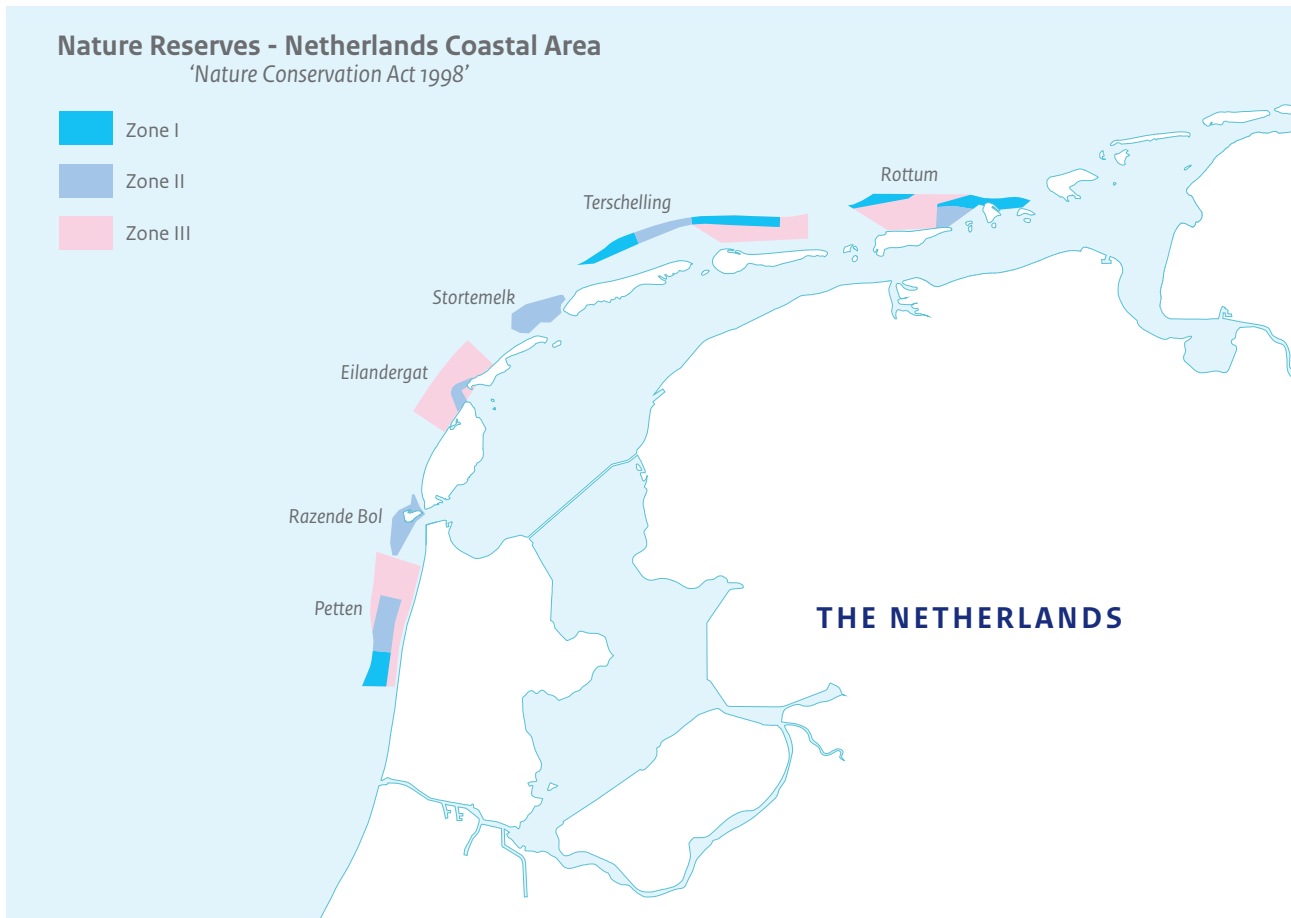


5.4 Nature Reserves

5.4.1 North Sea - Netherlands coastal area

Parts of the Netherlands coastal area are protected by the 'Nature Conservation Act 1998'. For fishery, offshore, through going shipping and air traffic it is not permissible to carry out certain activities in and above specified zones within this coastal area as described.



Zone I:

Access to zone I areas is restricted in the sense that it is not permissible to carry out any activities of any kind in or above these areas, with the exception of the activities listed below:

- a With regard to fishery:
 - Trawl fishing necessary for research in research areas.
- b With regard to laying and maintenance of cables and (pipe)lines:
 - Laying of cables and (pipe)lines and their maintenance, if permitted;
 - From 1 November to 1 April maintenance of cables and (pipe)lines is only permitted in emergencies or in other case of urgent need, to be decided in advance by the competent authority.
- c With regard to shipping:
 - Zone I areas, except the zone I area off Petten, are only accessible between 1 April and 1 November for all vessels, not fishing where fishing gear is stowed away or in a condition that does not allow immediate use;
 - Only the zone I area off Petten: access to all shipping for through passage close to the coast from one area to the other, but not for fishing, so the fishing gear must be stowed in such a way or be in such condition that it cannot be readily used;
 - From 1 November to 1 April access for sand suppletion for transit via a variable corridor, the exact location of which depends on the location of the sand extraction site, and the suppletion site to be reached, and the presence of concentrations of scoters.

The position of the variable corridor is determined in consultation with the competent authority, on the principle that the sailing distance between the sand extraction site and the suppletion site is as short as possible, provided that a distance of 1500 metres is observed in relation to concentrations of scoters;

- Shipping (transit) in the part that overlaps with buoyed sea lanes (or sea lanes still to be buoyed) and the case of [the] zone I area above Rottum, insofar as that part overlaps with the Eems-Dollard treaty area.

d With regard to air traffic:

- Civil aviation flying above 300 metres in accordance with the “Code of conduct - Responsible flying”, and flying above 450 metres as soon as this is a legal requirement.

Zone II

Access to zone II areas is restricted in the sense that seabed fishery and other activities that disturb the sea-bed are prohibited throughout the year, with the exception of the activities listed below:

a With regard to fishery:

- In the zone II area off Petten: fishing with echo sounders until 1 January 2016;
- Shrimp fishery: from 1 January 2015, if permitted by license of the Nature Conservation Act;
- Shrimp fishery in the zone II area in the main channel near Rottum until further notice;
- Pelagic fishery using a vessel other than one which is suitable for sea-bed fishery;
- Handline fishing;
- Fishing with fixed gear;
- Mussel seed capture installations.

b With regard to exploitation of fossile shells:

Exploitation of fossile shells in the zone II areas of Stortemelk and Razende Bol, provided it is authorised under the Nature Conservation Act.

c With regard to laying and maintenance of cables and (pipe)lines:

- Laying of cables and (pipe)lines and their maintenance, if permitted under the Nature Conservation Act;
- From 1 November to 1 April maintenance of cables and (pipe)lines is only permitted in emergencies or in other cases of urgent need, to be decided in advance by the competent authority, and in accordance with any more detailed conditions.

d With regard to shipping:

Transit and anchoring of shipping.

Zone III

Access to zone III areas is restricted in the sense that seabed fishing and other activities that disturb the sea bed are prohibited throughout the year, with the exception of the activities listed below:

a With regard to fishery:

- Fishing according to the best available techniques and fishery practice;
- Shellfish fishery, except spisula fishery in the zone III area above Ameland, provided it is regulated by a licence under the Nature Conservation Act or regulated by the management plan;
- Handline fishing;
- Fixed gear fishery;
- Mussel seed capture installations.

b With regard to exploitation of fossile shells:

Exploitation of fossile shells in the zone III area north of Schiermonnikoog if a licence on the basis of the Nature Conservation Act has been issued.

- c With regard to laying and maintenance of cables and pipelines:
 - ▣ Laying of cables and pipelines and their maintenance, if permitted under the Nature Conservation Act;
 - ▣ From 1 November to 1 April maintenance of cables and pipelines is only permitted in emergencies or due to some other urgent requirement, to be decided in advance by the competent authority and in accordance with any more detailed conditions.
- d With regard to shipping:
Transit and anchoring of shipping.

Notes

- ▣ Year-round access to parts of the Netherlands coastal area outside the zone I, II and III areas, is permitted outside research areas, for all forms of fishery, provided a licence has been granted under the Nature Conservation Act, or the relevant type of fishery is included in a management plan, on the understanding that trawl fishing with tickler chains will only be permitted until 1 January 2016 at the latest;
- ▣ The year-round access restrictions do not apply to access to perform government duties, whether or not assisted by government vessels or by contract to the government, where necessary for management and maintenance, marking, monitoring, rescue, inspection, supervision, investigation or defence.

5.4.2

Netherlands - Tidal rivers area and Waddenzee

Large parts of the tidal rivers area and Waddenzee, comprising both land and water, are protected by the 'Nature Conservation Act 1998'. These nature reserves are of great ecological value and natural beauty and are of special importance to birds. Birds need a quiet environment, therefore it is forbidden to disturb, catch or kill animals. No plants or flowers may be picked, cut out or transported. In general: it is forbidden to damage nature in any way. Characteristic for the nature reserves is the openness. By entering the reserves the natural inhabitants are liable to disturbances. One may enter a nature reserve, but one should act with caution as to disturb nature as little as possible.