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Deep dive into MSP good practice

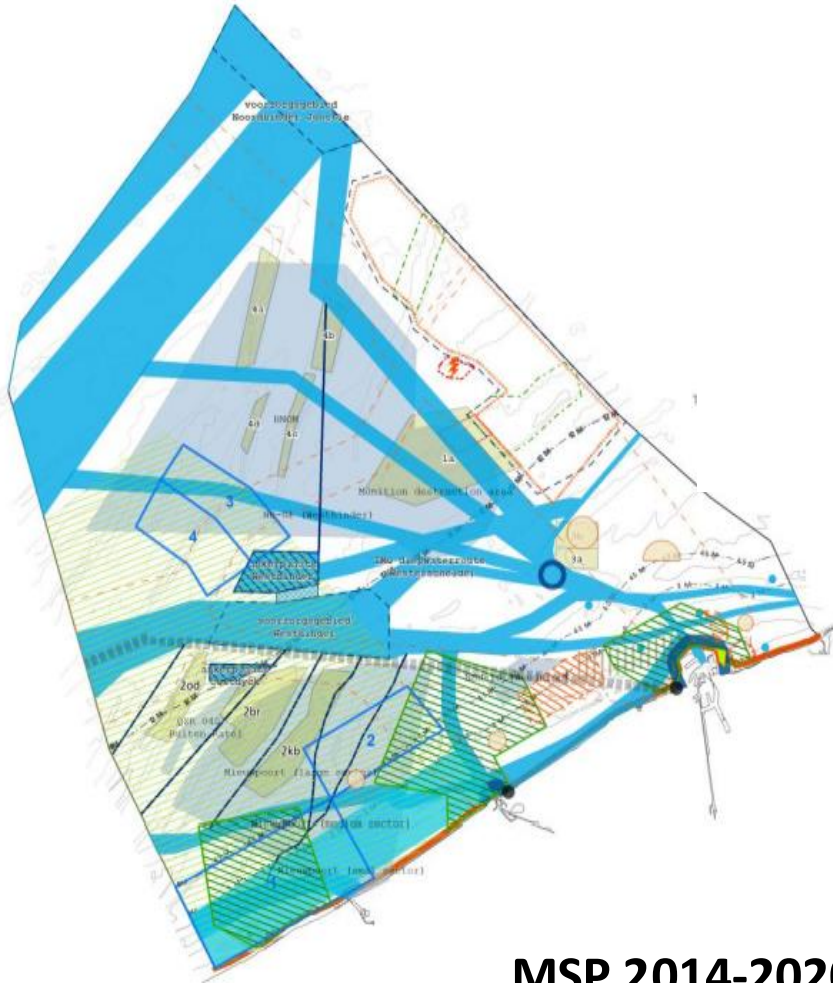


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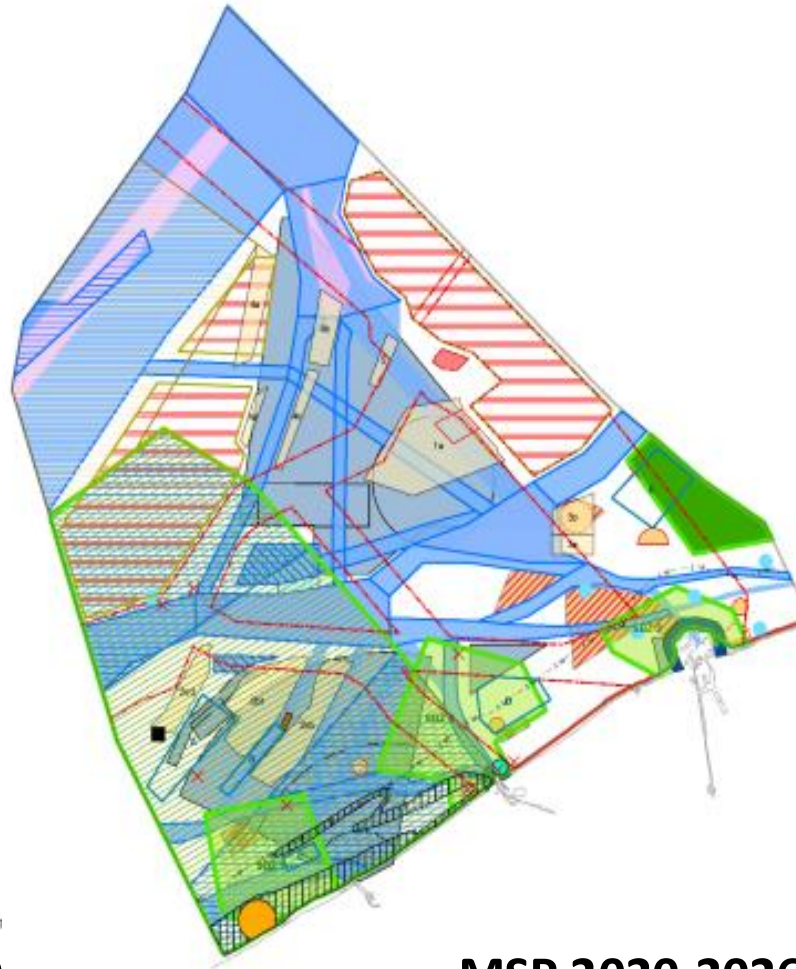


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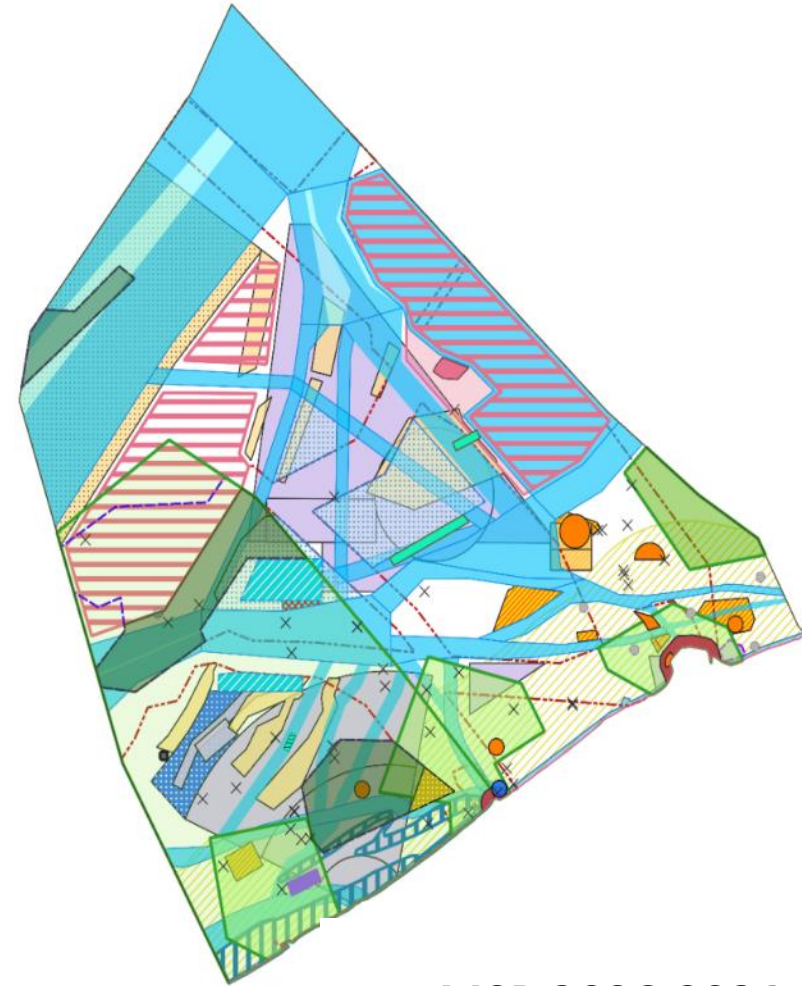
Belgian MSP



MSP 2014-2020



MSP 2020-2026



MSP 2026-2034

Stakeholder involvement?



Close cooperation with all those involved: NGOs, business, government bodies, interest groups, citizens

2 rounds of consultations

Environmental aspect → EIA

Sustainability aspect → SEA

WWF

- 1 of 4 environmental NGOs involved
- 4Sea coalition since 2019



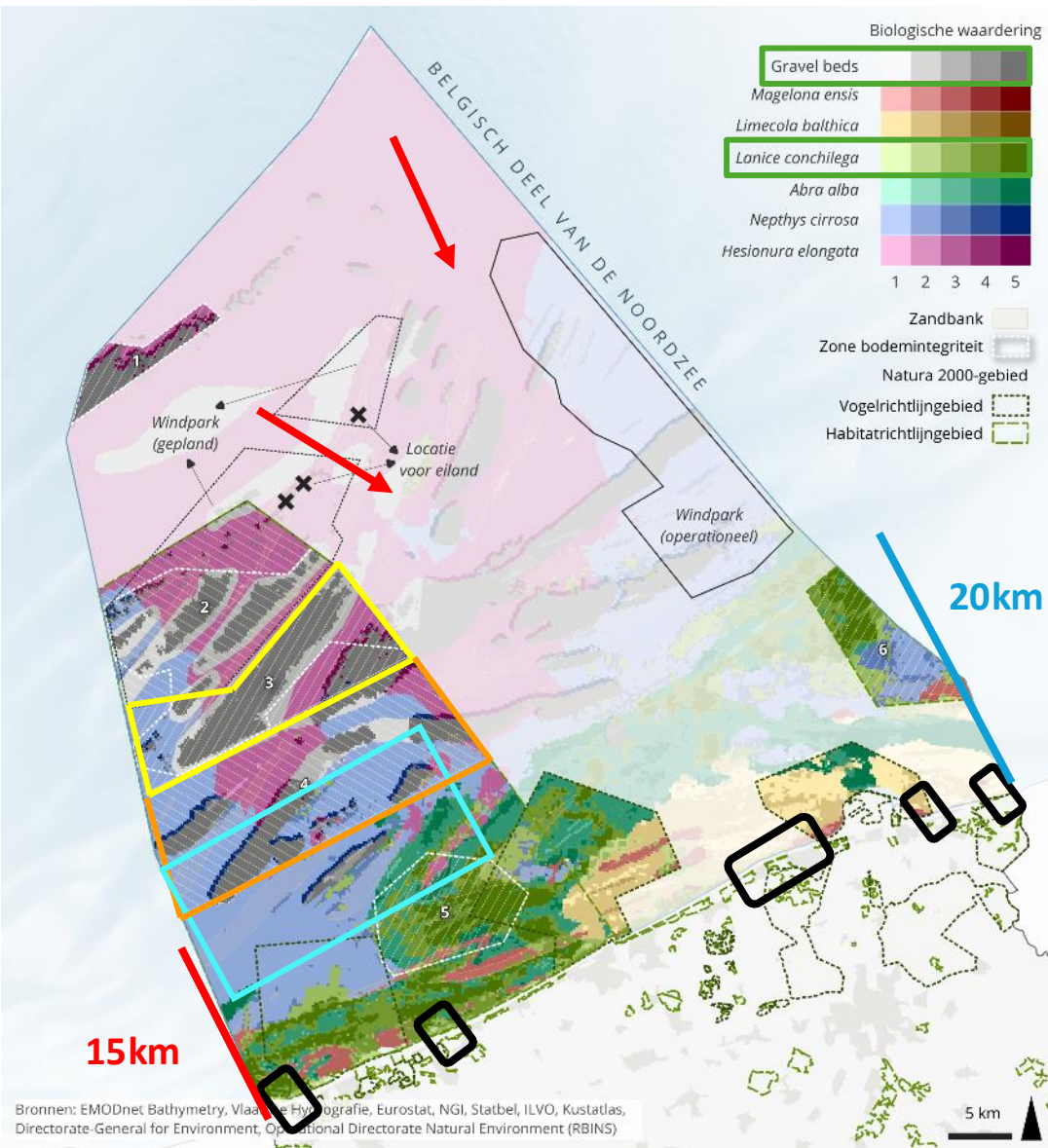
GREENPEACE



[4Sea website](#)
[4Sea LinkedIn](#)



4Sea's integrated nature & energy plan for BPNS



Nature

- **Marine reserve** = zone 3 (+ zone 4)
- Safeguard **bird migration routes** in coastal zone (15-20 km) and to central part of the Belgian part of the North Sea (BPNS; red arrows)
- **Marine protected area for birds** (blue zone) to compensate for loss of suitable habitat due to offshore energy
- **Zones with coastal connectivity** (black zones) at Westhoek, at Lombardsijde, between Wenduine and Zeebrugge, at Baai van Heist and at Zwin
- More protection of cultural heritage, also for natural value
- More species protection: spawning/breeding/resting/foraging areas and migration routes

Energy

- As soon as possible: realise **delineated offshore energy zones in the second marine spatial plan (2020-2023: Eastern zone and Princess Elisabeth zone)** in a nature-inclusive and circular way + ensure connection on land and interconnections
- Further cooperation on offshore energy at European level or bilaterally with other countries is crucial, given Belgium's scarce space on land and at sea

Activities at sea

- Spatial planning of activities minimises impact on biodiversity:
 - Safeguard marine reserve
 - Safeguarding bird migration routes in coastal zone and to central part of BPNS
 - Safeguard zones for seabed integrity and activate seabed protection measures
 - Zones for offshore wind in Natura 2000, only with focus on natural values between turbines, where no other multifunctional use of space is allowed

Space for birds

Dilemma while developing MSP II

- Space to achieve nature goals = MPAs
- Space to achieve climate goals = offshore energy

⇒ NGOs were expected to choose...

⇒ **Princess Elisabeth zone** designated **in** and right next to Natura 2000 area “Vlaamse Banken” (HD)



Not upholding commitments for nature

+ not cooperating across borders



= **horse shoe** shape of offshore wind turbines in and around the Belgian part of the North Sea

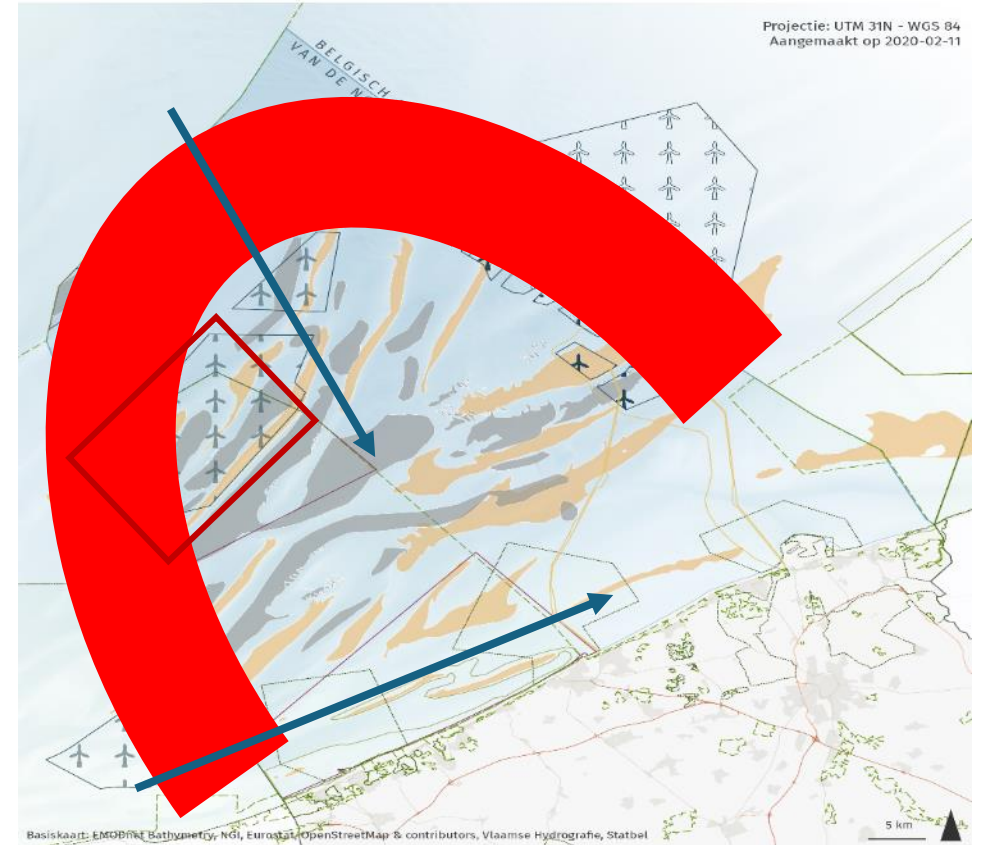
= hindering **migratory species**: birds, marine mammals, fish and bats

→ **MSP III: no third offshore energy zone + ‘six-mile zone’ off the coast, where no additional fixed structures may be developed**

Overzicht Belgisch deel van de Noordzee



Projectie: UTM 31N - WGS 84
Aangemaakt op 2020-02-11



Legende

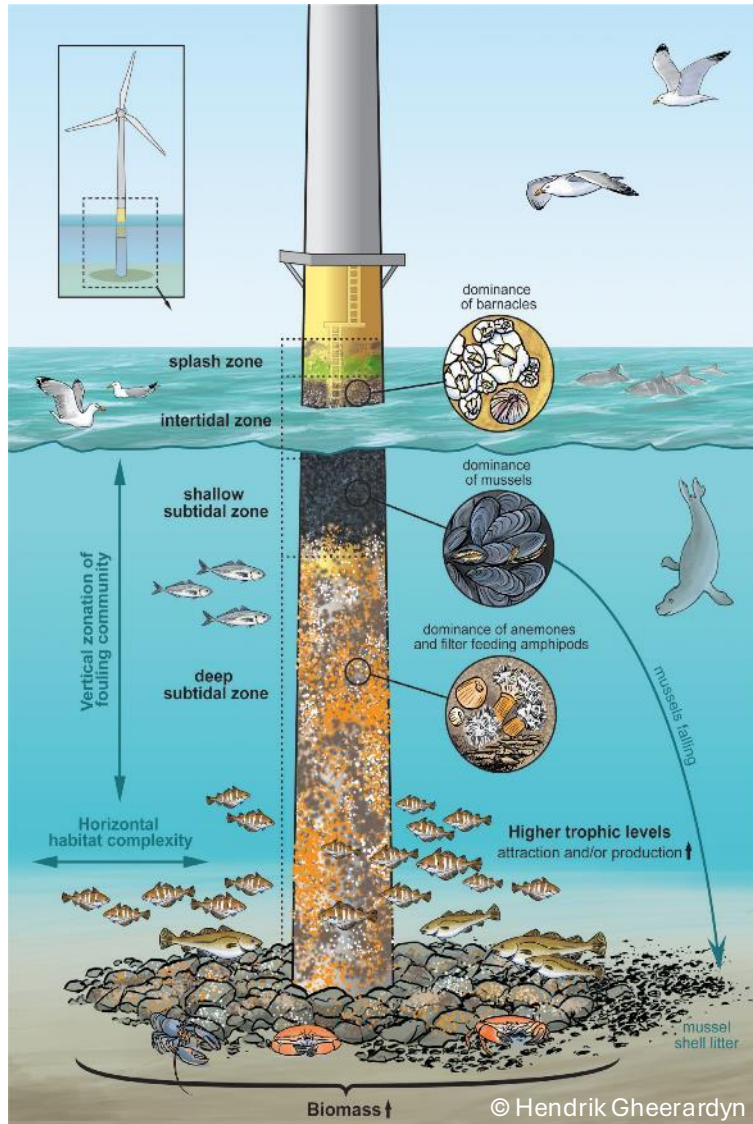
- Exportkabel
- Zoekzone bodemintegriteit
- Windmolenpark
 - Operationeel
 - In constructie
 - Gepland

- Zandbank
- Grindbed
- Ramsargebied
- Natura 2000-gebied
 - Vogelrichtlijngebied
 - Habitatrichtlijngebied

Bronnen

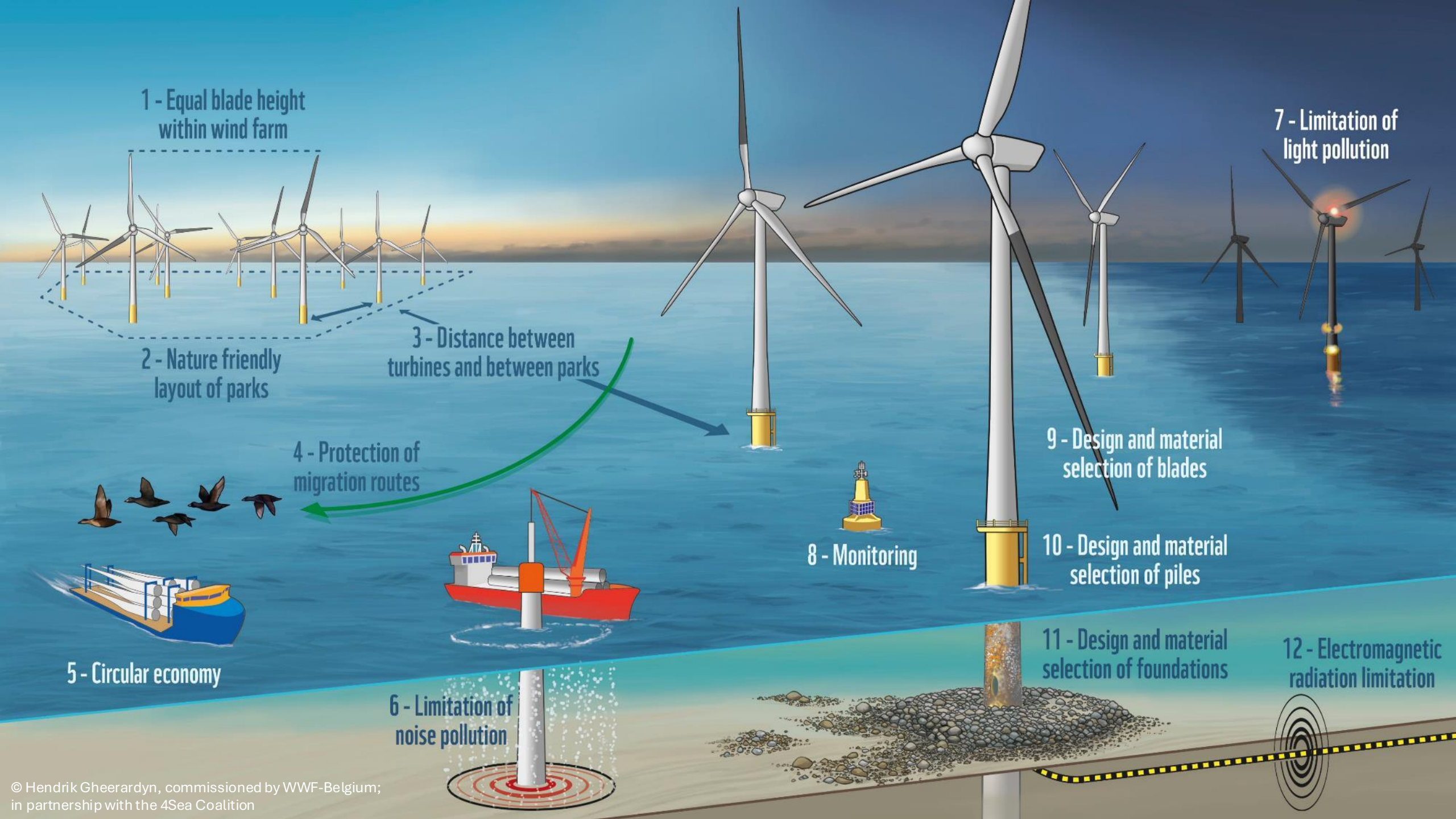
Exportkabels, windmolenparken (MSP 2014-2020): Operational Directorate Natural Environment (RBINS)
Windmolenparken (Europa): EMODnet Human Activities
Windmolenparken (MSP 2020-2026), zoekzone bodemintegriteit: Koninklijk Besluit van 22 mei 2019 tot vaststelling van het marien ruimtelijk plan voor de periode van 2020 tot 2026 in de Belgische zeegebieden
Zandbanken: Kustatlas
Grindbedden: Marebas
Ramsar: Geopunt, Nationaal Georegister, MUMM
Natura 2000-gebied: Directorate-General for Environment [DG ENV]

Nature inclusive offshore energy



Progress?

- ✓ 1. Letter of intent 4Sea & Belgian Offshore Platform & SeaCoop
- ✓ 2. Tender criteria for nature and environment → **not in PEZ1**
- ✓ 3. Obligation for nature-inclusive and circular design in environmental permit
- ✓ 4. Design with NID elements
- ✓ 5. Offshore structures with NID elements
- ✓ 6. Co-creation trajectory decommissioning in Belgian part of the North Sea
- ✓ 7. Belgian action plan: decommissioning with respect for nature and environment



1 - Equal blade height
within wind farm

7 - Limitation of
light pollution

2 - Nature friendly
layout of parks

3 - Distance between
turbines and between parks

4 - Protection of
migration routes

9 - Design and material
selection of blades

10 - Design and material
selection of piles

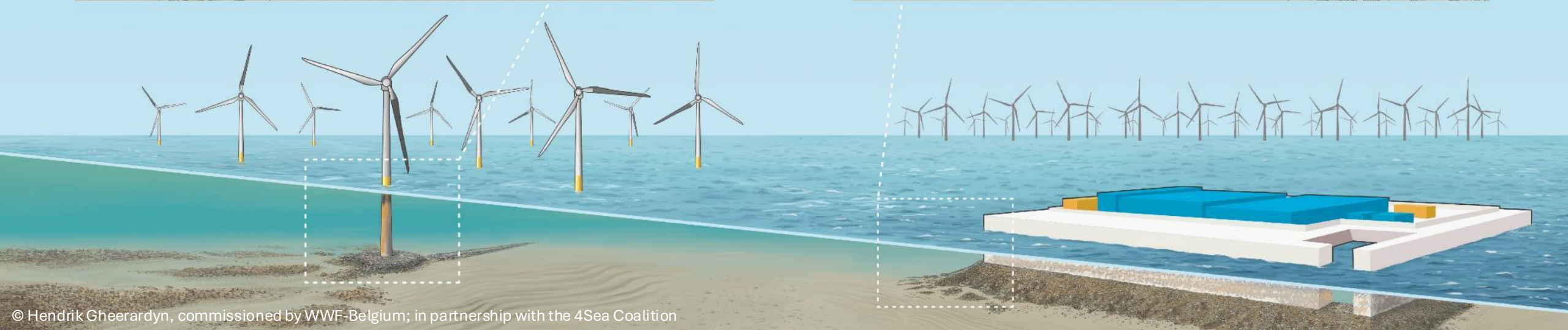
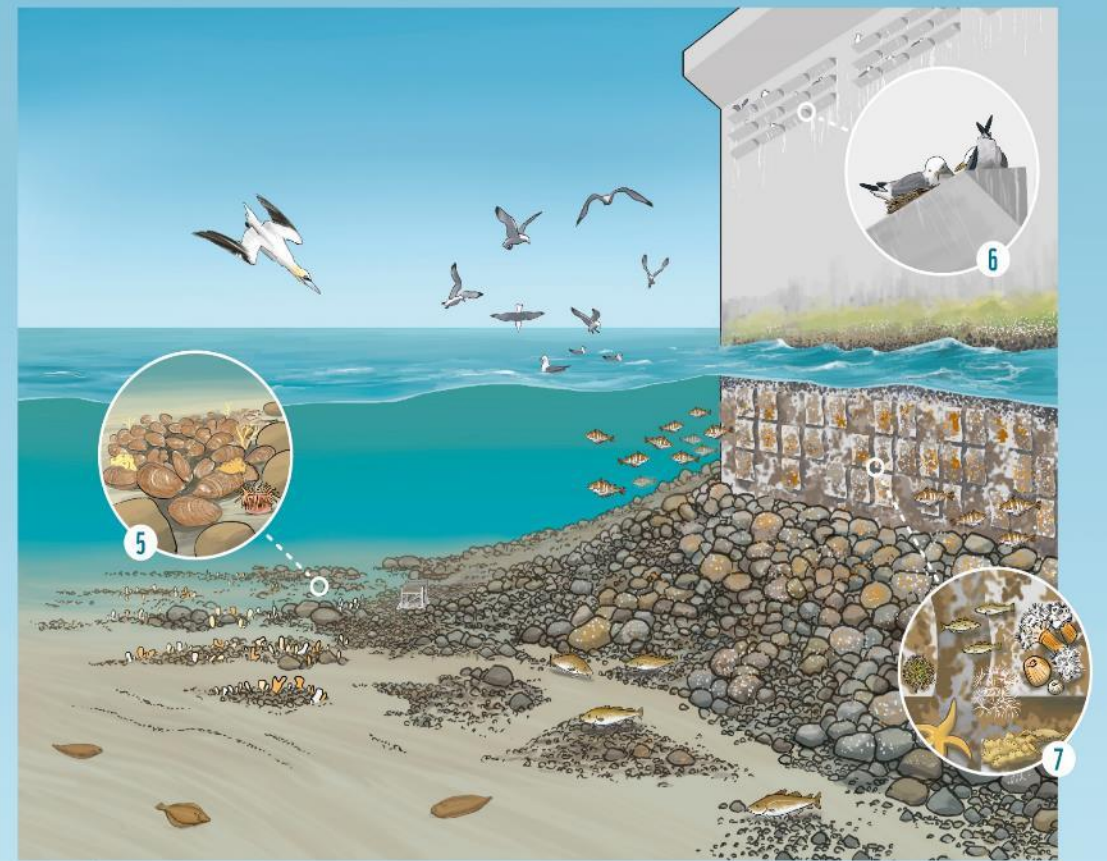
8 - Monitoring

5 - Circular economy

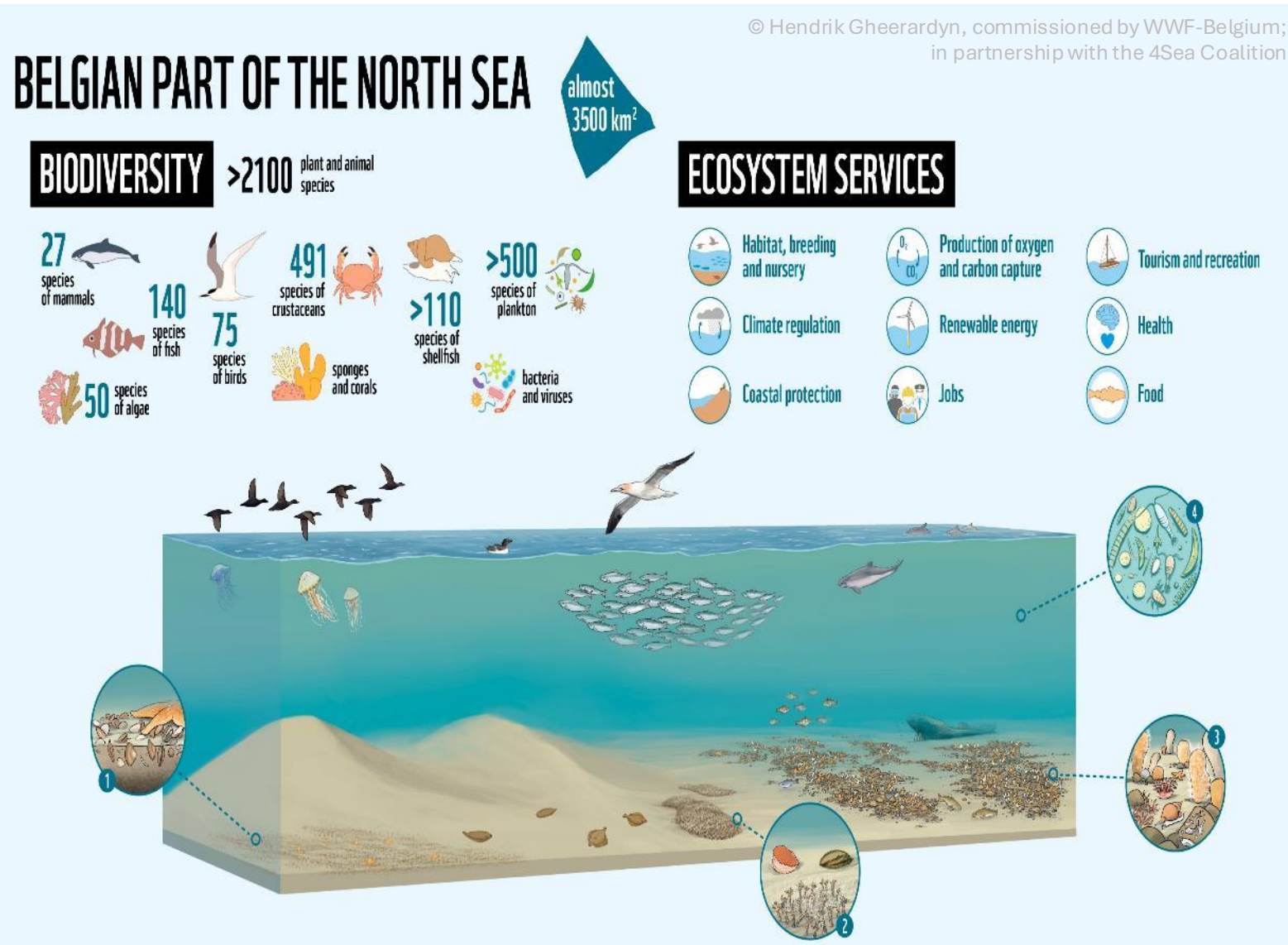
6 - Limitation of
noise pollution

11 - Design and material
selection of foundations

12 - Electromagnetic
radiation limitation



Marine reserves and restoration



Progress?

- ✓ 1. Sound revision and implementation of Law Marine Environment → **follow-up Royal Decrees**
- ✓ 2. Implementation of zones for bottom integrity (through Common Fishery Policy Article 11) → **expected 2027**
- ✓ 3. Marine reserve in Belgian marine spatial plan III (March 2026-March 2034) → **into force on 20 March 2026 with 3 marine reserves**
- ✓ 4. Marine nature restoration plan (gravel beds, shellfish reefs, *Lanice conchilega* aggregations) → **Belgian nature restoration plan due by 1 January 2027**
- ✓ 5. Project for active nature restoration → **several pilot projects started: Belreefs, EuroReefs, Reefcovery, Blue Connect + others are planned**

Way forward for 4Sea

- Large-scale nature restoration at sea and at the coast
 - **@sea:** start in MPAs & nature reserves
 - Focus on gravel beds, shellfish reefs, *Lanice conchilega* aggregations
 - **@coast:** connect protected areas on land and at sea = coastal protected areas
 - Focus on Westhoek, Lombardsijde, coastal strip between Wenduine and Zeebrugge, Baai van Heist, Zwin
- Finance nature restoration & nature-inclusive design
- Make working with nature the norm at sea
 - Non-price criteria on nature, circularity and citizen participation in tenders and environmental permits of all offshore structures
 - Life cycle analysis of offshore structures – circularity
 - Legal status of nature in offshore wind farms and nature-inclusive design
- Coastal connectivity as preferred approach in all coastal visions and strategies



Thank you for your attention

