



Ministerie van Infrastructuur  
en Waterstaat

# Marine Spatial Planning

## The Netherlands

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Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality

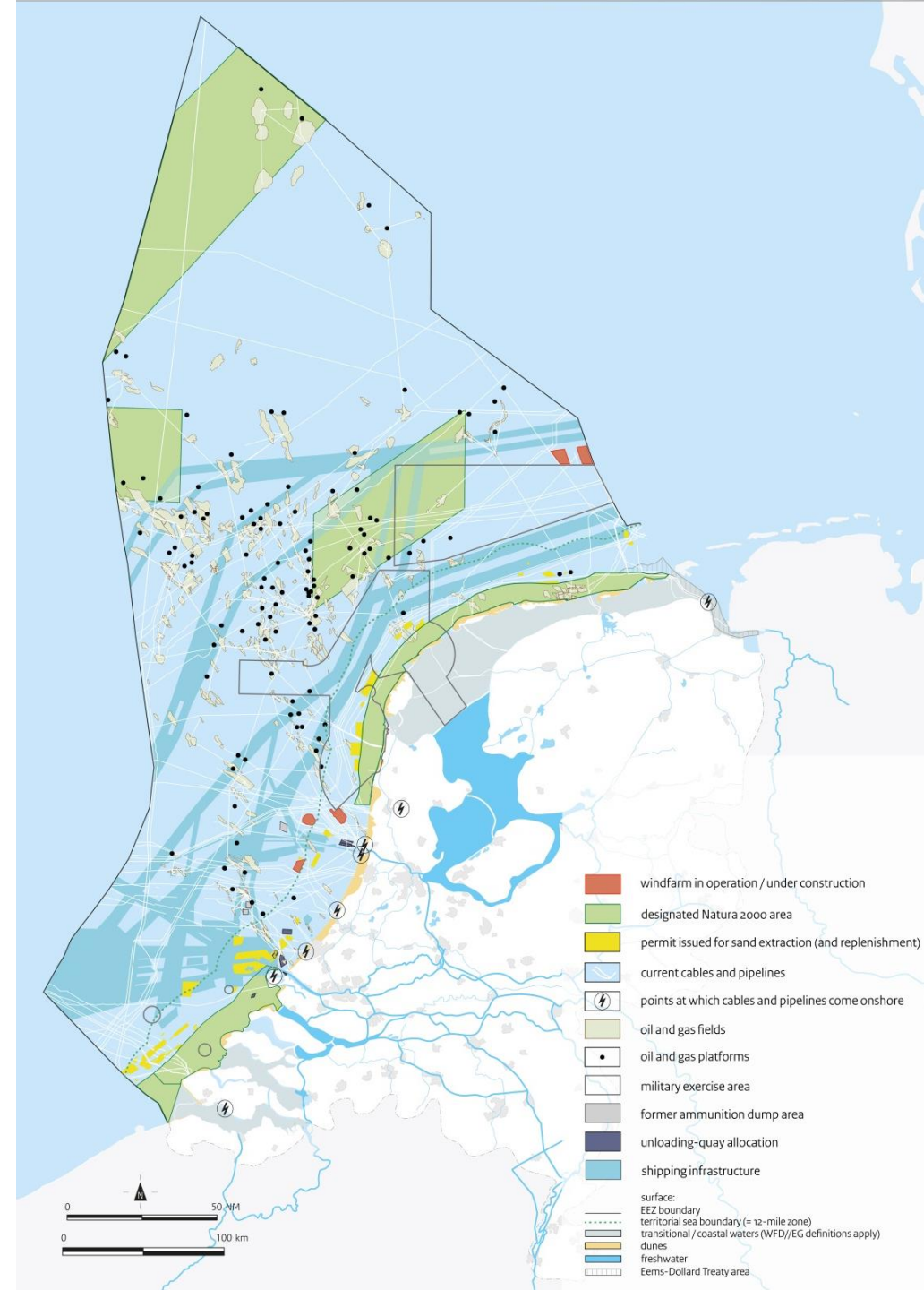
Wim van Urk

Ministerie van Infrastructuur en Waterstaat, Nederland



# One of the busiest seas

- Size: 57.800 km<sup>2</sup>
- 3874 km shipping routes
- 260.000 shipping movements per year
- Wind farms 4,5 GW / 750 km<sup>2</sup>:
  - 5 operational (1000 MW)
  - 5 under construction (3500 MW)
- 160 oil/gas platforms
- 4500 km pipe lines
- 3300 km cables
- 6 marine protected areas (11.400 km<sup>2</sup>)
- Over 500 fishing vessels (Dutch fleet)





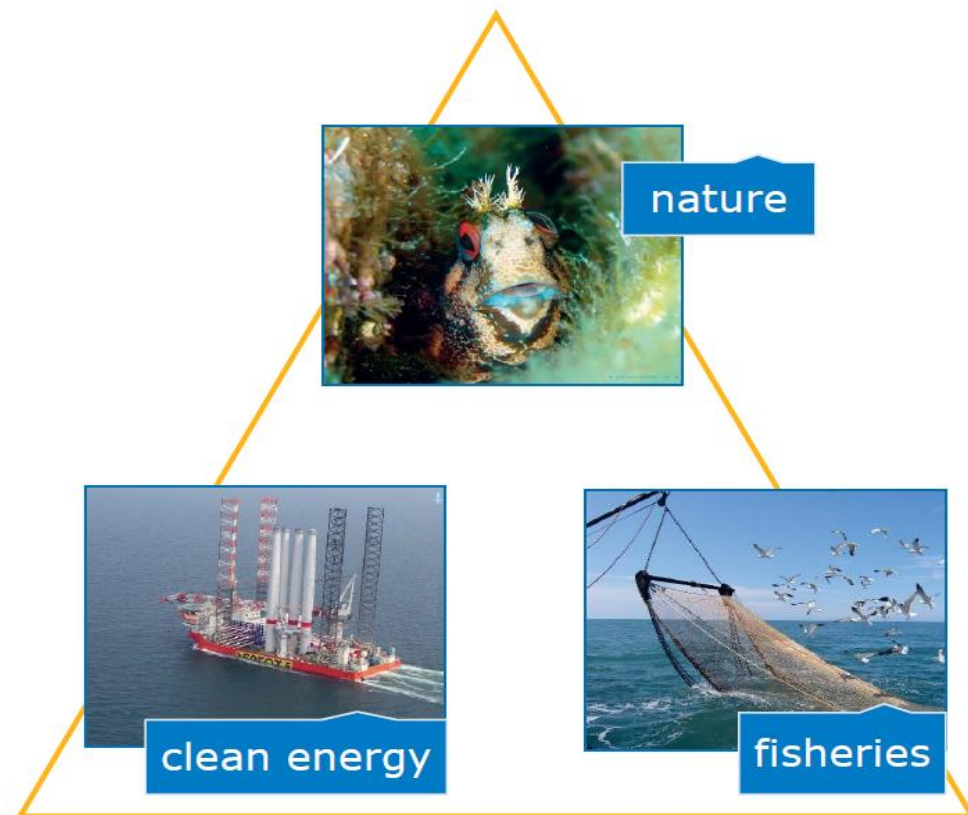
# Increasing use of the Dutch North Sea

- › Paris Agreement increases European and national ambitions for offshore wind energy
  - › Increasing pressures on nature, space and other users of the North Sea (fisheries, shipping, mining)
  - › Growing tensions between e.g. nature, wind energy, fisheries , shipping
- Demand for integrated policy for the North Sea and stronger management: finding a balance among the nature, food and energy transitions



# North Sea Council - Noordzeeoverleg

- > Table with an independent chair, and prime stakeholders and national governments representatives to conclude a North Sea Agreement - Noordzeeakkoord
- > Focus on the triangle energy, nature and fisheries, taking other interests into account (e.g. safety of shipping, military interests, recreation).
- > Consensus on government decisions





# North Sea Agreement - Noordzeeakkoord

Outcome North Sea Council: detailed agreement on actions for implementation in the coming years (until 2030):

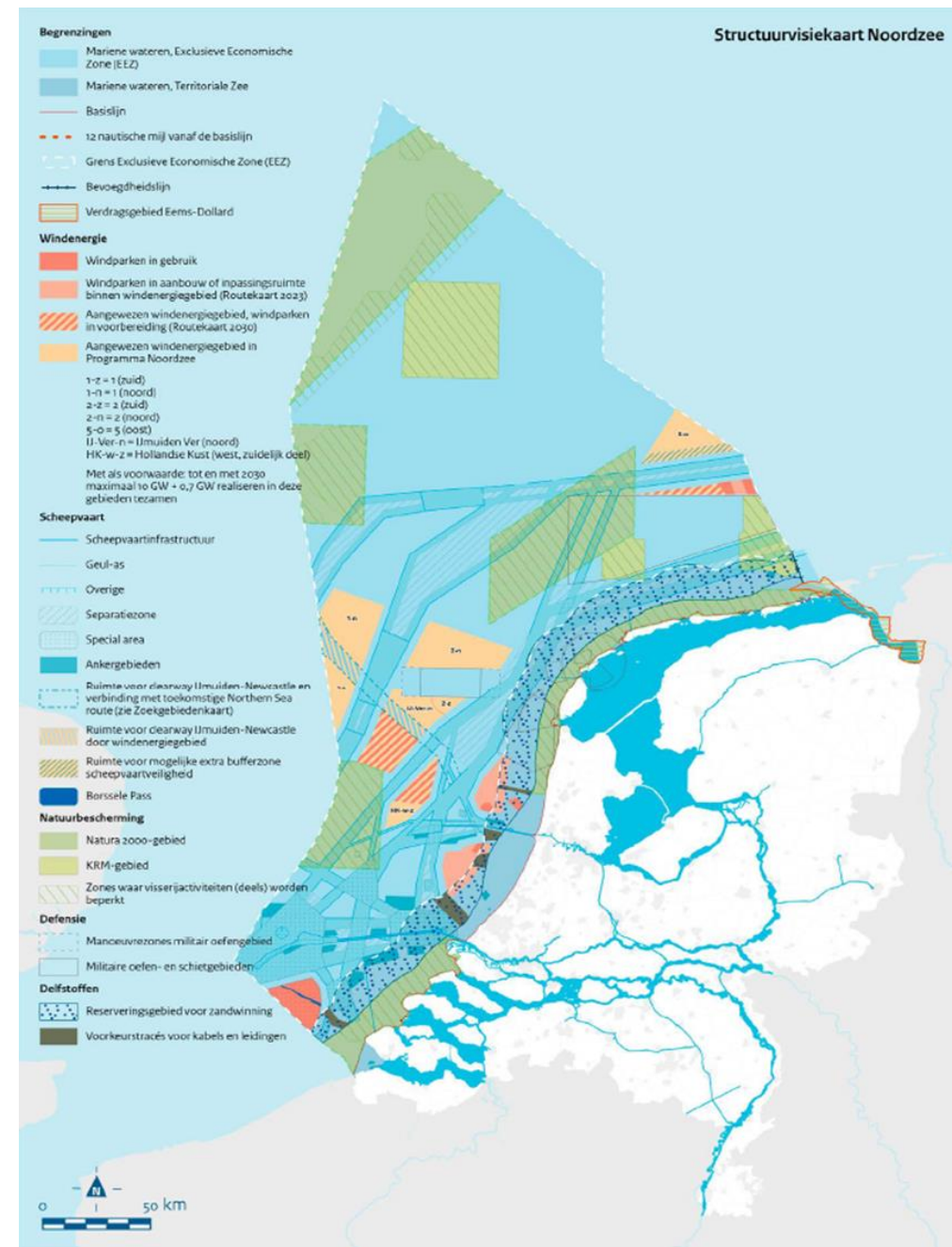
- › Ecology (a.o. 15% sea area without bottom disturbance)
- › Offshore (wind) energy: 20-40 GW after 2030
- › Possibilities for the fisheries sectors to adapt
- › Joint research and monitoring program (incl. for additional marine protected areas)
- › Funding the transition: 200 mln Euro

Parliament adopted the North Sea Agreement in January 2021.



# North Sea Programme – Programma Noordzee

- > 3rd Dutch MSP Plan: self binding policy document for spatial development
- > Spatial elements of the North Sea Agreement basis for policy making:
  - Search areas offshore wind energy
  - Nature conservation areas
  - Shipping lanes
  - 'Area passports' wind energy locations
  - Sustainable blue economy
  - Land sea interactions with provinces
- > MSP is broader than the North Sea Agreement alone: e.g. MSFD, sand extraction, cables, recreation, cultural heritage



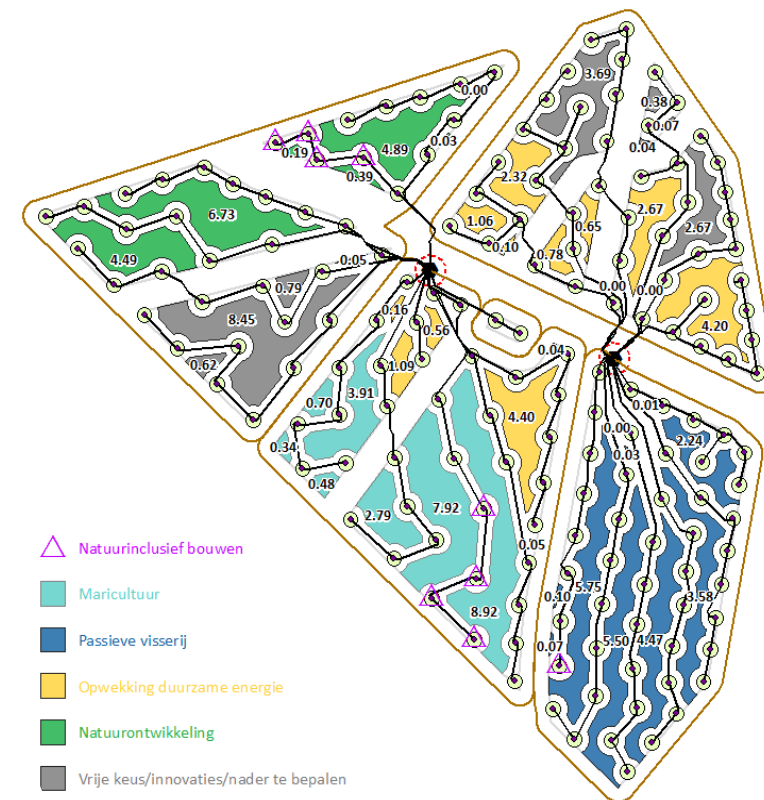


# Multi-use



Co-use for:

1. Aqua culture (light blue)
2. Passive fishery (blue)
3. Nature development (green)
4. Other forms of sustainable energy like solar power, marine energy, etc (yellow)





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# Greater North Sea Basin Initiative

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# Greater North Sea Basin Initiative (GNSBI)

- > The Netherlands believes that the current sectoral and separate geographical decision making on the North Sea might be insufficient due to:
  1. Cumulative ecosystem pressure
  2. Spatial tension between the different uses of the North Seas
- > This will have a large influence on the carrying capacity of the ecosystem and may hamper decision-making on the North Seas.
  - The energy transition might come to a hold due to current regulation and societal opposition
  - The coming years many decisions will be made on how the North Sea will be in 2050, therefore it is important to act now.
- > Therefore, foster ideas and directions for the future cooperation on the interlinked transitions



# Origine of initiative

- Search launched in European Maritime days in den Helder
- NSEC *Dublin-declaration*: wish of energy ministers for more integral coordination North Sea
- EU Green Deal en sustainable blue economy: EU Sea Basin Strategy



# DG-meeting Paris 22/23 May

- The purpose of this meeting Foster ideas and directions for possible future cooperation on the interlinked transitions for the marine environment/nature, energy, food and towards a sustainable blue economy in our seas and to investigate governance possibilities.
- Focus on the possible tensions (regulatory, spatial) between the different uses of the sea and to identify different win-win situations of cooperation.
- Outcome meeting:
  1. Overview tensions on the Greater North Sea
  2. Call to explore governance possibilities
- It will feed into ministerial meetings under the Netherlands NSEC chair in the fall of 2023.