

11-12 October 2017 **Brussels Belgium**



Maritime Spatial Planning Conference on Blue Growth

How to plan for a Sustainable Blue Economy?

#MSP4BG



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Belgian MSP: history

2003-2005: Masterplan North Sea

- Main objectives:
 - Maintain and improve biological diversity (decision rule 1)
 - Create opportunities for offshore renewable energy (decision rule 2)
 - Reduce & control environmental effects of aggregate extraction + promote investment security & transparency (decision rule 3)
 - Secure safety of shipping (decision rule 4)
- zoning plan in 2 phases – authority established – a plan but no process, stakeholder participation was well targeted, informal and often bilateral; no public participation & no SEA, no fisheries, costs were unknown and adaptation ad hoc



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Belgian MSP : history

Towards a full fledged MSP (phase 4)

- 2012 Law on the organization of MSP/ a legal basis for MSP in the Law on the protection of the marine environment – 1999, as amended + further implemented by Royal Decree in 2012 (MSP procedure)

MSP requires :

- Spatial analysis + a long term vision + review every 6 years
 - Economic, social, environmental and safety objectives, with at least:
 - effective objectives;
 - indicators to achieve desirable objectives or changes of behavior.
 - Measures, instruments and actions to implement the plan
- the plan is binding
 - next to the plan, management measures are to be adopted by Royal Decree



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Belgian MSP : lessons learned

- Maritime Spatial Plan 2014-2020 based on:
 - a planning process (+/- 2 years)
 - stakeholder participation;
 - public participation;
 - governance participation;
 - SEA plan and a procedure to adapt the plan (revision)
 - consultation with neighbouring countries (UK, France & the Netherlands)
- * 2017: new IMO routeing measures in force, initiated by Belgium and the Netherlands (transboundary)



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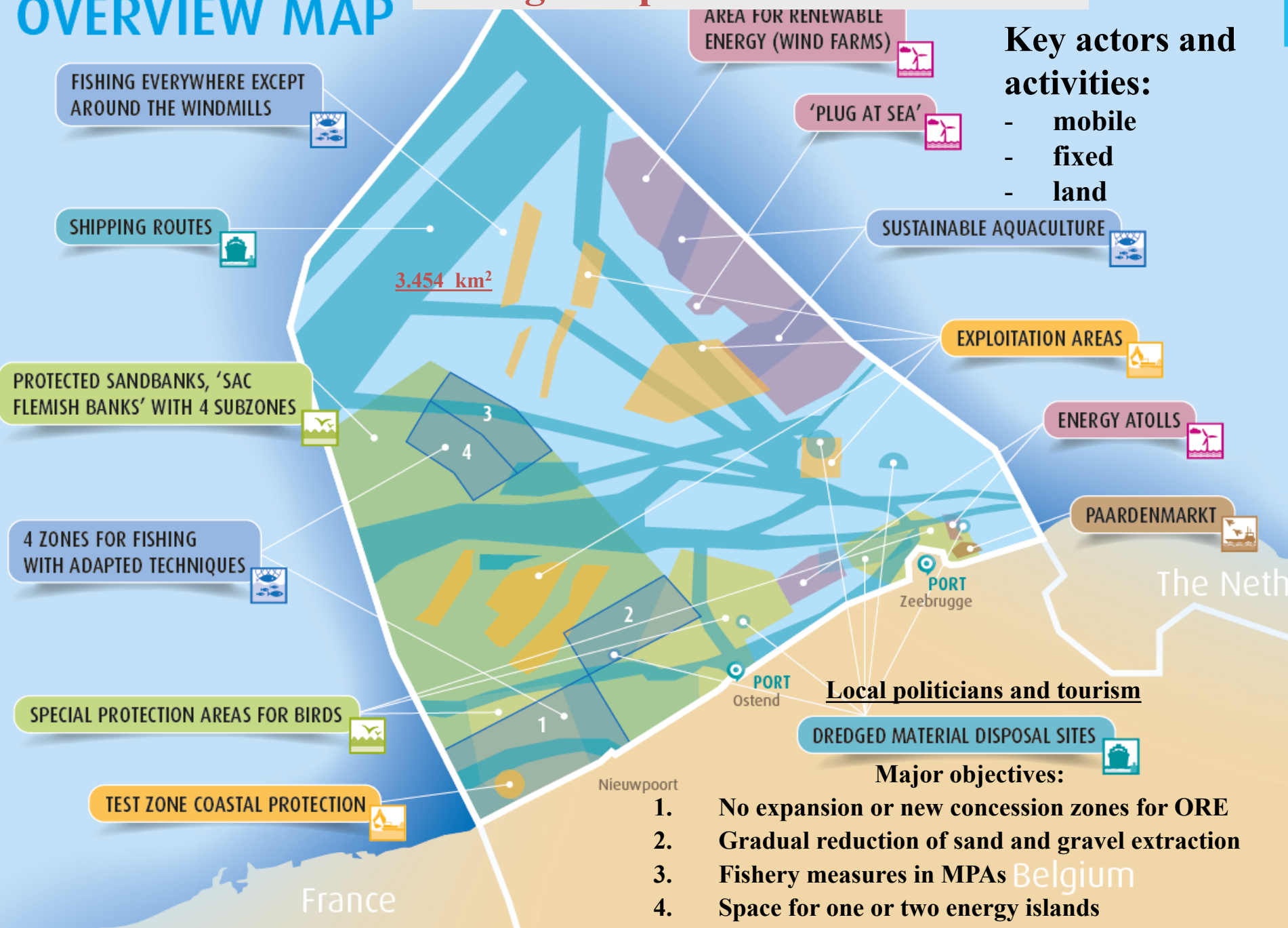
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OVERVIEW MAP

Belgian Spatial Plan 2014-2020

Key actors and activities:

- mobile
- fixed
- land



Belgian MSP vision 2050

2017

- Start revision MSP 2014-2020
- Initiate a process towards a vision 2050

Towards a vision 2050

- Time frame: 1 year; 6 months for WGs (January – June 2017)
- 3 WGs: nature - blue growth - multiple use of space, each with a chair and 2 rapporteurs & 6 transversal experts
- 6 transversal experts: sustainability, R&D, governance, security and safety, land-sea interaction, transboundary
- North Sea Council: chair, chairs and rapporteurs WGs, experts transversal themes, cabinet of the State Secretary North Sea



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Belgian MSP vision 2050

Process in WGs

Each working group used different methods/tools to get the stakeholders involved:

WG Nature

- science based, what is the role of nature (conservation and restoration) in MSP, finding common grounds for the future
- Methods: bottom-up interaction, World-café (post its), round table talks
- participants: 53 interested stakeholder; 4 meetings of half a day with an average of 25-35 participants in each session
- delivered a report adopted by consensus by stakeholders



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Process in WGs

WG Multiple Use

- Methods: bottom-up approach, discussion on principles, mapping exercise, defining trends-threats-opportunities, mainly relying on the input of stakeholders and experts
- 5 meetings of half a day with an average of 30-40 participants in each session
- Adopted the principles of MSP 2050 by unanimity and the remainder of the report (such as T-T-O) by consensus
- Experienced difficulties to stimulate participants to reflect on a vision 2050



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Process in WGs

WG Bleu Growth

- Methods: mainly relied on sectoral presentations by experts (developments; static use; dynamic use; energy and logistics; coastal defence and recreation), open information exchange, discussions, one-line survey to identify perceptions, discuss 35 theses
- 70 interested stakeholders; 5 meetings of half a day with an average of 30-40 participants in each session
- Identified threats and opportunities, developed a blue growth vision based on core principles for a future bleu growth economy and innovation, link with the users and ecosystems



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Process in North Sea Council

5 meetings, North Sea Forum (in July 2017) included:

- Reporting of progress in WG's and discuss ways forward
- North Sea forum: presentation of the reports of the WGs to stakeholders

To do

- Integration of the 3 WG reports into one vision 2050 by the cabinet of the Secretary of State, followed by a review of the chairs and rapporteurs of the WGs + meetings of the Council
- 20 December 2017: presentation of the vision 2050 during a conference for stakeholders and public



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Key learning insights

- Transparency: objectives & process
- Trust
- Early involvement of stakeholders and open information sharing
- Do not expect clear answers to probabilities that may occur towards 2050
- Stimulate stakeholders, politicians, public ... to at least start thinking about the future and MSP

Belgium is a small country, short distances, short communication lines with stakeholders, most of us are no strangers to each other



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