



Notification concerning the Additional Draft North Sea Programme 2022 – 2027

You can submit your views on the Additional Draft North Sea Programme 2022 – 2027 from Tuesday 9 November to Monday 20 December 2021. You can also submit your views on the accompanying additional environmental impact assessment and the appropriate assessment. Instructions for doing so are set out below.

The Additional Draft North Sea Programme 2022 – 2027 designates wind farm zones in the North Sea in the context of the current climate targets for 2030 and the EU's ambition to tighten them, with a view to reducing CO₂ emissions to 55% of 1990 levels by 2030.

The Additional Draft North Sea Programme 2022 – 2027 replaces chapter 9 of the Draft North Sea Programme 2022 – 2027, which was available for inspection from March to September 2021 as an appendix to the Draft National Water Programme 2022 – 2027. While the Draft North Sea Programme determined the search areas for offshore wind energy, the Additional Draft North Sea Programme designates some of these search areas as offshore wind farm zones.

After this period for submitting views has ended, the Additional Draft North Sea Programme 2022 – 2027 will be adopted in March 2022 as part of the North Sea Programme 2022 – 2027, which is appended to the National Water Programme 2022 – 2027. The North Sea Programme will be adopted by the Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management, the Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, in agreement with the State Secretary for Economic Affairs and Climate Policy.

Offshore wind energy

Space in the North Sea is scarce. Offshore wind energy is expected to expand substantially in the coming decades, new routes are planned for shipping, new nature conservation areas will be designated and sufficient space must remain available for defence, fisheries and other users of the North Sea. All this must remain within the ecological capacity of the North Sea. This means that the designation of wind farm zones is based on an integrated assessment that strikes a balance with other users.

Once certain areas have been reserved for this purpose, further investigations will be conducted to decide whether wind farms should be developed there and, if so, where. This involves carrying out ecological and other surveys to determine the best locations for wind farms and what mitigating or other measures need to be taken.

The environmental impact of the Additional Draft North Sea Programme 2022 – 2027 is detailed in the additional environmental impact assessment report (strategic environmental assessment), which includes an appropriate assessment. You can submit your views on the Additional Draft North Sea Programme 2022 – 2027 and the strategic environmental assessment, including the appropriate assessment.



FOLLOW-UP

After the period for collecting views starts, the ministries involved will ask the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment to issue an advisory opinion on the strategic environmental assessment and appropriate assessment.

When the period for collecting views has ended, the views submitted and the advice of the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment will be taken into account when the ministers concerned draw up the final North Sea Programme 2022 – 2027.

Everyone who submits their views will receive feedback on how their views have been used. The government's responses to the views submitted will be collated in a memorandum of response, which will be published at the end of March 2022 on: www.platformparticipatie.nl/nationaalwaterprogramma, along with the final National Water Programme 2022 – 2027, to which the North Sea Programme 2022 – 2027 is appended.

It is not possible to lodge an objection against the final programme or apply to the courts for review.



READ THE DOCUMENTS

All documents will be available at: www.platformparticipatie.nl/programmanoordzee from 9 November 2021. From that date until Monday 20 December 2021, you can also inspect the paper documents during normal opening hours at:

- **Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management**, Rijnstraat 8, The Hague, tel. +31 (0)70 456 89 99 (by appointment only).

- **Rijkswaterstaat**, Griffioenlaan 2, Utrecht, tel. +31 (0)88 797 11 11.

The documents will also be available for public inspection at the offices of every province in the Netherlands. The addresses of all locations where the documents can be inspected are listed on: www.platformparticipatie.nl/programmanoordzee.

NB: You may need to make an appointment to inspect the documents in person and opening hours may be limited due to COVID-19-related measures. It is therefore a good idea to telephone the location before you go.

YOUR VIEWS ARE WELCOME

You can submit your views from Tuesday 9 November 2021, in three ways. You will be sent confirmation of receipt of your submission.



ONLINE

This is the preferred option. Go to PostbusProgrammaNoordzee@minienw.nl.



IN PERSON

Call +31 (0)70 456 96 07 during office hours to make an appointment.



BY POST

Participation Directorate
Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management
attn. Additional Draft North Sea Programme 2022 – 2027
Postbus 20901
2500 EX The Hague

DIGITAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION POINTS

Digital government information points are for people who find it difficult to use online services and have questions about their dealings with the government. The information points are located at public libraries and are therefore readily accessible. They can help you with questions about government websites, such as how to consult online documents relating to this project.

Ask at your local library what the options are. For more information go to: www.informatiepuntdigitaleoverheid.nl.



INFORMATION

More information:

www.platformparticipatie.nl/programmanoordzee and www.noordzeeloket.nl.

Questions regarding the project? Send an email to: PostbusProgrammaNoordzee@minienw.nl.

Questions regarding the procedure? Call the Participation Directorate at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management on +31 (0)70 456 96 07.