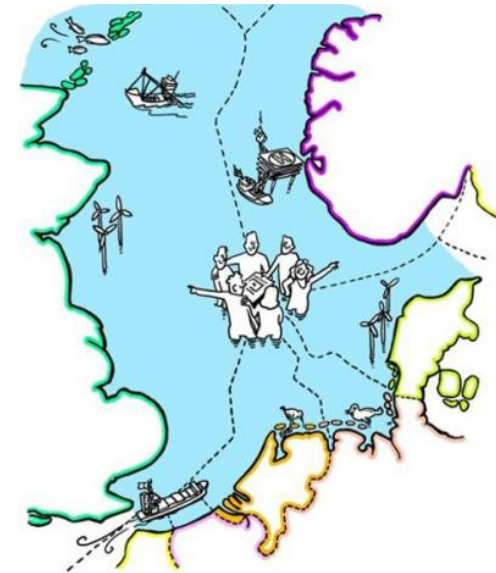


# North Sea perspective *from the Dutch*

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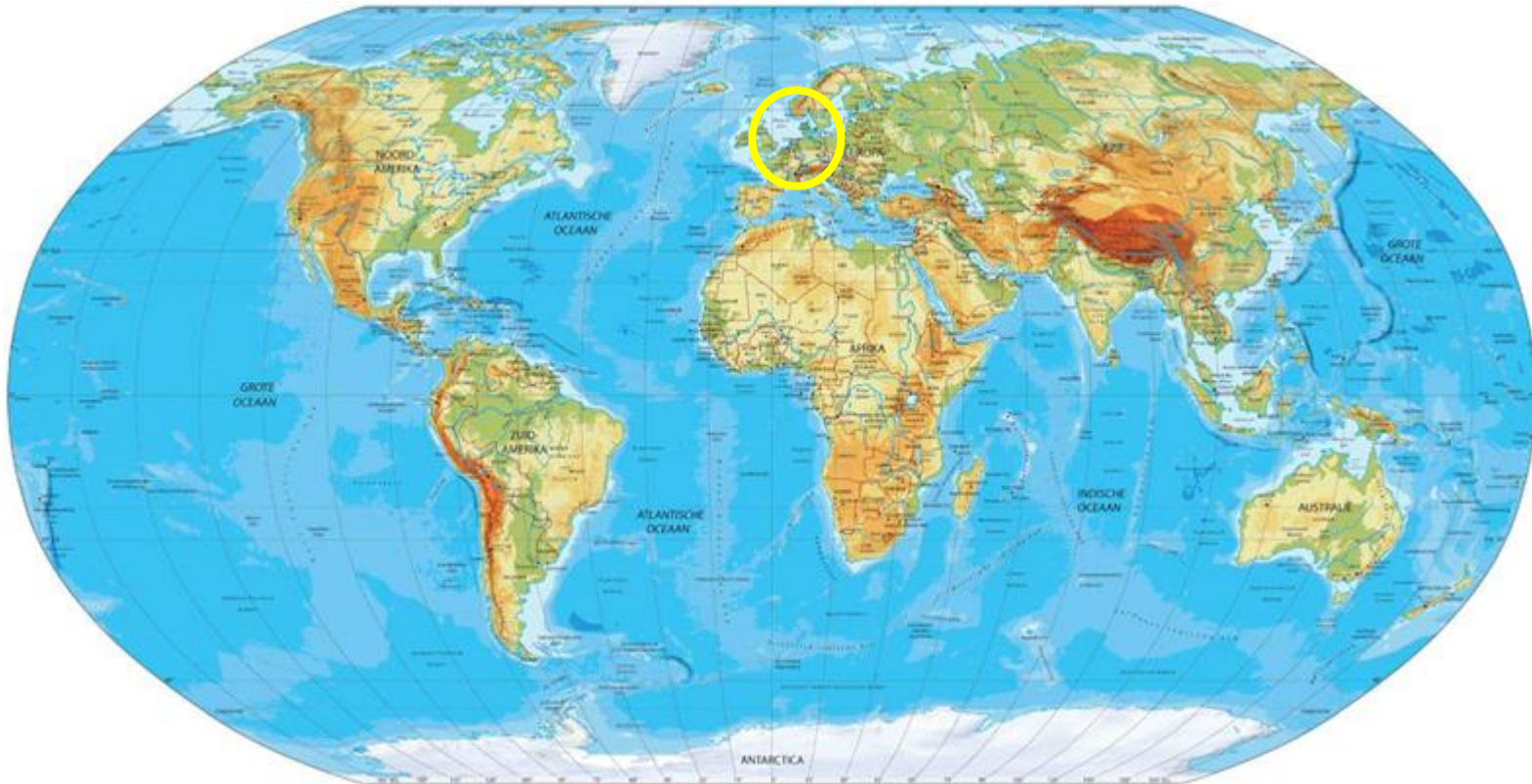
*Courtesy to Xander Keijser  
and Lodewijk Abspoel*



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# North Sea

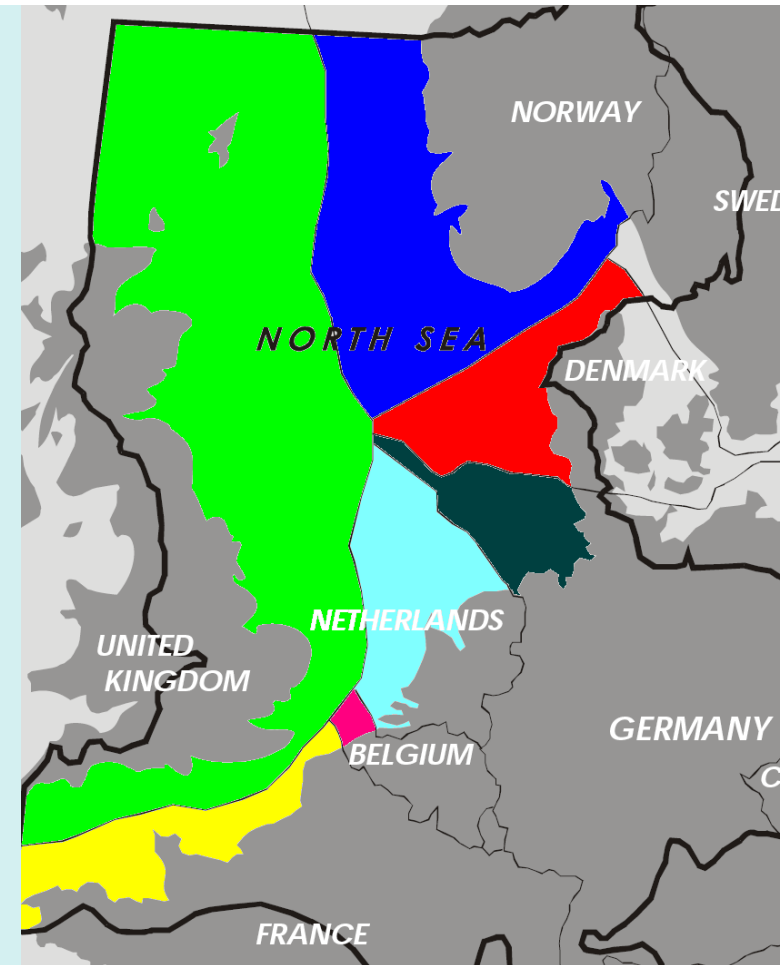


# North Sea

- Marginal sea of the Atlantic Ocean
- 575.000 km<sup>2</sup>
- Ecologically rich
- One of the busiest seas in the world
- 7 bordering countries: EU and non-EU

## Facts about the Dutch North Sea:

- 10% (58.000 km<sup>2</sup>) of total sea surface
- North Sea is 1,5 times of its land surface
- 250 km coastline
- Authority national government starts 1 km out of the coast

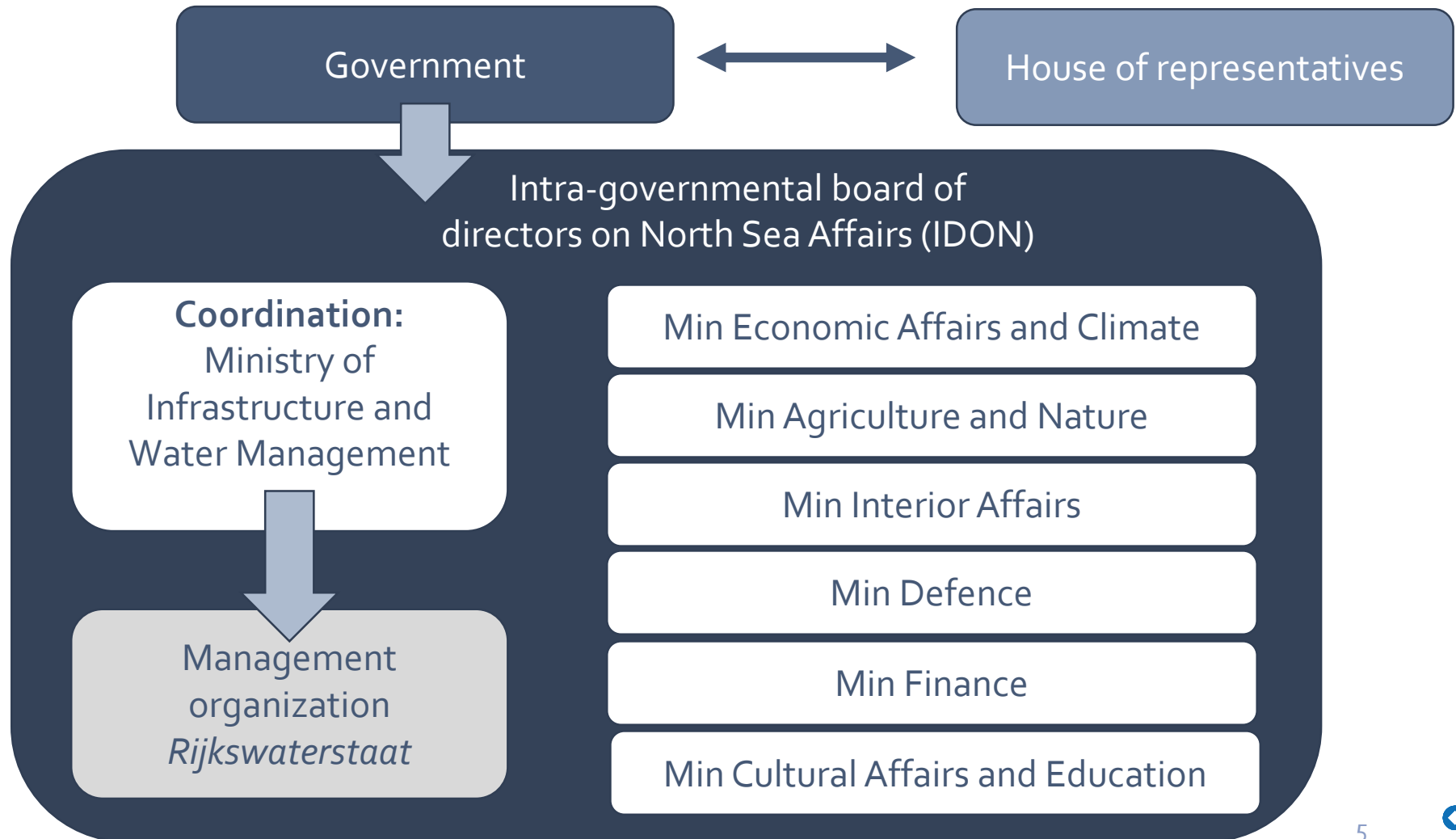


# North Sea valuation

- ◆ Recognized as an unique ecosystem: 5 marine protected areas for birds and habitats protection (almost 20%)
- ◆ Shipping
- ◆ Sand extraction for beach nourishment
- ◆ Gas and oil extraction
- ◆ Military zones
- ◆ Beach tourism
- ◆ Fisheries ↓
- ◆ Offshore wind energy ↑



# Governmental structure for MSP



# Relevant legislative frameworks for MSP

Nationally:

- ◊ Water Law , Spatial Law, Environmental Law
- ◊ Nature and Sectorial Laws

Internationally, amongst others:

- ◊ NATURA 2000 (Birds and Habitats Directives)
- ◊ OSPAR convention
- ◊ Marine Strategy Framework Directive
- ◊ MARPOL (IMO)
- ◊ Common Fisheries Policy



# MSP in the Netherlands

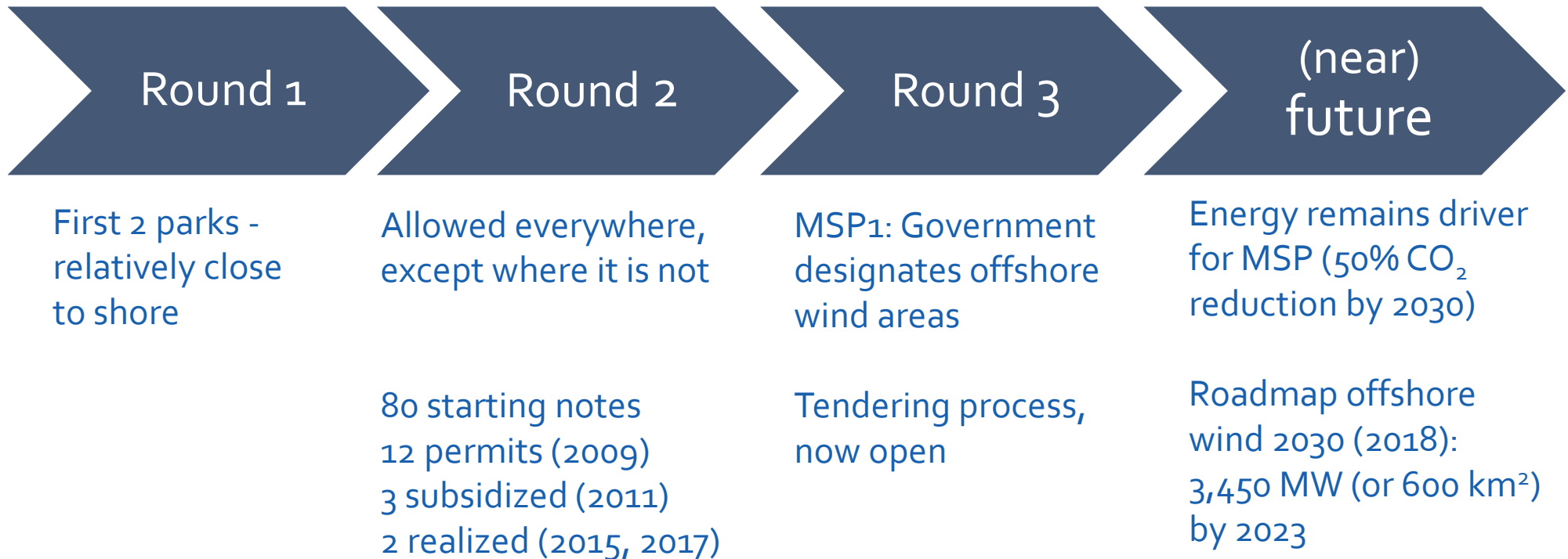
One of the few countries that went full circle more than once

- ◆ Designation MPAs in early 2000s
- ◆ Integrated Management framework (2005)
- ◆ Policy document North Sea 2009-2015 (2010) = **MSP<sub>1</sub>**
- ◆ Revision Integrated Management Framework (2011)
- ◆ Revised MSP (2013/2014) = **MSP<sub>2</sub>**
- ◆ Policy document North Sea 2016-2021 (2015) = **MSP<sub>3</sub>**



# Maritime Spatial Planning

Offshore wind ambitions are key trigger for MSP





# Policy document North Sea 2016-2021

- ◊ Mission statement: a safe, clean, healthy, ecologically diverse and productive North Sea
- ◊ Key themes:
  - ◆ Building with North Sea nature
  - ◆ Energy transition
  - ◆ Multiple use (wind energy – seafood production – nature)
  - ◆ Land – sea connection
  - ◆ Shipping and connectivity
- ◊ International collaboration



# North Sea collaboration (1)

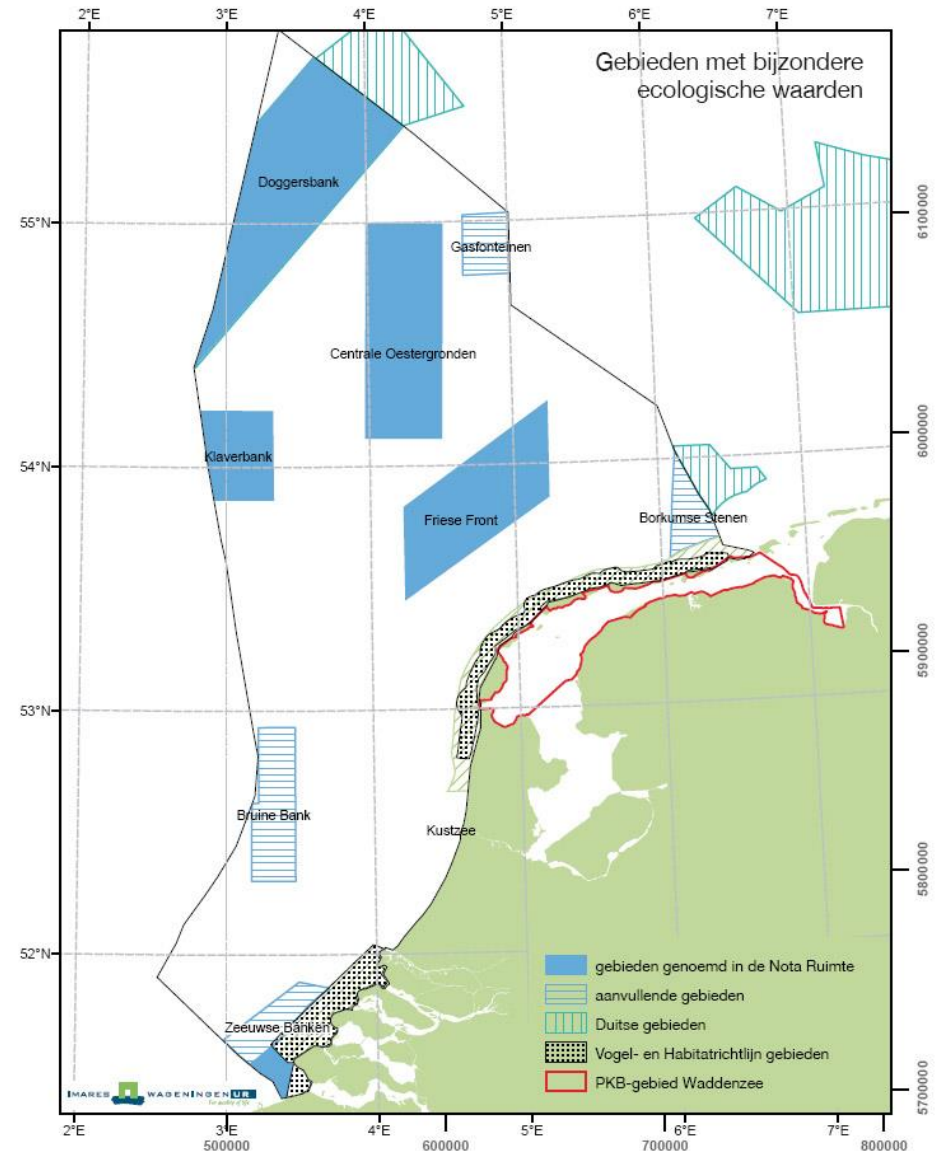
Nature protection

*Common* obligation

(NATURA2000, OSPAR)

to establish MPAs

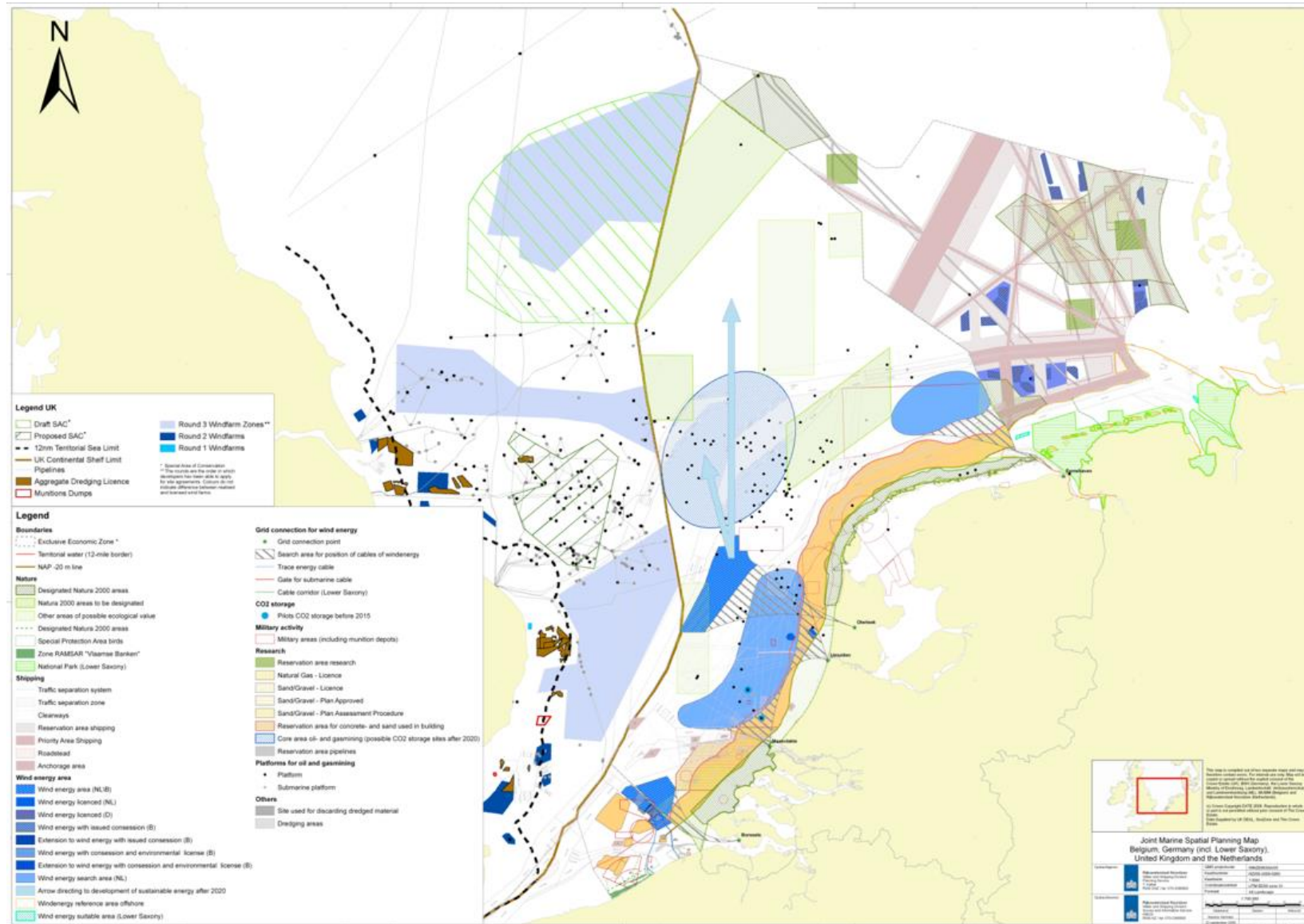
but *national* responsibility



## North Sea collaboration (2)

- ◆ The Netherlands emphasizes need for international collaboration from the start (MSP<sub>1</sub>)
  - ◆ A common vision and strategy for spatial planning, legal alignment, cooperation in management, monitoring and control
  - ◆ EU as platform for collaboration
- ◆ Bilateral collaboration and meetings
- ◆ North Sea Commission
- ◆ Project support (MASPNOSE, NorthSEE, North Sea Challenge Serious Game)





# North Sea spatial plans 2011: a common view?



# Challenges for the Dutch

According to Policy document North Sea 2016-2021 (2015) :

- ◆ Other countries have federal systems, which is complicating collaboration
- ◆ A common vision is not deemed feasible *at the moment*
- ◆ Institutional ambiguity: how to navigate the already existing collaborations on many different issues
- ◆ Collaboration depends on (shared) level of ambition



# The Dutch collaborative approach

- ◆ Emphasis on common interest (energy, shipping, nature)
- ◆ Focus on what other countries prioritize
- ◆ Enhance policy coherency
- ◆ Avoid overlap: working in existing fora
- ◆ Learn from others (aquaculture)



# Thank you for your attention

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