



Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 2 April 2015

Update version

Netherlands

North Sea Coastal Area



Designation date	29 August 2000
Site number	1252
Coordinates	53°21'27"N 5°22'39"E
Area	144 474,80 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

North Sea north of the Wadden Sea: an extensive area of coastal waters from the Eems-Dollard estuary and German border in the east till Petten (province of Noord-Holland) in the south. The outer boundary follows the 3 nautical mile line, which is roughly the 15-20 meter depth line. The inner boundary follows the 0 m line at the main land and the foot of the dunes at the islands. Between the islands the site borders the Ramsar site Wadden Sea.

The sandy coastal area along the North Sea consists of coastal shallow waters, sandbanks (like Noorderhaaks) and the beaches of the north of the province Noord-Holland and the Wadden islands. Locally so-called 'green beaches' occur, especially at the island of Schiermonnikoog.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Compiler 1

Name	Ms. A. Pel-Roest
Institution/agency	Ministry of Economic Affairs, Department of Nature and Biodiversity
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2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

To year

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	North Sea Coastal Area
Unofficial name (optional)	Noordzeekustzone

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary	Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
(Update) The boundary has been extended	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(Update) B. Changes to Site area	the area has increased
(Update) The Site area has increased because of a boundary extension	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS?	No
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2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Boundaries description (optional)

The Ramsar site 'Waddeneilanden, Noordzeekustzone and polder Breebaart' has also been designated as six separate European Natura2000 sites, one named Noordzeekustzone and the others named after the respective islands 'Duinen en Lage land Texel', 'Duinen Vlieland', 'Duinen Terschelling', 'Duinen Ameland' and 'Duinen Schiermonnikoog'.

The approx. 73 ha of polder Breebaart has been merged with the Ramsar site 'Waddenzee'. A logical step as the ecosystems of the Noordzeekustzone, the islands and polder are quite different, while all islands have their own nature management plan.

For this RIS-version, the new Ramsar site boundaries have therefore been adjusted to the Natura 2000- boundaries, while the respective names for the Natura 2000-sites have been adopted.

For the Noordzeekustzone this means that substantial area has been added in the south and the north, where part of the Ramsar site Boschplaat has been included within the Ramsar site.

In total the area of the 'Noordzeekustzone' has been increased with 22.598,2 ha compared to the former boundary.

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?	Noord-Holland,Friesland,Groningen
b) What is the nearest town or population centre?	Den Helder (population 56.947 per 1-1-2013; CBS, Netherlands Statistics)

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes No

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes No

idem No

d) Transboundary Ramsar Site name:

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha):

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
Other scheme (provide name below)	Atlantic

Other biogeographic regionalisation scheme

The bio-geographic regions dataset used, contains the official delineations used in the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and for the EMERALD Network set up under the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention).

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

- Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Other ecosystem services provided

With almost 1500 km² of shallow sandbanks, mudflats, Atlantic salt meadows, embryonic shifting dunes and humid dune slacks the site resembles one of the largest sites of its kind within the Atlantic biogeographic region. Sandbanks can be found on many places along the European coast, but not in a combination of abiotic and biotic qualities like along the Dutch coast. The supply of nutrients by rivers and the favourable light conditions in the shallow water cause benthic biomass to be much higher in the Dutch coastal zone compared to similar sized areas in the North Sea. The high food abundance attracts seals, fish and birds that depend on it.

- Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

- Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

The Noordzeekustzone is designated as a Natura 2000 site (both SAC and SPA) and can therefore be considered important for maintaining the biodiversity of the Atlantic biogeographic region. Besides the species mentioned under criterion 2, the site has also been designated as a SAC for a range of habitat types (Annex I of HD) and SPA for a number of bird species that are not on Annex I of the BD.

- Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

- Criterion 5 : >20,000 waterbirds

Overall waterbird numbers	36047
Start year	2005
Source of data:	Sovon, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology

- Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

- Criterion 8 : Fish spawning grounds, etc.

Justification

The Dutch coastal zone, among which the Noordzeekustzone, is the richest fish species part of the North Sea. The high food abundance and low predatory pressure from large fish makes the coastal zone an important spawning and nursery site. The number of juvenile species like Flounder, Sole, Plaice, Dab, Brill, Turbot, Cod, Whiting and Pouting are very high. The site is also important for migratory fish species. The site has among others been designated as a SAC for the conservation of following fish species: Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*, River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* and Twaite shad *Alosa fallax* (see criterion 2).

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

supports rare/endangered species

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	 <i>Alosa fallax</i>	Twaite Shad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annexe II, V of the EU Habitat Directive ; (National Red List (2004): LC)	The site has among others been designated as a SAC for the conservation of following fish species: Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> , River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> and Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i> .
CHORDATA/ AVES	 <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Turnstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Non-breeding bird species (not on Annex I of the BD) for which the site has been designated as a SPA.
CHORDATA/ AVES	 <i>Aythya marila</i>	Greater Scaup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Non-breeding bird species (not on Annex I of the BD) for which the site has been designated as a SPA.
CHORDATA/ AVES	 <i>Calidris alba</i>	Sanderling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3707	2006-2010	3.1	LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Non-breeding bird species (not on Annex I of the BD) for which the site has been designated as a SPA. Biogeographic population: East Atlantic/ W&S. Africa (win)
CHORDATA/ AVES	 <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>	Dunlin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13692	2006-2010	1		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Non-breeding bird species (not on Annex I of the BD) for which the site has been designated as a SPA. Biogeographic population: N. Siberia/ Europe/ W-Africa
CHORDATA/ AVES	 <i>Calidris canutus canutus</i>	Knot	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Non-breeding bird species (not on Annex I of the BD) for which the site has been designated as a SPA.
CHORDATA/ AVES	 <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Kentish Plover	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the EU Bird Directive ; National Red List (2004): EN	Breeding birds
CHORDATA/ AVES	 <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Common Ringed Plover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Breeding birds - National Red List (2004): VU	Non-breeding bird species (not on Annex I of the BD) for which the site has been designated as a SPA. Breeding bird species (not on Annex I of the BD) for which the site has been designated as a SPA
CHORDATA/ AVES	 <i>Gavia arctica</i>	Black-throated Diver	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the EU Bird Directive	Non-breeding bird
CHORDATA/ AVES	 <i>Gavia stellata</i>	Red-throated Diver	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the EU Bird Directive	Non-breeding bird
CHORDATA/ AVES	 <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Non-breeding bird species (not on Annex I of the BD) for which the site has been designated as a SPA.
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	 <i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	Gray Seal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annexe II, V of the EU Habitat Directive ; National Red List (2009): NT	
CHORDATA/ AVES	 <i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	Little Gull	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the EU Bird Directive	Non-breeding bird
CHORDATA/ CEPHALASPIDOMORPHI	 <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>	River Lamprey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annexe II, V of the EU Habitat Directive ; (National Red List (2004): LC)	The site has among others been designated as a SAC for the conservation of following fish species: Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> , River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> and Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i>
CHORDATA/ AVES	 <i>Larus argentatus</i>	Herring Gull	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20896	2006-2010	3.5	LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		(Biogeographic population (NB): Iceland & Western Europe - source: Wetlands International)
CHORDATA/ AVES	 <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7446	2006-2010	2		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criteria 4: The site is of particular importance for several breeding and non-breeding bird species (see criterion 2, 3 and 6), of which several species gather in relatively high numbers in small areas like wintering Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> or breeding colonies of Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i> and Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> . Biogeographic population (BR): W.Europe

Phylum	Scientific name	Common name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
			2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA/ AVES	 <i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Bar-tailed Godwit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1309	2006-2010	1.1	LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the EU Bird Directive	Non-breeding bird Biogeographic population: Southwestern Africa (win) - (Wetlands International: Coastal W Europe & NW Africa)
CHORDATA/ AVES	 <i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Common Scoter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criteria 3: Non-breeding bird species (not on Annex I of the BD) for which the site has been designated as a SPA. Criteria 4: The site is of particular importance for several breeding and non-breeding bird species (see criterion 2, 3 and 6), of which several species gather in relatively high numbers in small areas like wintering Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> or breeding colonies of Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus graelsii</i> and Little Tern <i>Sterna albifrons</i> .
CHORDATA/ AVES	 <i>Numenius arquata</i>	Eurasian Curlew	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Non-breeding bird species (not on Annex I of the BD) for which the site has been designated as a SPA.
CHORDATA/ CEPHALASPIDOMORPHI	 <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	Sea Lamprey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annexe II of the EU Habitat Directive ; (National Red List (2004): LC)	The site has among others been designated as a SAC for the conservation of following fish species: Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> , River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> and Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i> .
CHORDATA/ AVES	 <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Great Cormorant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Non-breeding bird species (not on Annex I of the BD) for which the site has been designated as a SPA.
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	 <i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Harbor Seal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annexe II, IV of the EU Habitat Directive ; National Red List (2009): VU	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	 <i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	Harbor Porpoise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annexe II, IV of the EU Habitat Directive ; National Red List (2009): CR	
CHORDATA/ AVES	 <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Grey Plover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3500	2006-2010	1.4	LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Non-breeding bird species (not on Annex I of the BD) for which the site has been designated as a SPA Biogeographic population: Eastern Atlantic (wintering) - (Wetlands International: W Europe & W Africa.)
CHORDATA/ AVES	 <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	Avocet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the EU Bird Directive	Non-breeding bird
CHORDATA/ AVES	 <i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Common Eider	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Non-breeding bird species (not on Annex I of the BD) for which the site has been designated as a SPA.
CHORDATA/ AVES	 <i>Sternula albifrons</i>	Little Tern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I of the EU Bird Directive ; National Red List (2004): VU	Criteria 4: The site is of particular importance for several breeding and non-breeding bird species (see criterion 2, 3 and 6), of which several species gather in relatively high numbers in small areas like wintering Common Scoter <i>Melanitta nigra</i> or breeding colonies of Lesser Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus graelsii</i> and Little Tern <i>Sternula albifrons</i> .
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Common Shelduck	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Non-breeding bird species (not on Annex I of the BD) for which the site has been designated as a SPA.

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

RIS for Site no. 1252, North Sea Coastal Area, Netherlands

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criteria 3: The site has also been designated as a SAC for a range of habitat types (Annex I of HD).
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide.	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criteria 3: The site has also been designated as a SAC for a range of habitat types (Annex I of HD).
Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criteria 3: The site has also been designated as a SAC for a range of habitat types (Annex I of HD).
Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criteria 3: The site has also been designated as a SAC for a range of habitat types (Annex I of HD).
Embryonic shifting dunes	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criteria 3: The site has also been designated as a SAC for a range of habitat types (Annex I of HD).
Humid dune stacks	<input type="checkbox"/>		Criteria 3: The site has also been designated as a SAC for a range of habitat types (Annex I of HD).

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

The natural values of the site are primarily connected to the shallow sea with its mud and sand flats that fall dry at low tide. Among the birds, the waders forage at low tide and rest on higher beaches, dunes and islands at high tide; the seals rest on sand flats and beaches at low tide and mainly feed at high tide.

Main ecosystem services:

- The site is a very important spawning area for marine (commercial) fish species.
- The sunny climate and the scenic and natural beauty of the Wadden islands has turned the island beaches into one of the main tourism destinations in the Netherlands.

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Marine or coastal wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
A: Permanent shallow marine waters		1		Representative
E: Sand, shingle or pebble shores		3		Representative
G: Intertidal mud, sand or salt flats		2		Representative
H: Intertidal marshes		3		Representative

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

<no data available>

4.3.2 - Animal species

<no data available>

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
C: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with mild winters	Cfb: Marine west coast (Mld with no dry season, warm summer)

Rhine catchment: the climates according to Köppen are rainy (Cfb) and montane (EH).

Meuse catchment and Schelde catchment: the climate according to Köppen is rainy (Cfb).

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

More than one river basin

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

The overall coastal zone can be considered to belong to the catchment of the larger rivers Schelde, Meuse and Rhine, which effluents move north along the coast with the sea streams towards the Wadden Sea.

The surface area of the Rhine catchment is 185.000 km².

The surface area of the Meuse catchment is 33.000 km².

The surface area of the Schelde catchment is 21.900 km².

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes No

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

Rhine catchment : Geologically and geomorphologically it consists mainly of Quarternary, Paleozoic and Mesozoic sediments and Tertiary mountains. The general soil types are: Alluvial, Brown forest soils and montane soils.

Meuse catchment: Geologically and geomorphologically it consists mainly of Quarternary and Mesozoic sediments and Paleozoic (eroded) mountains. The general soil types are: Alluvial, Brown forest soils and montane soils.

Schelde catchment: Geologically and geomorphologically it consists mainly of Quarternary and Tertiary sediments. The general soil types are: Alluvial and Podzol soils.

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology.

North Sea: The outer boundary follows the 3 nautical mile line, which is roughly the 15-20 meter depth line. Permanently submerged sandbanks are mainly found in the outer delta's of the sea streams between the islands.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

<no data available>

4.4.6 - Water pH

<no data available>

4.4.7 - Water salinity

- Fresh (<0.5 g/l)
- Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0.5-30 g/l)
- Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l)

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

<no data available>

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the i) broadly similar ii) significantly different site itself.

Please describe other ways in which the surrounding area is different:

The surrounding area is the further North Sea and Wadden Sea.

The water from the big Rivers on the broader scale of the catchment area of the big rivers concerns a substantial part of Northwest-Europe:

- General land-use of Rhine-catchment: the general land use is forestry, pasture farming, arable farming, inproductive land (high mountains).
- General land-use of Meuse catchment: The general land use is pasture farming, arable farming and forestry.
- General land-use of Schelde catchment is arable and pasture farming.
- General land-use of Ems-catchment is arable and pasture farming.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	High
Wetland non-food products	Other	

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Hazard reduction	Coastal shoreline and river bank stabilization and storm protection	

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Recreational hunting and fishing	High
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	Medium

Other ecosystem service(s) not included above:

a. within the Ramsar Site:

Angling 100%, Boating 20%, Extractive operations 10%, Commercial fisheries 100%, Shipping traffic 10%, Military training 2%.

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes No Unknown

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

<no data available>

4.6 - Ecological processes

<no data available>

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Foundation/non-governmental organization/trust	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

(1) Rijkswaterstaat Noord-Nederland (tel. +31 (0)58 234 43 44)
 (2) Natuurmonumenten (tel. +31 (0)35 655 99 33)
 (3) Staatsbosbeheer (tel. +31 (0)30-6926111)
 (4) It Fryske Gea (tel. +31 (0)512 38 14 48)

Postal address:

(1) Zuidersingel 3, 8911 AV Leeuwarden, P.O. Box 2301, 8901 JH, Leeuwarden
 (2) P.O. Box 9955, 1243 ZS 's-Graveland
 (3) P.O. Box 1300, 3970 BH Driebergen
 (4) P.O. Box 3, 9244 ZN Beetsterzwaag

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Marine and freshwater aquaculture	High impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Energy production and mining

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Mining and quarrying			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

Transportation and service corridors

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Aircraft flight paths			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

Biological resource use

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	High impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Recreational and tourism activities	Medium impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
(Para)military activities	Medium impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Unspecified	Medium impact		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Aquaculture / fisheries: shellfish fisheries
 Gas exploration: impact under study
 Pollution: not industrial discharge

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

Regional (international) legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
EU Natura 2000	Noordzeekustzone		whole

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Nature Conservation Act			partly
National Park			partly

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation

IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

<no data available>

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? In preparation

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes No

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes No

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

Information about the area is exposed in three visitor centres:

- Schiermonnikoog: Visitor centre of the National Park Schiermonnikoog, Torenstreek 20, 9166 LK Schiermonnikoog, tel. 0519 531641.
- Vlieland: "De Noordwester", Dorpsstraat 150, 8899 AN Vlieland, tel. 0562 451700.
- Texel: "EcoMare", Centrum voor Wadden en Noordzee; tentoonstellingen en opvang van zeehonden en zeevogels. Ruijslaan 92, 1796 AZ De Koog, tel. 0222 317741, www.ecomare.nl.

URL of site-related webpage (if relevant):

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? Please select a value

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Ongoing biodiversity monitoring is one of the obligatory activities in relation to the designated Natura2000 habitat types and species.

There are always scientific research projects ongoing in the Noordzeekustzone. Main responsible executors are:

- NIOZ: Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (www.nioz.nl);
- Wageningen IMARES: The Institute for Marine Resources and Ecosystem Studies (www.imares.wur.nl; which joins same facilities with NIOZ);
- University of Groningen (www.rug.nl; offering an MSc in Marine Biology);
- SOVON, the Dutch Bird Research Organisation (www.sovon.nl);
- TNO: Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research (www.tno.nl; Den Helder);
- NIOO: Netherlands Institute of Ecology (www.nioo.nl);
- RIKZ: The National Institute for Coastal and Marine Management (www.rikz.nl).

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

The number of scientific/technical references is too extended to list here. For a complete list please surf to the publication lists of the research institutes on the internet. For an arbitrary selection see below:

- BirdLife International, 2004. Birds in Europe, population estimates, trends and conservation status. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International. (BirdLife Conservation Series No. 12).

- Hornman, M., Hustings, F., Koffijberg, K., Kleefstra, R., Klaassen, O., van Winden, E., SOVON Ganzen- en Zwanenwerkgroep & L. Soldaat, 2012. Watervogels in Nederland 2009/2010. SOVON-rapport 2012/02, Waterdienst-rapport 12.06. SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland, Nijmegen.

- Janssen, John, A.M. & Joop, H.J. Schaminée, 2009. Europese Natuur in Nederland. Zee en kust Natura 2000-gebieden. KNNV-Uitgeverij. 296p.

- Ministerie van LNV, 2008. Aanwijzingsbesluit Natura-2000 gebied Noordzeekustzone.

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<no file available>

vi. other published literature

<no file available>

<no data available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:

<no data available>

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Transboundary Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation