration or     #24     Sudden shock exceed limitation       EP-GB-FM16     Wear bearing     Exceeded vibration     #26     Fatigue       EP-GB-FM18     Shift crack     Offshore wind turbine     #30     Labrication       EP-GB-FM18     Shift crack     Of	EP-MB-FM7	Bearing vibration	Abnormal working condition	#7	Substandard lubrication	
EP-MS-FM9     Fracture     Collapse of wind turbine     #9     Fatigue       EP-GE-FM10     Bearing deformation     No. abnormal or unbalanced     #11     Over tighten       EP-GE-FM11     Over theat (GE)     Offshore wind turbine     #13     Shaft wear deformation       FP-GE-FM11     Over theat (GE)     Offshore wind turbine     #14     Turbine overload       Coling system failure     Partial short circuit on stator winding     Partial short circuit on stator winding       EP-GE-FM12     Winding failure     No. abnormal or unbalanced     #18     Connecting plug fail off       EP-GB-FM13     Wear gears     Exceeded vibration or     #20     Winding corrosion       EP-GB-FM13     Wear gears     Exceeded vibration or     #21     Waar, fatigue       EP-GB-FM16     Wear gears     No electricity output     #22     Dirty of tacking lubrication       EP-GB-FM16     Wear bearing     Exceeded vibration or     #24     Stadden shock exceed limitation       EP-GB-FM16     Shift crack     Offshore wind turbine     #33     Lubrication afred out       ET-CV-FM20     Open circuit     Converter shutdown     #31     Over heat       ET-TR-FM21     Short circuit     Transformer shutdown     #33     Invert power input fault       AS-PS-FM23     Wrong pitch angle     Decrease	EP-MS-FM8	Cracks	Collapse of wind turbine	#8	Welding defects	
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EP-GE-FM12       Winding failure       No, abnormal or unbalanced electricity generation       #18       Connecting plug fail off         EP-GE-FM13       Wear gears       Exceeded vibration or unstable electricity output       #20       Winding corrosion         EP-GB-FM14       Seized gears       No electricity output       #22       Dirty or lacking lubrication         EP-GB-FM15       Fractured gear teeth       unstable electricity output       #23       Sudden shock exceed limitation         EP-GB-FM16       Wear bearing       Exceeded vibration or unstable electricity output       #25       Fatigue         EP-GB-FM16       Wear bearing       Exceeded vibration or shutdown       #24       Sudden shock exceed limitation         EP-GB-FM17       Overheat (GB)       Offshore wind turbine shutdown       #30       Fatigue         EP-CB-FM18       Shift crack       Offshore wind turbine shutdown       #31       Over heat         ET-CV-FM20       Open circuit       Disconnect to grid       #33       Invert power input fault         ET-TR-FM21       Short circuit       Transformer shutdown       #36       Cooling system fault         AS-PS-FM23       Wrong pitch angle       Decrease of electricity output       #38       Iron core corrosion         AS-PS-FM24       Pitting Gears       Decrease of e				#16 #17	Cable insulation failure	
EP-GE-FM12       Winding failure       No. abnormal or unbalanced       #13       Connecting program on the soft circuit         EP-GB-FM13       Wear gears       Exceeded vibration or unstable electricity output       #22       Dirty or lacking lubrication         EP-GB-FM14       Seized gears       No electricity output       #23       Sudden shock exceed limitation         EP-GB-FM15       Fractured gear teeth       Exceeded vibration or unstable electricity output       #25       Fatigue         EP-GB-FM16       Wear bearing       Exceeded vibration       #26       Fatigue         EP-GB-FM16       Wear bearing       Exceeded vibration       #27       Wear         EP-GB-FM17       Overheat (GB)       Offshore wind turbine shutdown       #30       Fatigue         EP-GB-FM18       Shift crack       Offshore wind turbine shutdown       #31       Over heat         ET-CV-FM20       Open circuit       Disconnect to grid       #33       Invert power input fault         ET-TR-FM21       Short circuit       Transformer shutdown       #33       Cooling system fault         AS-PS-FM24       Pitting Gears       Vibration increase       #34       Overload         AS-PS-FM25       Misalignment bearings       Decrease of electricity output       #41       Poor corrosion			NT- characteristic and the law and	#17 #19	Capite insulation failure	
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EP-GB-FM14       Seized gears       No electricity output       #23       Sudden shock exceed limitation         EP-GB-FM15       Fractured gear teeth       Exceeded vibration or       #24       Sudden shock exceed limitation         EP-GB-FM16       Wear bearing       Exceeded vibration or       #25       Fatigue         EP-GB-FM17       Overheat (GB)       Offshore wind turbine shutdown       #28       Lubrication dried out         EP-GB-FM18       Shift crack       Offshore wind turbine shutdown       #30       Fatigue         ET-CV-FM19       Short circuit       Converter shutdown       #31       Over heat         ET-CV-FM20       Open circuit       Disconnect to grid       #33       Invert power input fault         ET-TR-FM21       Short circuit       Transformer shutdown       #36       Over heat         ET-TR-FM22       Open circuit       Disconnect to grid       #38       Iron core corrosion         ET-TR-FM22       Open circuit       Disconnect to grid       #38       Iron core corrosion         AS-PS-FM23       Wrong pitch angle       Decrease of electricity output       #41       Poor calibration         AS-YS-FM26       Seizure bearings       Over heat       #42       Wear, fatigue         AS-YS-FM26       Seizure bearings	EP-GB-FM13	Wear gears	unstable electricity output	#22	Dirty or lacking lubrication	
EP-GB-FM15       Fractured gear teeth       Fractured gear teeth       Sudden shock exceed limitation         EP-GB-FM16       Wear bearing       Exceeded vibration or       #26       Sudden shock exceed limitation         EP-GB-FM17       Overheat (GB)       Offshore wind turbine       #27       Wear         EP-GB-FM18       Shift crack       Offshore wind turbine       #29       Leaking         EP-GB-FM18       Shift crack       Offshore wind turbine       #30       Fatigue         ET-CV-FM19       Short circuit       Converter shutdown       #31       Over heat         ET-CV-FM20       Open circuit       Disconnect to grid       #33       Invert power input fault         ET-TR-FM21       Short circuit       Transformer shutdown       #36       Over heat         #37       Constant overload       #37       Constant overload         ET-TR-FM21       Short circuit       Transformer shutdown       #36       Over heat         #39       Overcurrent       #39       Overcurrent         #40       Overvoltage       Wear, fatigue       As-PS-FM23         AS-PS-FM24       Pitting Gears       Decrease of electricity output       #41       Poor calibration         AS-YS-FM26       Seizure bearings       Over heat	EP-GB-FM14	Seized gears	No electricity output	#23	Sudden shock exceed limitation	
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AS-CE-TWS0 Open circuit Sinutdown #40 Lighting since #49 Mooring lines wear #50 Mooring lines fatigue #50 Mooring lines fatigue #51 Mooring lines corrosion #52 Abnormal stress #53 Not effective maintenance	AS-CE-FM29	Opon circuit	Shutdown	#47 #48	Lightning strike	
SS-MS-FM31       Abnormal mooring lines       Mooring line strength decrease or broken       #50       Mooring lines fatigue         #51       Mooring lines corrosion         #52       Abnormal stress         #53       Not effective maintenance	735-CL-110150	Open circuit	Shudown	<del>π-1</del> 0 #40	Mooring lines wear	
SS-MS-FM31 Abnormal mooring lines Mooring line strength decrease or broken #51 Mooring lines corrosion #52 Abnormal stress #53 Not effective maintenance				#50	Mooring lines fatigue	
decrease or broken #52 Abnormal stress #53 Not effective maintenance	SS-MS-FM31	Abnormal mooring lines	Mooring line strength	#51	Mooring lines corrosion	
#53 Not effective maintenance	00 110 1 1101	minioornig mico	decrease or broken	#52	Abnormal stress	
				#53	Not effective maintenance	

Appendix A. Failure Modes and	l Causes of the F	Floating Offshore	Wind Turbine
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Failure Mode Level		Failure Cause Level			
Code Failure Modes End Effects	Code	Failure Causes			
	#54	Transitional chain wear			
	#55	Friction chain wear			
	#56	Mooring winch failure			
	#57	Buoys friction chain wear			
Malfunction of the whole	#58	Anchor pickup device damage			
SS-MS-FM32 Mooring lines broken system, the facility cannot	#59	Hydraulic motor failure			
locate in water	#60	Accumulator failure			
	#61	Over pressure			
	#62	Connectors failure			
	#63	Mooring interface structure failure			
The anchor cannot be dropped	#64	Fairlead corrosion			
SS-MS-FM33 Fairlead failure and lift	#65	Fairlead fatigue			
	#66	Abnormal working conditions			
SS-MS-FM34 Anchor failure Anchor failure	#67	Cyclic degradation			
	#68	Poor operation environment			
	#69	Insufficient emergency measurement			
SS-MS-FM35 Abnormal functions Anchoring accuracy decrease	#70	Human Error			
	#71	Analysis and calculation fault			
	#72	Strong wind/wave			
	#73	Lightning Strike			
SS-TO-FM36 Tower collapse Failure of whole facility and	#74	Hit by blades			
vast economic loses	#75	Ice storm			
	#76	Braking system failed			
SS-TO-FM37 Abnormal vibration Potential collapse	#77	Resonance			
	#78	Faulty welding of Tower			
SS-TO-FM38 Crack Potential collapse	#79	Material fatigue			
	#80	Planes crash			
SS-FF-FM39 Hit by dropped objects Damage to the facility, vast	#81	Biological collision			
economic loses	#82	Strong wind/wave			
	#83	Inefficient detection			
	#84	Pipe joint corrosion			
	#85	Pipe joint weld defect			
SS-FF-FM40 Watertight fault Potential failure	#86	Pipe joint fatigue			
	#87	Pillar damage			
	#88	Excessive fouling of platform			
	#89	Navigation and work lights fail			
	#90	Helicopter assistance equipment fail			
	#91	Handrails corrosion			
	#92	Ladders corrosion			
	#93	Dynamic umbilical connection fail			
SS-FF-FM41 Additional structures fail Potential failure	#94	Towing brackets/bollards fail			
	#95	Vents fail			
	#96	Bilge piping/pumps fail			
	#97	Sensors for platform monitoring fail			
	#98	Manholes fail			
	#99	Material fatigue			
	#100	Corrosion			
COMPANY CONTRACTOR OF A CONTRACTOR OFTA CONTRA	#101	Plastic deformation			
SS-TP-FM42 Iransition piece crack Potential collapse	#102	Cyclic degradation			
	#103	Strong wind/wave			
	#104	Faulty welding			

Appendix B. Weighted of Failure Indices, RPNs, and Their Ranking of Failure Causes

Code	WI	RPN	PC	Rank	Code	WI	RPN	PC	Rank
ER-BL-FM1-#1	(5.50, 5.31, 4.31)	126.01	46%	14	SS-MS-FM31-#53	(4.81, 3.81, 3.19)	58.48	4%	60
ER-BL-FM2-#2	(5.38, 4.69, 3.56)	89.76	33%	28	SS-MS-FM32-#54	(5.31, 3.06, 3.06)	49.83	3%	69
ER-BL-FM3-#3	(3.19, 4.06, 4.44)	57.46	21%	62	SS-MS-FM32-#55	(4.94, 2.94, 2.69)	38.98	2%	80
ER-HB-FM4-#4	(4.31, 4.19, 2.94)	53.05	38%	66	SS-MS-FM32-#56	(6.31, 3.44, 2.31)	50.18	3%	68
ER-HB-FM5-#5	(6.06, 4.56, 3.19)	88.17	62%	31	SS-MS-FM32-#57	(6.06, 5.31, 2.69)	86.56	5%	34
EP-MB-FM6-#6	(7.31, 4.81, 4.06)	142.97	49%	6	SS-MS-FM32-#58	(6.19, 5.44, 3.69)	124.06	7%	15
EP-MB-FM7-#7	(6.19, 7.31, 3.31)	149.88	51%	3	SS-MS-FM32-#59	(5.94, 5.69, 2.19)	73.87	4%	45
EP-MS-FM8-#8	(7.69, 4.44, 2.81)	95.94	57%	25	SS-MS-FM32-#60	(6.19, 4.44, 3.19)	87.52	5%	32
EP-MS-FM9-#9	(8.56, 3.06, 2.81)	73.75	43%	47	SS-MS-FM32-#61	(4.44, 4.06, 2.44)	43.94	3%	75
EP-GE-FM10-#10	(4.31, 5.38, 5.50)	127.49	11%	11	SS-MS-FM32-#62	(5.19, 3.94, 3.94)	80.43	5%	38
EP-GE-FM10-#11	(4.50, 5.00, 5.50)	123.75	11%	16	SS-MS-FM32-#63	(6.06, 2.69, 3.56)	58.04	3%	61
EP-GE-FM10-#12	(4.50, 5.88, 5.50)	145.41	13%	4	SS-MS-FM33-#64	(4.31, 3.81, 4.31)	70.90	4%	48
EP-GE-FM10-#13	(4.31, 5.06, 4.19)	91.42	8%	27	SS-MS-FM33-#65	(5.31, 4.44, 5.44)	128.18	8%	10
EP-GE-FM11-#14	(4.38, 4.38, 5.13)	98.10	9%	21	SS-MS-FM34-#66	(4.06, 3.81, 2.81)	43.56	3%	76
EP-GE-FM11-#15	(6.69, 6.31, 4.31)	182.05	16%	1	SS-MS-FM34-#67	(3.69, 4.06, 4.56)	68.35	4%	49
EP-GE-FM11-#16	(4.94, 4.19, 4.06)	84.00	8%	35	SS-MS-FM35-#68	(3.81, 4.19, 2.69)	42.91	3%	77
EP-GE-FM12-#17	(3.38, 5.88, 2.88)	57.01	5%	63	SS-MS-FM35-#69	(4.19, 4.44, 3.06)	56.91	3%	64
EP-GE-FM12-#18	(3.19, 4.56, 4.44)	64.53	6%	56	SS-MS-FM35-#70	(4.56, 5.69, 4.56)	118.39	7%	17
EP-GE-FM12-#19	(3.69, 4.94, 3.56)	64.86	6%	55	SS-MS-FM35-#71	(3.94, 3.56, 3.69)	51.73	3%	67
EP-GE-FM12-#20	(4.81, 3.31, 4.94)	78.71	7%	41	SS-TO-FM36-#72	(8.94, 1.06, 1.06)	10.09	2%	104
EP-GB-FM13-#21	(4.69, 5.69, 5.31)	141.63	14%	7	SS-TO-FM36-#73	(8.56, 3.06, 1.81)	47.53	10%	72
EP-GB-FM13-#22	(5.63, 4.38, 5.88)	144.58	15%	5	SS-TO-FM36-#74	(8.94, 1.31, 1.06)	12.46	3%	103
EP-GB-FM14-#23	(5.63, 3.50, 3.75)	73.83	7%	46	SS-TO-FM36-#75	(8.56, 1.81, 1.81)	28.13	6%	88
EP-GB-FM15-#24	(7.13, 2.38, 1.88)	31.73	3%	83	SS-TO-FM36-#76	(8.19, 2.31, 1.44)	27.22	6%	90
EP-GB-FM15-#25	(7.06, 4.69, 2.44)	80.69	8%	37	SS-TO-FM37-#77	(6.19, 3.44, 2.19)	46.53	10%	73
EP-GB-FM16-#26	(4.94, 5.81, 3.31)	95.07	10%	26	SS-TO-FM38-#78	(6.44, 5.19, 3.81)	127.32	28%	12
EP-GB-FM17-#27	(5.25, 4.63, 3.25)	78.91	8%	40	SS-TO-FM38-#79	(6.44, 5.81, 4.19)	156.69	34%	2
EP-GB-FM17-#28	(4.00, 5.50, 3.38)	74.25	8%	44	SS-FF-FM39-#80	(6.81, 2.44, 1.44)	23.87	3%	96
EP-GB-FM17-#29	(5.56, 4.81, 4.81)	128.83	13%	9	SS-FF-FM39-#81	(5.94, 3.19, 3.56)	67.42	8%	51
EP-GB-FM18-#30	(5.44, 4.31, 5.81)	136.30	14%	8	SS-FF-FM39-#82	(8.31, 3.56, 2.69)	79.59	9%	39
ET-CV-FM19-#31	(5.06, 3.06, 3.81)	59.11	28%	59	SS-FF-FM40-#83	(4.81, 4.81, 3.31)	76.72	9%	43
ET-CV-FM20-#32	(4.19, 4.06, 2.81)	47.85	22%	71	SS-FF-FM40-#84	(4.81, 3.94, 3.56)	67.51	8%	50
ET-CV-FM20-#33	(4.56, 2.56, 2.31)	27.04	13%	92	SS-FF-FM40-#85	(4.44, 5.06, 2.94)	65.99	8%	52
ET-CV-FM20-#34	(5.19, 3.06, 1.94)	30.78	14%	84	SS-FF-FM40-#86	(5.19, 4.69, 5.19)	126.14	15%	13
ET-CV-FM20-#35	(5.56, 3.81, 2.31)	49.04	23%	70	SS-FF-FM40-#87	(5.19, 4.31, 1.31)	29.36	3%	87
ET-TR-FM21-#36	(5.56, 4.31, 1.06)	25.49	19%	93	SS-FF-FM40-#88	(3.81, 4.56, 1.44)	25.00	3%	95
ET-TR-FM22-#37	(5.31, 2.69, 1.06)	15.17	11%	102	SS-FF-FM41-#89	(2.81, 4.56, 1.44)	18.45	2%	101
ET-TR-FM22-#38	(5.56, 4.19, 1.69)	39.31	29%	79	SS-FF-FM41-#90	(3.94, 3.19, 2.44)	30.59	4%	85
ET-TR-FM22-#39	(4.94, 3.81, 1.44)	27.06	20%	91	SS-FF-FM41-#91	(2.06, 4.19, 2.31)	19.97	2%	99
ET-TR-FM22-#40	(4.94, 3.94, 1.44)	27.95	21%	89	SS-FF-FM41-#92	(2.06, 4.19, 2.31)	19.97	2%	<u>99</u>
AS-PS-FM23-#41	(4.31, 5.06, 2.44)	53.22	24%	65	SS-FF-FM41-#93	(2.69, 3.06, 2.81)	23.15	3%	97
AS-PS-FM24-#42	(4.94, 6.19, 2.94)	89.74	40%	29	SS-FF-FM41-#94	(2.69, 3.69, 3.56)	35.30	4%	82
AS-PS-FM25-#43	(4.19, 5.94, 3.31)	82.36	37%	36	SS-FF-FM41-#95	(3.19, 4.44, 1.44)	20.33	2%	98
AS-YS-FM26-#44	(5.19, 3.69, 4.69)	89.67	41%	30	SS-FF-FM41-#96	(4.06, 4.44, 2.06)	37.18	4%	81
AS-YS-FM27-#45	(4.75, 5.50, 3.75)	97.97	45%	22	SS-FF-FM41-#97	(3.81, 5.06, 2.31)	44.63	5%	74
AS-YS-FM28-#46	(4.94, 5.69, 1.06)	29.84	14%	86	SS-FF-FM41-#98	(3.19, 3.69, 3.56)	41.87	5%	78
AS-CE-FM29-#47	(5.44, 3.19, 3.69)	63.91	71%	57	SS-TP-FM42-#99	(3.69, 4.94, 5.31)	96.72	18%	24
AS-CE-FM30-#48	(5.56, 3.19, 1.44)	25 49	29%	93	SS-TP-FM42-#100	(4.31, 6.06, 3.31)	86.60	16%	33
SS-MS-FM31-#49	(4.81, 4.56, 3.56)	78 22	5%	42	SS-TP-FM42-#101	(4.06, 4.69, 3.44)	65 46	12%	54
SS-MS-FM31_#50	(5.19, 4.56, 4.19)	99 11	6%	19	SS-TP-FM42-#101	(3.69, 5.81, 5.31)	113.87	22%	18
SS-MS-FM31-#51	(4.69, 5.19, 2.44)	59 27	4%	58	SS-TP-FM42-#102	(4 19 4 94 3 19)	65.90	13%	53
SS-MS-FM31-#52	(4.56, 4.31, 4.94)	97.15	6%	23	SS-TP-FM42-#104	(5.31, 5.81, 3.10)	98.43	19%	20
55 110 1 1101-110Z	(1.00, 1.01, 1.01)	//.10	0 /0	20	55 II INITA-110T	(0.01, 0.01, 0.1))	20.40	1 / /0	20

The codes are managed in the System-Component-Failure Mode-Failure Cause form; The italic and underline items represent failure items with equal RPN; (A, B, C) represents (Severity, Occurrence, Detection); WI: Weighted Indices; PC: RPN percentage of each component.

Code	R(PP)	EXP.#1	EXP.#2	EXP.#3	EXP.#4	Code	R(PP)	EXP.#1	EXP.#2	EXP.#3	EXP.#4
ER-BL-FM1-#1	14	24	78	43	-10	SS-MS-FM31-#53	60	3	-7	2	-20
ER-BL-FM2-#2	28	20	-11	-4	5	SS-MS-FM32-#54	69	10	-15	-59	8
ER-BL-FM3-#3	62	5	-44	33	-27	SS-MS-FM32-#55	80	-10	-25	-69	18
ER-HB-FM4-#4	66	-17	-51	34	-24	SS-MS-FM32-#56	68	0	-12	-30	-5
ER-HB-FM5-#5	31	-28	-27	38	23	SS-MS-FM32-#57	34	19	23	-22	-10
EP-MB-FM6-#6	6	40	7	15	17	SS-MS-FM32-#58	15	71	43	24	-14
EP-MB-FM7-#7	3	21	59	19	35	SS-MS-FM32-#59	45	42	48	-13	-33
EP-MS-FM8-#8	25	-12	-18	56	-5	SS-MS-FM32-#60	32	48	27	1	-25
EP-MS-FM9-#9	47	$^{-8}$	-39	35	-22	SS-MS-FM32-#61	75	-17	-15	-41	19
EP-GE-FM10-#10	11	-7	52	6	51	SS-MS-FM32-#62	38	36	49	-3	-8
EP-GE-FM10-#11	16	-11	28	2	23	SS-MS-FM32-#63	61	34	27	-25	-20
EP-GE-FM10-#12	4	5	41	42	11	SS-MS-FM33-#64	48	-13	27	4	11
EP-GE-FM10-#13	27	-13	-1	20	57	SS-MS-FM33-#65	10	-9	66	43	7
EP-GE-FM11-#14	21	-3	-1	55	6	SS-MS-FM34-#66	76	-12	1	-13	2
EP-GE-FM11-#15	1	24	45	57	1	SS-MS-FM34-#67	49	-19	29	-29	21
EP-GE-FM11-#16	35	-14	-14	36	-1	SS-MS-FM35-#68	77	-44	12	-37	12
EP-GE-FM12-#17	63	-32	-61	20	23	SS-MS-FM35-#69	64	-30	26	-36	11
EP-GE-FM12-#18	56	-16	-32	14	-10	SS-MS-FM35-#70	17	3	51	62	-14
EP-GE-FM12-#19	55	-14	-28	29	-7	SS-MS-FM35-#71	67	-40	24	-30	23
EP-GE-FM12-#20	41	-15	-13	7	12	SS-TO-FM36-#72	104	-7	-99	-18	$^{-1}$
EP-GB-FM13-#21	7	30	9	0	24	SS-TO-FM36-#73	72	26	-66	-30	-46
EP-GB-FM13-#22	5	5	27	4	23	SS-TO-FM36-#74	103	-4	-94	-39	1
EP-GB-FM14-#23	46	15	-32	-17	33	SS-TO-FM36-#75	88	12	-57	-1	-41
EP-GB-FM15-#24	83	-5	-4	-34	5	SS-TO-FM36-#76	90	11	-80	-47	-14
EP-GB-FM15-#25	37	46	-18	-7	-5	SS-TO-FM37-#77	73	-8	-62	-71	18
EP-GB-FM16-#26	26	-4	11	-3	46	SS-TO-FM38-#78	12	44	11	-9	-7
EP-GB-FM17-#27	40	15	21	-21	33	SS-TO-FM38-#79	2	6	1	-1	14
EP-GB-FM17-#28	44	-38	3	33	36	SS-FF-FM39-#80	96	-19	-66	-8	$^{-1}$
EP-GB-FM17-#29	9	3	29	50	42	SS-FF-FM39-#81	51	3	13	40	-15
EP-GB-FM18-#30	8	-1	17	46	35	SS-FF-FM39-#82	39	6	-38	50	-26
ET-CV-FM19-#31	59	-9	-37	7	-2	SS-FF-FM40-#83	43	-7	26	-29	17
ET-CV-FM20-#32	71	13	23	1	-16	SS-FF-FM40-#84	50	1	20	-46	14
ET-CV-FM20-#33	92	-21	-8	-19	-5	SS-FF-FM40-#85	52	14	19	-47	15
ET-CV-FM20-#34	84	-12	1	-6	-2	SS-FF-FM40-#86	13	2	59	-7	8
ET-CV-FM20-#35	70	3	16	-29	-18	SS-FF-FM40-#87	87	-12	-14	-74	13
ET-TR-FM21-#36	93	-5	-64	-19	-8	SS-FF-FM40-#88	95	-19	-21	-30	1
ET-TR-FM22-#37	102	0	-69	-27	-9	SS-FF-FM41-#89	101	-20	-6	0	-2
ET-TR-FM22-#38	79	24	-45	-48	-30	SS-FF-FM41-#90	85	5	11	17	-40
ET-TR-FM22-#39	91	1	-56	-6	-26	SS-FF-FM41-#91	99	-40	-2	-3	2
ET-TR-FM22-#40	89	15	-53	-39	-15	SS-FF-FM41-#92	99	-39	$^{-1}$	-2	3
AS-PS-FM23-#41	65	-21	2	-14	16	SS-FF-FM41-#93	97	-6	2	1	-26
AS-PS-FM24-#42	29	-10	-17	-21	27	SS-FF-FM41-#94	82	-20	18	22	-14
AS-PS-FM25-#43	36	-13	4	-11	8	SS-FF-FM41-#95	98	-16	3	-5	-6
AS-YS-FM26-#44	30	22	18	60	-20	SS-FF-FM41-#96	81	-24	21	11	-12
AS-YS-FM27-#45	22	-5	43	45	36	SS-FF-FM41-#97	74	-32	29	20	-13
AS-YS-FM28-#46	86	-17	-45	-31	11	SS-FF-FM41-#98	78	-50	26	21	5
AS-CE-FM29-#47	57	37	9	3	-46	SS-TP-FM42-#99	24	-13	56	20	13
AS-CE-FM30-#48	93	3	-54	-32	-27	SS-TP-FM42-#100	33	10	48	12	-19
SS-MS-FM31-#49	42	51	7	-27	-23	SS-TP-FM42-#101	54	-25	28	2	-4
SS-MS-FM31-#50	19	66	31	-3	-13	SS-TP-FM42-#102	18	-16	65	50	-10
SS-MS-FM31-#51	58	31	-7	-32	-29	SS-TP-FM42-#103	53	-6	-11	50	-31
SS-MS-FM31-#52	23	9	29	4	-5	SS-TP-FM42-#104	20	-4	23	60	-11

Appendix C. Failure Analysis Results (Ranking Differences of Failures) by Experts

R(PP): Ranking of the present paper; EXP.#A: Failure ranking difference based on the single expert A, computed by R(EXP.#A) - R(PP), where R(PP) is the RPN rank calculated by the presented model and R(EXP.#A) is calculated by conventional model based on the single expert A.

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