

VISION FOR THE FUTURE: Marine Spatial Planning in Belgium

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- FROM PLANNING TO IMPLEMENTATION
- BENEFITS OF MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING IN BELGIUM
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- CONCLUSIONS & LESSONS LEARNED

THE BELGIAN CONTEXT



Source: Maes, F. *et al.*

- SMALL AREA WITH HIGH RATE OF USE
- BASIS FOR MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING:
 - Marine Protection Act, 1999
 - Procedure for Concessions
 - Environmental Impact Assessment

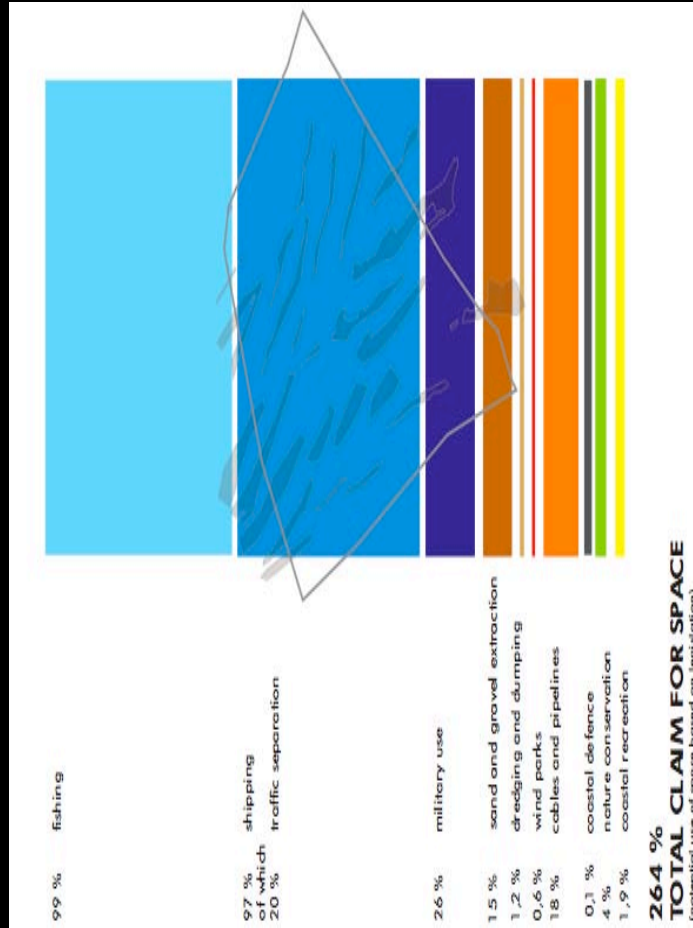
THE BELGIAN CONTEXT

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Source: Maes, F. *et al.*

THE NEED FOR MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING



Maes et al., 2005. A Flood of Space

- The claims for ocean space exceed the supply by almost 3 times in Belgium
- International developments:
 - (Kyoto), wind energy;
 - Natura 2000: finding space for nature
- Need for a holistic management approach: License & Concession procedures not longer enough

SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF CONFLICTS & COMPATIBILITIES

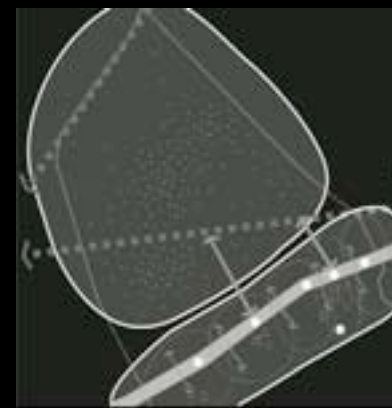
CONFLICTS



COMPATIBILITIES



TOWARD A MARINE SPATIAL PLAN



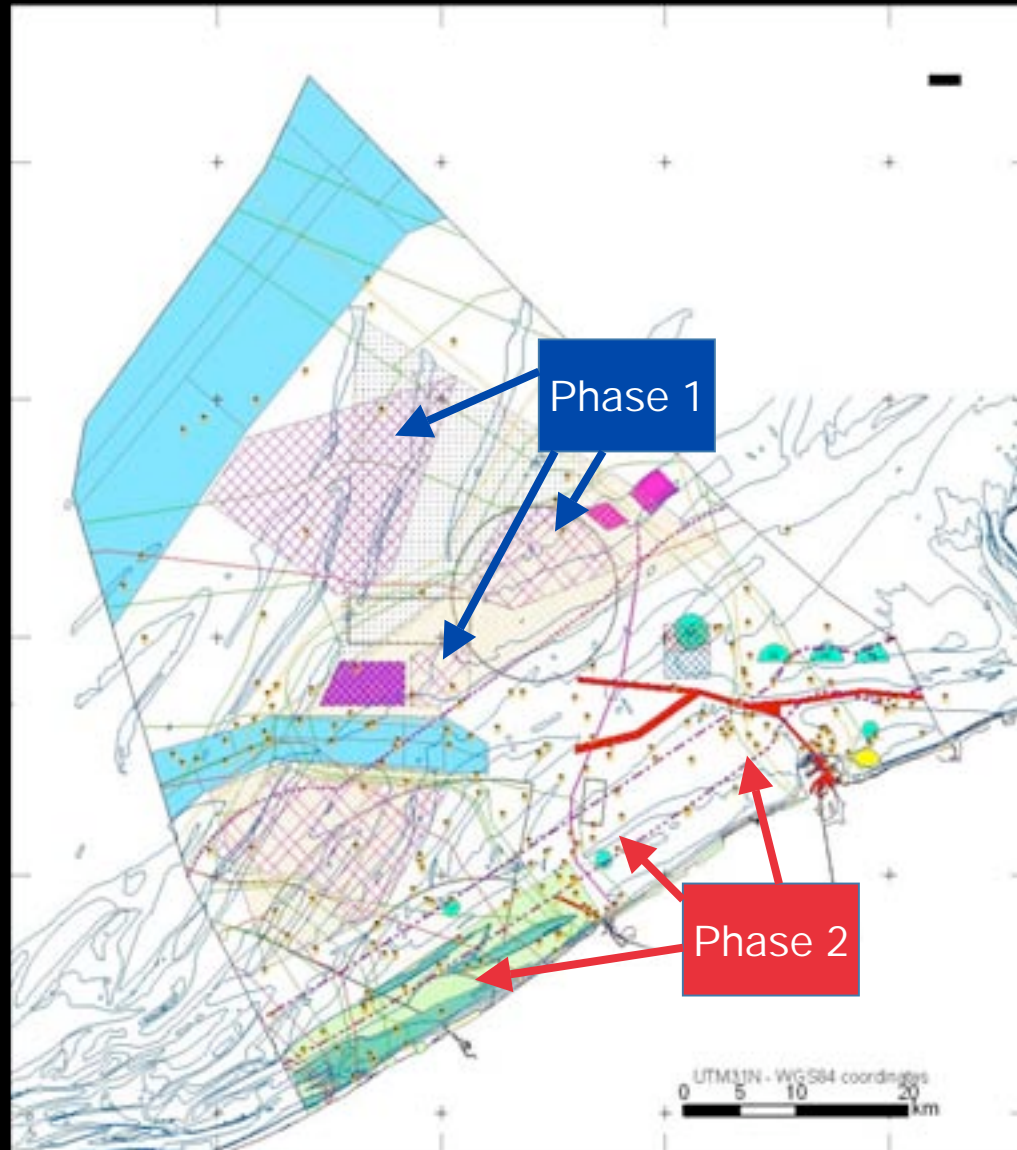
- Mapping of the spatial impact of ecological processes, human activities & their link to communities on land
- Analysis of conflicts & compatibilities
 - User-user conflicts
 - User-Environment conflicts
- Development of scenarios for future sea use management

IMPLEMENTATION OF A MASTERPLAN



- PHASE 1 (2004)
 - Sand and Gravel Extraction
 - Wind Energy Extraction

IMPLEMENTATION OF A MASTERPLAN



- PHASE 1 (2004)
 - Sand and Gravel Extraction
 - Wind Energy Extraction
- PHASE 2 (2005-2006)
 - Marine Protected Areas (SACs & SPAs)

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BENEFITS OF MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING

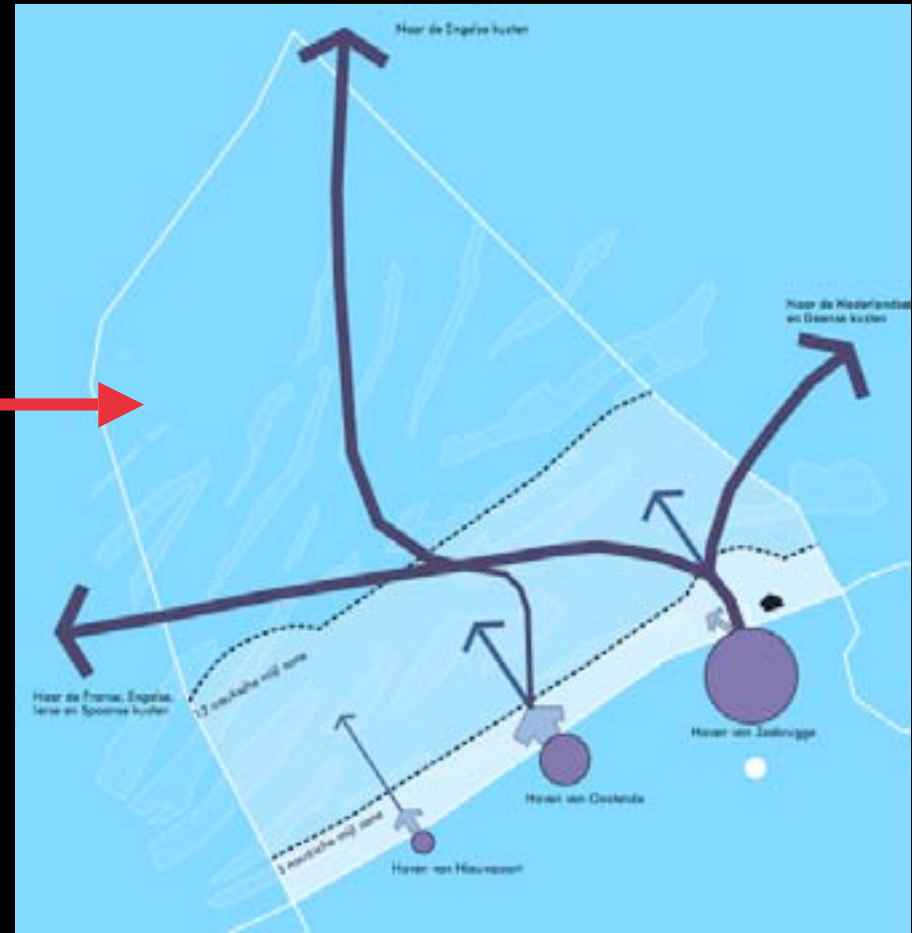
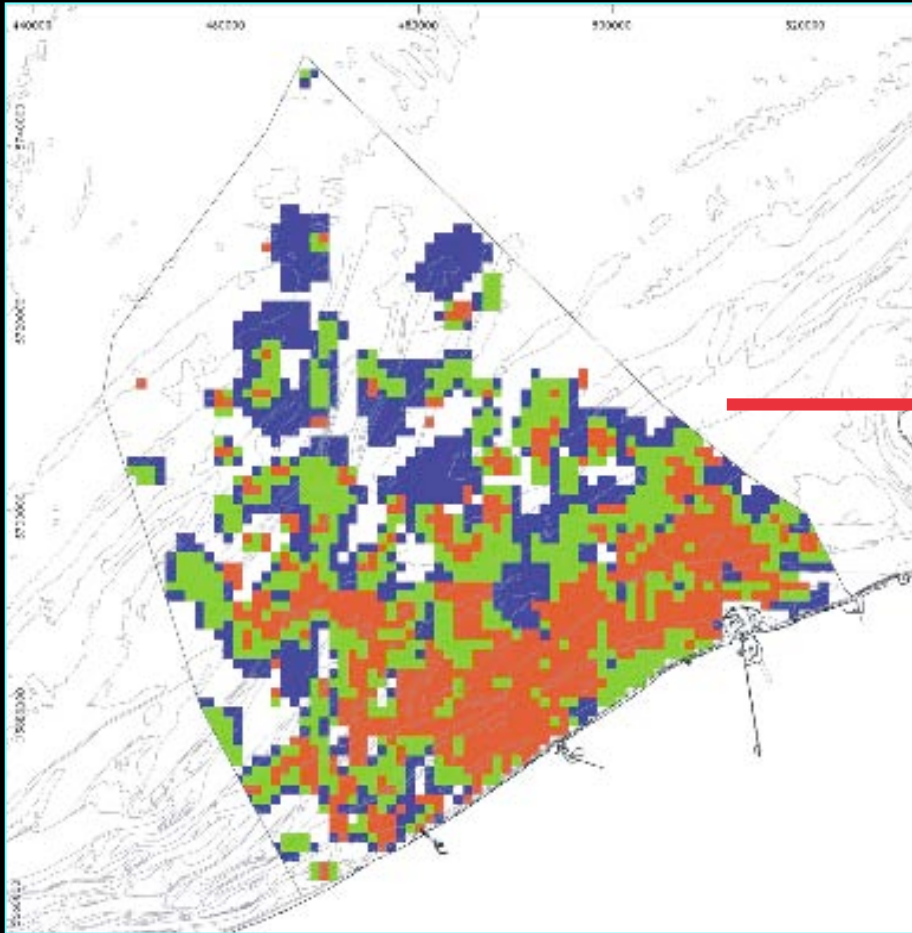
ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Knowledge about actual (vs perceived) ocean use
- Compensation claims by fishermen for loss of fish grounds were countered
- Multiple use of similar location due to seasonal closures

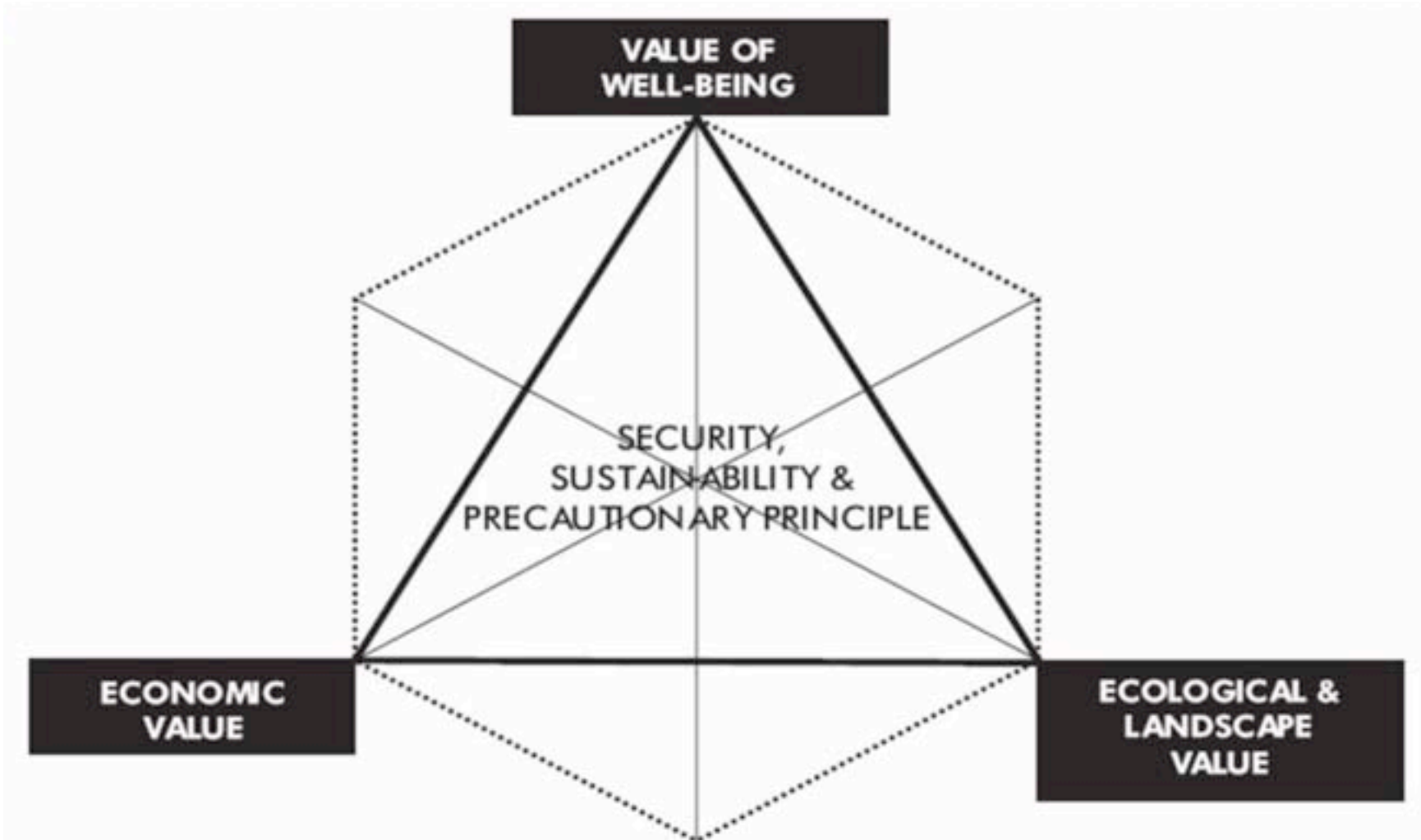
ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Knowledge about valuable marine sites
- Space for nature in the form of marine parks
- Focus on whole ecosystem rather than individual sites for development or protection

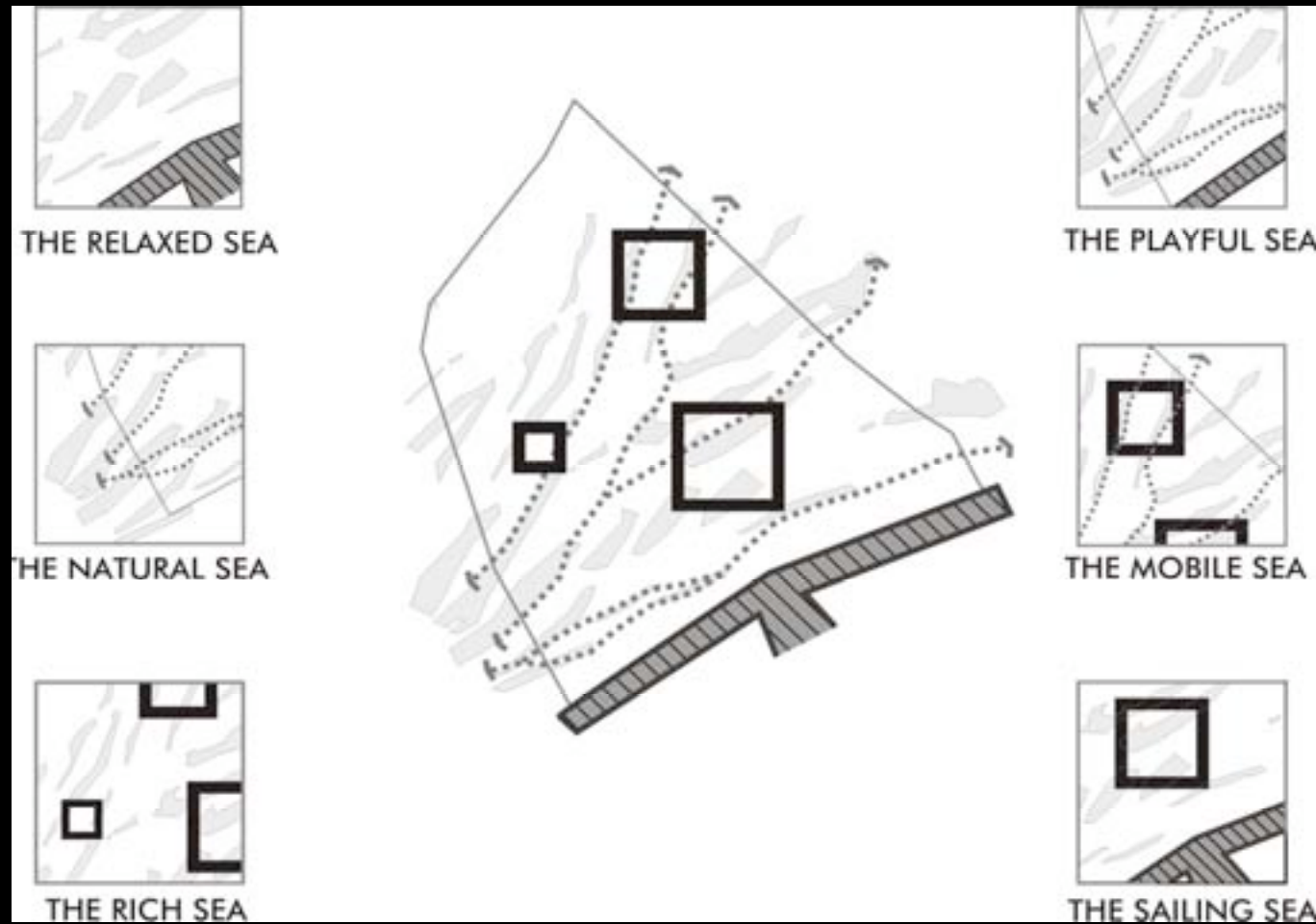
FROM GIS DATA TO VISION FOR FUTURE SEA USE



Maes et al., 2005.



SCENARIOS FOR FUTURE SEA USE MANAGEMENT



Adapted from: Maes, et. al, Ghent University, 2005

THE RELAXED SEA



concentration and intensification of activities in the coastal area (seaside and landside)



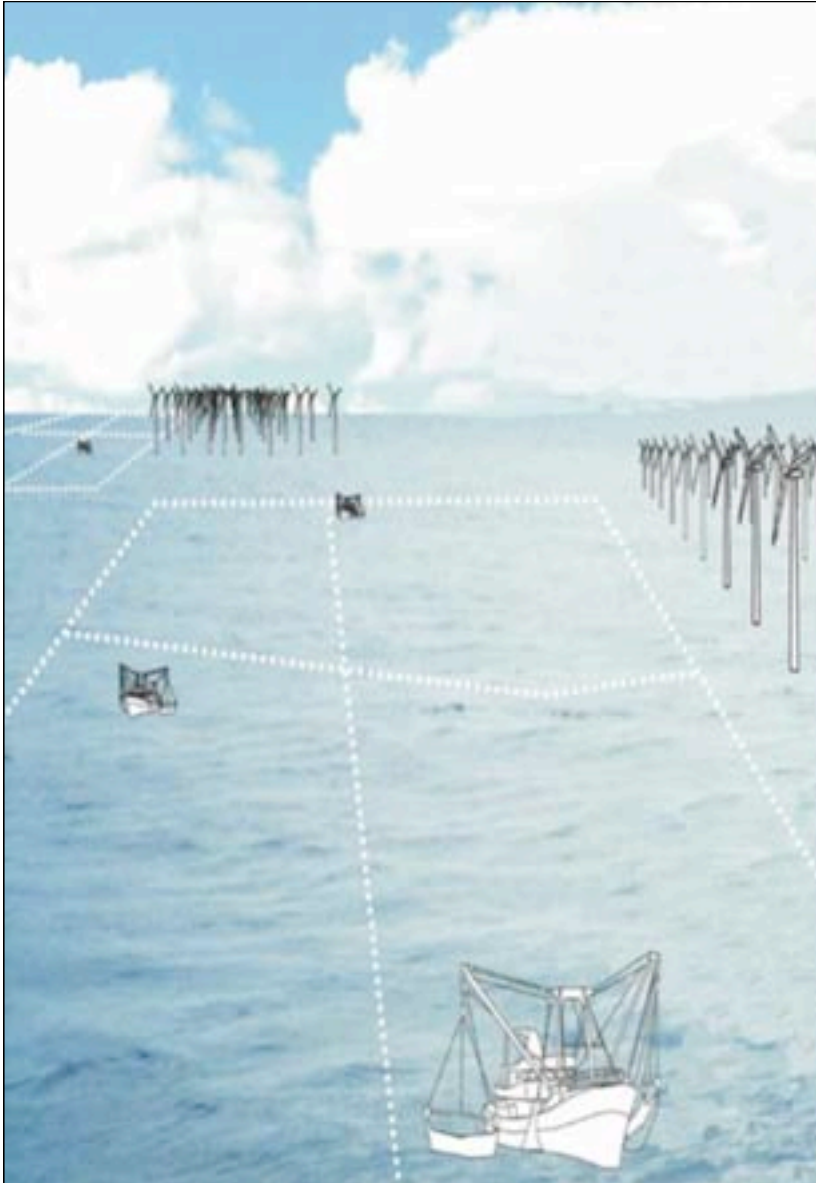
coastal area as a network of complementary activities (tourism - marine land development - ...)



activities that cause disturbance to tourism and recreation are located in the deep sea

the relaxed sea

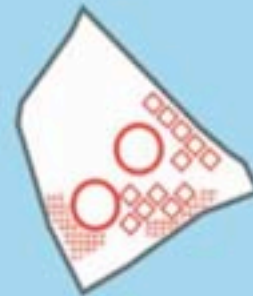
THE RICH SEA



Maes, et. al, Ghent University, 2005



concentration of economic activities in a central area

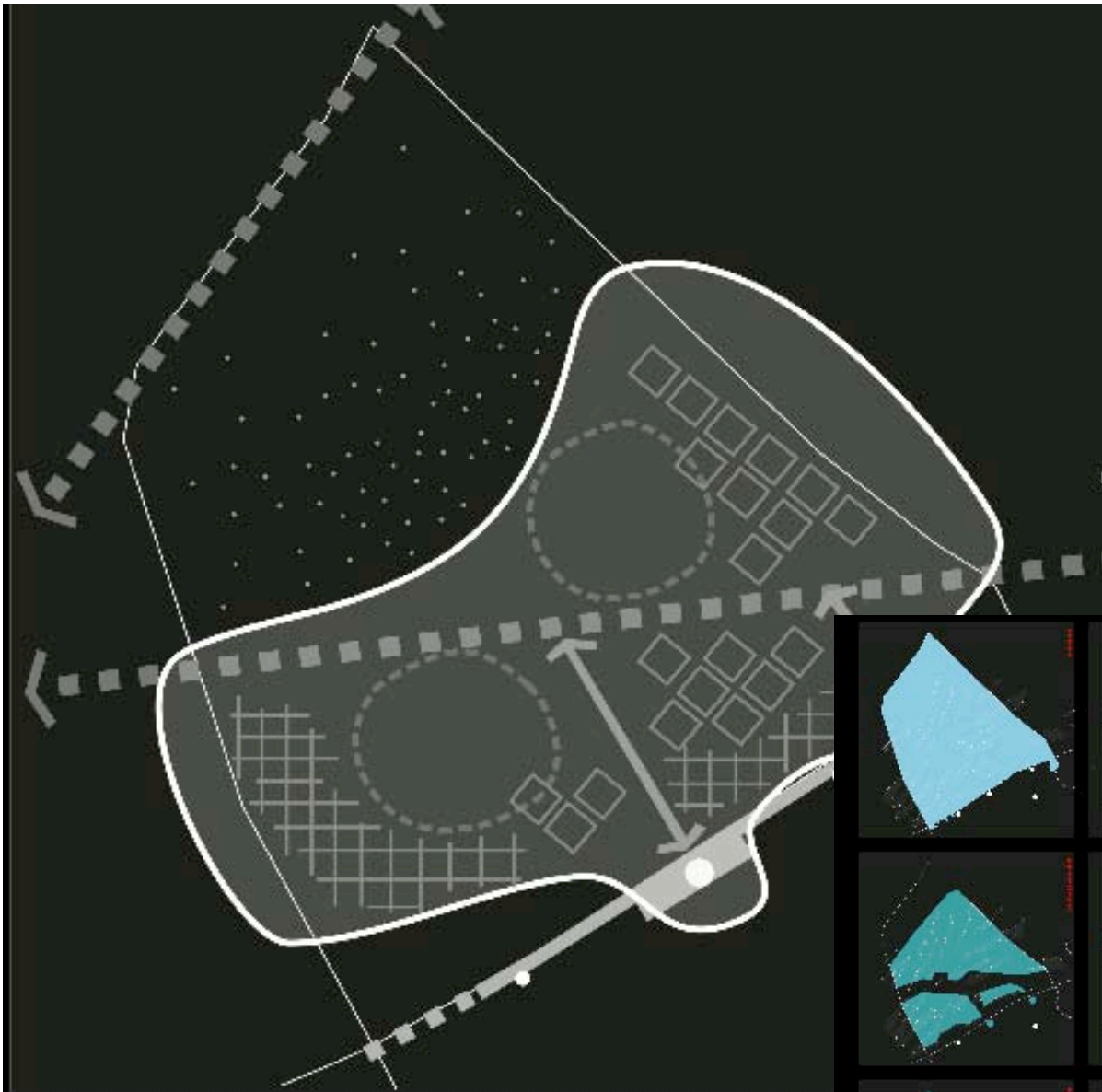


most important economic activities (fishing, sand & gravel extraction, wind parks) are allocated to a specific area (concession zones) based on economic suitability



natural and other 'sheltered' areas (wind parks, deep sea) function as storage rooms (additional possibilities for fishery and aquaculture)

the rich sea

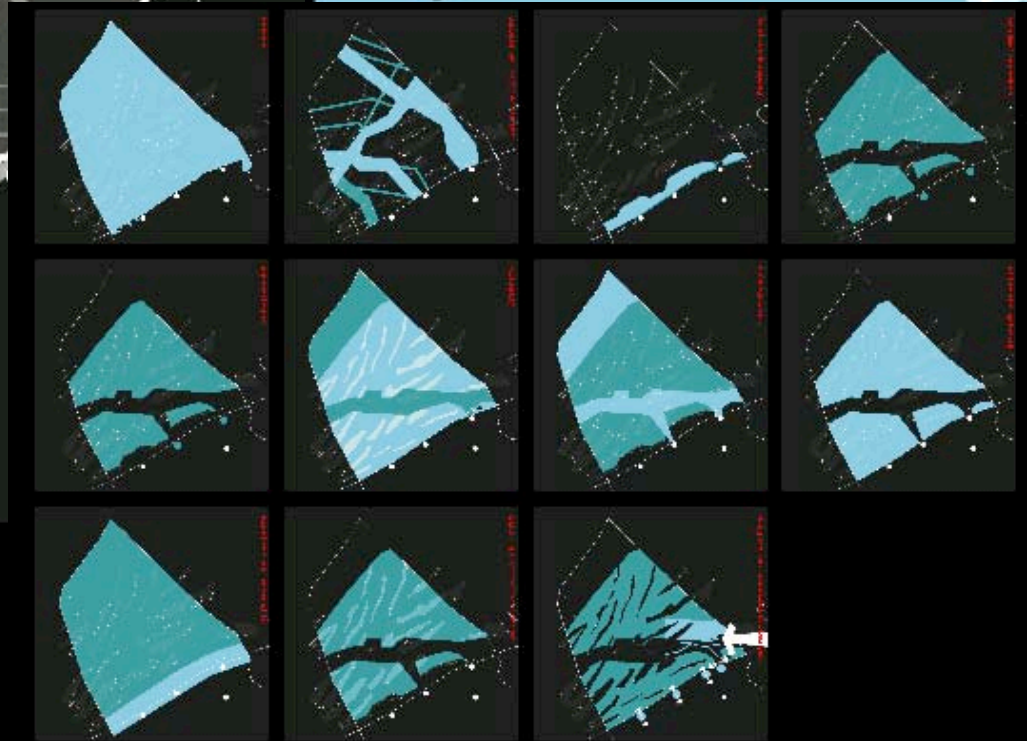


the rich sea

concentration of economic activities in a central area

most important economic activities (fishing, wind energy) gravel extraction, wind parks) are allocated to a specific area (concentrate power based on economic suitability)

natural and other 'shallow' areas (wind parks, deep sea) function as storage zones (additional possibilities for fisheries and aquaculture)



Maes, et. al, Ghent University, 2005

THE NATURAL SEA



protecting the natural wealth of the shallow coastal area and coastal polders (marine protected areas)



relocating activities to the deep sea



reducing and extensifying activities that cause disturbance to nature prohibiting activities with an excessive impact on nature

the natural sea

the mobile sea



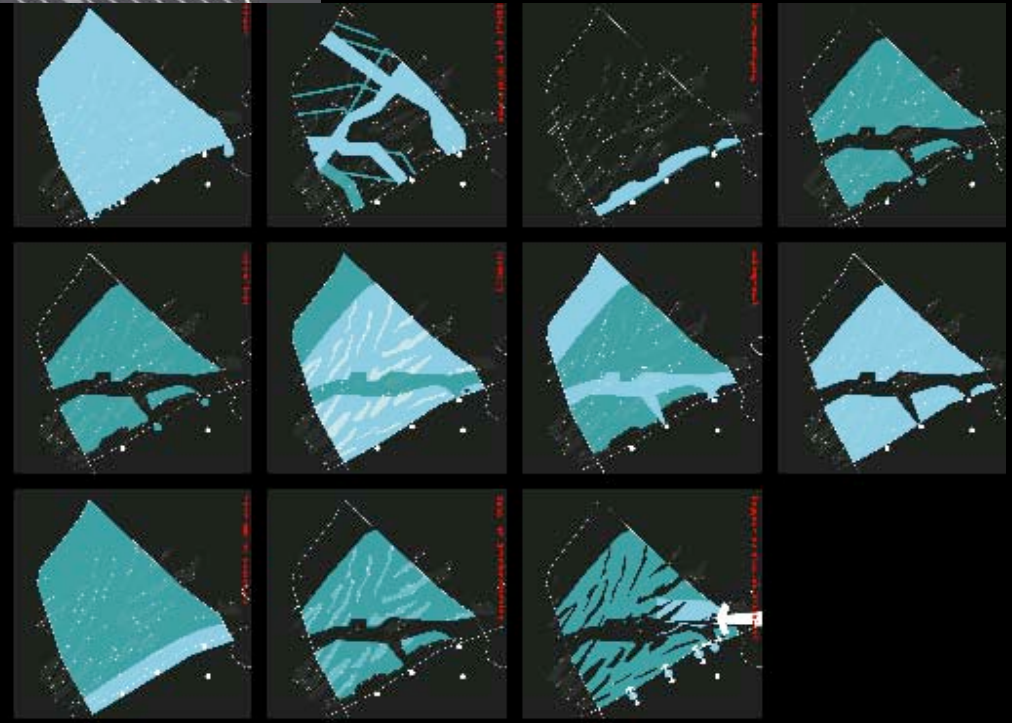
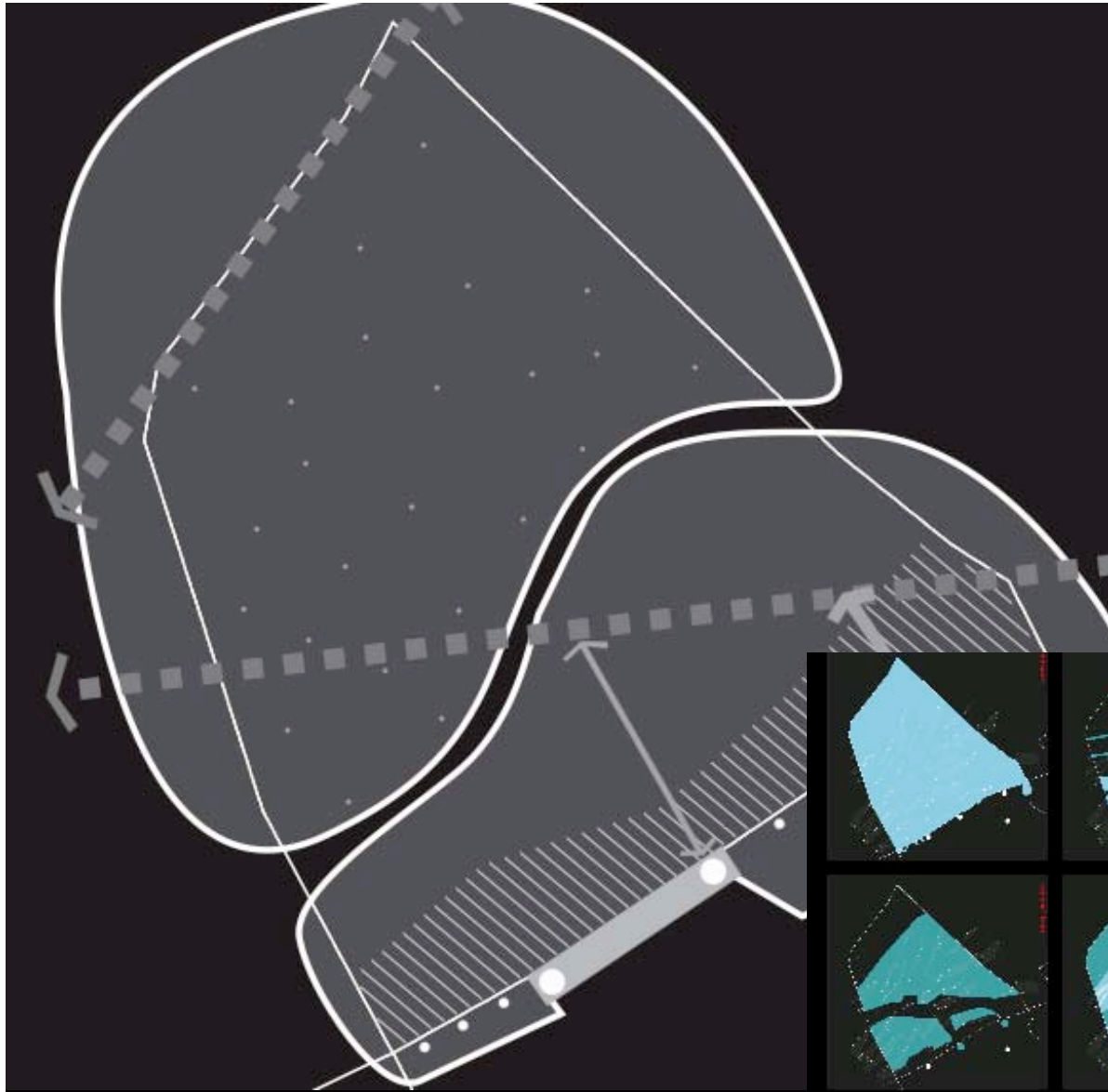
immersion of
storming activities in
the seabed
(fast regeneration)



mobile energy platform



coastal currents yield
natural dredging of ports
and shipping lanes



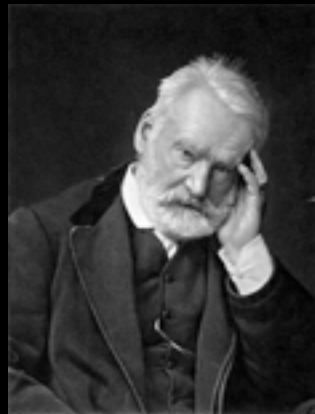
Maes, et. al, Ghent University, 2005

KEY CONSIDERATIONS



- Implementation and long term sustainability of marine spatial management requires
 - Legal Authority
 - Stakeholder Participation and Support
 - Public and Political Support
 - Time
 - Financing
- Planners and scientists have different time frames than politicians and resource managers
- Marine spatial planning initiatives occur within national boundaries, zones that are less meaningful from an ecological standpoint

*"An invasion of armies
can be resisted,
but not an idea
whose time has come"*



Victor Hugo, 1802-1885