

June 1, 2017

New shipping routes along the Belgian – Dutch North sea coast

On the 1 June 2017 at 00:00 UTC (02:00 local time), new shipping routes will come into force on the Belgian and Dutch (south) part of the North sea. These new routes will increase the safety of shipping and limit the risk of environmental pollution. In addition ports will become safer and more accessible and the space in the North Sea will be used as efficiently as possible.



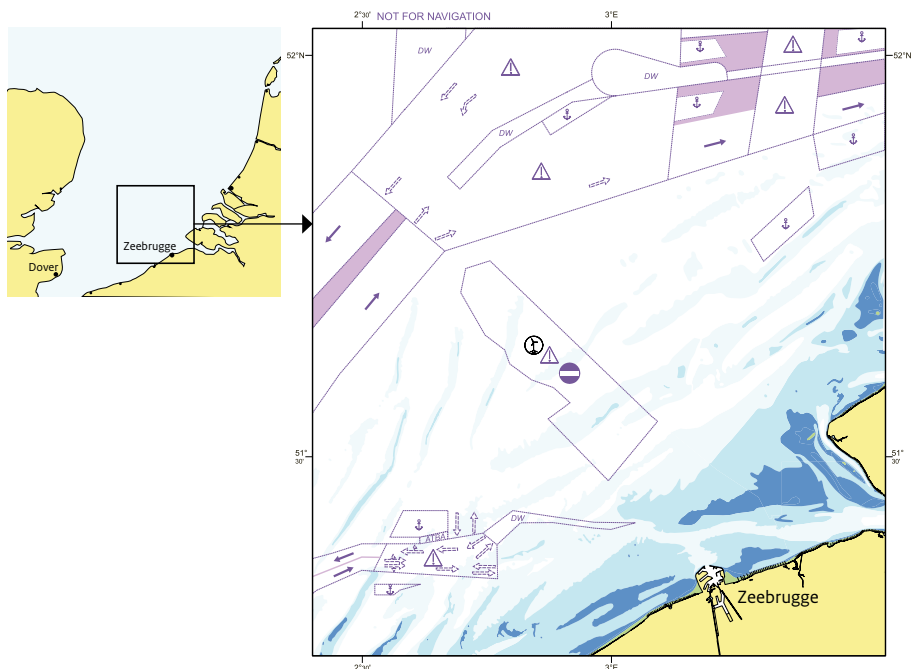
New routes in the North Sea

The North Sea is one of the busiest and most intensively used seas in the world. For certain shipping areas along the Belgian and Dutch North Sea coast there were as yet no fixed routes. To improve the flow of shipping in this area, the Netherlands and Belgium have jointly adapted their shipping routes. The new routes will fill areas where there were previously no routes, resulting in a continuous routeing system from France to Germany. The new routes will help ships with navigation, improve safety at sea and reduce the risk of environmental pollution. In addition the flow of traffic will be improved, as activities that impede shipping are prohibited on the new routes.

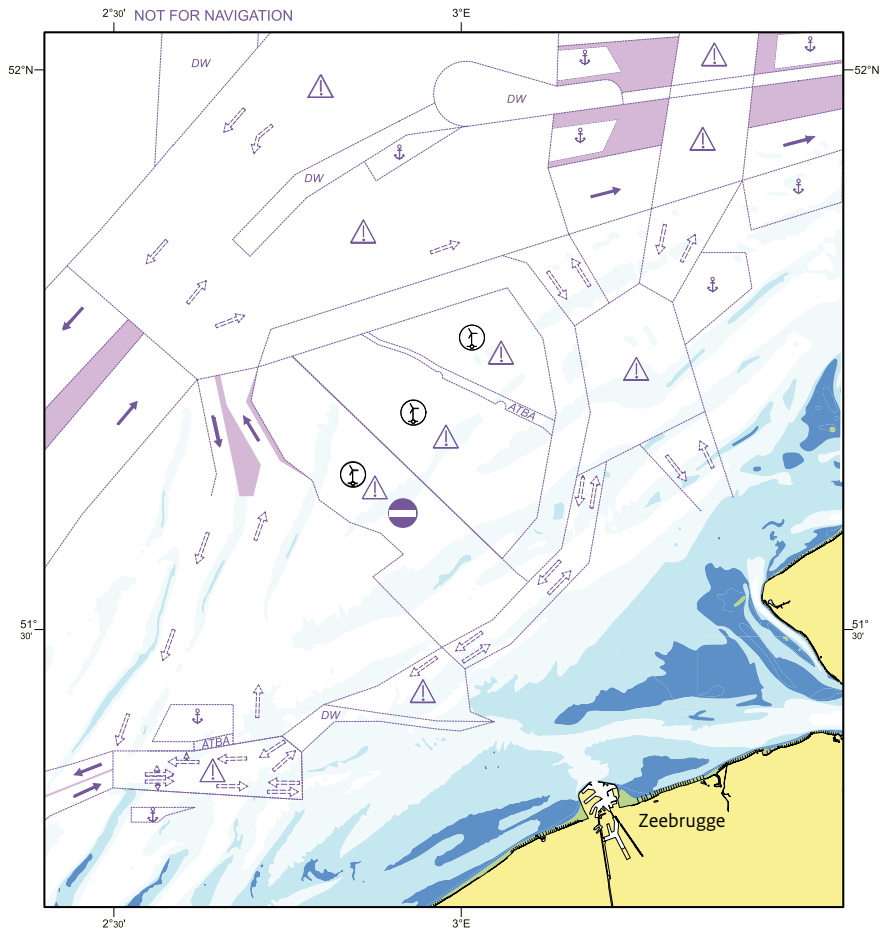
What you can expect from the new routes:

- Recommended shipping routes around wind farms and passage possibilities through the Dutch wind farms in the Borssele area;
- Separation of incoming and outgoing traffic near the precautionary area “North Hinder” and the traffic separation schemes “Off North Hinder” and “At West Hinder”;
- Precautionary areas in busy zones;
- Organisation and optimisation of traffic around the Schouwenbank pilotage zone and associated routes;
- Adaptation of the Schouwenbank anchoring area.

Situation before 1 June 2017



Situation from 1 June 2017



New rules for navigation in wind farms

Following the design of the new routes, Belgium and the Netherlands have concluded agreements on the terms of passage of the (to be developed) wind farms in the Borssele area:

- All Belgian wind farms are closed to shipping.
- After the realisation of the wind farms in the Borssele area, small ships (< 24 m) may cross these Dutch wind farms under certain conditions.
- In the Dutch energy production zone Borssele, a shipping corridor has been established allowing passage of ships less than 45m long.

New maps

New (printed) nautical charts and ENC's will be released mid-April and will be available to buy through the usual channels. Make sure you have the new nautical charts on board in time.

For stops on the Western Scheldt:

NL/BA 110 (INT 1473)
NL/BA 116 (INT 1477)
NL/BA 120 (INT 1479)
NL/BA 1630 (INT 1416)
BE 102 (INT 1480)
BE 101 (INT 1474)
BE D11

For through traffic and passage planning:

NL 1970
NL 1035 (INT 1046)

Deep Draught Planning Guide:

HP 8

For small craft and recreational traffic:

NL 1801

Caution

For the introduction of the new routes, physical adjustments will be necessary at sea. Before and during the placing of these channel markings, marine traffic will be informed through Notices to Mariners (NtMs) and navigation messages from the Coastguard.

More information

All activities in the North Sea are recorded in the (national) Marine Spatial Planning.

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This is a joint publication between the Rijkswaterstaat (Dutch administration for infrastructure) and the Federal Public Service Mobility and Transport, in close collaboration with the Dutch Coastguard, the MDK (Agency for Maritime and Coastal Services), the hydrographic services and the regional authorities.



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