Rijkswaterstaat
Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management

Protected area

Sailing in Natura 2000 areas Friese Front (Frysian Front), Klaverbank (Cleaver Bank) and Doggersbank (Dogger Bank)

Friese Front (Frysian Front), Klaverbank (Cleaver Bank) and Doggersbank (Dogger Bank) are Natura 2000 areas. Measures to protect animals and their habitats apply in these nature conservation areas.

Friese Front

This unique and dynamic area contains a front; an area where multiple water masses converge. This results in nutrients and organic material sinking to the seabed leaving a high silt content on the seabed and providing a reliable food source that makes the area attractive to guillemots.

Guillemot

In July and August, many moulting guillemot males swim with their young from the breeding colonies to the Friese Front in search of food. Moulting male guillemots are temporarily flightless and the young cannot fly until they develop their first plumage. Guillemots are not to be disturbed in order to ensure they eat enough during their moulting and development period. That is why it is important that guillemots experience the least possible disturbance from shipping.

As pollution can have a major impact on guillemots, additional investigation will be conducted if a pollution source is detected. These investigations are used to assess whether further measures are necessary to improve guillemot protection.

Klaverbank

This bank is part of a reef area together with the British Markham's Triangle Marine Consservation Zone. The Klaverbank's 'open-sea reefs' and the associated animal and plant species make this area unique.

Protection ensures tranquillity

Klaverbank provides a habitat for porpoises, grey seals and common seals. These species are protected within the Klaverbank area. They benefit from the rich seabed ecosystems and food availability offered by the reefs.

Doggersbank

This sandbank is located in an open sea area stretching across the British, Dutch, German and Danish parts of the North Sea. Plant and animal species that depend on a higher light intensity thrive in this shallow part of the North Sea. These measures concern the Dutch part of the Doggersbank.

Rich in fish and marine mammals

The area's high food availability makes it the perfect place for fish to thrive. Birds are also attracted to the area due to the variety of fish species. Marine mammals like porpoises, grey seals and common seals are found on the Doggersbank. They forage for food and are protected within the Dutch Doggersbank Natura 2000 area.

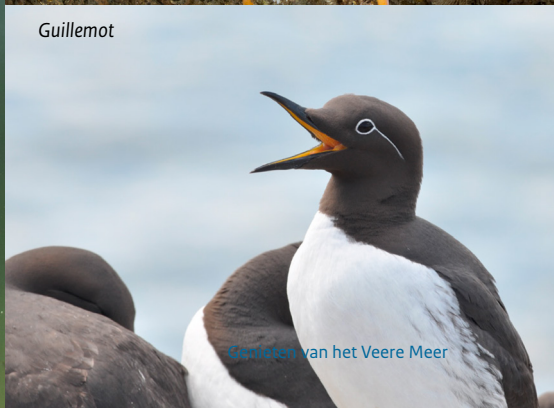
Comply with the measures

Officers regularly patrol the nature conservation areas. Violations will result in fines. These are easy to avoid if you comply with the measures.

Together, we ensure a healthy North Sea.

Porpoise (photo: Jeroen Kwakkel)

North Sea crab, octopus and dead man's fingers (a species of soft coral) (photo: Udo van Dongen)



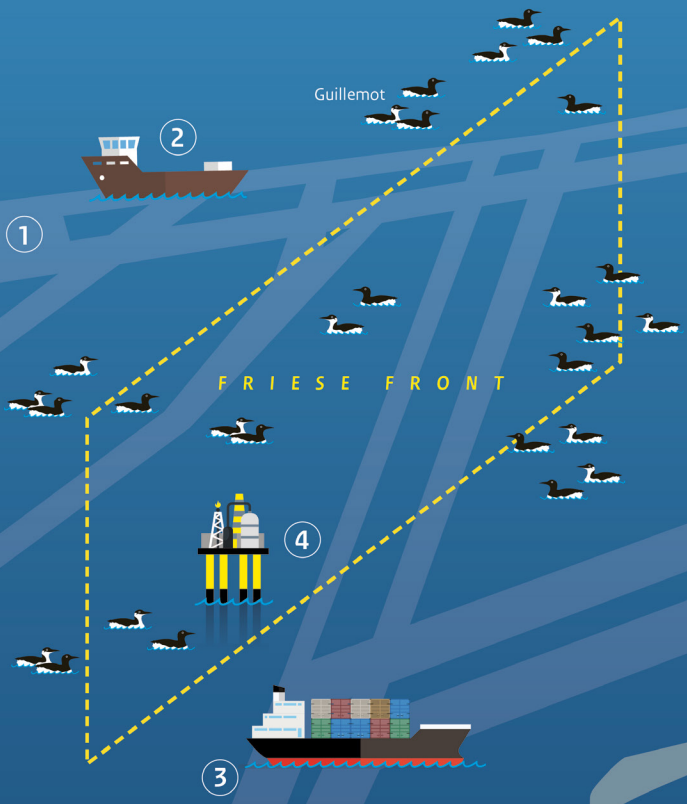
Guillemot

Sandbanks van het Veere Meer

Navigation in and around the Natura 2000 area

(measures apply from July to October)

Friese Front



1
Shipping
- Remain in shipping lanes as far as possible.
- Avoid the nature conservation area as far as possible.
- Choose the shortest route (if sailing through the area is unavoidable).
- Navigate around guillemot groups.
- Vessel volumes and vessel movements will be monitored.

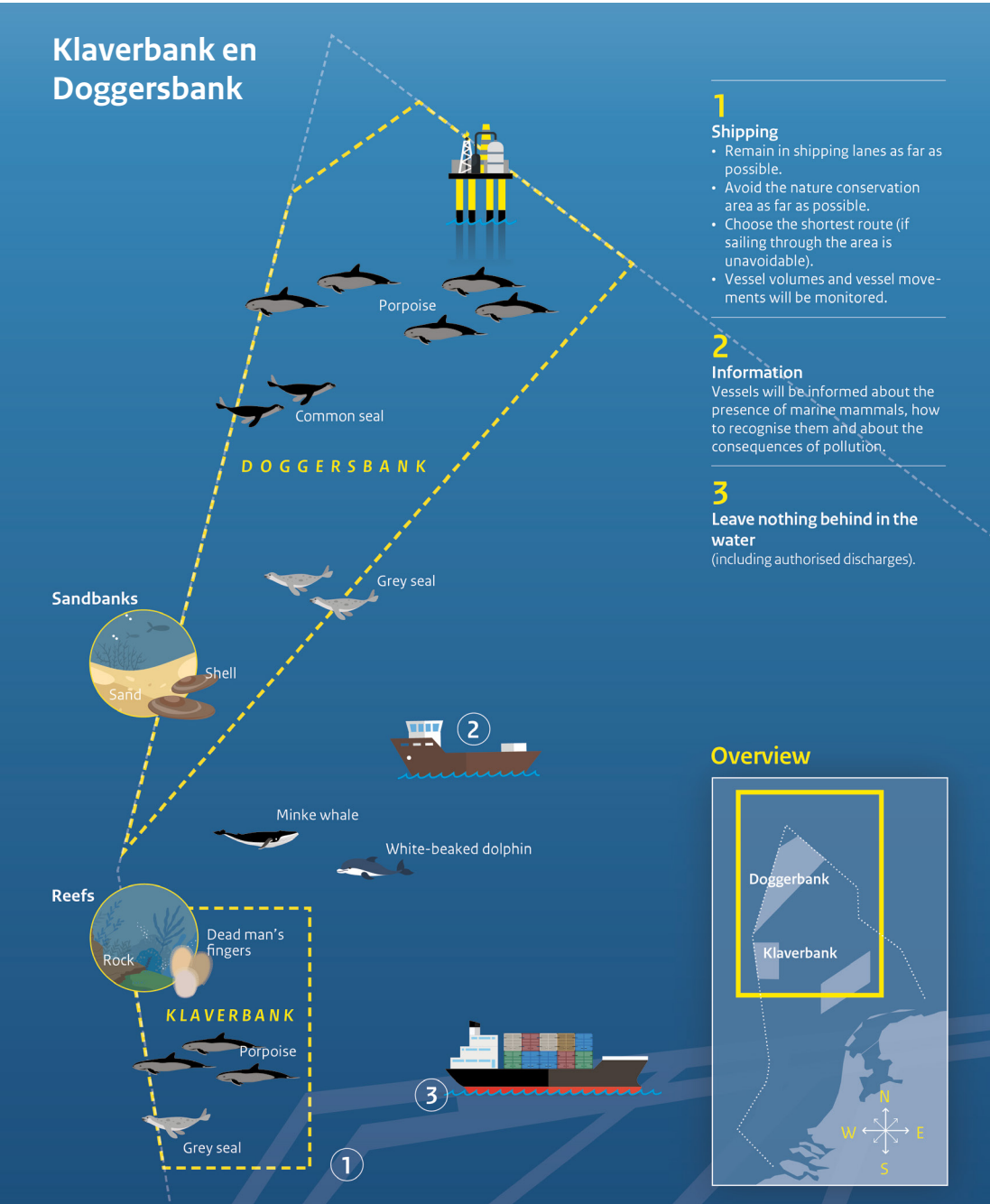
2
Information
Vessels will be informed about the presence of guillemots, how to recognise them and about the consequences of pollution.

3
Leave nothing behind in the water
(including authorised discharges).

4
Work traffic
Work traffic should sail from and to the mining platforms outside the July to October period where possible.

Overview

Klaverbank en Doggersbank



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- Choose the shortest route (if sailing through the area is unavoidable).
- Vessel volumes and vessel movements will be monitored.

2
Information

Vessels will be informed about the presence of marine mammals, how to recognise them and about the consequences of pollution.

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Leave nothing behind in the water

(including authorised discharges).

Overview

Natura 2000
Friese Front, Klaverbank and Doggersbank are Natura 2000 areas. Natura 2000 is a network of protected nature reserves in Europe.
For more information, please visit www.rwsnatura2000.nl.

This brochure was produced with thanks to:

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If you have any questions, please contact us:
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