

Marine Spatial Planning in the Netherlands Part of the North Sea

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(photo: //beeldbank.rws.nl, Rijkswaterstaat/
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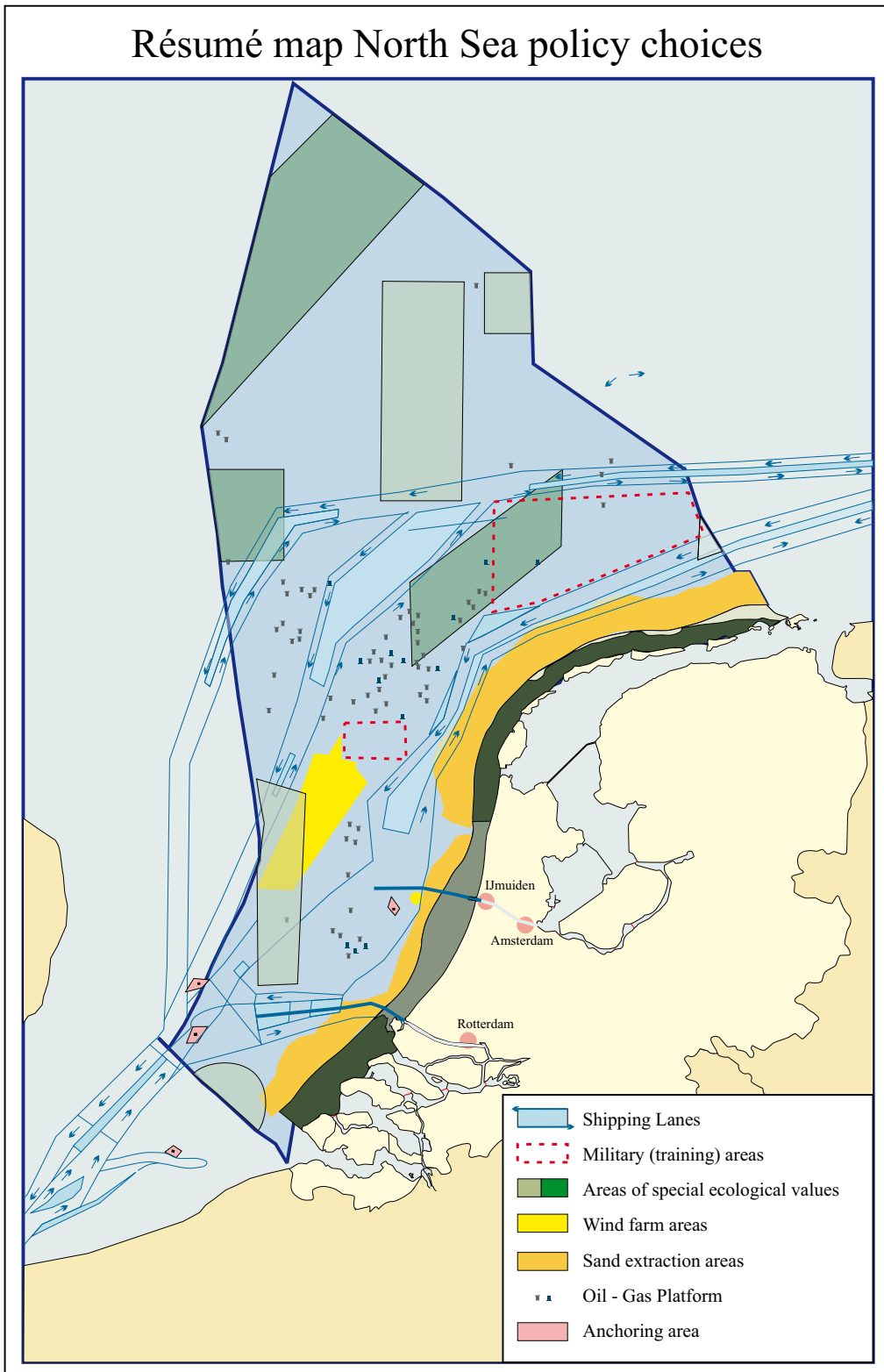
Summary

The coast and territorial waters of the Netherlands form a part of the southern North Sea. The area is intensely used and for several of these uses considerable growth is forecast. This might lead to increasing conflicts with the environment and was the main reason for developing a vision for spatial planning. This has led to an Integrated Management Plan for the Netherlands' North Sea, agreed by Parliament in 2005 and embedded in the National Land Use Planning Act (2008). In national spatial planning, the land and sea are no longer separate entities. The Integrated Management Plan for the North Sea is based on zoning of the functional uses. A number of usage zones are identified with a considerable flexibility in developing initiatives. In the mean time, a system of permits and tools to manage the use of space has been put in place.

The introduction of a new spatial planning framework in 2009 was a response to the increasing interest in new activities in the North Sea, which included the development of offshore wind farms, which would not interrupt the busy navigation routes. Furthermore, there was a growing demand for establishing a framework for governmental coordination of these developments.

This integrated policy is needed to safeguard the economic and environmental services of the Netherlands part of the North Sea for future generations.

Résumé map North Sea policy choices



Resume map North Sea – National Spatial Strategy, 2009 :

displaying some selected uses.

(source: Policy document on the North Sea 2009 – 2015, December 2009; adapted)



Wind farm in the North Sea, 20 miles west north west of IJmuiden. The sustainable wind energy plans for 6,000 Megawatt of wind turbines require by 2020 at least 1,000 km² space. Integrated marine spatial planning provides clarity for the development and it prevents conflict of uses: the development of the wind farms without disturbing the busiest navigation route of Europe. (photo: //beeldbank.rws.nl, Rijkswaterstaat, Sander de Jong)