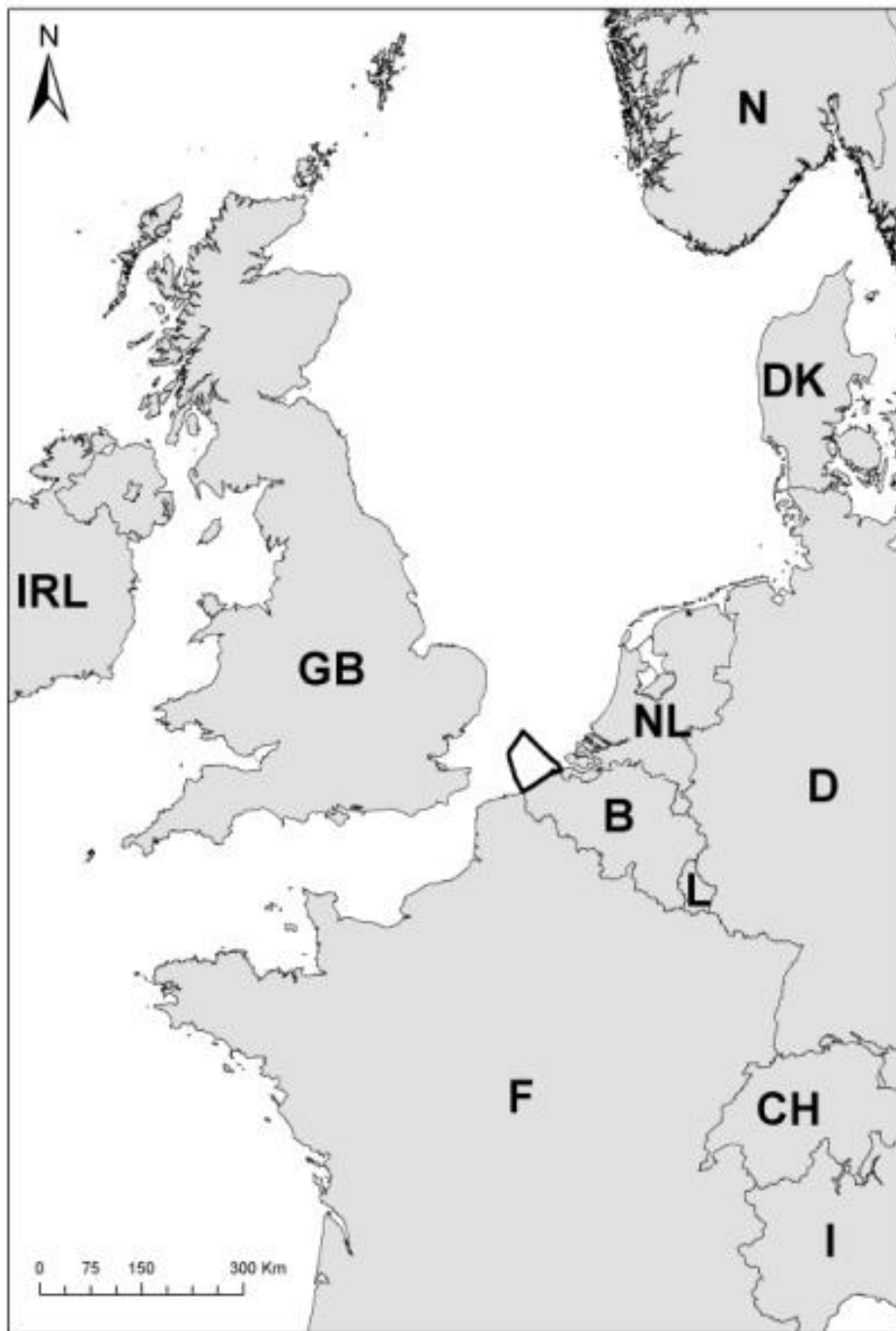


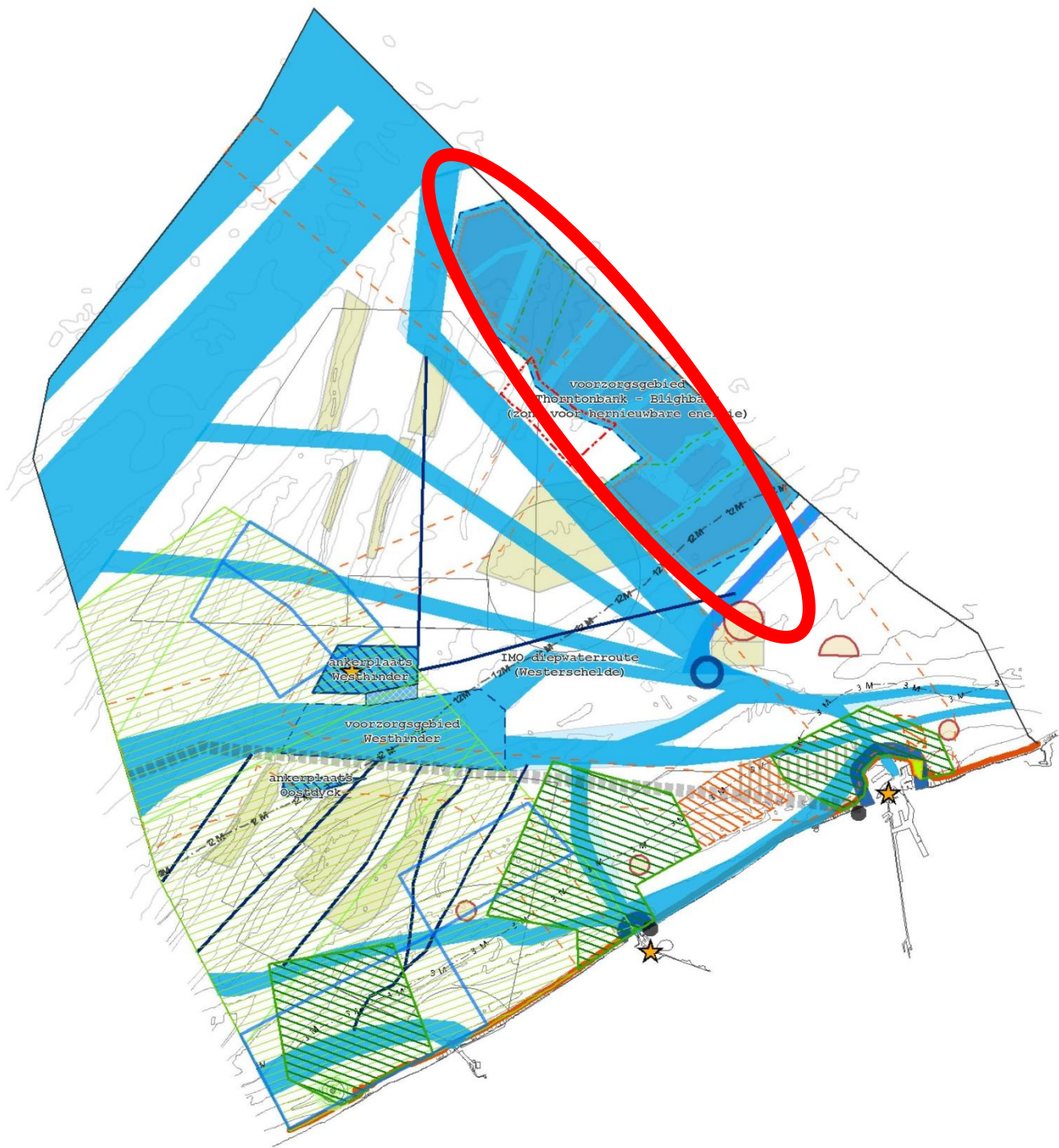
Offshore wind mill farms in the Belgian part of the North Sea



Johan Vande Lanotte, Minister of North Sea
26 November 2013, Brussels

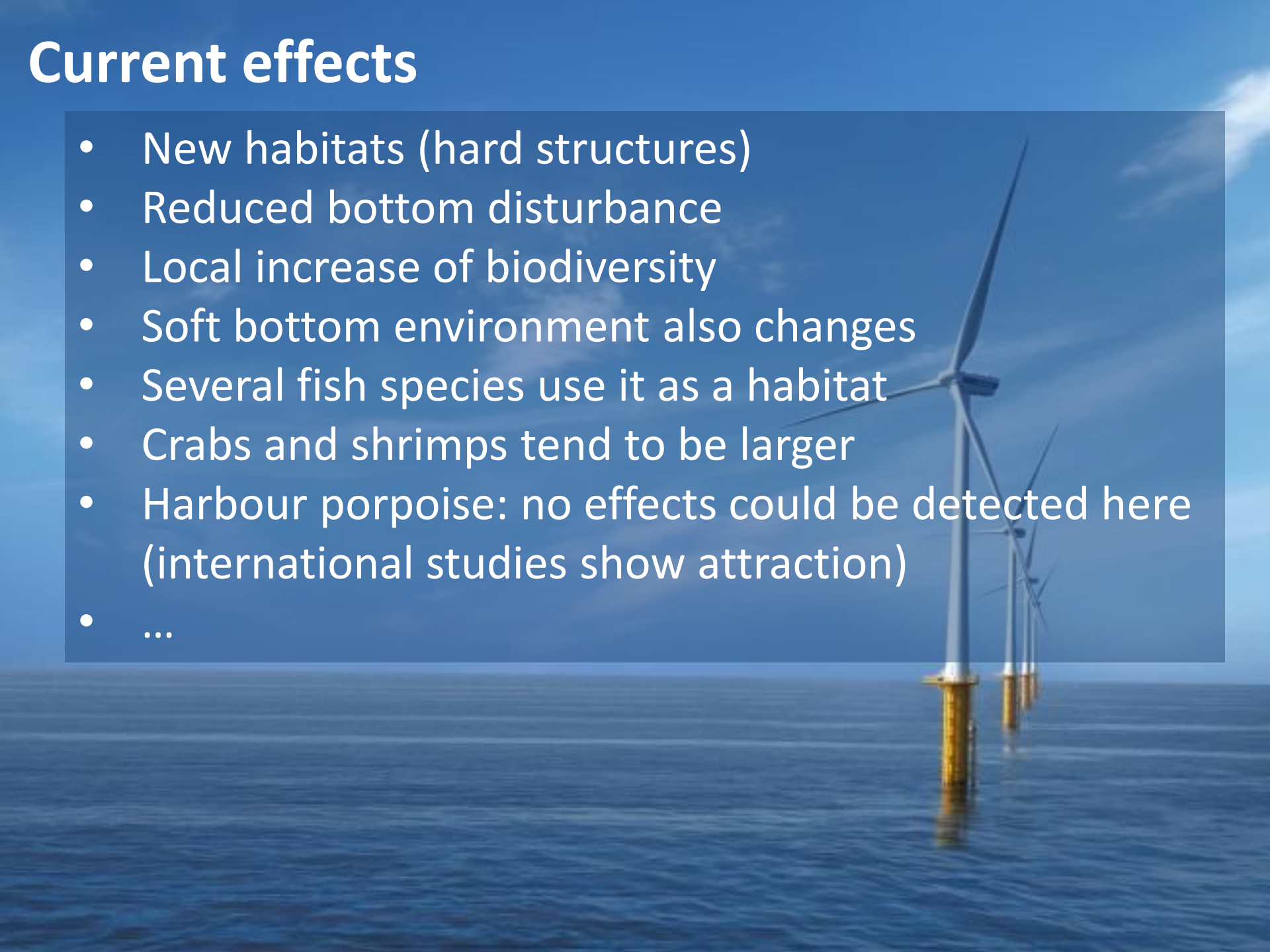






Current effects

- New habitats (hard structures)
- Reduced bottom disturbance
- Local increase of biodiversity
- Soft bottom environment also changes
- Several fish species use it as a habitat
- Crabs and shrimps tend to be larger
- Harbour porpoise: no effects could be detected here (international studies show attraction)
- ...



“artificial”
= also opportunity



Can we enhance the positive ‘side effects?’

Wind farm areas as ideal experimental zone to test offensive policy measures



Actieplan ZEEHOND

van defensief naar offensief
milieubeleid in de Noordzee

- **Defensive policy:** certain activities are managed to restore or conserve a specific nature value
- **Offensive policy:** is complementary to the defensive policy; it is comparable to what is done in terrestrial environments: specific installations or adaptations are used to enhance the nature value

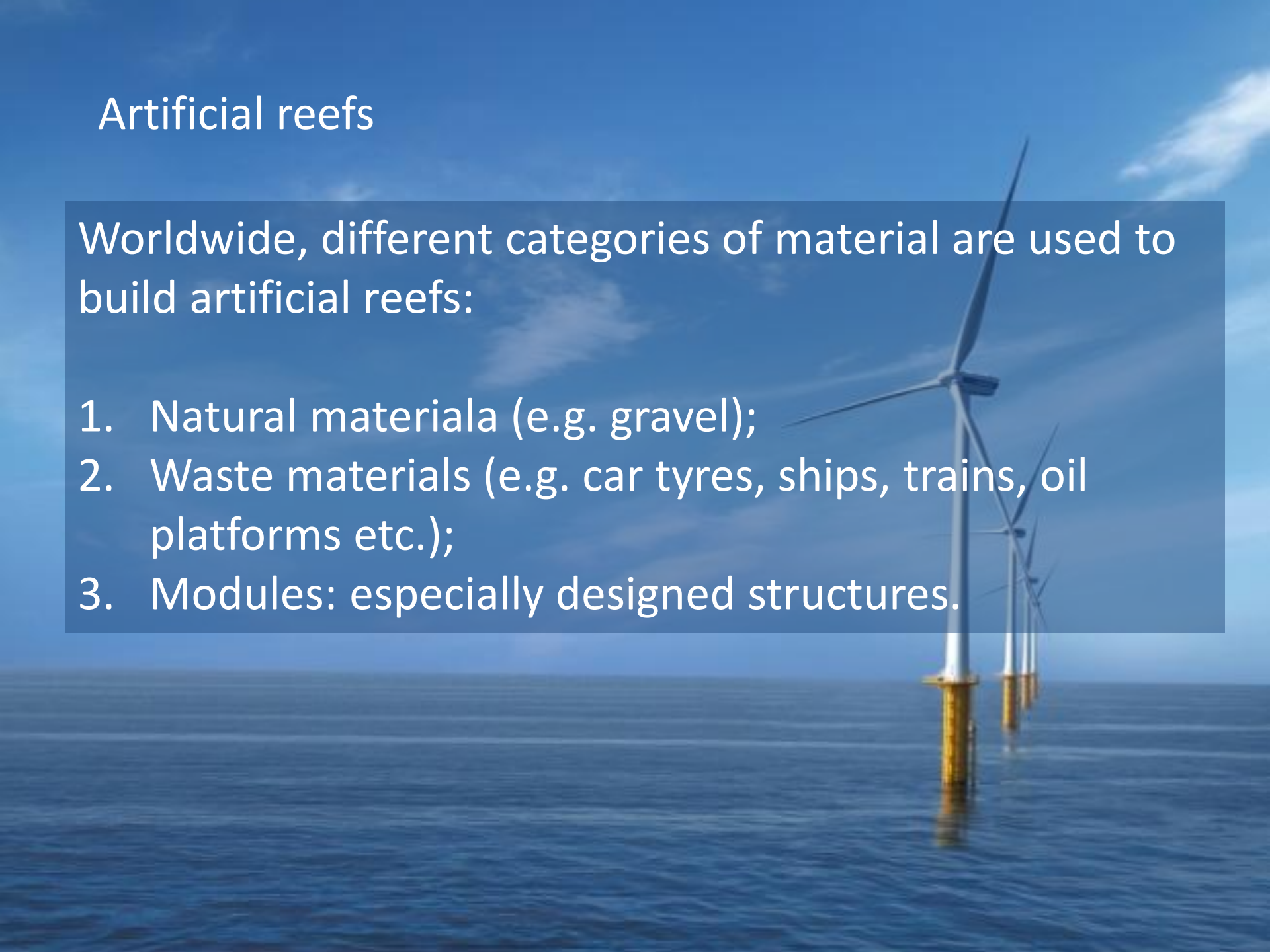
Artificial reefs



Artificial reefs

Worldwide, different categories of material are used to build artificial reefs:

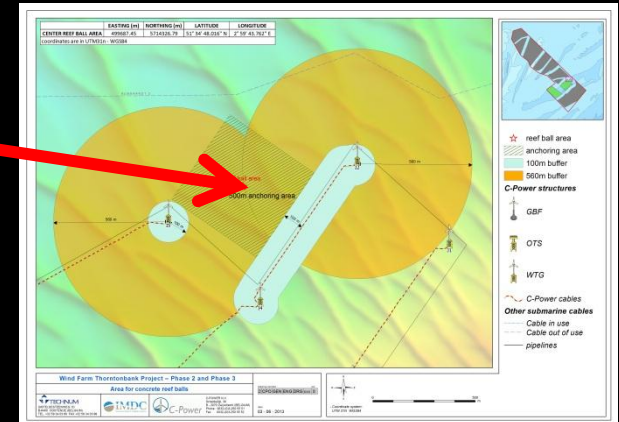
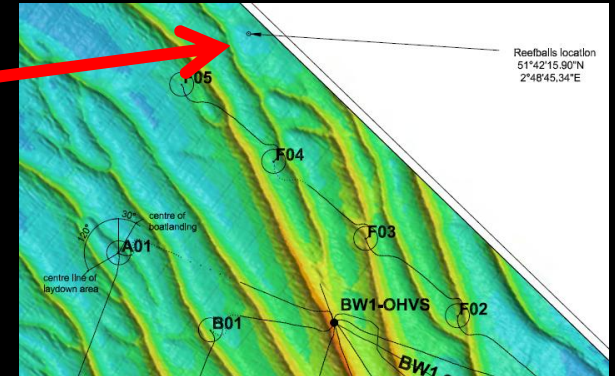
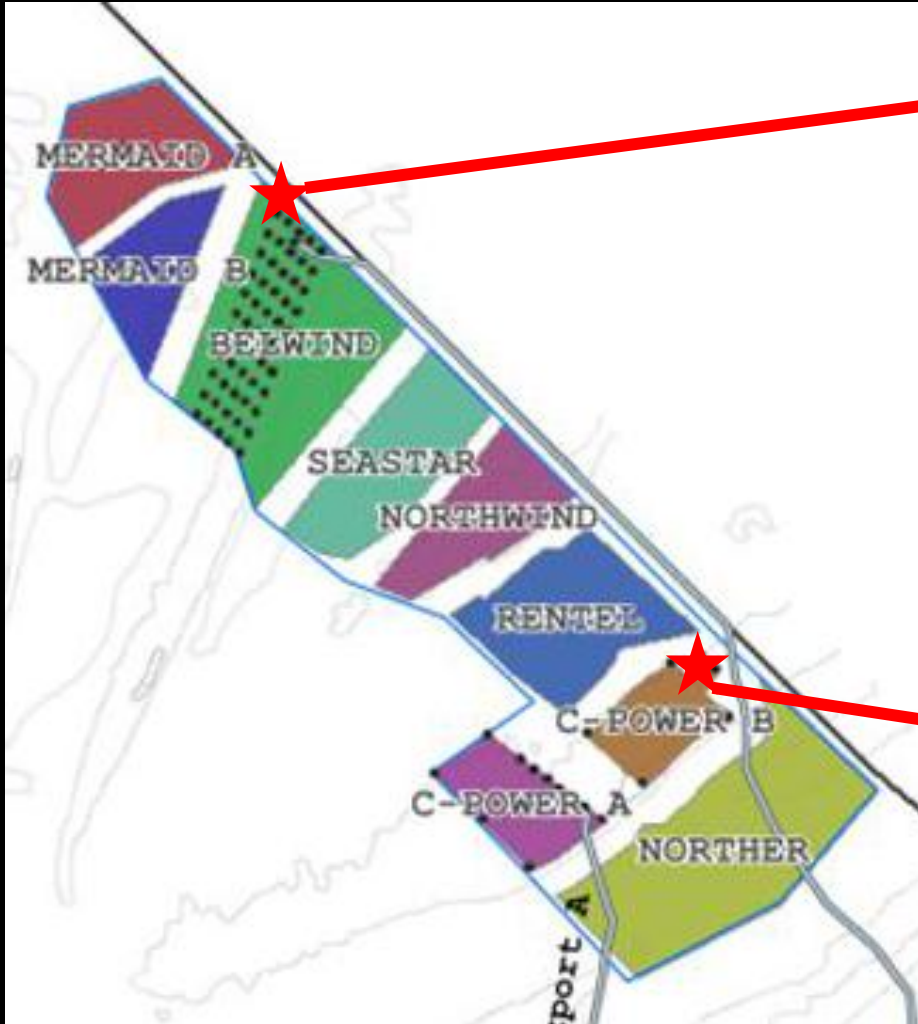
1. Natural materials (e.g. gravel);
2. Waste materials (e.g. car tyres, ships, trains, oil platforms etc.);
3. Modules: especially designed structures.







The wind mill farms C-Power en Belwind support the action:



‘adding artificial structures’
A first experimental action within the
zone for renewable energy





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Scientific follow up

- The artificial reefs are to be considered as an experiment based on the findings on the effects of the wind mills itself;
- Several scientific institutes are involved in the follow up (which is embedded in the wind mill monitoring programme);
- The evaluation of the effects aims at developing an active biodiversity policy at sea





