

Support paper NE-Atlantic / North Sea Community of Common Interest (CCI)
Meeting on Friday 15 April 2016.

In Berlin we had an initial meeting with representatives from Denmark, Norway, UK, USA and Netherlands. We made a round table survey of areas of interest on the basis of a “kick-off note” which I made in advance of that meeting. An inventory of items we discussed:

- spatial planning
- wind farms
- fish farms / aqua culture developments
- tidal energy and wave energy plants
- Bird & Habitat directives / Natura 2000
- Water Framework Directive (WFD)
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)
- “Wadden Sea” Protected Area’s (Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands)
- Military Exercise area’s
- OSPAR

Those present confirmed that these are all valid topics and additional information would be provided when available.

This paper intends to give an update on the items above, as far as is known by your chairman and invites you all to provide details, if possible with supporting papers, at our meeting in Palma. This list will also be the agenda for our CCI meeting.

1. Spatial Planning

In Berlin Emma informed us about the existence of a European “Marine Spatial Planning Directive”, which was approved on 23 July 2014. This can be found via the link

http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/maritime_spatial_planning/index_en.htm

This directive introduces an Integrated Maritime Policy for the EU and a coordinated, integrated and trans-boundary approach. It also gives specific requirements for Member States like in the following “quotes” from that document:

- Each Member State shall establish and implement maritime spatial planning,
- When establishing maritime spatial planning, Member States shall have due regard to the particularities of the marine regions, relevant existing and future activities and uses; etc,
- Through their maritime spatial plans, Member States shall aim to contribute to the sustainable development of energy sectors at sea, of maritime transport, and of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, and to the preservation, protection and improvement of the environment, including resilience to climate change impacts. In addition, Member States may pursue other objectives such as the promotion of sustainable tourism and the sustainable extraction of raw materials,
- Public participation, Member States shall establish means of public participation by informing all interested parties and by consulting the relevant stakeholders and authorities, and the public concerned, at an early stage in the development of maritime spatial plans,

So your organisation should have been consulted on any National Spatial Planning documents and it is of **interest to our CCI to learn if any threats to boating activities were encountered.**

2. Windfarms

All nations show considerable developments in constructing off shore windfarms. General rule is that areas concerned are closed for all shipping during the construction phase of a windfarm. Once windfarms become operational various National regulations are applicable. This could be a subject for our General Assembly (GA) meeting to suggest an action pursuing a level playing field in International Waters.

Current situation with windfarms in the North Sea to the best of my knowledge:

- UK waters open to vessels < 24 meter
- French waters; unknown
- Belgian waters, closed
- Netherlands waters, closed with a declared intention to open for vessels < 24 meter on condition equipped with VHF and AIS B transponder.
- German waters, currently still closed; expectation is open < 24 meter when fully operational with conditions similar to those in Baltic waters.
- Danish waters, open but some appear to kept closed
- Norwegian waters; unknown

If possible and desirable we could try set up an overview situation for North Sea and Irish Sea.

3. Fish Farms / Aqua Culture

In accordance with guidelines in the Spatial Planning Directive, Governments are investigating possibilities for economic growth and sustainable developments at sea. Fish farms are already a known entity and “farming at sea” is becoming a new topic. In the Netherlands the Ministry of Economic Affairs is actively stimulating initiatives for multiple usage of a windfarm area. This could cause new restrictions for boating. Fortunately maintenance vessels also require free access to the windfarm areas thus creating an opposing factor. My suggestion is to make an inventory of aqua culture developments in the North Sea and Irish Sea

4. Tidal Energy and Wave Energy Plants

Tidal Energy Plants will primarily occur in areas where a considerable tide hub exists or where strong currents are in order.

Making use of the tide hub will in most cases also mean the use of a basin, created by a dam whereby passage is possible via a lock or not applicable. The water area behind a dam can be used for water sports and could create an addition instead of a restriction.

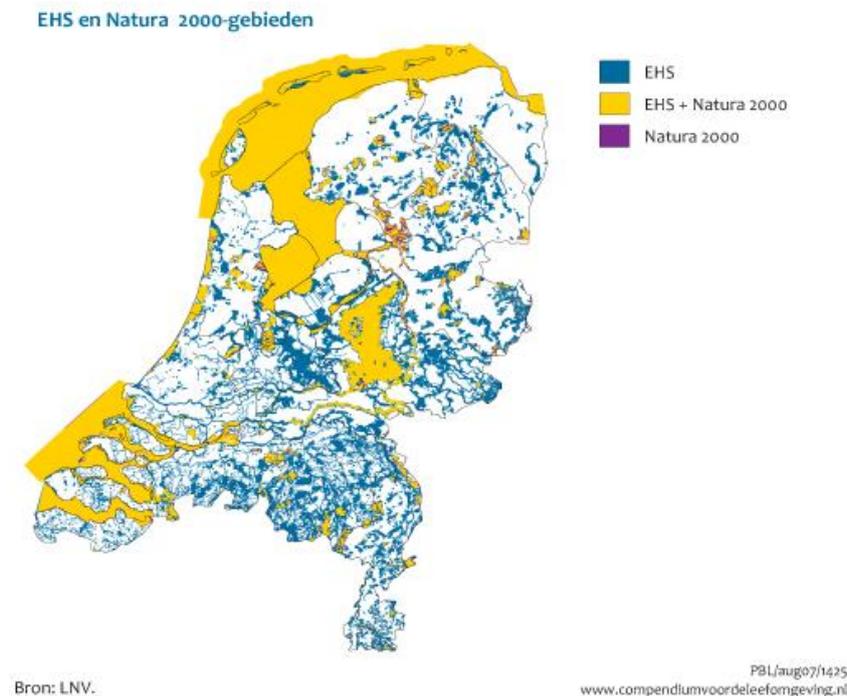
Our interest should be on developments of tidal energy plants in waterways and what restrictions they bring for navigation.

Wave energy development to my knowledge is so far not very significant but if applied will bring a restriction for navigation. Any views?

5. Bird & Habitat Directives

Considerable areas of the North Sea are covered by both the Bird Directive and the Habitat Directive directives. For remote (far off shore) areas little to no restrictions are apparent for Yachting. In Coastal areas this is not the case.

In the Netherlands large areas have been designated and the coastal zone North of the Wadden Islands has known a navigation restricted areas where sailing through was forbidden in the period 1 November – 31 March. Although this did not affect recreational usage very much it did effect the coastal shipping route and fortunately the restrictions have recently been lifted



This Chartlet gives an impression. Restricted areas in both Wadden Sea and SW Delta are clearly marked on charts.

Our interest should be to share information about new developments

6. Water Framework Directive (WFD)

In December 2015 a new “National Water Plan 2016 – 2021” was published in the Netherlands. Earlier in the year we were able to present our comments on the draft publication. For your information the link is : https://www.noordzeeloket.nl/en/projects/north-sea-policy-in-the-national-water-plan/Beleidsnota_2016_2021/, which will give access to both a North Sea Policy document and a summary of the Programme of Measures for the Marine Strategy for the Netherlands part of the North Sea.

It would be of interest to be able to compare with similar documents from other nations so request is to provide links to relevant documents if available in the English language.

7. Marine Strategy Framework Directive MSFD)

Emma will provide an update under agenda item 13 of the agenda and as mentioned in paragraph above the Programme of Measures for the Netherlands has been included in our National Water Plan.

8. Wadden Sea Protected Area

No new significant developments to my knowledge.

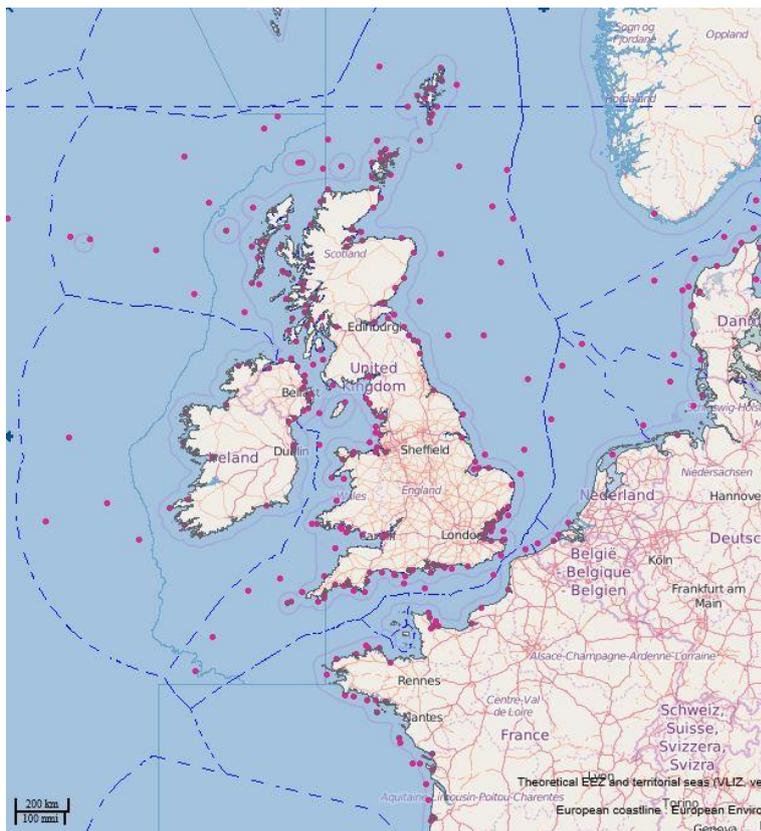
9. Military Exercise Area's

The development of Off Shore Wind parks puts a strain on available sea room. Although consideration is still being given to Military Exercise areas they are at the same time being looked at as very attractive areas for future development. So far no changes known.

10. OSPAR

OSPAR focusses on the protection of the Marine Environment in the NE Atlantic.

Understanding the North East Atlantic's biodiversity and how its ecosystems function and respond to the pressures from human activities – or the management measures implemented - remains an exciting challenge and is covered by various OSPAR committees. We should focus on those measures that may affect boating, and report to the GA under agenda item 10c. Here we'll find that common indicators of the MSFD are in line with OSPAR guidance. Items of interest are Invasive Alien Species, Marine Litter , Underwater Noise and emissions.



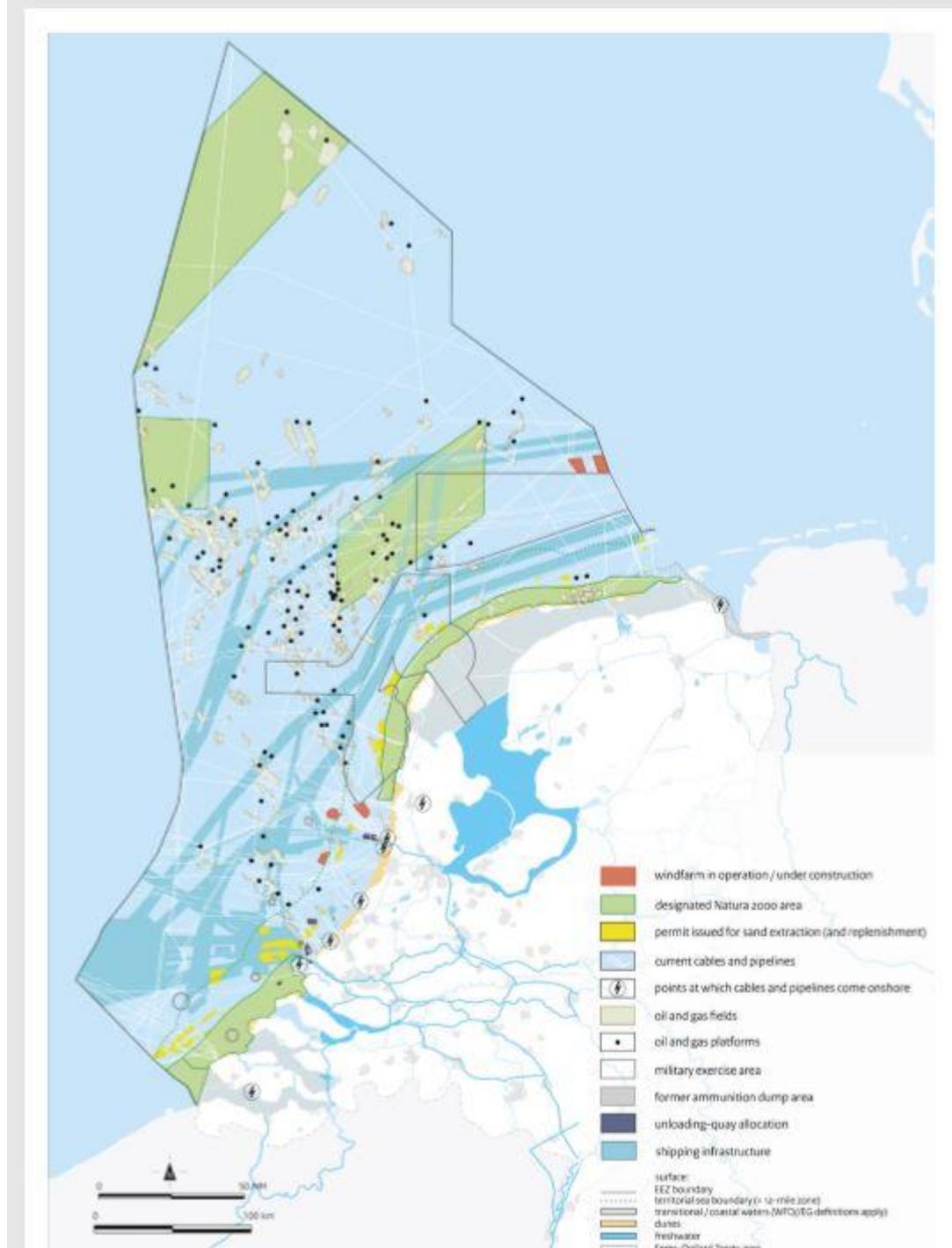
Marine Protected Area's are an issue and will have a relation with para 5 above.

As mentioned at the top of this paper; this is a note to support our discussion at our CCI meeting in Palma and is purely on the basis of my actual information at the moment of writing.

Look forward to a lively exchange of thoughts.

*Willem Dekker
23 march 2016.*

Figure 3.1 Current space utilisation North Sea



It looks busy and it is getting busier.