

Luchterduinen

Innovatively restoring the oyster population

The Rich North Sea is committed to enabling innovative projects that result in a healthy and rich sea. In the past, large oyster beds populated the Dutch North Sea, alongside fish, crustaceans, shellfish and other organisms. But due to fishing and disease, biodiversity has decreased and nearly every natural reef has disappeared. The rapid growth of wind farms in the North Sea offers a tremendous opportunity for new natural development. As it is not permitted to fish within wind farms, they can serve as a breeding ground for underwater nature. Through our research, we gain knowledge and insight into ideal nature enhancement in these wind farm areas.

We have placed four broodstock structures in the **Eneco Luchterduinen** Wind Park. With this project, we aim to uncover the critical success factors for the natural restoration of the European flat oyster. And thereby contribute to a blueprint for nature enhancement in North Sea wind farms.



Location

Luchterduinen Wind Park,
23km from the coast near
Noordwijk aan Zee.



Stability

The renewed design of the broodstock structures was made especially for the dynamic conditions in Luchterduinen Wind Park. With extra weight at the bottom, they are more stable.



New underwater life

Next year, the larvae that the oysters release can settle on a hard surface, such as the scour protection. In this way, we aim to help increase the chance of new oyster reefs.



Monitoring

We focus our monitoring on oyster growth, survival and reproduction.



Solid foundation

The broodstock structures are positioned on the scour protection around the windmill to prevent them from sinking. Live oysters are attached to the vertical poles, so that they receive enough fresh water and oxygen to survive and eventually reproduce.



Boost

The flat oyster can't find its way to the wind farm on its own. By releasing more live, mature oysters, we will boost the parent population and hope to offer the flat oyster more opportunities for propagation.