DB

Dogger Bank

INVEST in the HEART of the NORTH SEA

CAMPAIGN & RESEARCH
A 24-day sailing expedition / May 2027

DIPLOMACY & POLICY
The Dogger Bank Days in The Hague / October 2027





DB Dogger Bank

Dear reader,

At the centre of the North Sea lies the Dogger Bank, an undersea nature reserve covering over 25,000 km² and one of the most important ecosystems in Europe. As the nursery of the North Sea, the area is crucial for the biodiversity and health of the marine ecosystem as a whole.

But the Dogger Bank is severely damaged, and despite its protected Natura 2000 status, the ecosystem remains under pressure, while large-scale recovery lags behind.

We want to change that.

Since 2025, the Doggerland Foundation and the Embassy of the North Sea have been working together with a coalition of Dutch and international partners on **Rewilding Dogger Bank Seascape**, an ambitious programme that connects nature restoration, legal cases, art, design, science, lobbying, public imagination and social involvement. It is a joint effort across borders and disciplines, because real change can only be achieved if the underlying worldview culture, values and policy move together.

An important part of this programme is an international 24-day sailing expedition to the Dogger Bank and the subsequent Dogger Bank Days in The Hague.

We ask for your support to make this unique combination of ecological restoration research, public mobilisation and cultural imagination possible. If together we succeed in giving the heart of one of the busiest seas in the world the time, peace and space it needs to restore itself, Rewilding Dogger Bank Seascape can become a blueprint and source of inspiration for large-scale cross-border ecosystem restoration.

Below please find a more detailed explanation of the activities and what we're up against.

Kind regards,

Doggerland Foundation
Embassy of the North Sea



The challenge

1. Rewilding Dogger Bank

The coalition is working on a large-scale recovery programme, **Rewilding Dogger Bank Seascape**. New reefs can develop, for example, by releasing shellfish such as horse mussels. These reefs contribute to the restoration of a healthy seabed and rich biodiversity on the Dogger Bank.

At the same time, we are working on creating peace and space for the area, so that the Dogger Bank is given the chance to recover. Through legal proceedings, we hold governments accountable for complying with their own nature conservation agreements, as legally established in national and international laws and regulations.

According to an influential scientific evaluation report from the IPBES (the ‘IPCC for biodiversity’) from December 2024, the restoration of ecosystems is the most reliable route out of the polycrisis involving climate change, biodiversity loss and geopolitical conflict.



Xandra van der Eijk, Ghost reef

2. Nature restoration requires imagination & democracy

We argue that sustainable recovery is only possible when citizens, civil society organisations, artists, researchers and independent media also become part of the conversation. Nature restoration is a cultural, legal and democratic challenge, in addition to being an ecological one.

That is why we are working on new forms of representation of the Dogger Bank: an approach in which science, art, law, policy and public involvement mutually reinforce each other. From the Dogger Bank Coalition we are working on involving civil society in the rewilding of the Dogger Bank.



A strong international coalition

We have developed the **Rewilding Dogger Bank Seascape** within an international coalition of organisations that are committed to the recovery of the Dogger Bank. The founding partners are:

Embassy of the North Sea
Doggerland Foundation
ARK Rewilding Netherlands
Blue Marine Foundation
BUND Germany
WWF Denmark
Atlantic Technological University

Within this collaboration, partners are working on legal protection, restoration of horse mussel reefs and international policy advocacy.

The Embassy of the North Sea adds an additional dimension to this project by developing new social, cultural and democratic relationships with the North Sea.



The Dogger Bank Expedition 2027

In May 2027, sailing ship Morgenster will depart for a 24-day voyage through the waters of the Netherlands, Germany, and the United Kingdom, a journey that includes many days on and around the Dogger Bank.

The expedition brings together scientists, artists, journalists, designers and social organisations around one shared question: how do we secure a good future for the Dogger Bank?

During the trip we will be collecting ecological data from previously implemented reef restoration interventions. This data will contribute to nature restoration and monitoring, while simultaneously creating broad public documentation of the area in the form of maps, evidence for legal cases, stories, images and publications. Various media will also report on the trip.

The expedition therefore functions as a catalyst for:

- **strengthening international cooperation;**
- **the development of new knowledge about the area;**
- **increasing public involvement;**
- **visibility and monitoring of recovery initiatives;**
- **strengthening social support for the protection of the Dogger Bank.**

We intend to reach a wide audience with our message of nature restoration and the right to exist for the North Sea through independent media, cultural partners, civil society organisations and public meetings in three European countries.


Photo: Dirk Kome

The Dogger Bank Days: from research to dialogue

In October 2027, the insights from the expedition will be on display in The Hague during the Dogger Bank Days.

The Embassy of the North Sea will open a temporary public space for several weeks where citizens, policy makers, researchers, social organisations and artists can meet to discuss the future of the North Sea.

The Dogger Bank Days will make visible what normally remains hidden: the ecological significance of the area, the challenges of recovery and the choices that will have to be made in the coming years.

The central focus is on the development of a broadly supported vision for the Dogger Bank and an international agreement to rewild this area on a large scale. This is not a traditional policy document, but rather a public and accessible speculation about what recovery of the area could look like.

Through exhibitions, conversations, artistic interventions and expert meetings, we are building a new social story about the North Sea: a story in which nature is not only managed, but also represented.



Intended impact

With this program we contribute to systematic change on three levels.

Ecological impact
- Support for ongoing recovery programmes for the Dogger Bank.
- New knowledge for reef restoration and monitoring.
- Fortified international cooperation on nature restoration.

Social impact
- Increased public knowledge and involvement in the North Sea.
- New connections between citizens, social organisations and experts.
- Broader social support for nature restoration.

Institutional impact
- A more advantageous position for the Dogger Bank in politics and policy.
- New forms of democratic representation of marine nature.
- A contribution to future-proof North Sea policy in Europe.



Photo: Dirk Kome

HELP BUILD THE COALITION & SIGN THE DECLARATION OF SUPPORT!

On September 24, 2025, the Dogger Bank Coalition was founded at the Amstelkerk in Amsterdam. Over the coming years, NGOs from the four Dogger Bank countries will collaborate to ensure a healthy and resilient Dogger Bank. We achieve this through reef restoration, legal action, research, imagination, and engaging in a broad public conversation about the possible and desirable futures of the North Sea.

Read our manifesto and sign the declaration of support: www.doggerland.earth/doggersbank-coalitie-oprichtingsverklaring/

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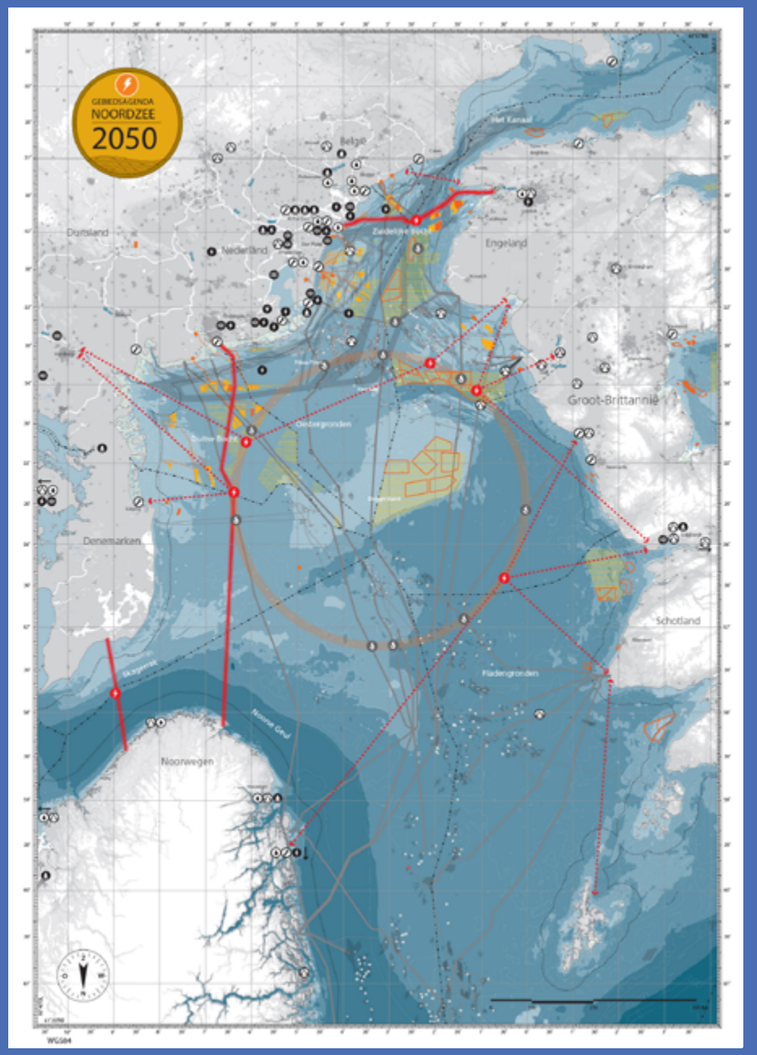

NEW CARTOGRAPHY FOR THE DOGGER BANK

Existing North Sea cartography often reduces the sea to an empty, blue expanse full of industrial interests. Primarily, they tell us how we exploit the sea, but not how we can protect her. How do we achieve a more democratic cartography that does justice to the interests of the sea itself? With this pressing question, MUST Stedebouw joins the Dogger Bank Expedition.



FUNERAL HOME: THE NORTH SEA

Can an underwater cemetery offer legal protection to the Dogger Bank while stimulating reef restoration? Artist Jonat Deelstra is investigating this question with Funeral Home; the North Sea. By placing ceramic urns on the seabed, substrate is created to which maritime life can develop forming a sacred reef. During Expedition Dogger Bank, we will monitor the developing marine life on the urns placed as a pilot in 2026.



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Preparing samples for DNA analysis at WUR — Wageningen

The Dogger Bank Coalition uses eDNA (environmental DNA) to map the biodiversity of the Dogger Bank. We collect water samples containing cellular material to identify the fish, marine mammals, and other organisms inhabiting the area. We also take sediment samples for biological, chemical, and physical analysis of the seabed, such as counting benthic organisms.

Financing question

We are looking for funds, partners and donors who want to contribute to:

- **Ecological research and monitoring;**
- **Evidence for legal cases;**
- **Public outreach and independent journalism;**
- **Artistic research and public imagination;**
- **Development of new maps and knowledge products;**
- **International knowledge exchange;**
- **organisation and participation in the Dogger Bank Days.**

Your contribution not only makes the **Rewilding Dogger Bank Seascape** programme possible, but also strengthens a broader movement that works to restore the North Sea and find new ways to give nature a voice in our society.

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Invitation

We would be happy to discuss the possibilities for cooperation and support with you. A comprehensive budget, coverage plan and project documentation are available upon request.

Together we can contribute to the restoration of one of the most important nature reserves in Europe and to a future in which the interests of the North Sea and the Dogger Bank are better heard and represented.

Yours sincerely,

Doggerland Foundation
Embassy of the North Sea

Contact us at: info@ambassadevandenoordzee.nl



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Rewilding DOGGER BANK

Embassy of the North Sea

ARK REWILDING NEDERLAND

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Atlantaigh
Atlantic Technological University

DOGGERLAND

BLUE MARINE FOUNDATION

BUND

WWF

Photos: Dirk Kome, Xandra van der Eijk & Jose Farinas-Franco