

Welcome to the update page for the new edition of North Sea Passage Pilot. Our sources of information covering routes, buoyage and regulation include the Dutch, Belgian and French navigation authorities and the NtMs they issue as well as deep water information from windfarm, oil and gas exploration companies and the UK authorities. We also welcome comments and information from readers.

The following NtMs were issued by the Flemish Hydrographic Office on 14th February 2023.

BELGIUM Pp 44, 45, 46 Route 2

2022-26/271(T) COASTAL ROUTE - DE PANNE-OOSTENDE - BUOY

Charts: C30, 102 (INT 1480), 107/3

Insert: Buoy HD29, yellow conical, St Andrew's cross as topmark, Fl.Y.5s in position 51°12,60'N 002°50,35'E

This buoy covers a measuring frame.

2022-26/272(P) BENEDEN-ZEESCHELDE - LILLO - PILE

Charts: 104/04, 106 (INT 1478)

Insert: Pile, FW in position 51°17,94'N 004°16,62'E Awaiting final position.

2023-04/090 COASTAL ROUTE - DE PANNE-OOSTENDE - WESTDIEP - NIEUWPOORTBANK - BUOYS Charts: C30, D11, 107/1, 107/2, 102 (INT 1480)

Delete: Buoy SYM1 in position 51°10,98'N 002°39,63'E – Buoy SYM-S in position 51°10,85'N 002°39,73'E - Buoy SYM-N in position 51°11,12'N 002°39,99'E Source:

COASTAL ROUTE - DE PANNE-OOSTENDE - OOSTENDE-ZEEBRUGGE

Charts: C30, 101 (INT 1474), 102 (INT 1480), D11, 107/2, 107/4

Move: Buoy DC1 from position 51°10,28'N 002°44,92'E to position 51°17,33'N 003°01,47'E

PORT OF ZEEBRUGGE OUTER PORT, BUOY Charts: C30, 101 (INT 1474), 107/ABCD Move: Buoy Z2 from position 51°21,28'N 003°12,47'E to position 51°21,27'N 003°12,43'E.

NETHERLANDS Pp38 Borssele Passage

2022-26/273(T) WESTERSCHELDE - VLISSINGEN-BORSSELE - BUOYS

Charts: C30, 101 (INT 1474), 104/10

Insert:

Buoy RWS-1, yellow conical in position 51°24,46'N 003°34,65'E

Buoy RWS-3, yellow conical in position 51°24,55'N 003°35,67'E

Buoy RWS-5, yellow conical in position 51°24,66'N 003°36,71'E

Buoy RWS-7, yellow conical in position 51°24,67'N 003°37,70'E

These buoys cover 4 measuring frames.

2022-26/274 WESTERSCHELDE - HANSWEERT - BATHYMETRY Pp 83

Charts: 104/08

Delete: Sounding 1,1m in position 51°25,68'N 004°00,90'E

Insert: Sounding 0,3m in position 51°25,69'N 004°00,88'E

Sounding 0,3m in position 51°26,02'N 003°59,91'E and enlarge the 2m depth contour around it.

Dutch wind farms in the North Sea

The Netherlands Rijkswaterstaat has issued a pre-season notice clarifying passage of yachts through wind farms in Dutch waters. (Applies to pp 44, 45 and 46; also, pp 67/68 Harwich to Ijmuiden)

Offshore wind farms **Egmond aan Zee**, and **Prinses Amalia** off the coast of IJmuiden and the **Luchterduinen farm** off the coast of Noordwijk are accessible for vessels under 24 metres. The Gemini wind farms in the **Ten noorden van de Wadden** wind farm zone remain closed. A code of conduct for safe passage through offshore wind farms covers rules and offers safety tips for passing through wind farm zones;
[https://www.noordzeeloket.nl/publish/pages/190545/code-of-conduct-for-sa....](https://www.noordzeeloket.nl/publish/pages/190545/code-of-conduct-for-sa...)

The most significant risks are from the moving rotor blades and various high-voltage cables that form underwater connections between individual wind turbines and between the turbines and platform. It's more difficult for the emergency services to operate when called out to wind farms. You mustn't go within 500 metres around it, keep at least 50 metres from a tower and 500 metres from a transformer station.

Several tips have been drawn up to supplement the rules to further limit the risks associated with passage of shipping.

An AIS transponder (at least class B) must be in operation and the VHF radio must be tuned to channel 16 to receive any instructions. You must comply if the instructions are addressed to you.

The wind farms are accessible **only during daylight hours** (access after sunset is prohibited and penalties will be enforced). The precise times of sunrise and sunset as determined by the KNMI are decisive in this respect.

It is not permitted to alight on the structures in the wind farm. Keep at least 50 metres' distance from wind turbine towers and 500 metres from a transformer station.

It is not permitted to anchor, run aground or trawl over the sea bed with nets. Diving, kite surfing and reckless handling of the vessel are prohibited. You can't throw fish or any other waste overboard.

Update from Machiel Lambooi, CA Member:

Passage through the jointly owned Dutch/Belgian Borssele windfarm is only allowed along a specially designated corridor, shown on recent charts, for vessels up to 45m. Windfarm Borssele Pass, is a buoyed channel that is not yet shown on the chart in Captain's Mate (February 2023) but is shown on the Navionics and NV charts, and Imray C30. On Navionics, the combined Dutch and Belgian windfarm is incorrectly called the Lodewijk Bank. The Dutch part is called Windfarm Borssele (WFB, this is used for the buoyed channel). M Lambooi says: "As far as I am aware this does NOT apply to Belgian and German windfarms. So, check your charts for national borders."