



Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 19 July 2022

Update version, previously published on : 2 April 2015

Netherlands

North Sea Coastal Area



Designation date	29 August 2000
Site number	1252
Coordinates	53°16'16"N 05°15'17"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

The Ramsar site North Sea Coastal Area (144,475 ha) concerns the North Sea north of the Wadden Sea. It's 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.

The natural values of the site are primarily connected to the shallow sea with its mud and sand flats that partly fall dry during low tide. The site is an important spawning area for fish, foraging, breeding and resting area for birds and resting area for seals. The beaches attract high numbers of tourists which has a substantial impact on the sites natural values.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency	Wageningen Environmental Research
Postal address	PO Box 47 6700 AA Wageningen The Netherlands

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency	Ministry of Agriculture Nature and Food Quality
Postal address	Bezuidenhoutseweg 73 P.O. Box 20401 2500 EK The Hague The Netherlands

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year	2015
To year	2020

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	North Sea Coastal Area
Unofficial name (optional)	Noordzeekustzone; Originally designated as part of Waddenzee-eilanden, kustzone Noordzee en Breebaart

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 type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>
(Update) B. Changes to Site area	No change to area
(Update) For secretariat only: This update is an extension	<input 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>

Former maps	0
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Boundaries description

The boundary of the Ramsar site is equal to the Natura 2000-site with the same name. The Site was formerly designated as Waddeneilanden, Noordzeekustzone, Breebaart which was divided in six Sites following Natura 2000 borders in 2014.

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?	Several villages and cities among which Den Helder with a population of 56.582 in 2021 (Source: 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

Sites part of transboundary designation

- [Duinen Ameland - Netherlands](#)
- [Duinen en Lage Land Texel - Netherlands](#)
- [Duinen Schiermonnikoog - Netherlands](#)
- [Duinen Terschelling - Netherlands](#)
- [Duinen Vlieland - Netherlands](#)
- [Hamburgisches Wattenmeer - Germany](#)
- [Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea and adjacent areas - Germany](#)
- [Vadehavet - Denmark](#)
- [Wadden Sea - Netherlands](#)
- [Wattenmeer, Elbe-Weser-Dreieck - Germany](#)
- [Wattenmeer, Jadebusen & westliche Wesermündung - Germany](#)
- [Wattenmeer, Ostfriesisches Wattenmeer & Dollart - Germany](#)

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, see section 3.4) 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

Optional text box to provide further information

The Ramsar site is also part of the Natura 2000 network in the European Union. It is designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for the functions that it provides to specific breeding and non-breeding bird species (e.g. migratory, hibernating, sleeping, resting, foraging). The site is also designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for specific non-bird species (and habitat types, see section 3.4). See Natura 2000 - Standard data form <https://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/>

- Criterion 5 : >20,000 waterbirds

Overall waterbird numbers

Start year

Source of data:

- Criterion 6 : >1% waterbird population

Optional text box to provide further information

The 1% waterbird population thresholds are based on the 7th Edition of the Conservation Status Report (CSR7).

- 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

Phylum	Scientific name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
Plantae								
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	<i>Liparis loeselii</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species	The site is also designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.

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

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Others																	
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	<input checked="" 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"/>	National red list species	The site is also designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	<input checked="" 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"/>	National red list species	The site is also designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	<input checked="" 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"/>	National red list species	The site is also designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea																	
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Alosa fallax</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species	The site is also designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/ CEPHALASPIDOMORPHI	<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		The site is also designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/ CEPHALASPIDOMORPHI	<i>Petromyzon marinus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		The site is also designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
Birds																	
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	<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"/>		Reference population: interpres, NE Canada & Greenland/W Europe & NW Africa. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion			Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7								
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Aythya marila</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: marila, Northern Europe/Western Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Calidris alba</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5699	2015/16-2019/20	2.8	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: alba, East Atlantic Europe, West & Southern Africa (win). The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	43657	2015/16-2018/19	3.3		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: alpina, NE Europe & NW Siberia/W Europe & NW Africa. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Calidris canutus canutus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	18103	2015/16-2016/17	3.4		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: islandica, NE Canada & Greenland/Western Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	2015/16-2019/20	0	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species	Reference population: alexandrinus, West Europe & West Mediterranean/West Africa. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1281	2015/16-2019/20	0.5	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species	Reference population: psammmodromus, Canada, Greenland & Iceland/W & S Africa. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union. 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>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5916	2015/16-2016/17	0.7	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: ostralegus, Europe/South & West Europe & NW Africa. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species	The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	48850	2016/17-2019/20	3.4	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: argentatus, North & North-west Europe. foraging, resting
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Larus fuscus intermedius</i>	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: intermedius, S Scandinavia, Netherlands, Ebro Delta, Spain foraging, resting
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Larus marinus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1994	2015/16-2018/19	0.6	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species	Reference population: North & West Europe. foraging, resting

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion			Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7								
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8015	2015/16-2017/18	1.6	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: taymyrensis, Western Siberia/West & South-west Africa. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	37529	2015/16-2019/20	5	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: W Siberia & N Europe/W Europe & NW Africa. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1263	2015/16-2019/20	0.2	NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species	Reference population: arquata, Europe/Europe, North & West Africa. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: sinensis, Northern & Central Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6711	2015/16-2016/17	1.4	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: squatarola, W Siberia & Canada/W Europe & W Africa. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: Western Europe & North-west Africa (bre). The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1613	2015/16-2019/20	0.2	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: mollissima, Baltic, Denmark & Netherlands. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	83	2015/16-2019/20	0.4	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	National red list species	Reference population: albifrons, Europe north of Mediterranean (bre). The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
CHORDATA / AVES	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Reference population: North-west Europe. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area (SPA) for this species and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Bird data are provided by SOVON, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology.

The 1% waterbird population thresholds are based on the 7th Edition of the Conservation Status Report (CSR7).

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

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	<input type="checkbox"/>		The site is also designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for this habitat type and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
Embryonic shifting dunes	<input type="checkbox"/>		The site is also designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for this habitat type and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
Humid dune slacks	<input type="checkbox"/>		The site is also designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for this habitat type and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	<input type="checkbox"/>		The site is also designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for this habitat type and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide.	<input type="checkbox"/>		The site is also designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for this habitat type and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.
Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	<input type="checkbox"/>		The site is also designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for this habitat type and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.

[Optional text box to provide further information](#)

The site is also designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) for the habitat types listed above and is part of the Natura 2000 network within the European Union.

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.

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

Other non-wetland habitat

Other non-wetland habitats within the site	Area (ha) if known
Embryonic dunes	

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 (Mild with no dry season, warm summer)

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

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

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

- Entire river basin
- Upper part of river basin
- Middle part of river basin
- Lower part of river basin
- More than one river basin
- Not in river basin
- Coastal

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

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

No available information

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	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Marine water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Marine	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

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

Significant erosion of sediments occurs on the site

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Significant transportation of sediments occurs on or through the site

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Sediment regime unknown

Please provide further information on sediment (optional):

The sandbanks and dune systems are subject to natural processes of sand accretion and erosion by wind and sea. To a certain extend these processes still occur at the site. In addition, substantial artificial suppletion of sediments is periodically carried out to protect and stabilize the coast.

4.4.6 - Water pH

Unknown

Please provide further information on pH (optional):

Probably no change although the pH of the water was not exactly known at the time of completing this database.

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Euhaline/Eusaline (30-40 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Unknown

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Unknown

Please provide further information on dissolved or suspended nutrients (optional):

The dissolved or suspended nutrients in water were not exactly known at the time of completing this database.

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:

Surrounding area has greater urbanisation or development

Surrounding area has higher human population density

Surrounding area has more intensive agricultural use

Surrounding area has significantly different land cover or habitat types

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

The surrounding area is the further North Sea, Wadden Sea and the islands and mainland of the Netherlands.

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
Scientific and educational	Long-term monitoring site	High

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High

Optional text box to provide further information

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 islands beaches into one of the main tourism destinations in the Netherlands.

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

- i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland
- ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland
- iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples
- iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland

<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
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Foundation/non-governmental organization/trust	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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, see <https://www.rijkswaterstaat.nl/over-ons/onze-organisatie/organisatiestructuur/noord-nederland/locatie-leeuwarden>
 (2) Natuurmonumenten (tel. +31 (0)35 655 99 33)
 (3) Staatsbosbeheer
 (4) It Fryske Gea

Provide the name and/or title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

See <https://www.rijkswaterstaat.nl/over-ons/onze-organisatie/organisatiestructuur/noord-nederland/locatie-leeuwarden>

Postal address:

(1) Rijkswaterstaat Noord-Nederland, P.O. Box 2301, 8901 JH, Leeuwarden, tel. +31 (0)58 234 43 44
 (2) Staatsbosbeheer head office: P.O. Box 2, 3800 AA Amersfoort, the Netherlands, tel. +31 (0)30-6926111
 (3) Natuurmonumenten head office: P.O. Box 2166, 3800 CD Amersfoort, the Netherlands, tel. +31 (0)33 47 97 000
 (4) It Fryske Gea, P.O. Box 3, 9244 ZN Beetsterzwaag, tel. +31 (0)512 38 14 48

E-mail address:

info@staatsbosbeheer.nl

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

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

Transportation and service corridors

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

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	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" 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	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" 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
Excess heat, sound, light	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

Periodical sand replenishments to stabilize the coast and secure protection against the sea. This impacts the soil fauna.

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	https://www.natura2000.nl/gebieden/friesland/noordzeekustzone	whole

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
National Ecological Network (NEN)	Noordzeekustzone	https://www.government.nl/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/national-ecological-network-nen	whole

Non-statutory designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Important Bird Area	Wadden Coast	http://datazone.birdlife.org/sitefactsheet/1196	whole
Other non-statutory designation	KBA Wadden Coast	http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/sitefactsheet/1196	whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

- Ia Strict Nature Reserve
- Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection
- II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation
- III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features
- IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention
- V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation
- VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Implemented

Species

Measures	Status
Threatened/rare species management programmes	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Fisheries management/regulation	Implemented
Regulation/management of recreational activities	Implemented
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Implemented
Research	Implemented

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? Yes

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): www.ecomare.nl

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? Yes, there is a plan

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Water quality	Implemented
Plant community	Implemented
Animal community	Implemented
Animal species (please specify)	Implemented
Birds	Implemented

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 site equals the Natura 2000-boundaries. Voor up-to-date information and references about the site see <https://www.natura2000.nl/gebieden/friesland/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
<1 file(s) uploaded>

vi. other published literature
<no file available>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



- (John Janssen, -)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter
<2 file(s) uploaded>

Transboundary Designation letter
<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 2000-08-29