

## New National Park Law

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# Amendment of the National Park Law in Schleswig-Holstein

The basis for an amendment of the National Park Law have been the results of the interdisciplinary ecosystem research project (1989 – 1996) (Leuschner 1988). The project analyzed the effects of various management measures on the eco-system in order to produce realistic proposals for the long-term protection measures for the national park (Stock et al. 1996). The evaluation takes into account identified demands of the ecosystem as well as human use as justified in the sense of sustainable development and in accordance with the aims of national parks (IUCN 1994; Stock et al. 1999).

These proposals have been discussed in public steered by the advisory boards of the two bordering county councils from 1996 to 1998. This discussion process has been followed by a proposal for an amended National Park Law at the begin-

ning of this year. The obligatory hearing procedure has been started and the amended law is expected to pass parliament at the end of 1999.

The main items of the amendment are:

### A new borderline

It is proposed to extend the existing National Park to include important wintering sites for divers and scoter in the offshore area. Furthermore, this part shows many relations in terms of hydrology and morphology with the Wadden Sea. This sector is planned up to the three-nautical-mile-line and to the twelve-nautical-mile-line in the protection area for harbour porpoise (see below). This results in an expansion of the National Park to 438,390 ha.

### An improved zoning system

The amendment contains two zones, instead of three, of today's National Park Law. This zoning approach takes the results of the ecosystem research into account. Therefore, ten "zone-1-areas" are planned. They, in principle, follow one tidal basin to safeguard their natural dynamics. These areas make up 36% of the entire new National Park area.

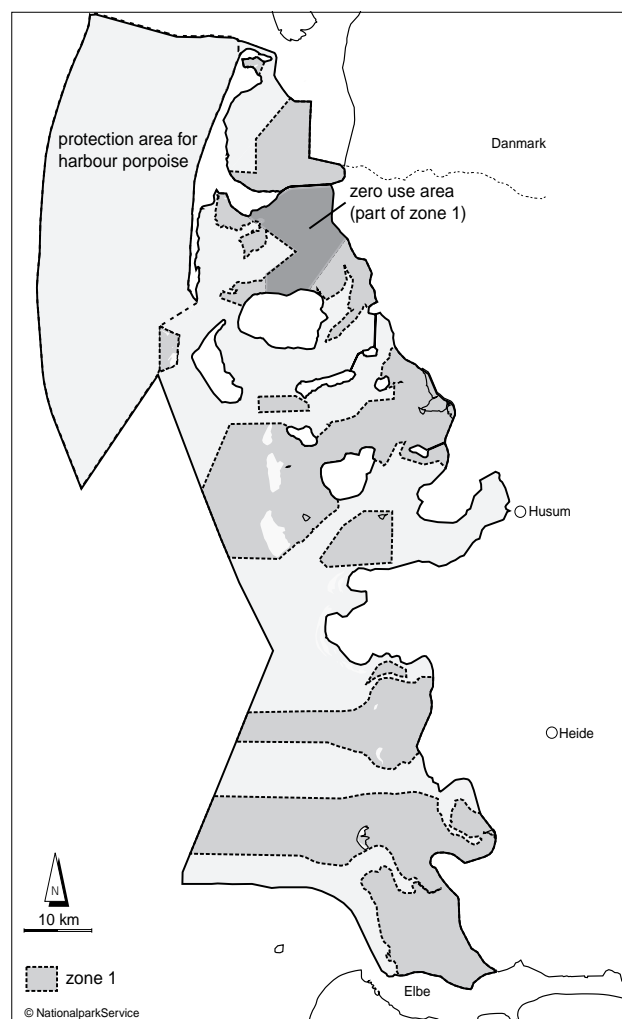
Sites for roosting and breeding birds within this zone will be doubled. A larger amount of roosting sites for Common and Grey Seal will be covered by the new zoning system.

The remaining part of the National Park represents zone 2.

### A zero-use area

The amendment intends to introduce a zero-use area of 12,537 ha within one of the "zone-1-areas". Fishery, hunting and other kinds of resource use will not be allowed in this sector. This part of the National Park will develop without direct human impacts. The basic idea of all German National Parks "let Nature take its course" will be implemented. Furthermore, in future, it will be possible to separate developments in the Wadden Sea, induced by humans, from natural ones by monitoring this area.

Figure 1  
Proposed borderlines and  
zoning system of the  
National Park Schleswig-  
Holstein Wadden Sea.



### A protection area for harbour porpoise

The draft of the amendment aims at the protection of harbour porpoise. The waters in front of the islands of Amrum and Sylt have been identified as an important area for harbour porpoise because there is an extraordinarily high density of mother calf-groups. Therefore, a special protection area for harbour porpoise of 121,726 ha is planned. The intention of this protection area is to prevent effects on harbour porpoise in future.

Besides the above mentioned improvements, there are some changes in detail considering the whole area of the National Park. For example, the amendment suggests that hunting will, in principle, not be allowed by law.

	Status quo	Amendment proposal
National Park	272,161 ha	438,390 ha
Zone 1	84,528 ha	159,384 ha
Amount of zone 1 areas	16	10
Percentage of zone 1 area	31%	36%
Zero use area	0	12,537 ha
Harbour porpoise protection area	0	121,726 ha

Table 1  
Statistics of size of the  
National Park Schleswig-  
Holstein Wadden Sea.

#### References

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