

# Dutch mussel fishery policy

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# Outline

- Background
- Current situation
- Future prospects

# Background

- Mussel seed fisheries take place twice a year, in the Wadden sea
- Both Wadden sea and Easterscheld appointed as Natura 2000 areas
  - Nature conservation law (1998) applies to these areas

# Before 2004

- Mussel seed fisheries were free
- after 1990-1991 the first discussions started
- 1998: nature conservation law applied

# The year 2004

- 2004: Cockle-case
  - mussel seed fisheries regarded as plan/project
  - appropriate assessment needed
- 2004: shellfish fisheries policy
  - sector has to innovate (time till 2020)
  - sector has to conduct research
  - nature organizations will give time and room to do so

## From 2004 on...

- 2005: agreement between nature organizations and mussel fishers
  - first appropriate assessment drafted together
- Spring 2006: appeal against the mussel seed fisheries
  - same for autumn 2006, and the fisheries in 2007

# Current situation

- 27th February 2008: final judgment about spring 2006-fisheries
  - too many unknowns
  - precautionary principle

License from spring 2006 abolished

# Current situation

- “Everything depends on the Product-research”
- Discussion about vision for both the Wadden sea and the mussel sector

# Future prospects

- Better definition of H1110:

How do you know if something has an effect, if you don't know what you want to protect?

- What do we want for the Wadden sea and the mussel fisheries?
- Innovations: MZI's, hatcheries/nurseries

- Political decisions needed as well