

Emerging new challenges of conservation

Conservation needs in slow motion

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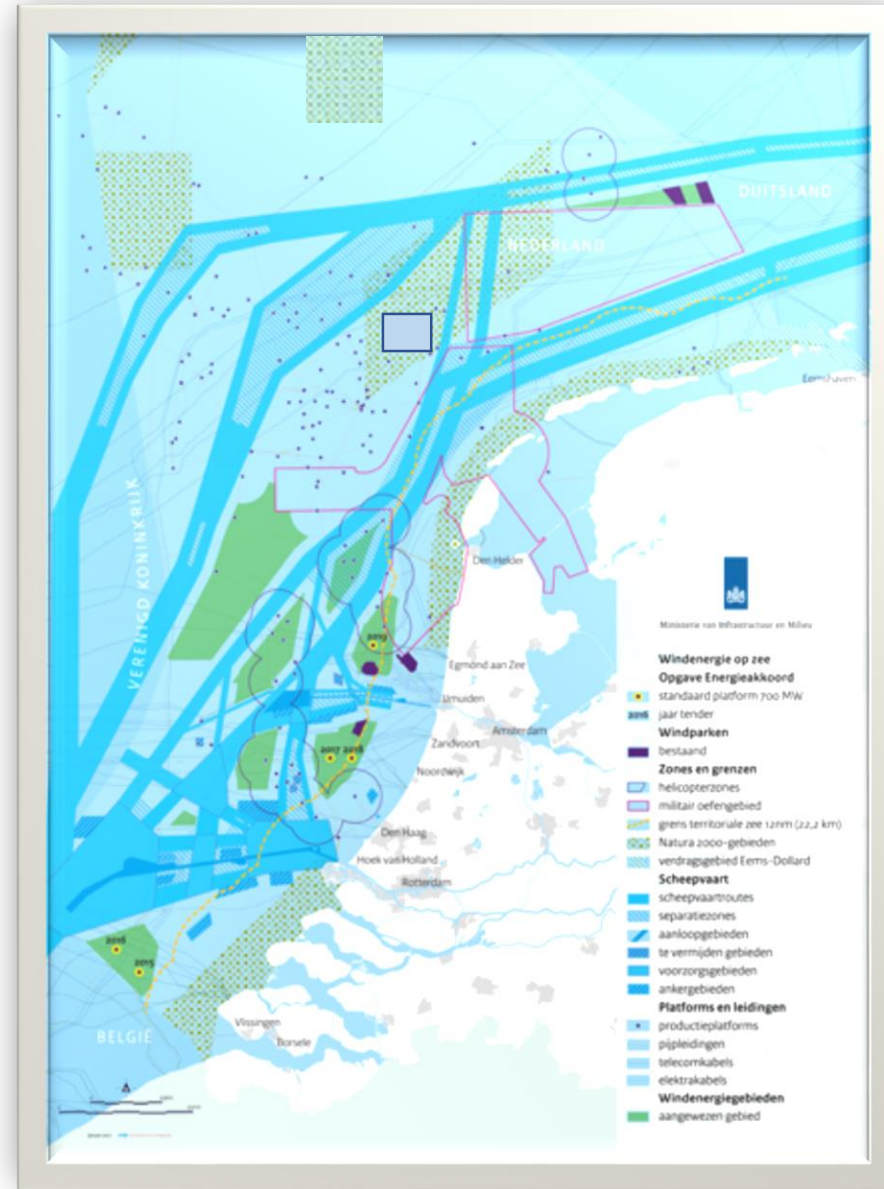
Conservation challenges

- Working on today's conservation challenges, using yesterday's tools:
 - **Demanded!**: intellectual agility
- Accommodating new *substantial* spatial claims
- Coping with CHANGE!
- And the regulatory response

• Ex:



Conservation challenges in marine space



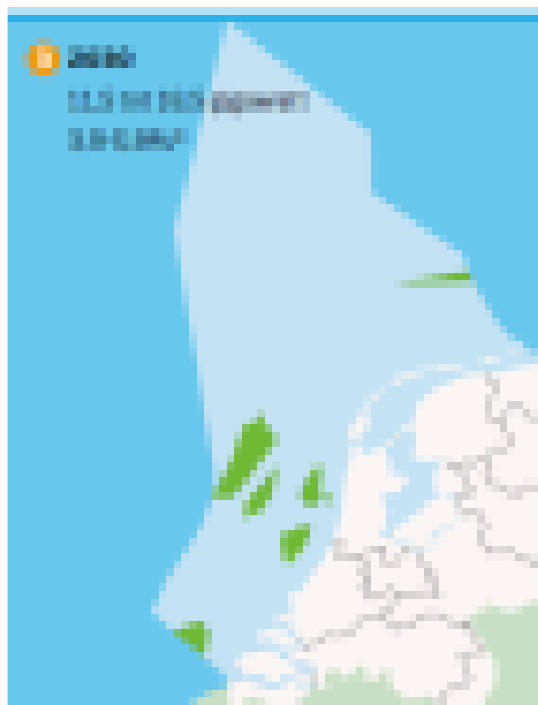
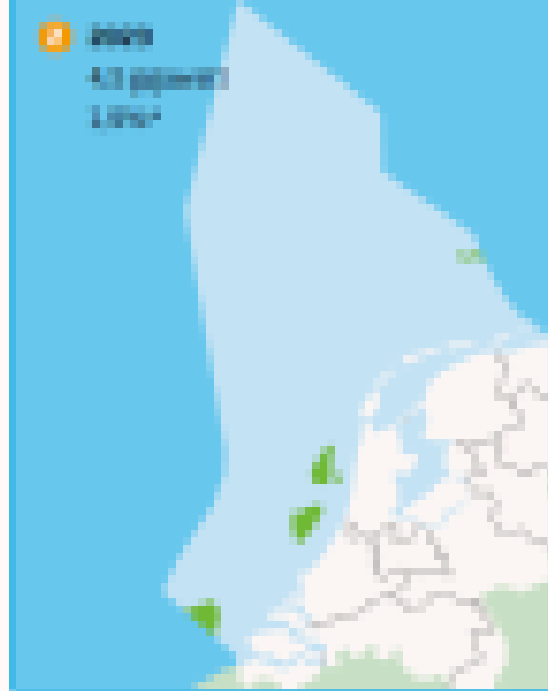


New *substantial* spatial claims

- By old stakeholders
 - In the North Sea area shipping becomes intenser still
 - Introduction of various types of MPA's
 - Based on Natura 2000 and MSFD
 - Recreational shipping more frequent
- By new stakeholders
 - Windfarming is the new kid on the block
 - Other energy uses (waves, solar, tides) are experimenting
 - In multiple use combination with windfarming:
 - Aquaculture: shellfish, seaweed, fish
 - New forms of fishing like fixed fishing installations

• Ex:







Coping with CHANGE!

- The big challenge of our time is to manage **gigantic** changes in the use of the North Sea ecosystem
- Multidimensional changes:
 - Climate change fundamentally adapts our marine ecosystems
 - Intensive fishing using bottom contacting gear continues
 - Windfarming: substantial parts of the sea making these parts **inaccessible** to other users and causes **damages** to birds, marine mammals and maybe more
 - Landbased pollution e.g. microplastics intrude marine organisms
 - New aquaculture projects increase the risks of introduction of non-indigenous invasive species



Flexibility : key to succes

- The appicable policy and legal instruments need to be interpreted in the light of the problems of today
- The European Conservation tools:
 - Birds Dir. 1979, revised 2009
 - Habitat Dir. 1992
 - Marine Spatial Planning 2014
 - Marine Strategy Framework Dir. 2008
- Do not offer much flexibility with their lists, descriptions, indicators, species and habitattypes
- Amendments demands lengthy procedures
- Can we – THE POLICYMAKERS – accomodate developments?





The regulatory response 1

- Traditional instruments do not provide all the answers
- The Lack of Flexibility is compensated by the introduction of **rubber** concepts such as:
 - Multiple use management
 - Adaptive management
 - Ecosystem approach
 - Natural capital
 - MSP
 - Etc.
- There is no authoritative source of interpretation



The regulatory response 2

- The need for **integrated** management adds to this:
 - No take zones
 - Connectivity
 - Biogenic reefs
 - Blue Economy
 - ecosystemservices
 - Compulsory balancing of ecological interests against socio economic interests
- Marine spatial planning does not fundamentally alter the scene

And in the end

- The benefit we make ... is equal to the care we take
- Not every problem has an easy solution.
- Solution-only thinking creates “a culture of advocacy instead of one of inquiry,”
- “You either have to be part of the solution, or you’re going to be part of the problem” (E. Cleaver)
 - Important role for scientists and civil society
 - All inquiry based solutions are welcome
 - Consideration of multiple perspectives is necessary



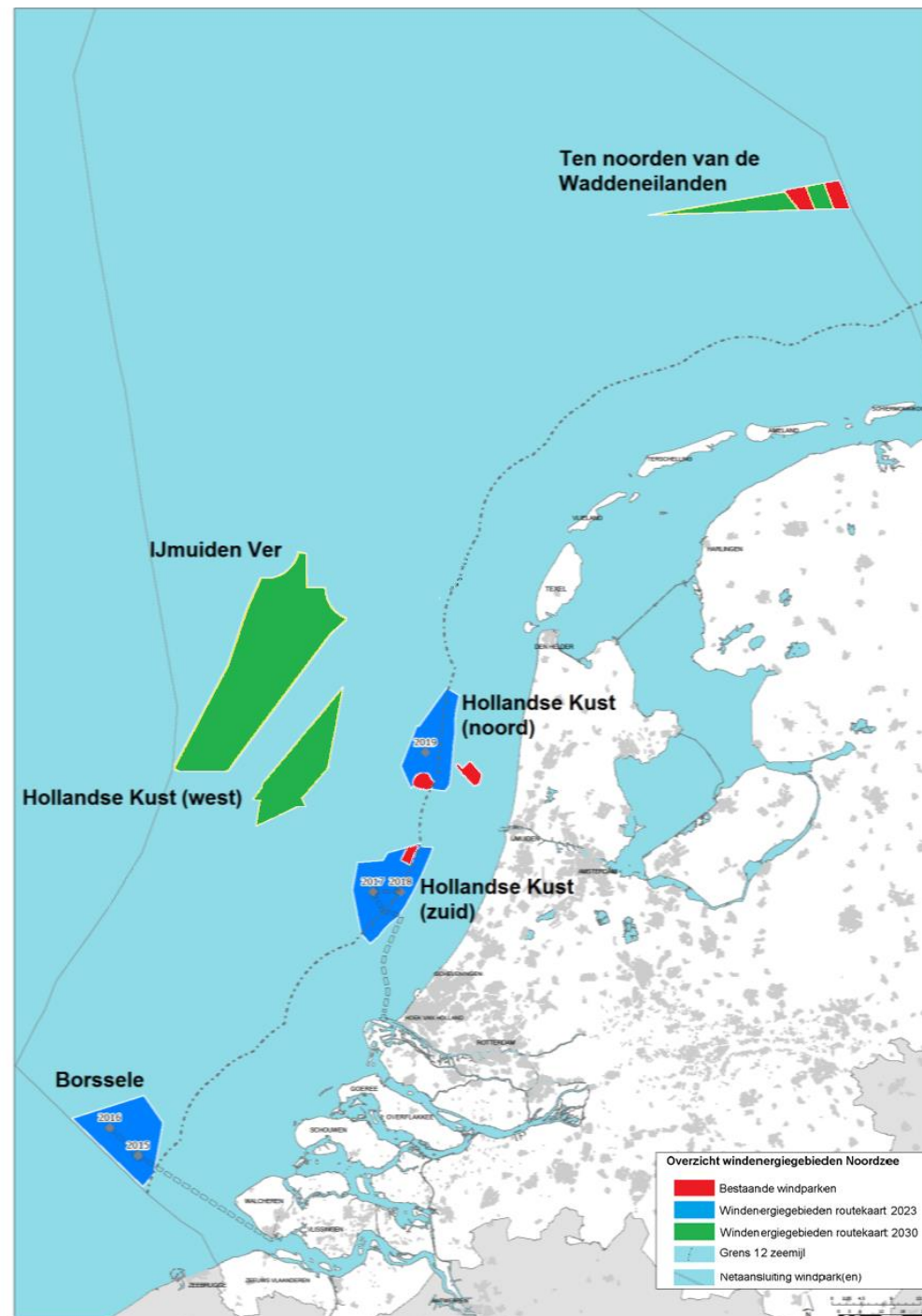


- Increased interest in North Sea conservation issues is the result of an intensification of various uses of the North Sea.
- Economic and ecological interests collide and it appears that our actual knowledge of the marine ecosystem of the North Sea falls short of the newly identified conservation needs.
- More in particular we see that there is a great need for up to date field knowledge and field research.
- The need to counter climate change puts the focus on the North Sea as an area for the production of sustainable energy.
- The new spatial claims resulting thereof make it necessary to confront conservation needs with the need for space for windfarming.
- This confrontation is paralleled by the emergence of and a need to develop new conservation concepts in the North Sea area like the protection of biogenic reefs or the establishment of no-take zones.
- The paper deals with the question to what extent the emergence of new concepts of conservation can be legally (and policy-wise) based on the existing European or domestic legal and policy instruments.
- The conclusion is that our actual manner of policy development cannot follow the pace by which conservation needs are identified and need to be complied with

Omvang (GW)	Windenergiegebied	Kortste afstand uit de kust	Start procedure kavelbesluit	Tender	Ingebruikname
1,4	Hollandse Kust (west)	51 km vanaf Petten	2018	2021	2024 t/m 2025
0,7	Ten noorden van de Waddeneilanden	56 km vanaf Schiermonnikoog	2019	2022	2026
circa 4,0	IJmuiden Ver	53 km vanaf Den Helder; 80 km vanaf IJmuiden	2020	2023 t/m 2026	2027 t/m 2030
circa 0,9	n.t.b.				
n.t.b.					
n.t.b.					
n.t.b.					
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Ecosystem approach in MSFD

- The Marine Strategy Framework Directive advocates the eco-system approach to manage human activities that have an impact on the marine environment to achieve good environmental status by 2020.
- The ecosystem approach supports a “two pillar” approach to EU marine and maritime policy: policy designed to maximise the economic benefits from the sensible use of the marine environment whilst conserving the flow of economic goods and services from marine ecosystems whilst maintaining their resilience and biodiversity. The ecosystem approach accepts that humans and their natural environment form coupled social and ecological systems. At the core of this approach is the growing recognition that there is a need to find ways to ensure human welfare and wellbeing without unsustainably appropriating the earth’s natural capital and destroying biological diversity.
- This approach also includes the principle of adaptive management.
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- Adoption of the ‘ecosystem approach’ offers an opportunity to develop more integrated policies, however, policymakers often express concern regarding how this approach should be delivered.



Nieuwe ontwikkelingen die zich moeilijk verhouden tot policy en legal instruments

- Combinatie van windparken en bodem / natuurbescherming
- No take zones
- Connectivity
- Biogenic reefs
- Adaptive management
- Ecosystemapproach
- Blue Economy
- Natural capital
- Ecosysteemservices

