

Coordination of activities in the national interest

Activity of national interest	Precondition
Shipping	<p>In traffic separation schemes, deep-water routes, anchorages, precautionary areas and clearways, shipping has priority over other forms of use.</p> <p>For safety reasons, mining installations and other permanent individual structures are not permitted within shipping routes or within a 500-metre radius of these shipping routes.</p>
Oil and gas extraction	<p>The greatest possible use is made of the potential presented by oil and gas supplies, including the 'small fields'.</p> <p>Shipping or other forms of use are not permitted within a 500-metre safety zone around the mining platform.</p> <p>For mining platforms with a helipad, the starting point is an obstacle-free zone of 5 NM round the platform so as to guarantee safe helicopter traffic to and from the platform in all weather conditions. In specific situations, the possibility of a customised solution may be looked into by applying the design process: distance between mining sites and wind farms.</p> <p>In principle, new pipelines should use preferred routes when transecting the sand extraction zone.</p>
CO₂ storage	<p>The greatest possible use is made of depleted oil and gas fields and of aquifers (suitable for CO₂ storage).</p> <p>Shipping or other forms of use are not permitted within a 500-metre safety zone around a platform equipped for CO₂ storage.</p> <p>In principle, new pipelines should use preferred routes when transecting the sand extraction zone.</p>
Generating renewable (wind) energy	<p>The use of the North Sea for generating renewable (wind) energy takes precedence over other forms of use.</p> <p>In the designated wind energy areas efforts are made to harmonise things in timely fashion between the use (or future use) of the area for the purposes of wind energy on the one hand and oil and gas extraction (or future oil and gas extraction) on the other. Harmonisation between wind energy and oil and gas extraction is customised work. A multiple use harmonisation clause has already been incorporated into the round 2 permits for wind farms.</p> <p>When allocating plots (round 3) the design process: distance between mining sites and wind farms applies. Coordination with the fellow user could result in the wind farm's layout being changed. Shipping is not permitted in a wind farm nor within a 500-metre safety zone round the wind farm. The intention is to open up operational wind farms subject to conditions.</p> <p>When designating wind energy areas the design criterion: distance between shipping routes and wind farms applies.</p> <p>For the distance required between cables and offshore wind farms for safety and maintenance, a maintenance zone of 500 metres is required for electricity cables and 750 metres for telecommunications cables.</p> <p>In principle, new cables should use preferred routes when transecting the sand extraction zone.</p>
Sand extraction	<p>Sand extraction for the purposes of coastal defences and filling is given priority within the reservation zone between the continuous NAP -20 m isobath and the boundary of the 12-mile zone.</p> <p>In principle, new cables and pipelines should use preferred routes when transecting the sand extraction zone.</p> <p>In the case of 'stacking' beyond the 12-mile zone, other activities in the national interest take precedence over sand extraction.</p> <p>No sand extraction is permitted landward of the continuous NAP -20m isobath. In principle, exceptions to this rule are extraction from fairways, the construction of trans-shipment depots, extraction activities where removal of surface minerals from the extraction site is to the benefit of coastal protection, and restoring the seabed of former dumping grounds to their original condition.</p>
Defence	<p>Multiple use is permitted in defence areas to the extent that this is compatible with the military exercises there. The Minister for Defence will decide in the first instance.</p>