

RESEARCH



North Sea: Landscapes of Coexistence
Transitional Territories Studio 2018-2019

Graduation Studio Research Report:
Grey Lines in the Sand
The Nomos of the North Sea; a parliamentary state of exception

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“Borders
What’s up with that?
Politics
What’s up with that?
Police shots
What’s up with that?
Identities
What’s up with that?
Your privilege
What’s up with that?
Broke people
What’s up with that?
Boat people
What’s up with that?
The realness
What’s up with that?
The new world
What’s up with that?
I’m gonna keep up an order”

“Borders” | M.I.A (2016)

O, wonder!
How many goodly creatures are there here!
How beauteous mankind is! O brave new world
That has such people in't

- The Tempest | William Shakespeare

Abstract

The Age of Discovery, first altered man's understanding of the world. It was a time when the earth was first measured and encompassed by the global consciousness of European people. This resulted in the first Nomos of the Earth, it was based on the particular relation between the spatial order of land and the spatial order of the sea. It is Carl Schmitt in "Nomos of the Earth" who recognised evolution in the spatial order of the earth. He saw the mechanised world as a product of technological advancement leading to terrestrial or maritime foundations. From this, the "walls" arose, political unities between states and of itself, the creation of closed areas within fixed borders. And yet in this fluid realm, the sea, home to nomadic populations of humans and non-humans searching for a space to grow and prosper, get tangled in these border webs of contested space. Not exempt from these rules, they too are submitted to international laws, social, political and economic dynamics and not forgetting the laws of nature.

By placing oneself inside this world of borders, will be able to recognise the arrangement. To quote Bruno Latour, the choice of existence and the ways "nature" and "culture" has formed our collective understanding of our Nomos of the earth (spatial order). What makes us concerned, justifiably, is the sense that the Old Regime is coming to an end. We must open ourselves up if we are not to become collectively alienated or excluded. Latour establishes that the modern constitution "invents a separation between scientific power (nature) charged with representing things and the political power (culture) charged with representing subjects". The two representatives have extraordinary convoluted narratives which need to be told.

When we relate this understanding of "nature" and "culture" to the North Sea context, we start to see its commons as becoming uninhabitable, exploited and exhausted. Soon there will be no space which brings material, technical, environmental, social and mental domains together.

5 Key words: nature, culture, nomos, borders, commons

1. Territory

1. Territory: North Sea

1.1. Identity - Historical Precedents

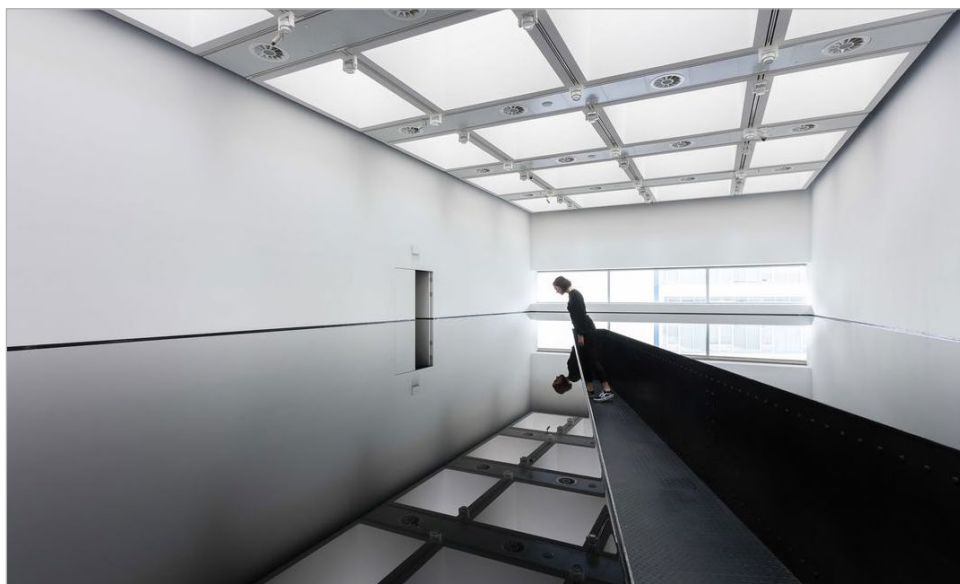
1. ANDERSSON, H. W. (2013). Changing Technology, Changing Commons: Freight, Fish, and Oil in the North Sea. In: KRANAKIS, N. D. A. E. (ed.) *Cosmopolitan Commons: Sharing Resources and Risk across Borders*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press

2. The EEZ was a notion first defined by the United Nations in 1982 on the "Law of the Sea". A coastal nation has control on all economic resources within its zone.

Man's desires for territorial claims have always exceeded their current land border. When the earth consists of 70 per cent water, it is not surprising that territorialisation is occurring on the fluid entity. The North Sea has always been a contested territory, with seven coastal countries surrounding it, all exhibiting maritime powers. Conflict will inevitably arise in the borderlands of the North Sea commons. These borderlands are areas "identified along a country's coastal zone, an unclear "Grey Area"¹ where the cosmopolitan commons meets national jurisdiction and sovereignty" (Andersson, 2013, p247). Here, multiple countries adhere different rules for their countrymen as well as the regulations enforced by the European Union. The North Sea commons resembles a complex web of lines of permission, profit and passage for all who want to enter and enjoy the spoils of the many resources available within the common space. At present, seven countries politically control the North Sea, an action proposed by the Dutch government in May 1990 to improve the armoured legal power. In September 1992 the EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zones) was established² in order to give clarity over the jurisdiction, sovereignty rights and maritime affairs for each of the North Sea countries. However, this method of dividing sea territory between countries is not always agreeable, especially when billions of dollars of revenue is potentially available.

The project will develop on the fascination of the of the *borderlands of the North Sea commons* and whether a grey area (state of exception) is required in the North Sea, in response to the current daily activities.

1.1 Identity



1.1.1 Historical Mapping

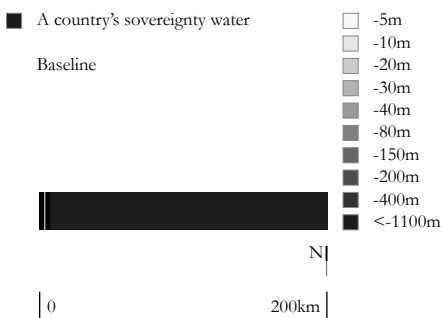
The last time the sea was perceived as a “free space” was in 1150, when it was a resource pool open for all (Andersson, 2013). “The Freedom of the Seas” or “mare liberum”, a term coined by Hugo Grotius in 1609, he formulated a notion that the sea was an international territory and all nations were free to use it for seafaring trade.

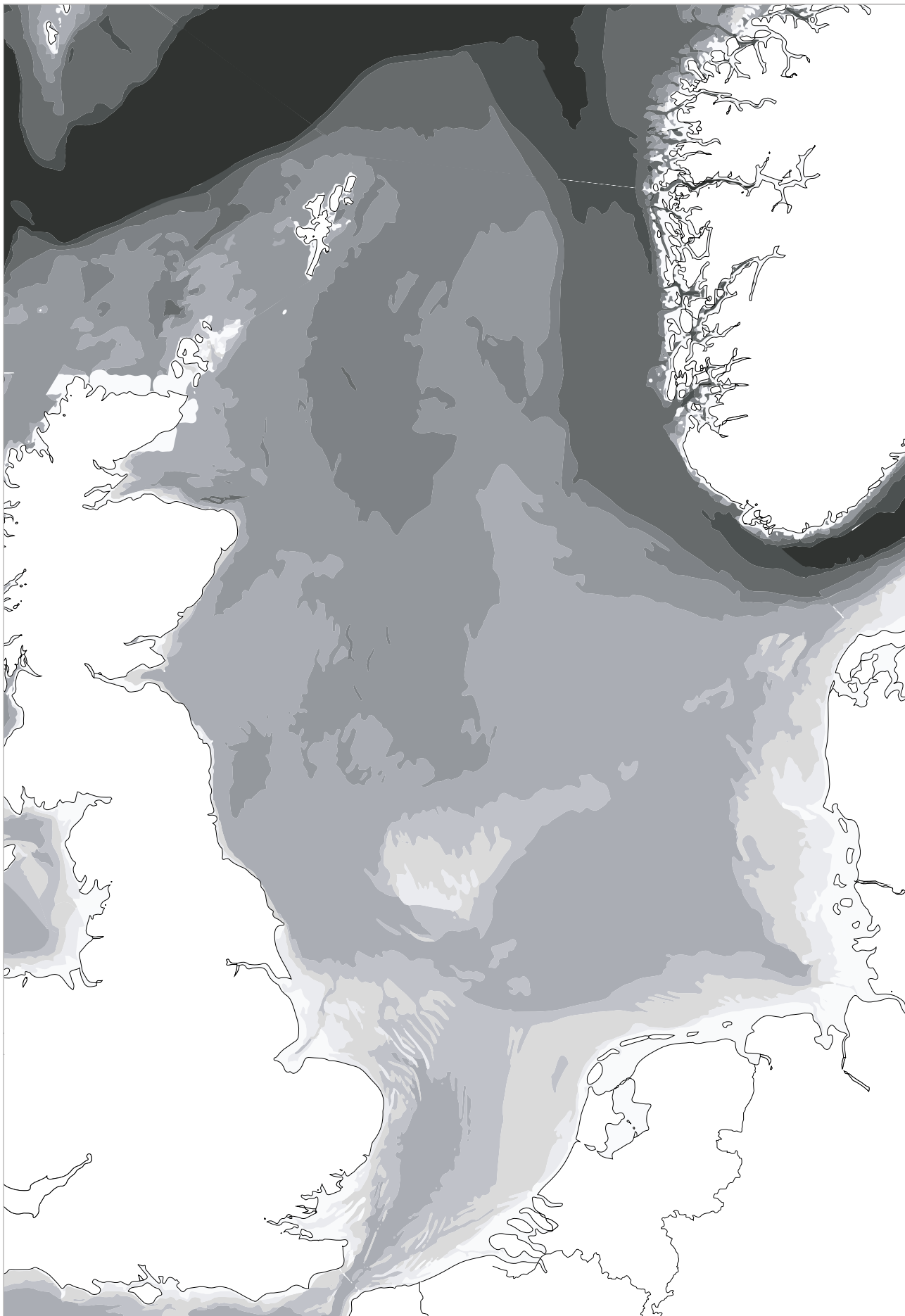
The rising of the territorial order of the state - spatially self contained, impermeable, unburdened with the problem of estate and civil wars. It became a representative of a new order in the state. “Characteristically and specifically the state’s international law became inter-state law. Only as a consequence of the clear demarcation of self contained territories did *jus gentium* become distinctly and clearly *jus inter gentes* (law among nations) and *inter gentes Europaeas* (among nations of Europe). At the time, the *gentes* appeared on the European stage as princes, houses, crowns and regions, often still in medieval garb. Nonetheless, the spatial core of the new European order was this new entity called “state”.

- Extract of Carl Schmitt’s *Nomos of the Earth* | p129

1609 Hugo Grotius | *Mare Liberum*

Scale: Kilometre
Source: Disco N. and Kranakis E. (2013) ‘Cosmopolitan Commons: Sharing Resources and Risks across Borders’ in Anderson, H.W. *Changing Technology, Changing Commons: Freight, Fish, and Oil in the North Sea*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press Books, pp. 245-270.



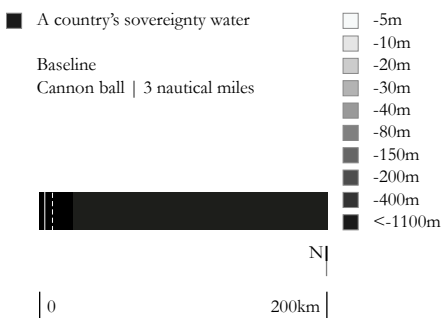


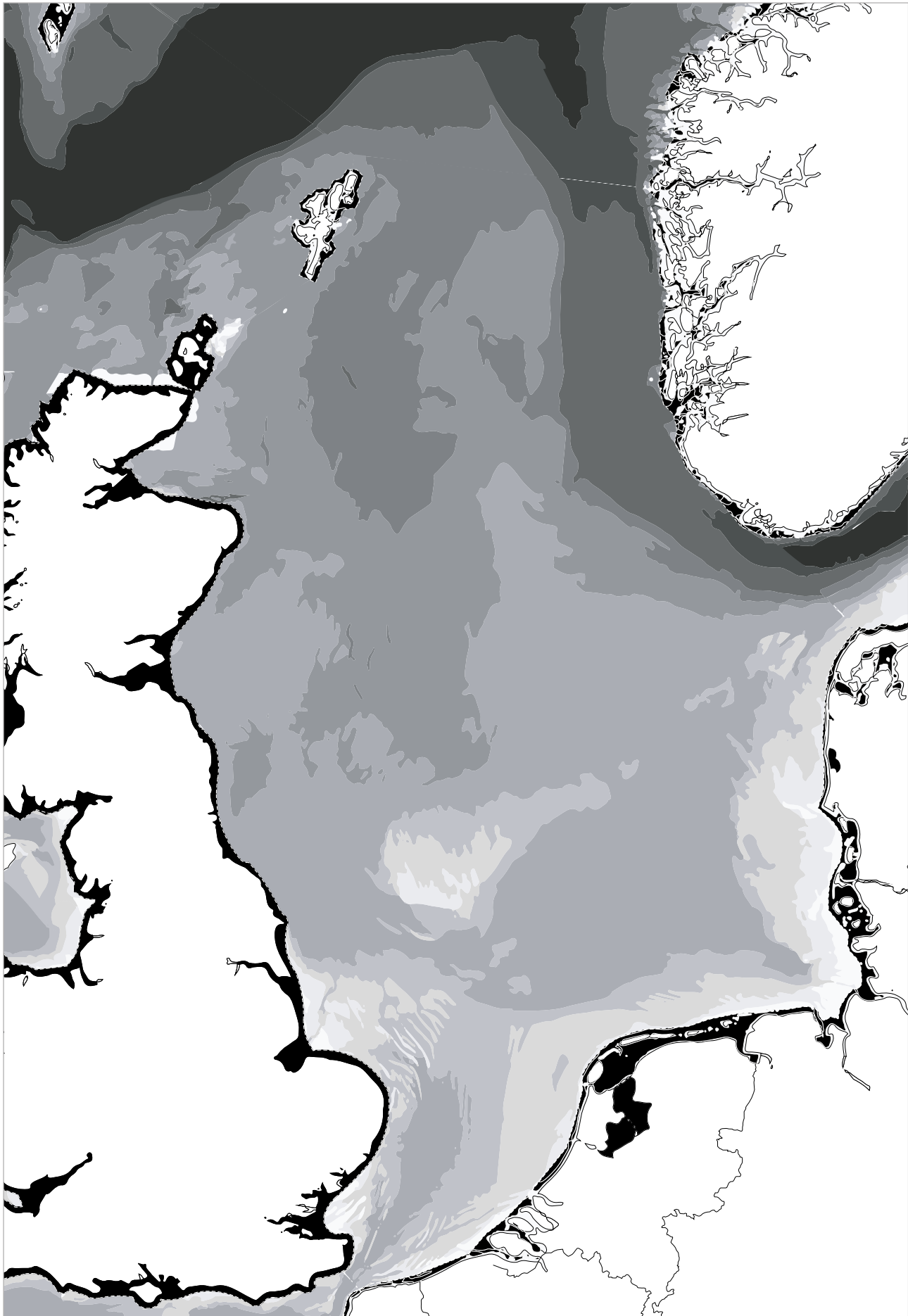
1.1.1 Historical Mapping

In 1651, the Navigation Ordinance were the first to challenge the concept of “mare liberum”. As a result, a country’s national territorial claim was first calculated by the distance a cannonball could be fired from its shore – 3-nautical miles or 5.6km. The area in between countries was still recognised to be the “free sea”. This space was the historic borderlands of the common space. Its only master was the captain of the ship which sailed through this zone (Andersson, 2013). Throughout time technology has developed and advanced how we transport, catch and extract the resources available in the water. Three categories refer to the three layers composed within the structure of the North Sea commons; the surface of the sea and the realm of travel and sea power (navigation and wars), the creatures in the sea and its harvesting capabilities and finally below the sea; the sea bed. The three layers hold a lot of power, wealth and stability for each country controlling the zone. The exponential growth and urbanisation of the sea “opens up a historical geography of power, less interested in the essential qualities of the land or sea but rather in the abstract logics of modern power that cuts across both” (Adams, 2017, p2).

1671 National Ordinance Zones

Scale: Kilometre
 Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial_waters





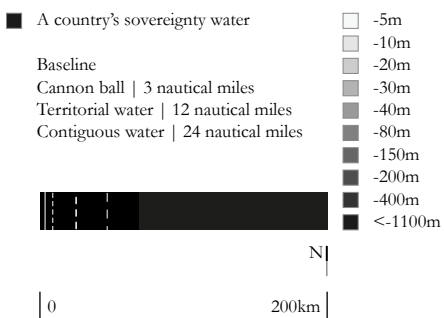
1.1.1 Historical Mapping

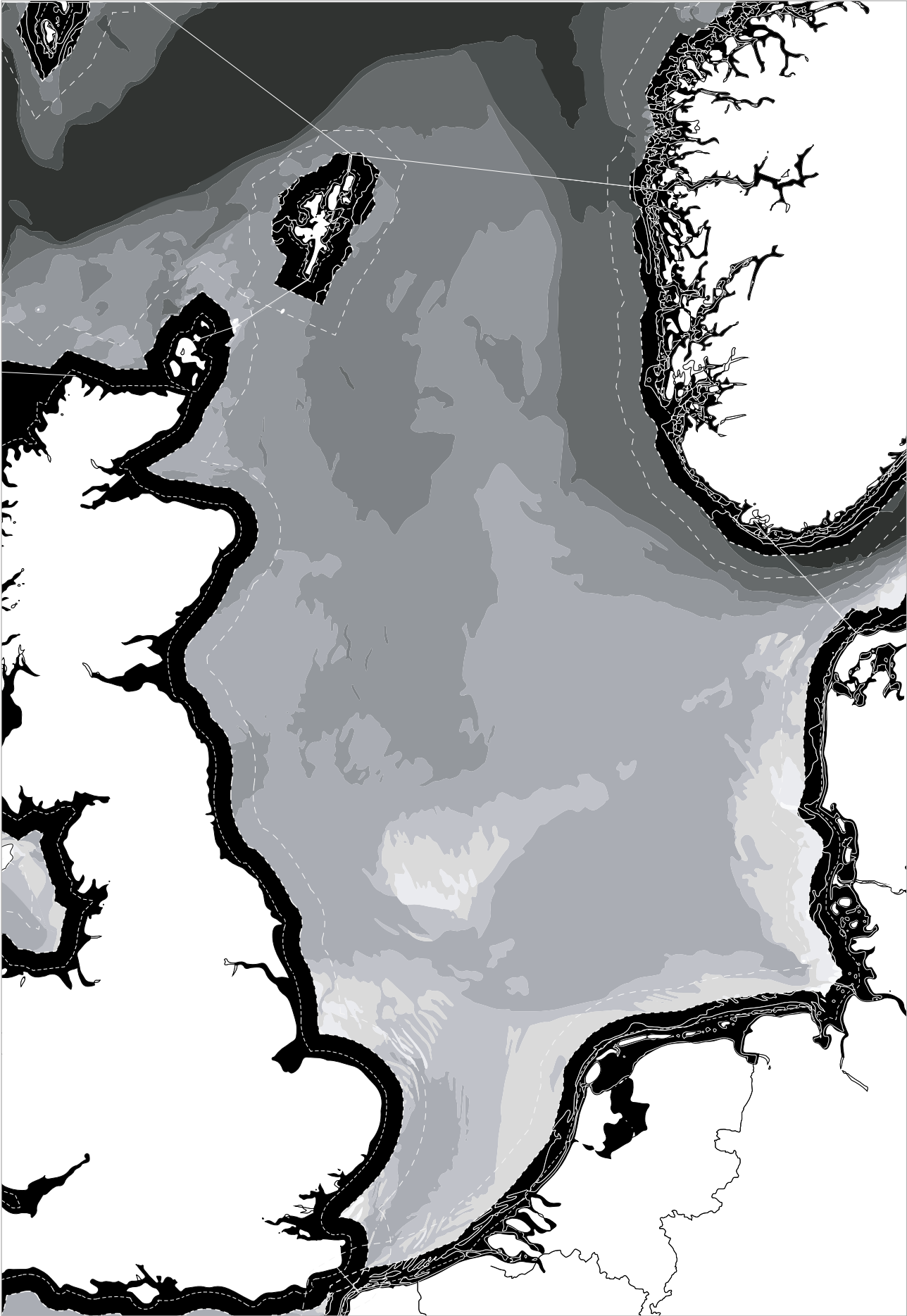
In 1982 the sea commons had evolved into a new system, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea had extended a country's sea border from three nautical miles to twelve, commonly referred as the territorial sea. The law included the parameters for the exploration rights and the use of marine resources including energy production from water and wind for all water bodies in the world (Sea, 1982).

1982 United Nations Convention | *Law of the Sea*

Scale: Kilometre

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial_waters





1.1.2 Current Mapping

In 1992 the division of the North Sea was agreed upon by the surrounding countries, today 167 countries and the European Union have joined the “Law of the Sea Treaty”. From the Caspian Report made in 2016, we can note that one country has not joined; the United States. Entering such an agreement, they believe, would be unfavourable to their economic interest seeing that their territory. For example; in the Arctic water has an estimated value of only \$8 trillion. In comparison, the Russian territorial waters claim to have a \$22 trillion in n not extracted raw materials. Technically, the United States has not claimed its Economic Zone nor do they agree with the Economic Zones of the other countries and thus reserves the right to act however it deems necessary.

1992 Paris Agreement | *Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)*

Scale: Kilometre
Source: Marine Pollution Bulletin, Volume 26, No. 4, p176-178 (1993)

■ A country's sovereignty water

- Baseline
- Cannon ball | 3 nautical miles
- Territorial water | 12 nautical miles
- Contiguous water | 24 nautical miles
- EEZ | 200 nautical miles





1.1.3 Future Mapping

The North Sea when a 5m projected sea level rise takes place

2100 North Sea | *Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)*

Scale: Kilometre

Source: Transitional Territory studio

■ A country's sovereignty water

Baseline

Cannon ball | 3 nautical miles

Territorial water | 12 nautical miles

Contiguous water | 24 nautical miles

EEZ | 200 nautical miles



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1.2.1 North Sea commons

1. ANDERSSON, H. W. (2013). Changing Technology, Changing Commons: Freight, Fish, and Oil in the North Sea. In: KRANAKIS, N. D. A. E. (ed.) *Cosmopolitan Commons: Sharing Resources and Risk across Borders*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press

The North Sea commons is composed of four layers. It is a notion composed by Håkon Andersson¹ in his writing on the North Sea, he proposes layers 2-4 (below). I proposed the layer 1 above the sea, as I felt advancements in technology have enabled us to build in (previously thought) un-buildable places, one place being the sea. Also, in recent years, there has been a growing trend in the development in offshore wind farms. Therefore, I believe this trend needs to be taken into consideration when analysing the North Sea commons and its layers.

Layer 1 - Above the North Sea

(Air space – wind turbines, oil platforms)

Layer 2 - On top of the North Sea water

(The realm of travel, trade and sea power)

Layer 3 - In the North Sea

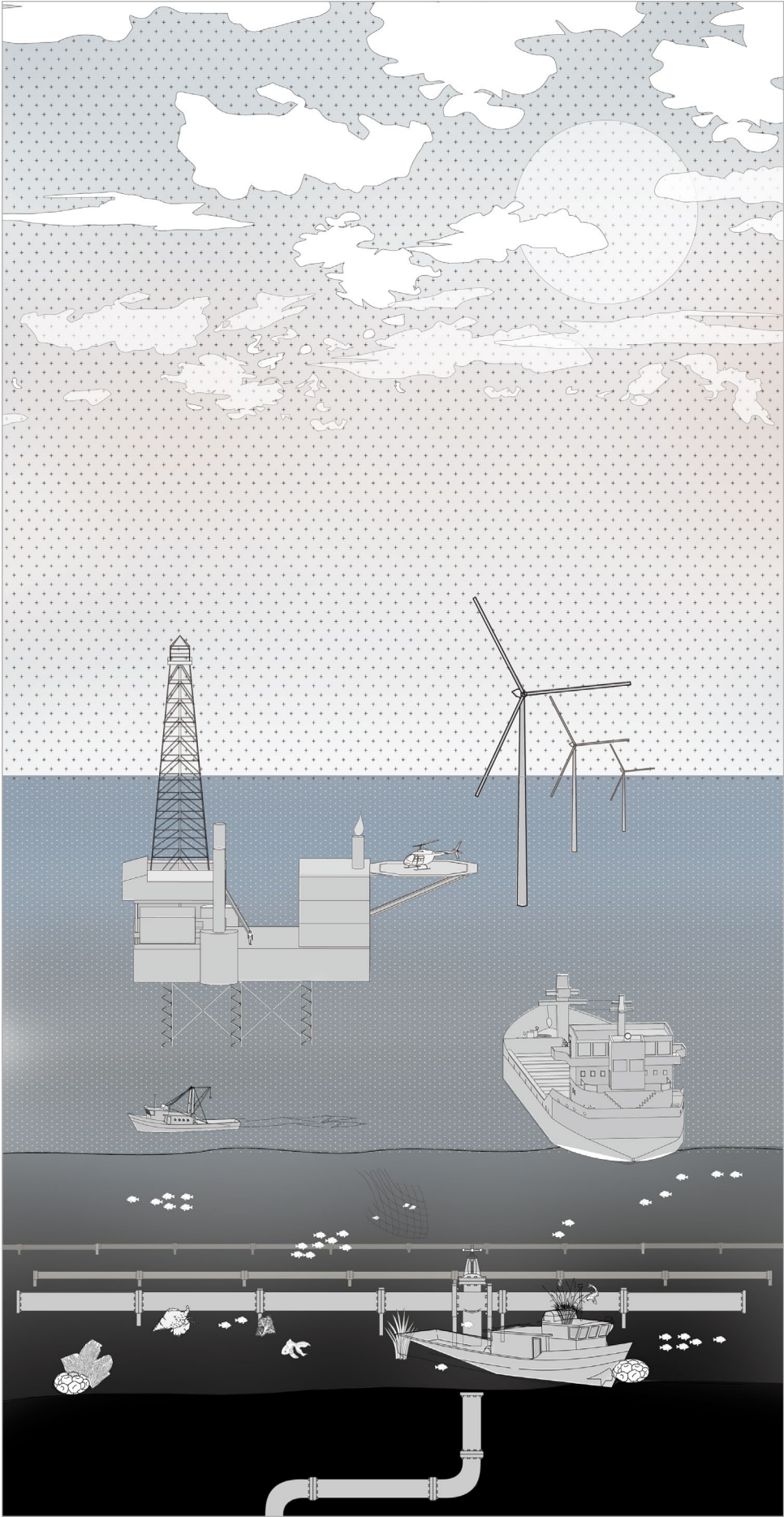
(Creatures in the sea: flora, fauna and man's machines)

Layer 4 - On the North Sea seabed

(A réseau of data cables, pipelines and extraction equipment)

It is important to define the layers in the North Sea, to understand the infrastructure, lifeforms and interaction in this layered system. It introduces the idea that the North Sea is a contested space which have been exploited by man's desire in more than one way. All to progress and embrace globalization, the growth of a country's GDP - a measure of stability, strength and prospects at the expense of the territory and reap the prosperity rewards as a result.

1.2 Territorial analysis



Layer 1 | Wind farms and oil platforms

Layer 2 | Shipping intensity and urbanisation






Layer 3 | Cod, haddock and ship wrecks

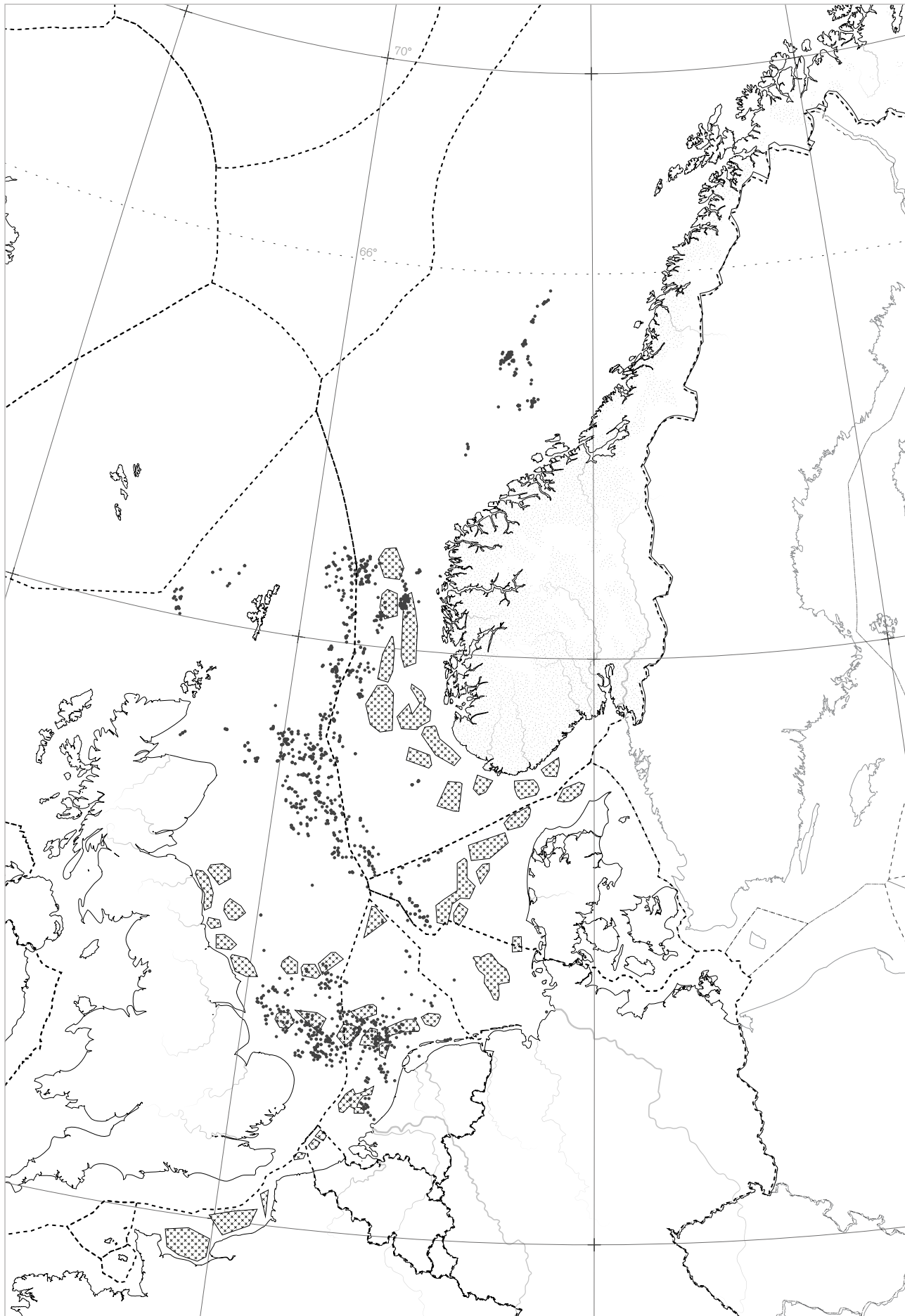
Layer 4 | Data cables, oil and gas pipelines and power lines

Layer 1 +EEZ |
Above the North Sea

Scale: 1:10,000,000





Source: Transitional Territory Studio

-  Hydro power
-  Oil platforms
-  Wind farm
-  River
-  EEZ line



Layer 2 +EEZ |
On top of the North Sea water

Scale: 1:10,000,000
Source: Transitional Territory Studio








-  Shipping activity
-  Urbanisation
-  River
-  -- EEZ line

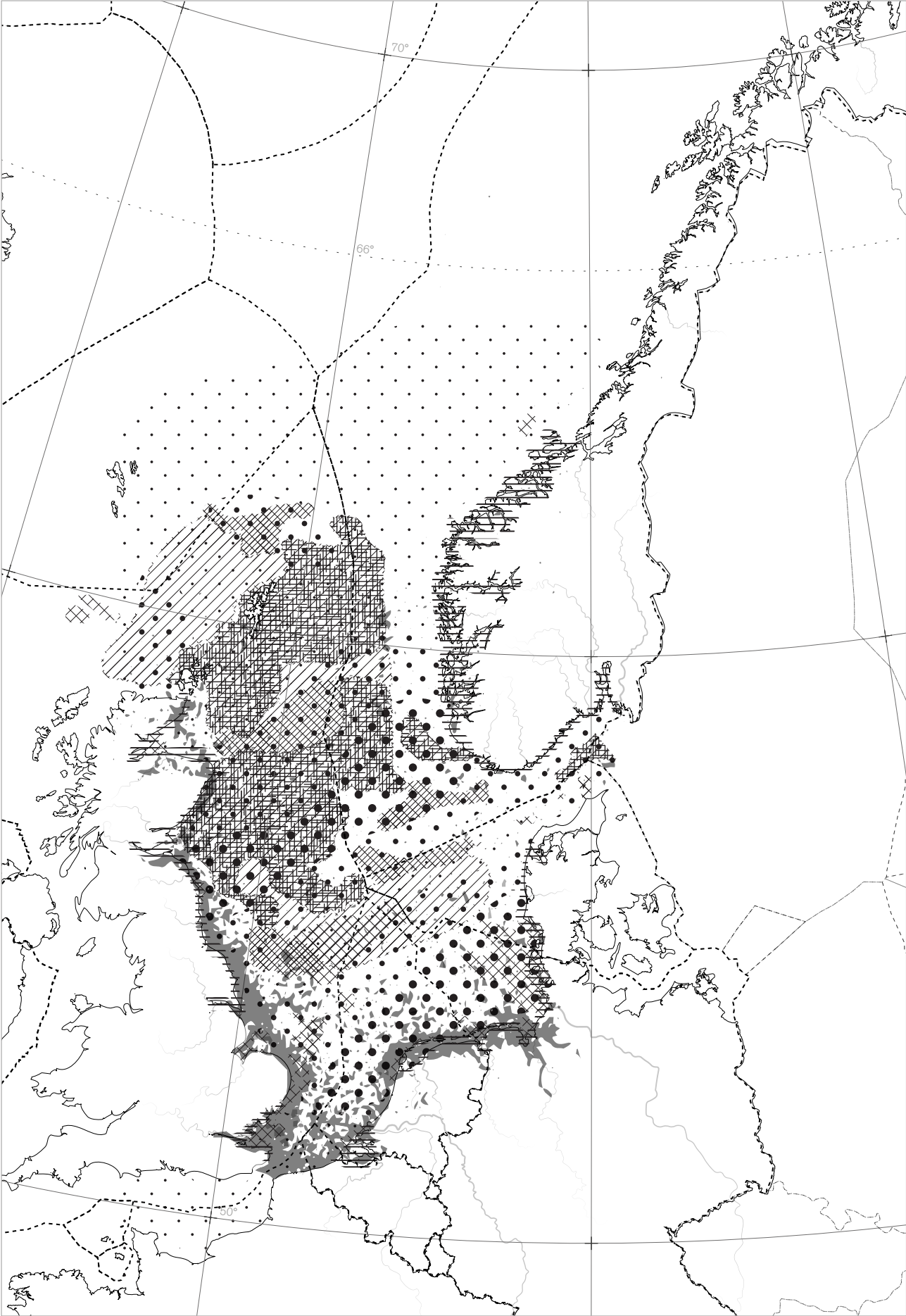


Layer 3 +EEZ |
In the North Sea

Scale: 1:10,000,000










Source: Transitional Territory Studio

-  Marine protected areas
-  Existing blue mussels
-  Shipwreck location
-  Haddock
-  Cod
-  River
-  -- EEZ line



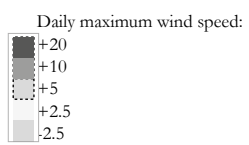
Layer 4 +EEZ |
On the North Sea seabed

Scale: 1:10,000,000
Source: Transitional Territory Studio

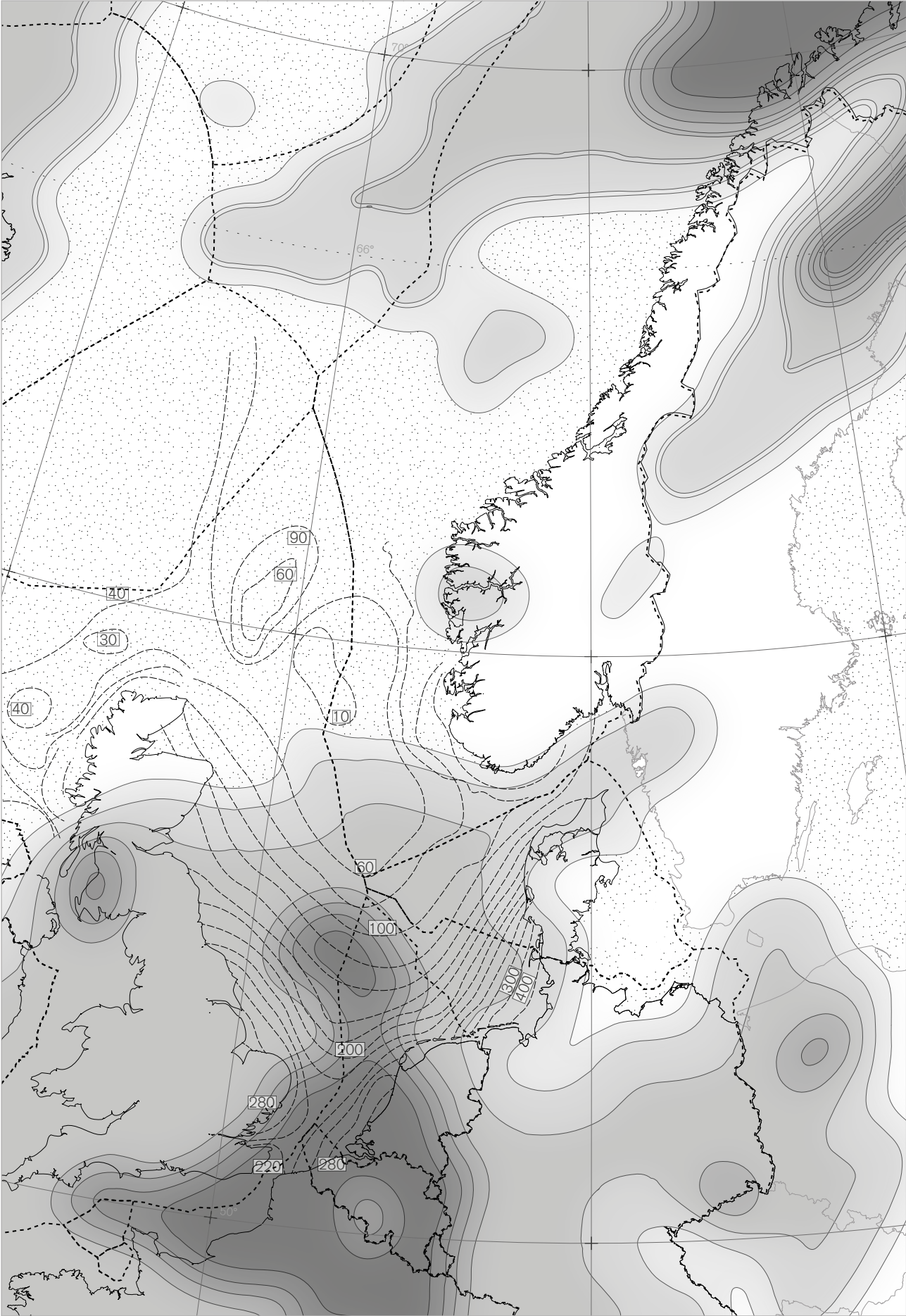
-  Cities
-  Cable landing location
-  Data cable
-  Gas line
-  Power line
-  Oil line
-  DC line
-  River
-  EEZ line

North Sea |
Extreme winds and storm surges

Scale: 1:10,000,000
Source: Transitional Territory Studio



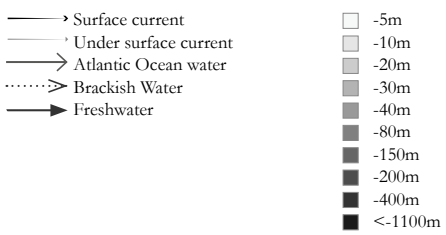
-- EEZ line



North Sea | *Currents + Water flows*

Scale

Source: <http://www.marinerregions.org/>



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



| 0

| 200km |

North Sea | *Sand + Sediment*

Scale

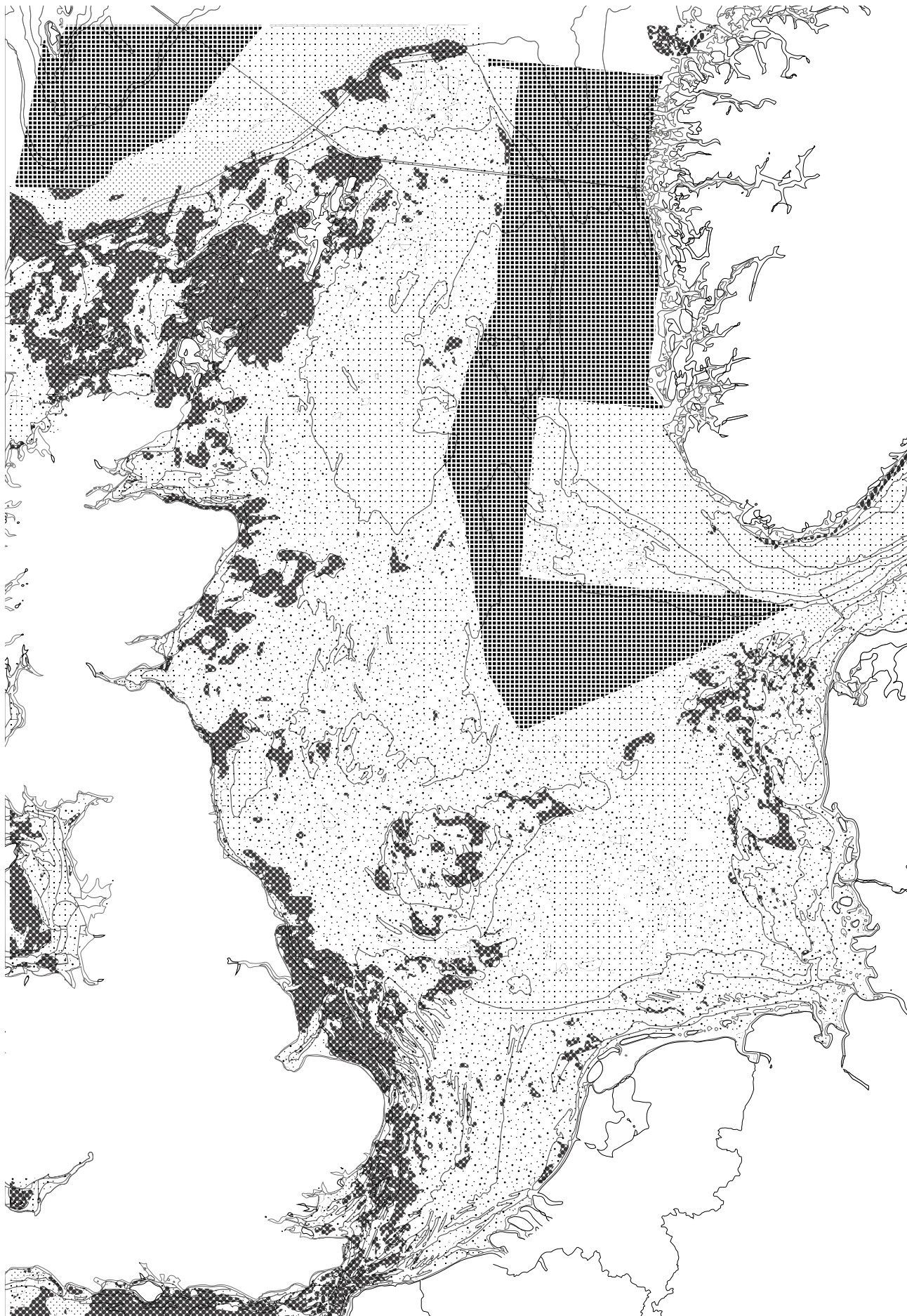
Source: <http://www.marineregions.org/>

-  Mud
-  Sand
-  Mixed sediment
-  Coarse substrate
-  Rock and boulder
-  Broad scale data
-  No data

N |

| 0

200km |



1.2.3 Cosmopolitanism commons

Cosmopolitan (adj)

Cosmo = the world as a whole

Polis = A self-governing political entity

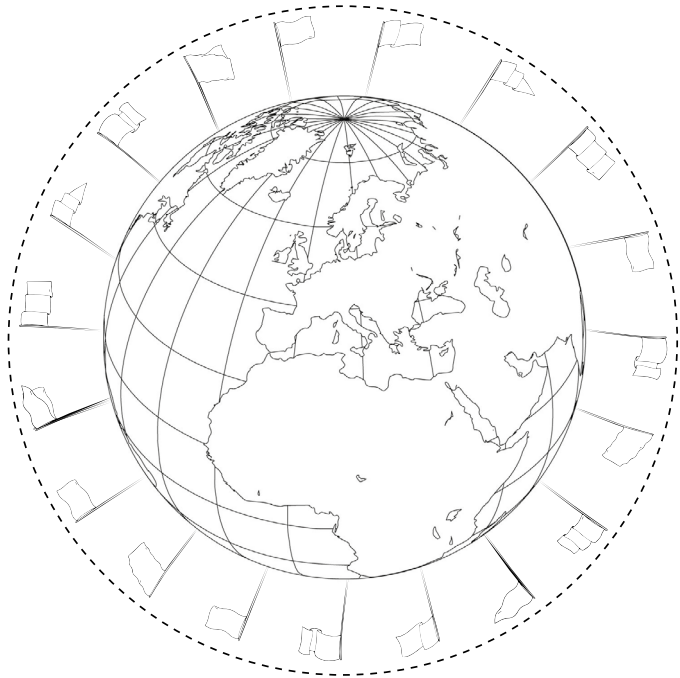
Is defined as the space between nation states who widen their borders to protect their sovereignty. The world is seen on two scales; the individual and the global. In theory we seek the idea that individuals hold equal rights and a general value as humans (including moral universalism). But many see it difficult to relate equally to individuals everywhere. The world view finds inter-cultural openness and inclusiveness difficult to fully practice. Especially because the ideals of man can distort their moral compass when interacting with the commons. Subsequently, this can lead to the tragedy of the commons.

EEZ - An exclusive economic zone (EEZ) is a sea zone prescribed by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea over which a state has special rights regarding the exploration and use of marine resources, including energy production from water and wind.

Reference:

Andersson, H.W (2013) *Changing Technology, Changing Commons: Freight, Fish and Oil in the North Sea*, in Krandakis, N. D. A. E (ed) *Cosmopolitanism Commons: Sharing Resources and Risk Across Borders*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press.

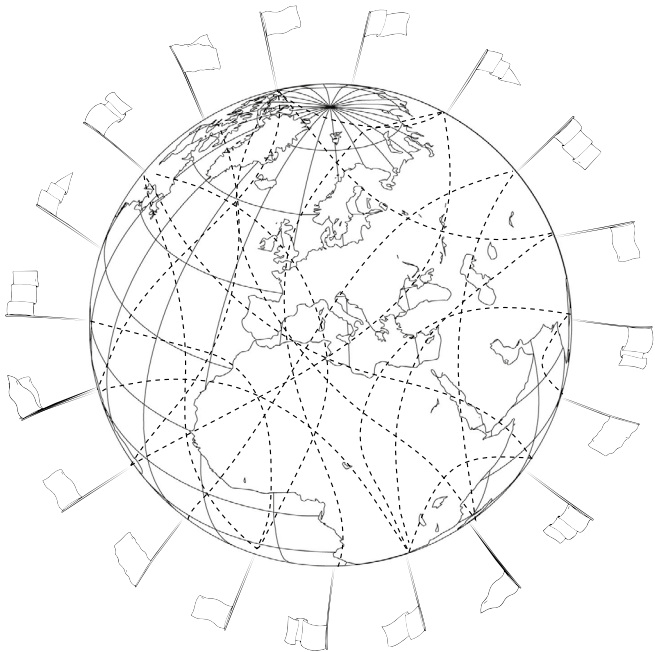
1.2 Territorial analysis



Ideal scenario of Cosmopolitanism

Individuals recognise their national identity but their primary concern is equal rights and general values as humans

Ideology: A moral universalism of equal rights and obligations towards each other



Reality of Cosmopolitanism

Humans find it difficult to relate to individuals everywhere resulting in a web of alliance, jurisdiction, sovereignty etc...

World view is difficult to fully practice

1.2.3.1 Svalbard

Svalbard is a grey area when it comes to the theory of cosmopolitanism commons, on paper it is an “ideal scenario” but in reality it shows the “reality scenario”. Each country uses Svalbard for their own personal gain. In particular, the hope of claiming or utilising the melting Arctic waters as means to shorten shipping distances.

Svalbard is part of Norway, the treaty establishes Norway’s full and undivided sovereignty over Svalbard. Svalbard is part of the Kingdom of Norway, and it is Norway that ratifies and enforces the legislation that is to apply for the archipelago. Nevertheless, the treaty does include some conditions restricting the enactment of Norwegian sovereignty, and Norwegian authorities are required to see to it that Norwegian legislation and administration respect these conditions.

Svalbard could be considered a state of exception, a grey area in the world because its treaty enables countries from different parts of the world to benefit from the land without any political tensions. Typically land appropriation is typically associated with sovereignty and jurisdiction of one country.

The treaty was ratified in 1920, today there are 43 countries across the world which have signed it. Many do not or have never operated on the land. Whilst one country - Russia - has established a community and mining industry on the island (though running at a loss). This is to help exercise their claim and power in the future (potential) logistic routes once the melting of the Arctic Self allows for permanent travel.

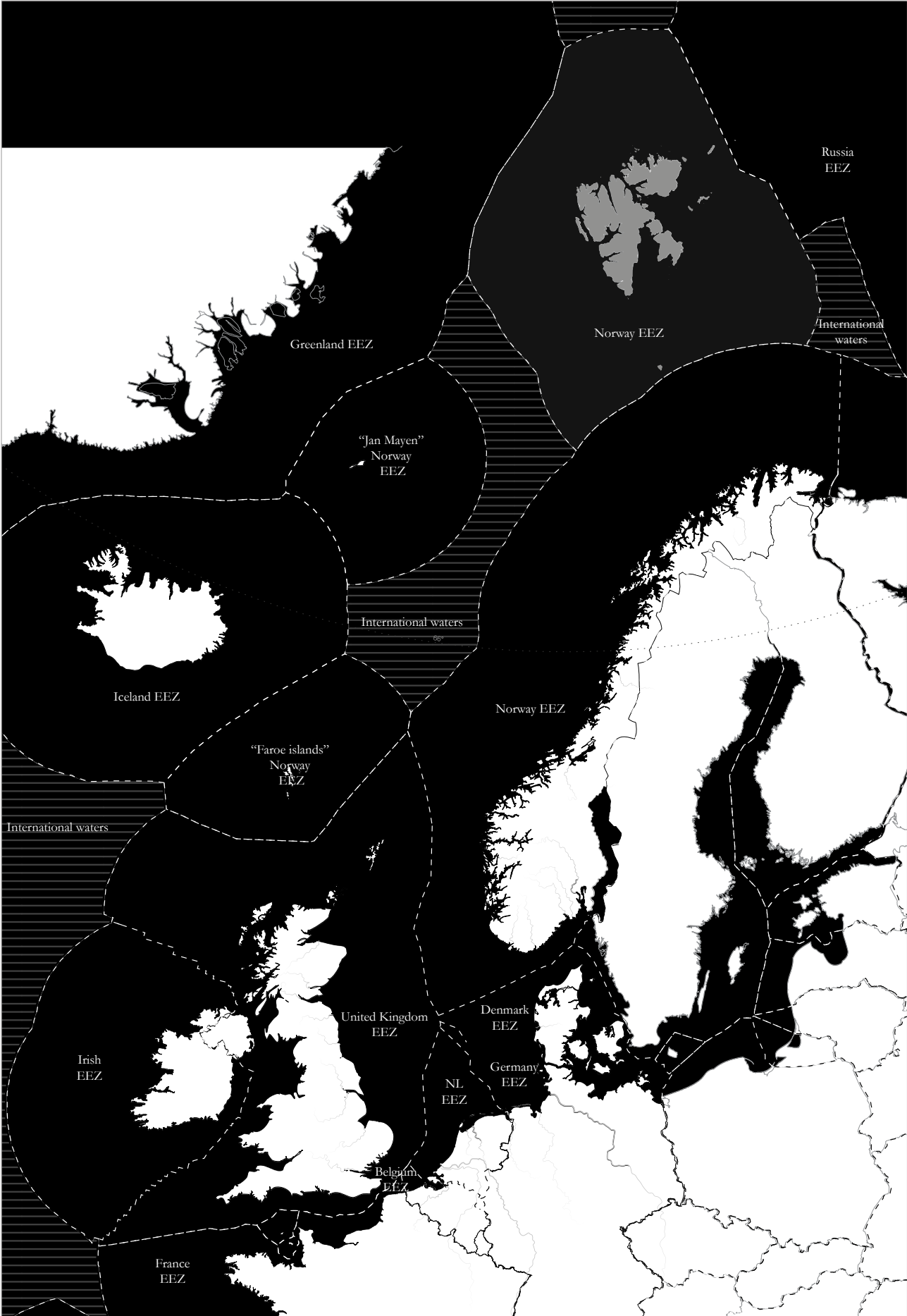
Svalbard | *Norwegian Sea*

Scale: 1:10,000,000

Source: GIS

- A country’s sovereignty water
- Grey area - Svalbard
- International waters

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SVALBARD TREATY 1920

A territory example of exhibiting the conditions cosmopolitan commons is Svalbard, an archipelago of Norway located close to the Arctic circle. Since the seventeenth century, people from many countries have been involved in Svalbard within fields such as whaling, fishing, research, mining and tourism. For a long time, they went about their business in a land that did not belong to any particular state. Svalbard was an international free-for-all, meaning that there were no rules, no regulations, no tribunals to solve conflicts. The situation was workable as long as activities were limited to whaling and research, for the area was large and conflicts rare. In the early twentieth century, mining, not least, called for new rules. Exclusive ownership of land became an issue when mineral deposits were found. Now the need for legislation and courts to solve conflicts between miners and owners, for instance, became apparent. The outcome was the Svalbard Treaty; 10 clauses for countries of this treaty to follow, all designed for the equality of man's access to resources, protection of the natural environment or militarisation of the land.

Article 2

Equal rights of fishing and hunting in the territories land and water. Norway shall be free to maintain, take or decree suitable measures to insure the preservation and, if necessary, the re-constitution of the fauna and flora of the said regions, and their territorial water.

Article 3

No monopoly can be established. No charges for exports, imports and transit powers to those who have signed the treaty

Article 7

Methods of acquisition, enjoyment and exercise of the right of ownership of property, including mineral rights, but can be given back to the community if it serves collective better than the individual

Article 9

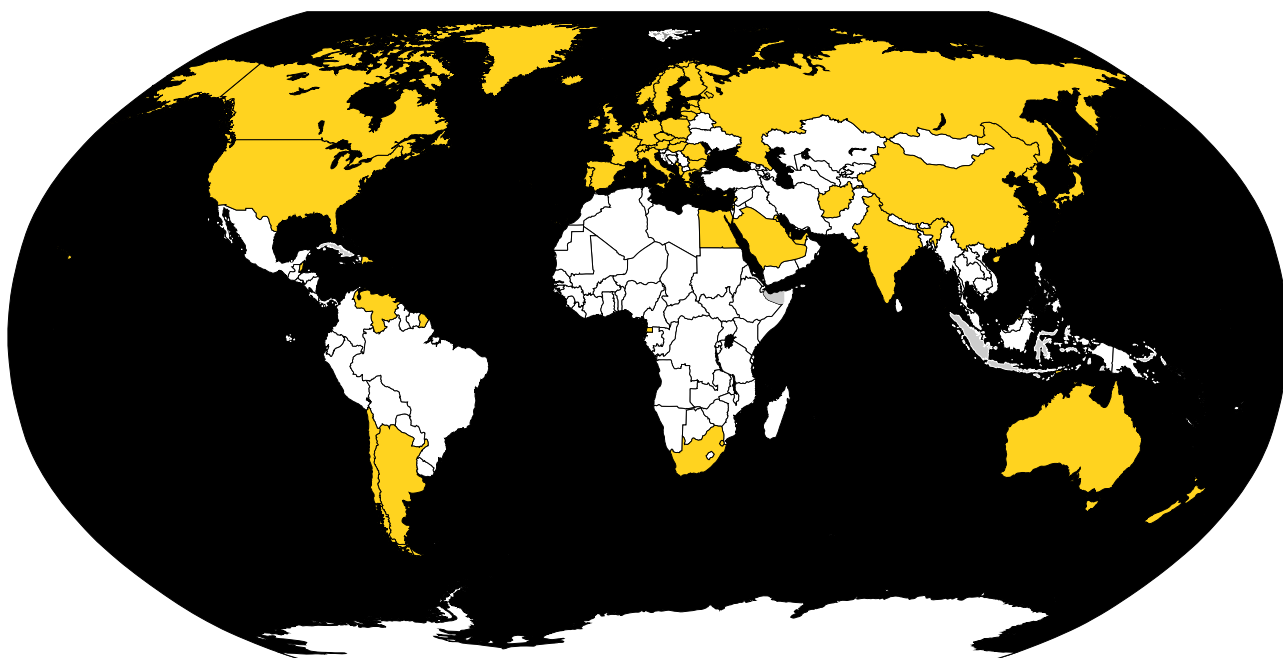
No weapons

Svalbard Treaty 1920 Signatories

Source: <https://svalbardmuseum.no/en/kultur-og-historie/svalbardtraktaten/>

- Water
- Grey area - Svalbard
- Signatories

1.2 Territorial analysis



Svalbard and 43 Parties to the Treaty |
Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina,
Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada,
Chile, Denmark, the Dominican Republic,
Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece,
India, Iceland, Italy, Japan, China, Latvia,
Lithuania, Monaco, the Netherlands,
New Zealand, North Korea, Norway,
Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Saudi
Arabia, Spain, the UK, Switzerland,
Sweden, South Africa, South Korea, Czech
Republic, Germany, Hungary, the USA,
Venezuela, Austria.

Lines in the Sand

Rethinking the role of “Gray Areas” in the North Sea

Tutor: Armina Pilav

22 November 2018

Key words: Treaty, power, commons, climate, Svalbard

1. Introduction

Sea battles aren't a new notion when considering the North Sea and its past. Man's desires for territorial claims have always exceeded their current land border. When the earth consists of 70 per cent water, it is not surprising that territorialisation is occurring on such a fluid entity. The North Sea has always been a contested territory, with seven coastal countries surrounding it, all exhibiting maritime powers. Conflict will inevitably arise in the “borderlands of the common space”. These borderlands are areas “identified along a country's coastal zone, an unclear “Gray Area” where the cosmopolitan commons meets national jurisdiction and sovereignty” (Andersson, 2013, p247). Here, multiple countries adhere different rules for their countrymen as well as the regulations enforced by the European Union. The North Sea commons starts to resemble a complex web of lines of permission, profit and passage for all who want to enter and enjoy the spoils of the many resources available within the common space. At present, seven countries politically control the North Sea, an action proposed by the Dutch government in May 1990 to improve the armory legal power. In September 1992 the EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zones) was established in order to give clarity over the jurisdiction, sovereignty rights and maritime affairs for each of the North Sea countries. However, this method of dividing sea territory between countries is not always agreeable, especially when billions of dollars of revenue is potentially available. Today's “Gray Area” lies in the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard, and the shrinking Arctic Circle above it. Climate change, unclaimed Arctic waters surrounding it and a unique political situation have made it one of the most controversial landmasses in the world. There, the law dictates the sharing of resources between all those countries whom had signed and agreed with the ten article conditions written in the “1920 Svalbard Treaty”. The aim of this essay is to reflect on man's impact on the commons and whether a “Gray Area” has the potential to explore a new notion to prevent the “tragedy of the North Sea commons”. Questioning if man should own the sea?

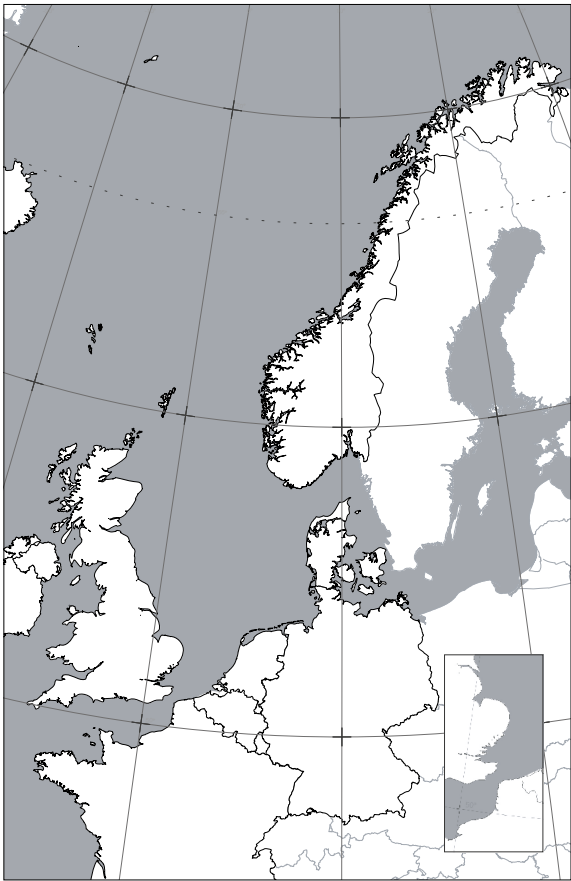
1. Cosmopolitan commons refer to the complex government structures “applying new restrictions inspired by expert assessments of the common good rather than assessed on their own sense of efficiency and justice.

2. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) extends from the baseline to 200-nautical miles (230.2 miles or 370km), a coastal nation has control of all economic resources within its zone.

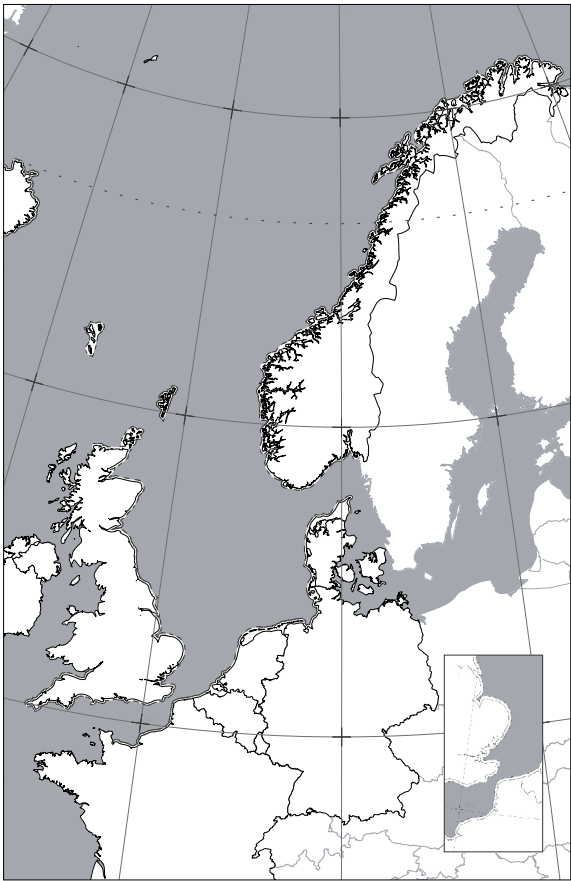
3. National Ordinance was an English Navigation Act which prohibited third-party countries from importing goods to England from other European countries (and allow only English ships to import goods from the rest of the world). The dispute was resolved in practice by restricting national territorial claims to the distance a cannonball could be fired from shore, a notion introduced notion by Cornelius van Bynkershoek.

2. The North Sea Commons

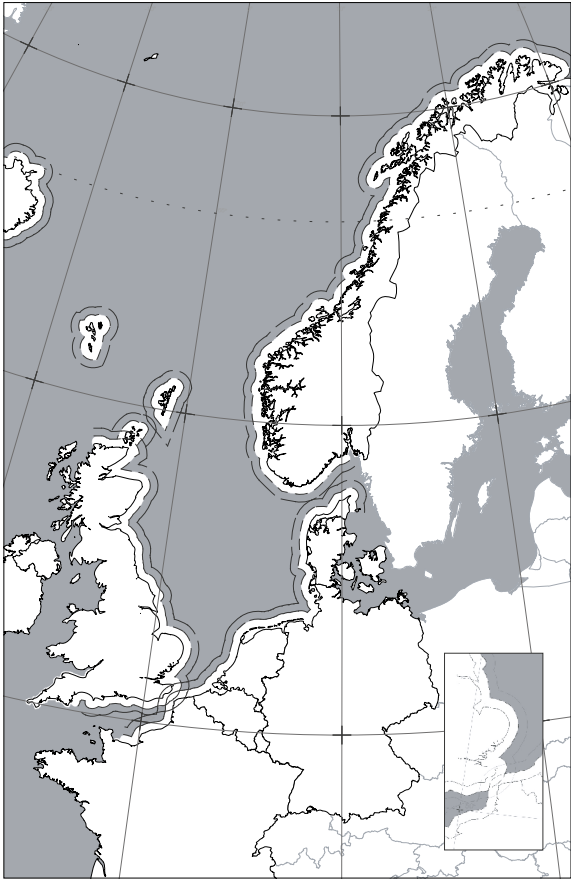
The last time the sea was perceived as a “free space” was in 1150, when it was a resource pool open for all (Andersson, 2013). “The Freedom of the Seas” or “mare liberum”, a term coined by Hugo Grotius in 1609 [1], he formulated a notion that the sea was an international territory and all nations were free to use it for seafaring trade. In 1651, the Navigation Ordinance [2] were the first to challenge the concept of “mare liberum”. As a result, a country's national territorial claim was first calculated by the distance a cannonball could be fired from its shore – 3-nautical miles or 5.6km. The area in between countries was still recognised to be the “free sea”. This space was the historic borderlands of the common space. Its only master was the captain of the ship which sailed through this zone (Andersson, 2013). Throughout time technology has developed and advanced how we transport, catch and extract the resources available in the water. Three categories refer to the three layers composed within the structure of the North Sea commons; the surface of the sea and the realm of travel and sea power (navigation and wars), the creatures in the sea and its harvesting capabilities and finally below the sea; the sea bed. The three layers hold a lot of power, wealth and stability for each country controlling the zone. The exponential growth and urbanisation of the sea “opens up a historical geography of power, less interested in the essential qualities of the land or sea but rather in the abstract logics of modern power that cuts across both” (Adams, 2017, p2). In 1982 the sea commons had evolved into a new



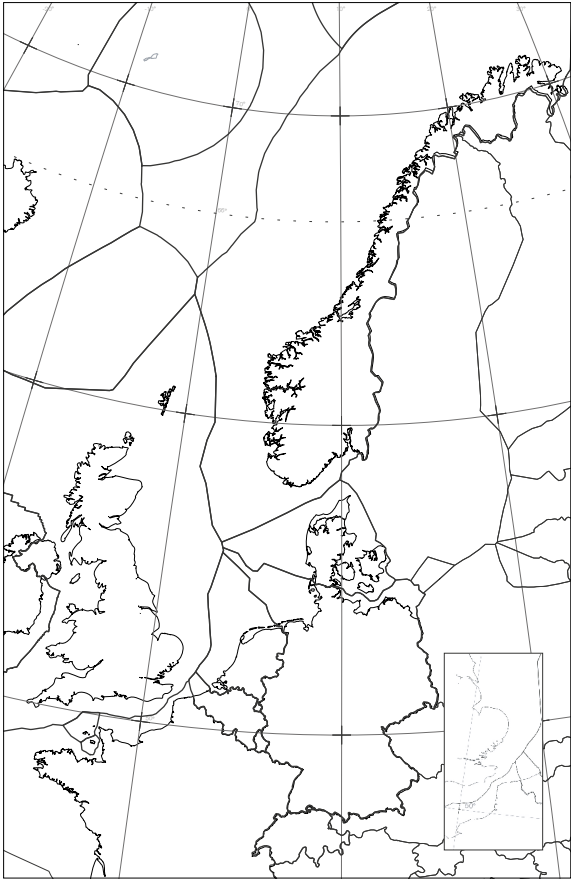
[1] 1609 Hugo Grotius's "mare liberum" in the North Sea



[2] 1651 National Ordinance zones in the North Sea



[3] 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea



[4] 1992 EEZ in the North Sea

4. Territorial sea – Defined in 1982 by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea it is a zone which extends 12-nautical miles (13.8 miles or 22.2km). It is considered the sovereign territory of the state although foreign ships are allowed passage.

5. Baseline is measured by the low-water line along the coast, officially recognised by the coastal state.

Internal waters are waters landward of the baseline, which the state has complete sovereignty.

6. Contiguous zone is a band of water extending 24-nautical miles (27.6 miles or 44.4km), a state can exert limited control for the purposes of preventing or punishing “infringement of its customs, fiscal, immigration or sanitary laws and regulations within its territory or territorial sea.

7. Continental shelf is part of a country's land mass under water, it extends beyond the outer edge of the continental margin, typically it is recognised as 200-miles but the United Nations has extended this to 400-mile if the country in question can prove the land is scientifically theirs.

8. Land Grab is an act of seizing land in an opportunistic or unlawful manner.

system, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea had extended a country's sea border from three nautical miles to twelve, commonly referred as the territorial sea [3]. The law included the parameters for the exploration rights and the use of marine resources including energy production from water and wind for all waterbodies in the world (Sea, 1982). In 1992 the division of the North Sea was agreed upon by the surrounding countries, today 167 countries and the European Union have joined the “Law of the Sea Treaty” [4]. From the Caspian Report made in 2016, we can note that one country has not joined; the United States. Entering such an agreement, they believe, would be unfavourable to their economic interest seeing that their territory in the arctic water has an estimated value of only \$8 trillion. In comparison, the Russian territorial waters claim to have a \$22 trillion in unextracted raw materials. Technically, the United States has not claimed its Economic Zone nor do they agree with the Economic Zones of the other countries and thus reserves the right to act however it deems necessary.

3. The exception to the rule, Svalbard

Svalbard is a Norwegian archipelago between mainland Norway and the North Pole. It is one of the world's northernmost inhabited areas – as of yet, not for economic but purely for strategic reasons. It is a country that could be considered a “Gray Area” within the EEZ for three very important reasons, and in the interest of so many countries. Firstly, Svalbard is an island with an upheld treaty, the “1920 Svalbard Treaty”. In article 3 it states that any country that has signed the treaty can exploit the land for economic and commercial purposes. 46 countries across the world have signed this treaty even though only five signature countries actually surround the island - Russia, United States, Canada, Denmark (Greenland) and Norway – whilst the absolute sovereignty remains with Norway (Harris, 2017). Secondly, the Arctic Circle surrounding the island has reduced dramatically in recent years due to climate change. The US Geological Survey believes that 30% of natural gas and 13% of the world's oil reserves lie untouched in this newly accessible area (Harris, 2017). Though it was initially considered too expensive to extract, it is now becoming possible for many private companies and countries to potentially extract and profit from this newly accessible area.

Lastly and most importantly, the reduced ice in the Arctic Circle has now made it achievable for cargo ships to access this water during a couple of months in summer. This cuts weeks off shipping time through new routes across the north east and north west passages, instead of using the more established southern shipping routes through the Panama Canal and Suez Canal (CaspianReport, 2016). This new activity may impact Svalbard's currently small population of approximately 2,600. Many inhabitants are employed in the Russian coal mine, tourism industry or research stations in the few settlements on the island. A lot of residents have moved to the island because their income is on average 23 per cent higher than on the mainland (Statistics Norway, 2010). However, these activities are all subsidised by different governments, to lay economic roots in the island ready to claim the land if and when oil or gas reserves start to be extracted. In the eyes of its government ministers, the people of Svalbard are placeholders (pawns) for the country's future political and economic gains, patiently waiting for the right conditions to arise. However, this belief is not in line with the people who live there as many do not care for the politics. For them it is mainly about earning money for their families.

4. The race to the 400-nautical mile claim

For many countries there are five lines of political borders; baseline, internal waters, territorial sea (12-nautical miles), contiguous zone (24-nautical miles), EEZ (200-nautical miles) and continental shelf (up to 400-nautical miles). The island of Svalbard reflects a strategic piece in a puzzle and opportunity for a country to extend their 200-nautical mile boundary to 400-nautical miles. This is the maximum accepted boundary recognised by the United Nations. A country simply has to prove it belongs to them by showing their continental shelf extends beyond the 200-nautical miles and to this maximum. Beyond this, the continental shelf drops to great depths when reaching the ocean and impossible to claim. Any country is able to submit a claim for new land jurisdiction. This is reviewed by an array of scientists from all over the world working at the United Nations. Currently only two claims have been passed by Norway and Denmark. This method of land grab leads to problems of overlaps in claims by opposing

1.2 Territorial analysis

countries, creating politically tense and hostile conditions as each country believes the land should be theirs (Harris, 2017). Much of the unclaimed water surrounds Svalbard; it is believed the claim for the reserves and the waters will be more tangible if a country's culture and identity is historically recognised in its association with the island (Harris, 2017). Though this area is positioned north of the North Sea, the outcome from the territorial claims will directly impact the seven North Sea countries, their logistics, transport routes and potential extraction. For instance, the new Northern Sea Route in the Northeast Passage runs along the Barents Strait, Siberian coast, Barents Sea to the North Sea. This route connects the corridors of East Asia and Europe and is on average 13 days shorter than the southern Suez Canal, and therefore quicker, deeper and cheaper for a company or country to travel through. In 2013, 71 ships received permission to travel this route (Caspian Report, 2016). But numbers decreased to 8 the following year because insurance premiums were high due to a lack of emergency response and out-dated navigation systems. Once these issues are resolved the potential for the ports in North Sea could result in exponential growth and a rise in GDP for that country.

5. Conclusion: The "Gray Area"

The "Gray Area" of the north represents a space of huge potential, not only in exploitation, power and greed but the ability for countries to share with one another for the common good of the land and not self-interest. Svalbard demonstrates how an ambiguous space can still function, because everyone who has signed shares the same belief. However, in the coming years this may change, as the ice melts Svalbard will become more valuable, the treaty and norms that had kept it in its order for years are becoming incompatible with the physical realities. New borders may be drawn, new opportunities to project power may emerge and new disputes may resurface in the land and sea territory reclamation process. The unpredictability remains in a country's pursuit for power and whether it will remain recognising the Sea Laws and borders established by the United Nations. It starts to question if all countries will play fair in the land grab process in the Arctic water when there is so much potential money to be made.

This essay has highlighted the positive aspects of the melting Arctic for the commons. However, it is important to also note the negative impacts; new polluted waters, extinct species and a degraded seabed. Not to mention the risks of sea level rise for low-lying countries in the world like the Netherlands whose country is currently 50 per cent under sea level. Nevertheless, the "Gray Areas" concept presents a new possibility for spaces of political, economic and social conflict, where webs of jurisdiction and sovereignty have made it too complex to function. Can small interventions be introduced, spaces of exception created for the good of the commons rather than the desires of man? What can ensure its survival in the future: a new "Gray Area"?

6. References

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- It's time to draw borders on the Arctic Ocean, 2017. Directed by HARRIS, J.: Youtube.
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1.2.4 Scenario-based territorial planning

Scenario-based planning seeks to explore an alternative means of thinking; ethicopolitical relations beyond the tired and tantalising dichotomy set-up by the polis/cosmopolis. The aim of this exercise is to depict extreme scenarios of what might happen to the North Sea commons when considering a change in ideals (morals) of man when they interact with this environment.

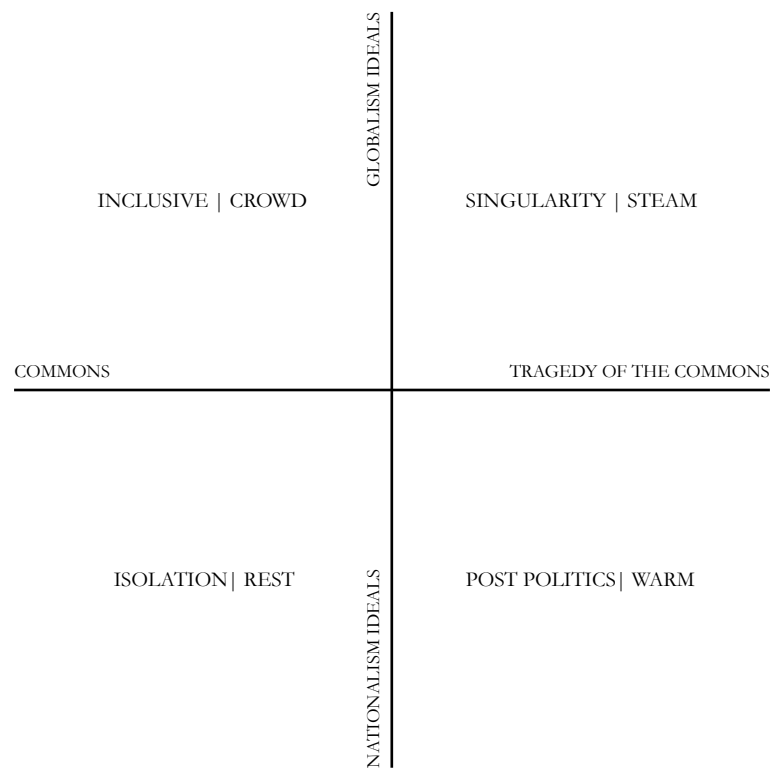
Each quadrant amalgamates and expresses one word to describes each condition; singularity, post-politics, isolation and inclusive. The resulting image takes into considering current political, economic and social circumstances in play today. For example; *Brexit*, fishing, oil extraction and corporations ethos when culminating the image.

The two variables chosen to be tested reflect the survival or tragedy of the North Sea commons, the morals and judgement of man in their interaction with the flows of operation of the commons four layers (air, on the water, in the water and on the seabed). The axis diagram interprets the actors morals and judgment and constructs an extreme reality.

Reference:

- Archibugi, D. (ed.) (2004) *Debating Cosmopolitics*, London and New York: Verso.
 Derrida, J. and Roudinesco, E. (2004) *For What Tomorrow? A Dialogue*, California: Stanford University Press.
 Held, D. and Patoma'ki, H. (2005) 'Problems of Global Democracy: A Dialogue', Paper Presented at the 'Ethics in World Politics: Cosmopolitanism and Beyond?' Workshop, University of Warwick, 24 May, 2005.
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1.2 Territorial analysis



INCLUSIVE

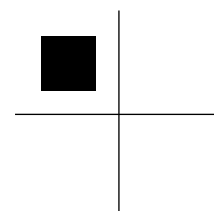
The idea of a global unity of human beings as one species living in a world society — together with notions of universal law and harmony — is associated with the work of Zeno who founded the Stoic school in 342 BC (Vaughan, 2007, 109).

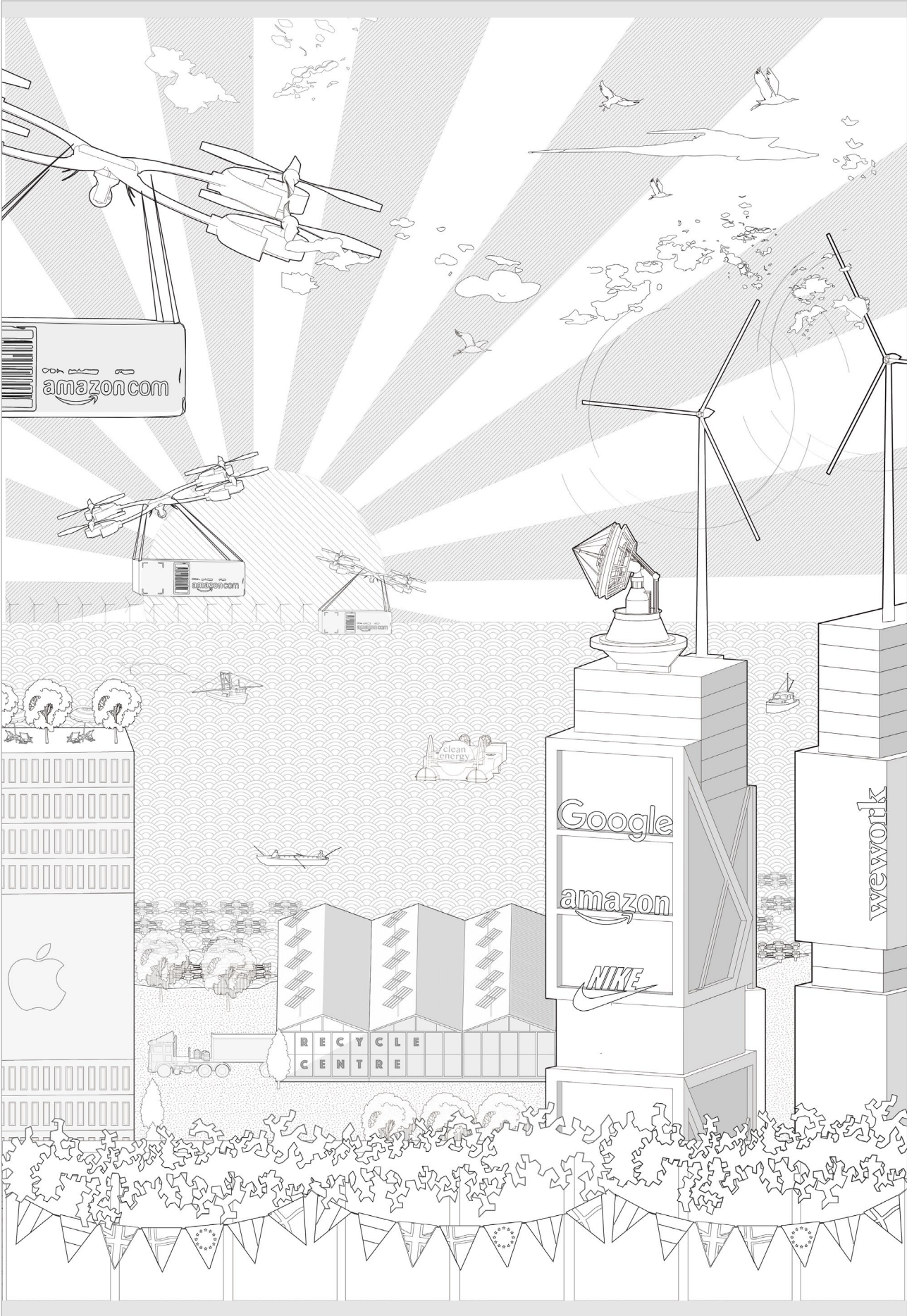
Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) offers a more optimistic political manifesto. The duty of international relations, as set out in Perpetual Peace, is to work towards a cosmopolitan society. A global state, one that would 'grow until it embraced all the peoples of the earth', is preferable. However, since 'it is not the will of the nations' Kant argues that 'the positive idea of a world republic' is out of the question. Therefore, a negative solution will have to suffice. (Vaughan, 2007, 110).

The inspiration of Kantian thought lies on three levels: first, it extends the moral imagination beyond the parochialism of the bordered nation-state; second, it offers views on the relationship between historical developments promoting globalism on the one hand and the role of political praxis on the other; and third, it promotes international institutionalism (Vaughan, 2007, 110).

Inclusive globalism is in line with sustainable globalism, corporation looks to eradicate massive landfill piles of a country dumped in another country but seeks to recycle/reuse, drilling companies such as Shell would distribute their wealth into the country it is drilling; for example enable the local community remain prosperous once the company leaves through creating new sustainable industries; wind farms, algae farms etc.. These advocates of a global cosmopolitan democratic order attempt to apply principles of democracy historically contained within the nation-state to international relations more generally: 'For such problems as the protection of the environment, the regulation of migration and the use of natural resources to be subjected to necessary democratic control, democracy must transcend the borders of single states and assert itself on a global level' (Archibugi, 2004, 7).

The image depicts a global world, corporations, new technology and cleaner energy surrounding our lives. Unity in a global world is key aspect of the image, it is no longer about us but everyone and everything working in harmony.

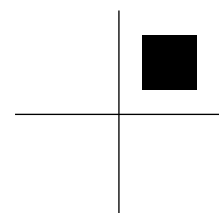


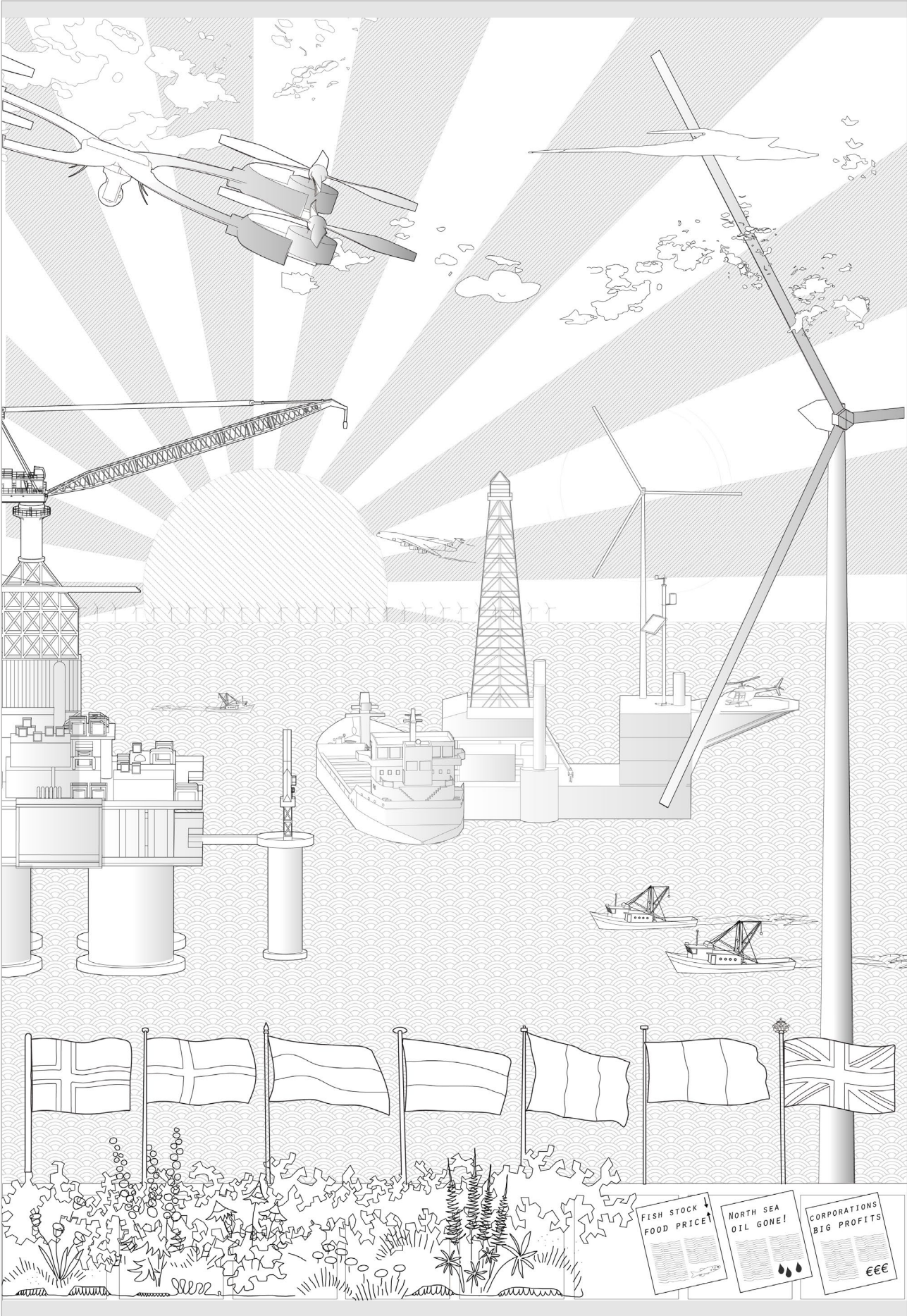


SINGULARITY

The concept of singularity offers theorists of international relations a means of thinking beyond cosmopolitanism - Jacques Derrida definition - opens up the possibility of conceiving ethico-political relations between all forms of life, irrespective of conventional distinctions such as citizen/non-citizen. This would seem to involve erasing stubborn borders that currently exist between forms of life by insisting on the drawing of even more borders to attempt to attend to the singular in every context. The principle, Derrida argues in relation to the concrete issue of humanitarian intervention.

The image depicts the relationship between countries of the North Sea, over exploitation for the aim of profit leads to the space being over utilised without any care the consequences. Different industries work in close proximity to one another in an attempt to maximise its yield. Though on the surface it seems globalism is creating a "dialogue" between each other, there is however tensions between the states as each wants to yield the most. This is seen by different sized oil platforms and fishing fleets trawling the seas. This form of global activity will only lead to short-run gains for the actors involved.



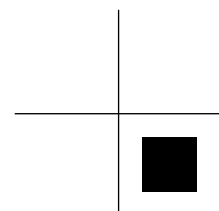


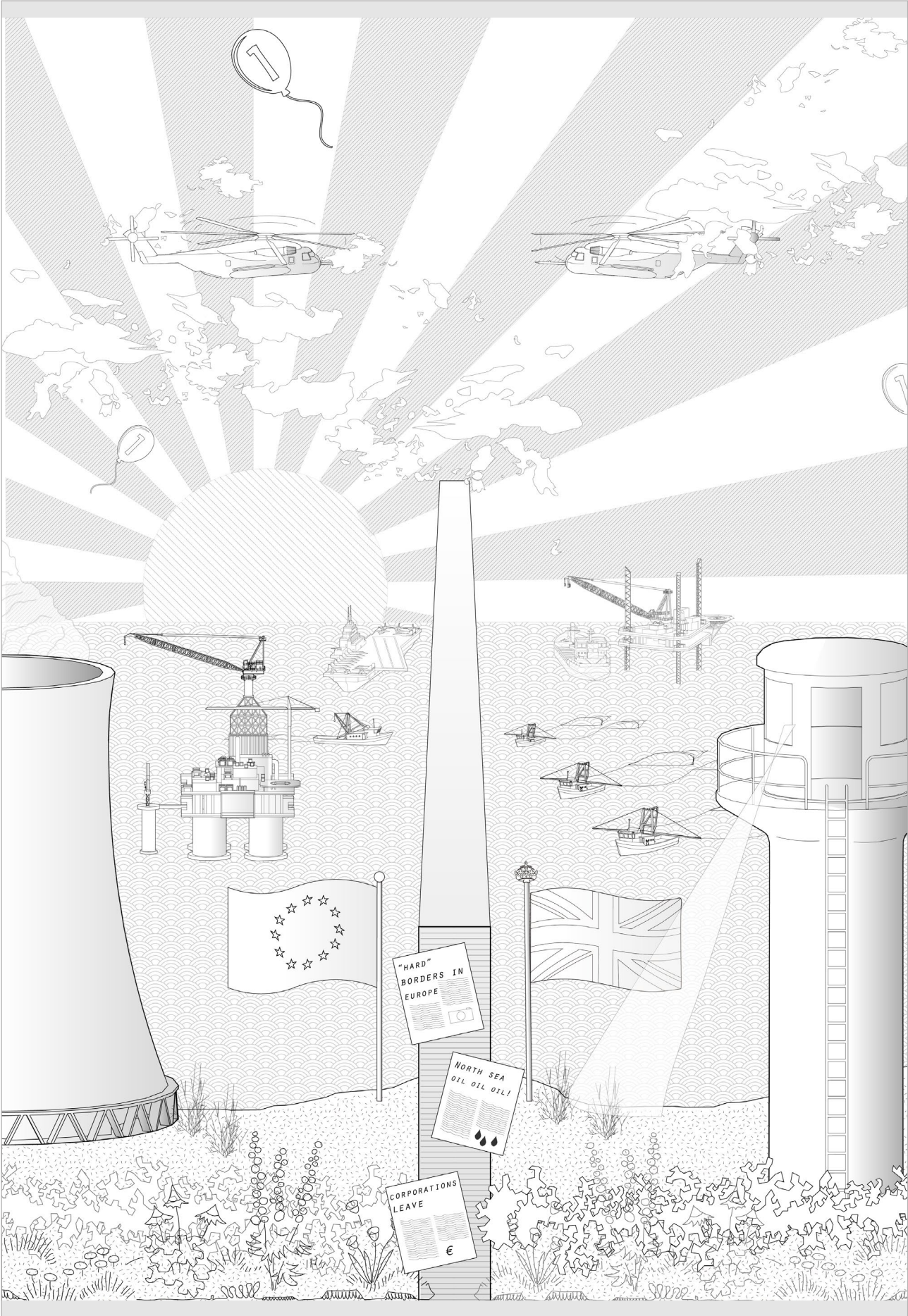
POST-POLITICS

An era of turbulent swings of politics (BREXIT), the image depicts a time of political rejection. This is a where a country looks to rejecting the environmental consequences of their actions and instead seeks to exploit the land under their jurisdiction and sovereignty of the nation state. To full fill the needs of today with disregard of the tomorrow. Simply put, one only believes what one can viscerally perceive (an inward feeling rather than to the intellect); for example the Trump administration in the United States of America using slogans “America First”.

This has ability to lead to the collapse of international corporations investing in a country, seeing country's backtracking to more intimidating tactics for their communities. Friends and allies will become foes, where one thinks only for the good of their people than of mankind and its environment. It will result in an irrefutable decline in natural resources, country have to rethinking their food, energy and monetary systems in order to produce enough for their country's population.

The image depicts an extreme hostile situation (in light of Brexit and its unknown future relationship with EU). It takes references of a “hard” border dividing nations. Each utilising their space how they wish. As resources are no longer shared, country's over extract in their area to supplement the demand, leading to the tragedy of its commons.



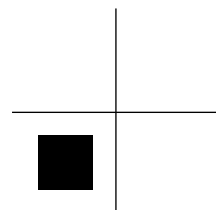


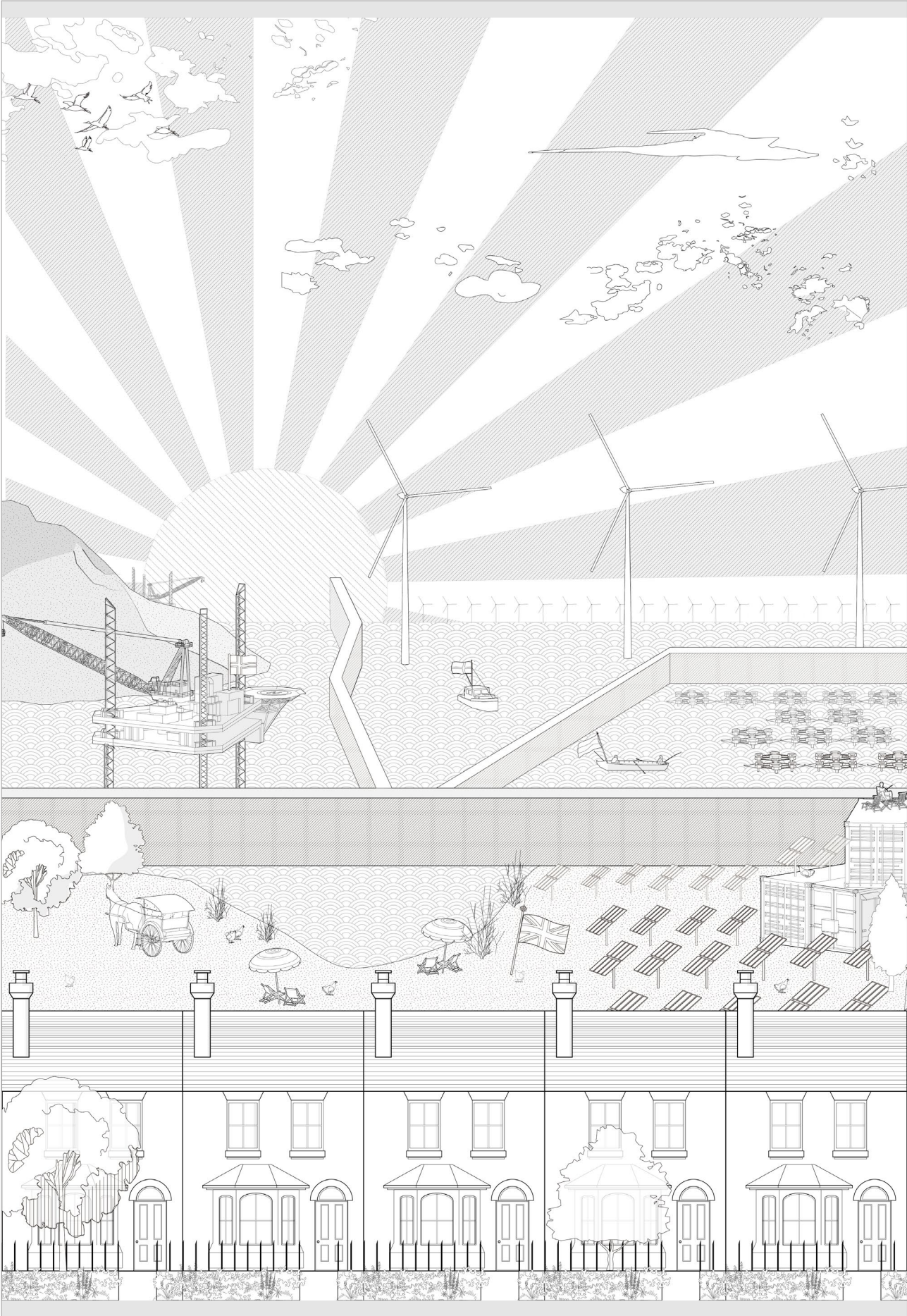
ISOLATION

Illustrates a future coastline which looks to a nationalistic view of “taking care of their own” and yet embraces the idea of the commons. The image takes the view of nationalism one step further with the fragmentation of the North Sea states. Each drawing “hard” border with the other.

Here man is more careful in its approach to investment in new techniques of production. The economy will seem to stagnate, with many content with how things operate that there will be no need to change or improve the day to day routine. The demand for extraction will start to fall, as movement among country’s will reduce and will no longer be deemed profitable. Big international corporation will start to start to close, leaving “ruins” on the landscape of its past life. Now a country has a choice; disrepair or change its setup. From the outside world it would start to resemble a commune. To them a new way living, where decisions and actions can be taken quickly without hierarchical bureaucratic.

The image is striking as it shows each country implementing their own activity on the North Sea; from oil platforms in the Norway to algae farms in The Netherlands. There are now smaller fishing boats operating in the North Sea, as they are only supplying the nation state. This is a very extreme tactic to spatially order the North Sea, dividing and defining the borders, yet on land this is how it was done in the land appropriation process.





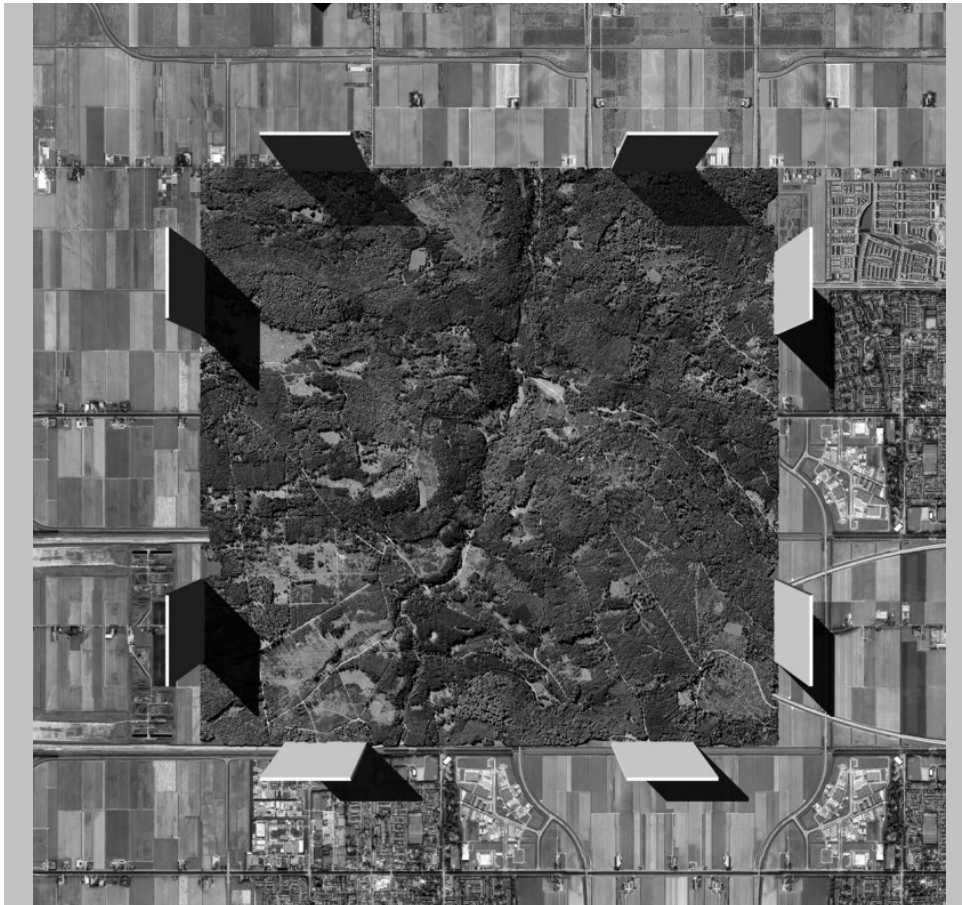
1.3. Problem Statement

The project attempts to reflect on man's moral compass on its environment, to reconnect nature and culture in today's borders. The North Sea and its coastal nations have become an interesting "precedent" site for this conversation, having evolved into a global space of extreme dense activity, detrimental for a coastal nation's stability. It encapsulates high levels of tensions, movement and climate change in this dense urban space and becomes a catalyst for the shift in conversation of change, for the common good rather than the individual. Yet, we are still putting our national identity and ideals before the needs of nature, all in pursuit of our desires and self-interest.

It is Carl Schmitt in *Nomos of the Earth* who expresses, "all law is law only in a particular location, historically it is more correct to focus on the relation between order and orientation and on the spatial context of all law. The English construction of a state of exception, of so-called martial law, is analogous to the idea of a designated zones of free and empty space". Though we do not have any "empty" or "free" space in the North Sea, it is now divided between the seven coastal nations. It does however, prompt the question if a state of exception can or should be created in the North Sea, to discuss and decide on the outcome of "internal" disputes.

Artists such as Andreas Gursky brings to the forefront subjects such as work, everyday life, globalisation, mass consumption and the relationship between the individual and the collective. Together they form a teeming pictorial narrative of the world in which we live, often underscoring the insignificance of human beings. For many, the North Sea is a water body which has become a major source of wealth, prosperity and income, on both the large and small scale. Over exploited, extracted and utilised, as its rewards change our interaction with it will soon change. Therefore, a space for conversation and for data gathering on this environment needs to (re)arise. The creation of a new common, a space of exception that all coastal nations regard.

1.3 Problem statement





Amurite Wall
Tigris and Euphrates Rivers (2100BC)



Prototype of Trump's wall
Scotland-England (128AD)



"The Great Wall of China"
China (1644)



International Border (IB)
Bangladesh-India border (1947)



Berlin Wall
East-West Berlin (1961)



Gaza wall
Gaza-Israel (1995-2005)



"The Great Wall of Calais"
Calais (2016)



Prototype of Trump's wall
- San Diego (2018)

1.3 Problem statement



1.4 Research Question

Can we introduce a state of exception at the heart of the North Sea, a grey area to prevent the tragedy of the North Sea commons, and to guard the morals of man and future flows of operation, through creating a state of exception to discuss and decide on the outcome of "internal" disputes?

Sub-questions

- 1. Are borders the ignition to the formation of contested spaces or lines of connection?*
- 2. Does a new space, a new commons need to be created for the good of the North Sea and not the ideals of man?*
- 3. Is self interest detrimental to our environment and morals?*

1.4 Research question



2. Site

2. Site: Dogger bank, North Sea

1. Gaffney, V., Fitch, S. & Smith, D. Europe's Lost World: the Rediscovery of Doggerland (Council for British Archaeology, in the press).

2. <https://www.nature.com/news/2008/080709/full/454151a.html>

3. <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/maps/doggerland/>

4. <https://www.abroadintheyard.com/if-doggerland-had-not-drowned/>

2.1. Historical Precedents | Timeline of Dogger Bank

20000BC - Last Glacial Period

Vast ice sheets covered much of the North Sea. Average temperatures were 4-5°C. Colder conditions forcing human populations to seek refuge further south

15000BC

Climate began to warm and the ice sheets started to melt and humans started to repopulate the area.

13000BC - Early Holocene period

Warming process halted, massive volumes of previously ice-bound fresh water affected ocean currents like the Gulf Stream and led to a sudden cooling period *Younger-Dryas* lasting 1,500 years before the warming resumed.

10000BC

First inhabited Doggerland the low lying 9,000 square mile landmass. A European delta, the size of Germany. Landscape full of resources comprised of lagoons, marshes and beaches. Thought to be the richest hunting and fishing ground in Europe at that time influencing the course of prehistory in north-western Europe as a maritime and river based society from how the people adapted to this environment. Mesolithic people populated this land, they were hunter-gatherers seen as the "*Stone Age Atlantis of Britain*." or the "*Prehistoric Garden of Eden*"

8000BC

A global warming period, as ice sheets rapidly melted and sea levels rose, low lying Doggerland is defenceless against the encroaching seas, now UK was cut off from the European mainland.

6100BC - A tsunami hit the remaining shallow islands of Doggerland

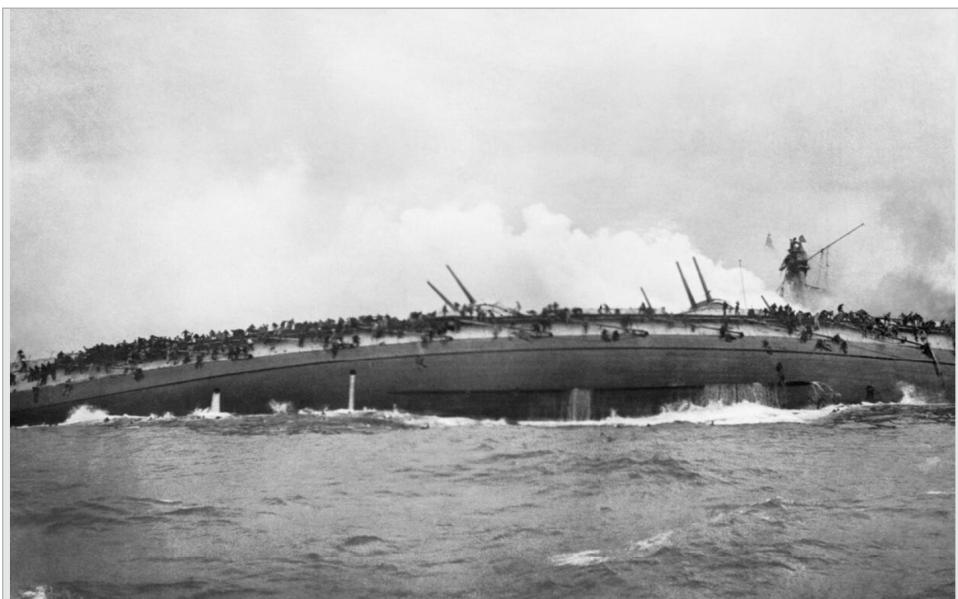
It was caused because at the end of the ice age, ice sheets were retreating and the earth's crust was creaking and uplifting. Massive climate change was the cause of the wave. 700 miles north, sand and boulders had built up over ice ages, their vast weight but pressure on the thin mud that lay in between. Resulting in a lot of sediments on the edge of the continental shelf. An earthquake shook the seabed causing the sediment to collapse. As it slowed down it created a wave tens of metres high. Causing a scar on the bathymetry from the collapse. The slide in sediment was called the *storegga slide*. This displaced millions of tonnes of sea water, creating a massive wave.

5500BC

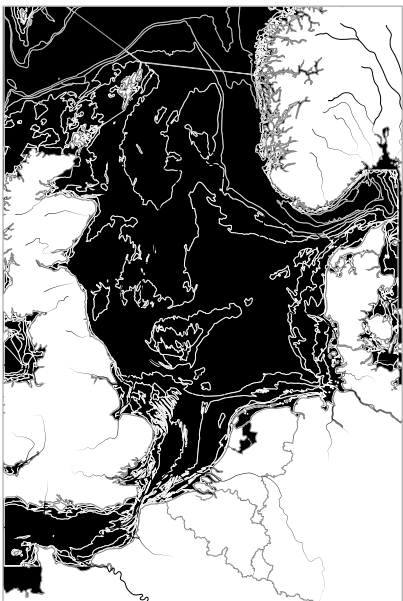
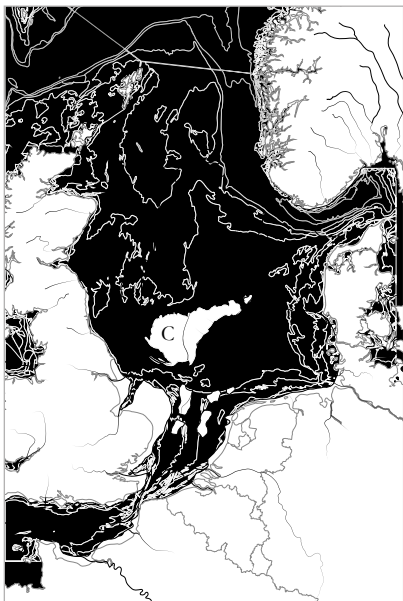
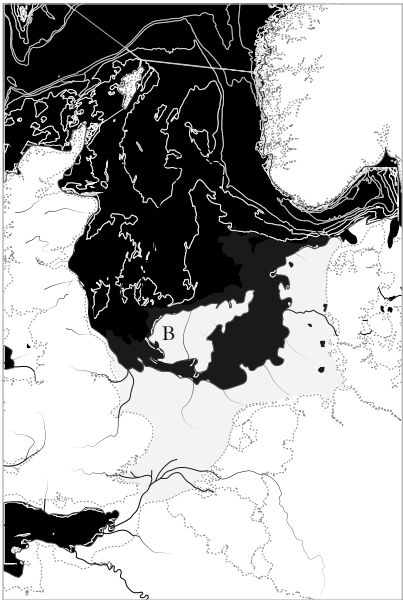
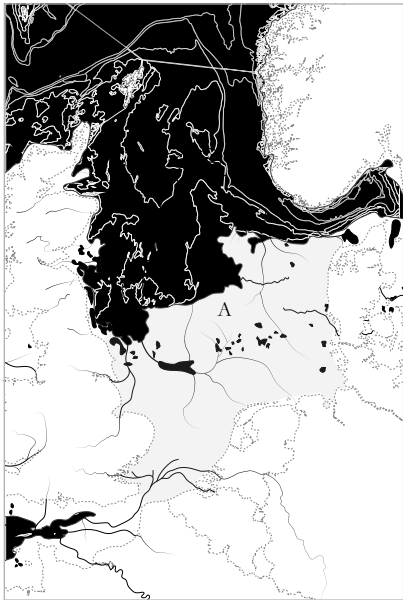
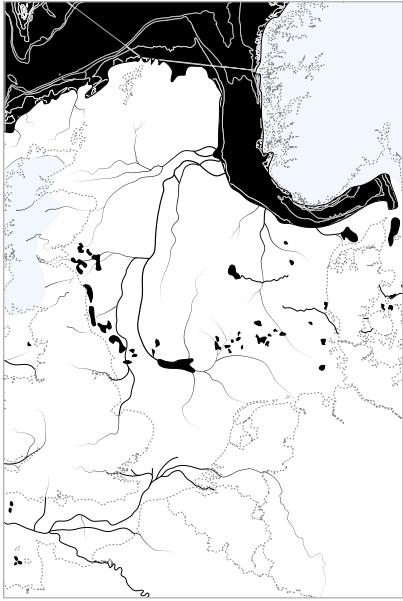
The vast island that was Dogger Bank was submerged by water. Mesolithic people were forced onto higher ground - which now England and the Netherlands. Global temperatures reached their maximum level, 1-2°C warmer than today, an influx of civilisation which had flourished in the Mediterranean area would migrate to north-western Europe, where Doggerland had long passed from memory.

The story of the Mesolithic people and their home of Doggerland are cautionary tales for the consequences of a rapidly rising sea level. Glacial melt forced the Mesolithic people out of their homes and now Doggerland, like the fabled Atlantis, is just a sunken and mostly forgotten Stone Age culture, it's only evidence being decayed artefacts and fossils of its people. For if Doggerland had remained, the climate in north-west Europe would need to be cooler and drier and ice sheet long since melted would have to be present in our northern regions.

2.1 Historical precedents



Timeline of Dogger Bank
Cod fishing off Dogger Bank Print
(1883)
Fishing on Dogger Bank | Edwin Ellis
(1841-95)
German battle ship (1914)



2.1 Historical precedents

15000BC North Sea

Source: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/maps/doggerland/>

- Land
- Water
- Ice Glacier

N|

0 | 200km|

8000BC North Sea

Source: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/maps/doggerland/>

- Land
- Water
- Ice Glacier
- Doggerland
- A Dogger Hills

N|

0 | 200km|

7000BC North Sea

Source: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/maps/doggerland/>

- Land
- Water
- Ice Glacier
- Doggerland
- B Dogger Island

N|

0 | 200km|

5000BC North Sea

Source: Europe's Lost World: The Rediscovery of Doggerland by Gaffney, V, Fitch, S, Smith, D

- Land
- Water
- Ice Glacier
- C Dogger Bank

N|

0 | 200km|

2019 North Sea

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:North_Sea_map-de.png#/media/File:North_Sea_map-en.png

- Land
- Water
- Ice Glacier

N|

0 | 200km|

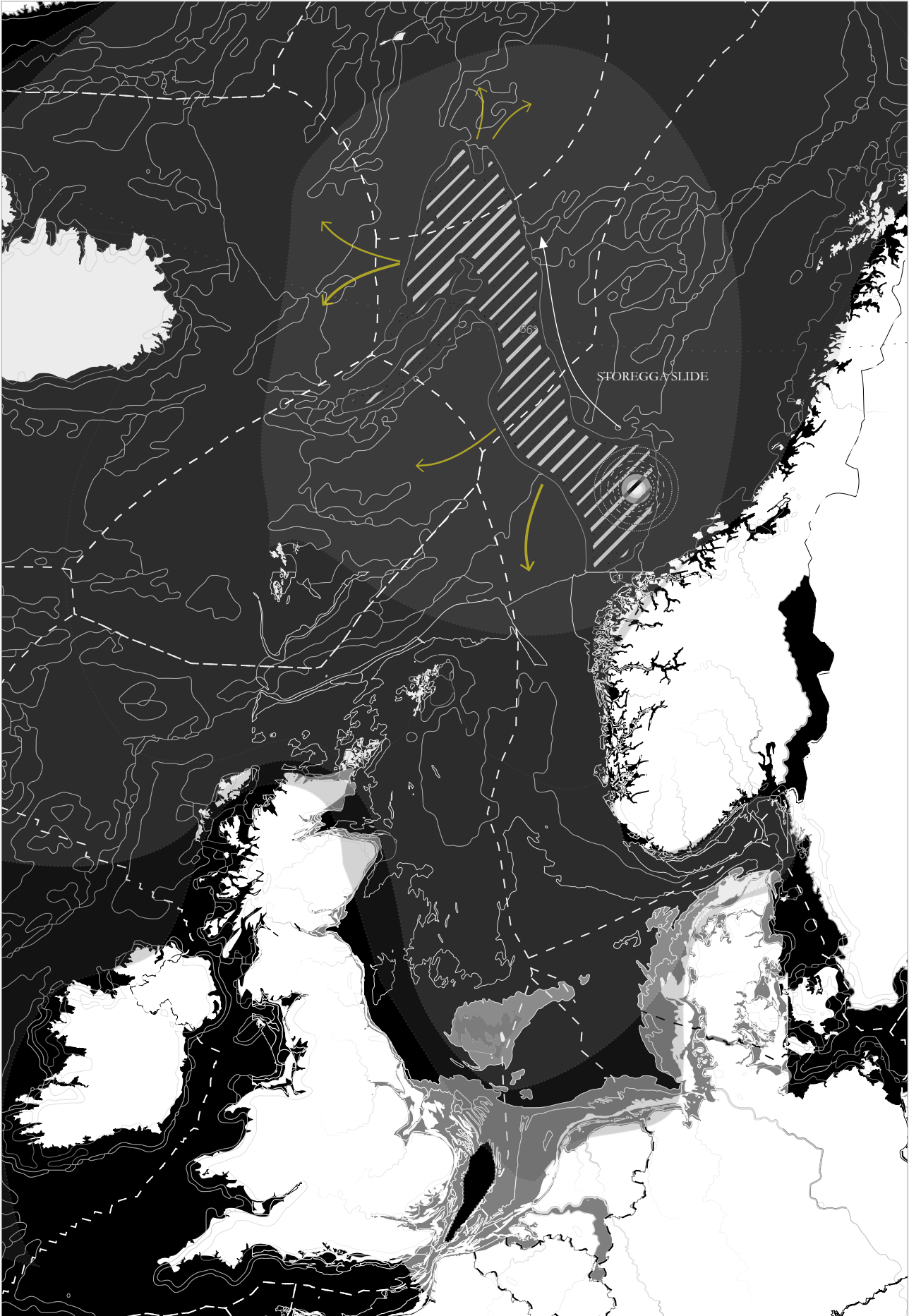
2.1.1 The disappearance of Dogger Bank

The North Sea has slowly encroached, removing once liveable and occupied land. For a long time we (man) were at the mercy of nature, it is only in recent years that we have been able to postpone nature's desire.

8000BC a landbridge of the names *Doggerland* once connected continental Europe and the United Kingdom. It was a land which embraced Schmitt's *nomos*, the immediate form in which the political and social order of a people become visible - land appropriation. This land was seen as fertile, accessible to water, rich in food (for the hunter gatherer) and flat - utopia, a garden of Eden.

Here, measure, order and form constitute a spatial concrete unity, by which a tribe or people become settled. In particular, *nomos* can be described as a wall, because, like a wall it too is based on scared orientations. The *nomos* can grow and multiply like land and property.

Unknown to the neolithic man, prospering from the land all it has to offer, a series of event were below the sea off the coast of Norway were stirring. The storegga slide, the falling of sediments along the seabed (the scars can still be seen in the bathymetry) caused a series of tsunamis. With little warning, 100m waves hit and eradicated much of *Doggerland*. It left a token, Dogger Bank. Until this to slowly disappeared, becoming a distant memory, forgotten until recently.



2.1 Historical precedents

2.1.1 The disappearance of Dogger Bank

How did Dogger Bank disappear?

Storegga slides, also called Storegga landslides, was a series of submarine landslides in the Norwegian Sea that occurred ca. 8,400 and 2,200 years ago. The combined activities of these landslides produced a scar on the sea floor that begins some 100 km (60 miles) off Norway's More Coast on the edge of Europe's continental shelf and extends some 1,600 km (1,000 miles) into the abyssal plain of the Norwegian Sea. Geologists regard the scar, which was identified in 1983, as the largest area of slope failure in the world. Some scientists contend that one or more tsunamis associated with the Storegga slides washed away the land bridge connecting the island of the United Kingdom with continental Europe. Storegga is the Old Norse word meaning "great edge."

Most scientists believe that a series of undersea earthquakes weakened the headwall (the steep, rising slope) of the continental shelf. Other scientists contend that the rapid release of methane gas were trapped as gas hydrates in the sea floor, sediments deposited after the most recent ice age may have triggered the landslide outright or contributed to the destabilization of the headwall.







Source: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Storegga-slides>

What happened to Doggerland? |

Storegga Slide

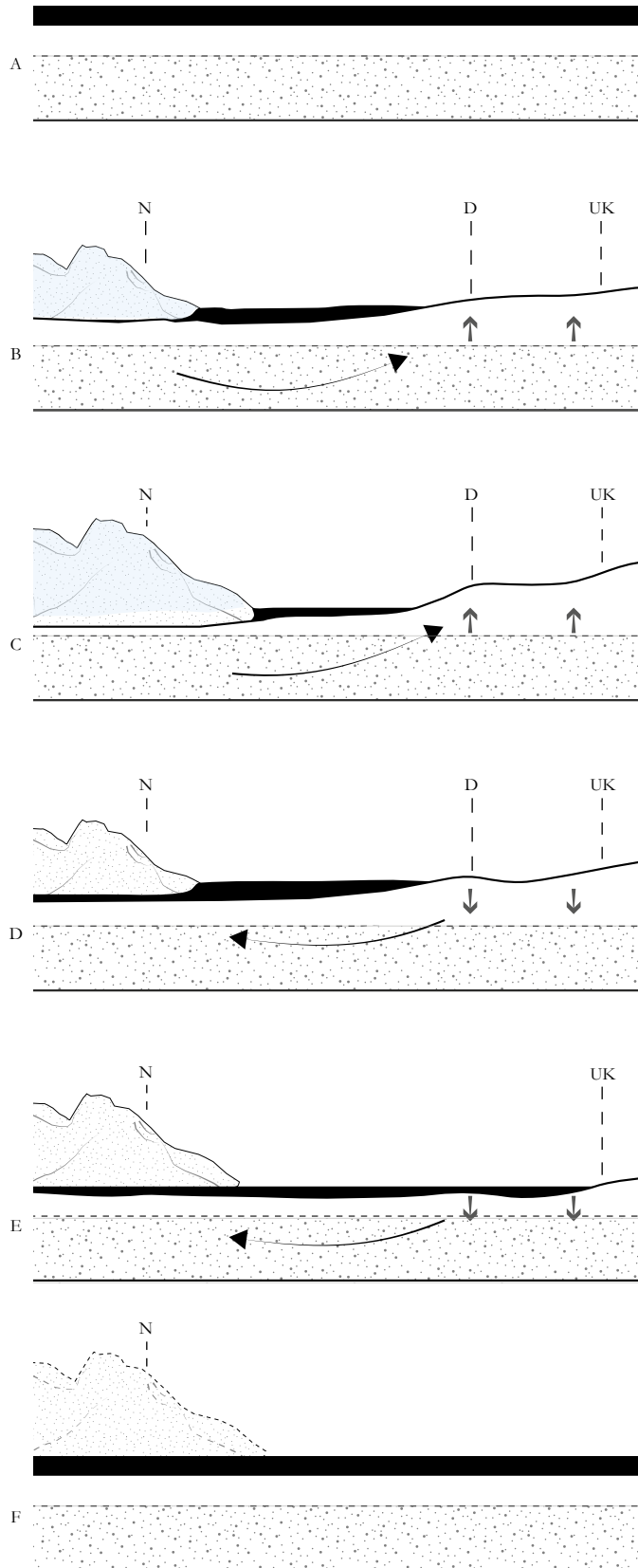
Scale: 1:10,000,000

Source: GIS

-  Epicentre of slide
-  Storegga slide
-  Tsumani
-  6100BC Landmass
-  Tsumani directions
-  EEZ Line

N |

| 0 200km |



2.1 Historical precedents

2.1.1 The disappearance of Dogger Bank

Isostatic subsidence was another contributor to the disappearance of *Doggerland* and subsequently *Dogger Bank*.

A - A state of equilibrium

B - Ice glacier started to form and put a downward pressure on the underlying layers causing opposite lands to uplift. Sea level falls.

C - Ice glacier grows causing further uplift in the ice age period. Sea levels continues to fall.

D - Ice age period comes to an end, ice glacier start to melt, opposite land starts to sink. Sea level starts to rise and the earth's temperature starts rise.

E - Land which previously had ice glacier starts to rise as it no longer has the weight of the ice pushing it down. The opposite land continues to sink and sea level rises. The land slowly starts to disappear beneath the sea.

F - A new state of equilibrium? Will lands such as Norway continue to rise as the opposite lands continue to fall and be engulfed by the rising sea level? Or will it return to previous state of equilibrium?

What happened to Doggerland? |
Isostatic diagrams

Source: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277379107002053>

- Land
- North Sea
- Ice sheet
- N Norway
- D Doggerland
- UK United Kingdom

2.2. Site Analysis

From the scale of the North Sea territory, it was important to find a site which was specific and embraced my narrative. To select a site of neutrality, it would be impossible to select unclaimed land to appropriate and construct. Therefore, a site would need to be reclaimed from one of the North Sea countries borders, the site had to embrace the idea of “fairness” and “equality”. Looking at the map of the North Sea bathymetry names (right), the names give an initial impression to different characteristics and conditions in that site. Presenting many possibilities as to where to place the project.

Personally, my project narrative is a symbolic one, it presents the idea of a grey area, a state of exception in the North Sea territory and therefore, the project can only be sited at one place, the heart of the North Sea. On an area of land that once connected continental Europe with the United Kingdom, called *Doggerland*, the former land bridge. Around 6000BC a tsunami submerged the majority of this former landmass, leaving an island called Dogger Bank. As previously noted, the water levels rose in this warm period, the remaining low-lying land slowly disappeared.

The highest point of this bank is where the project will be located at -10 to -15m below sea level. The challenge will be to reclaim a small piece of land that has been lost and to prevent the same fate from happening again, as well as to ensure minimal disruption on the local ecology (this space is a known fishing ground for the North Sea fishermen).

The site location presents a poetic space of recapturing the essence of a land which once connected the two land masses - especially today where there are political tensions. Physically it is the highest submerged point of the North Sea, making it possible to build an island at such a distance from a landmass.

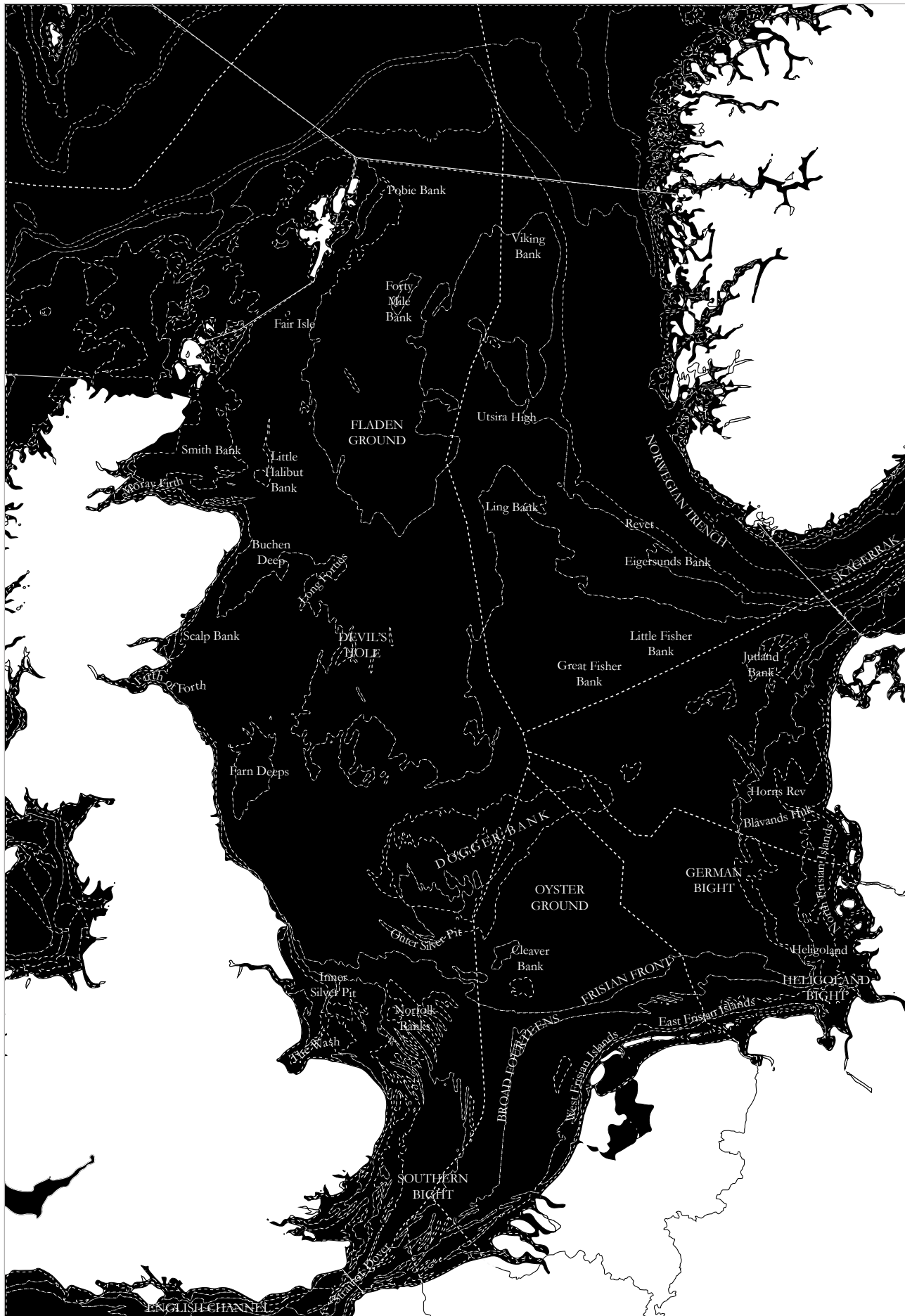
To stay relevant to current border conditions, the site will be located, geographical / physical close to the main intersection of the EEZ borders. Connecting Norway, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

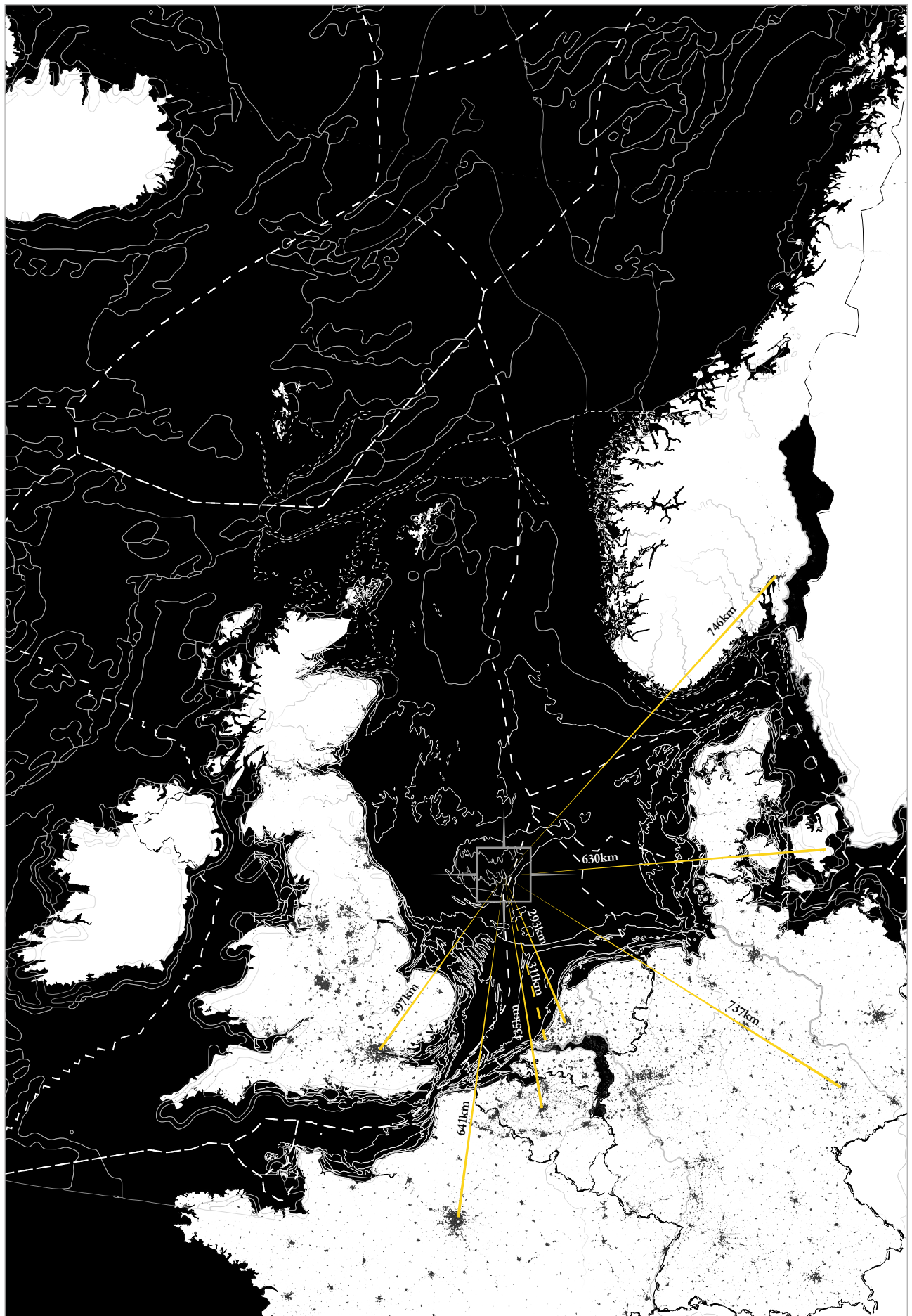
North Sea | Coastlines, Borders
and Sea Depths
Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:North_Sea_map-de.png#/media/File:North_Sea_map-en.png

N |

| 0

200km |





2.2 Site analysis

2.2.1 Proximity map

397km to LONDON | UK

641km to PARIS | FRANCE

435km to BRUSSELS | BELGIUM

311km to THE HAGUE | International courts of Justice

293km to AMSTERDAM | THE NETHERLANDS

737km to BERLIN | GERMANY

746km to OSLO | NORWAY

Dogger Bank | *Proximity map*

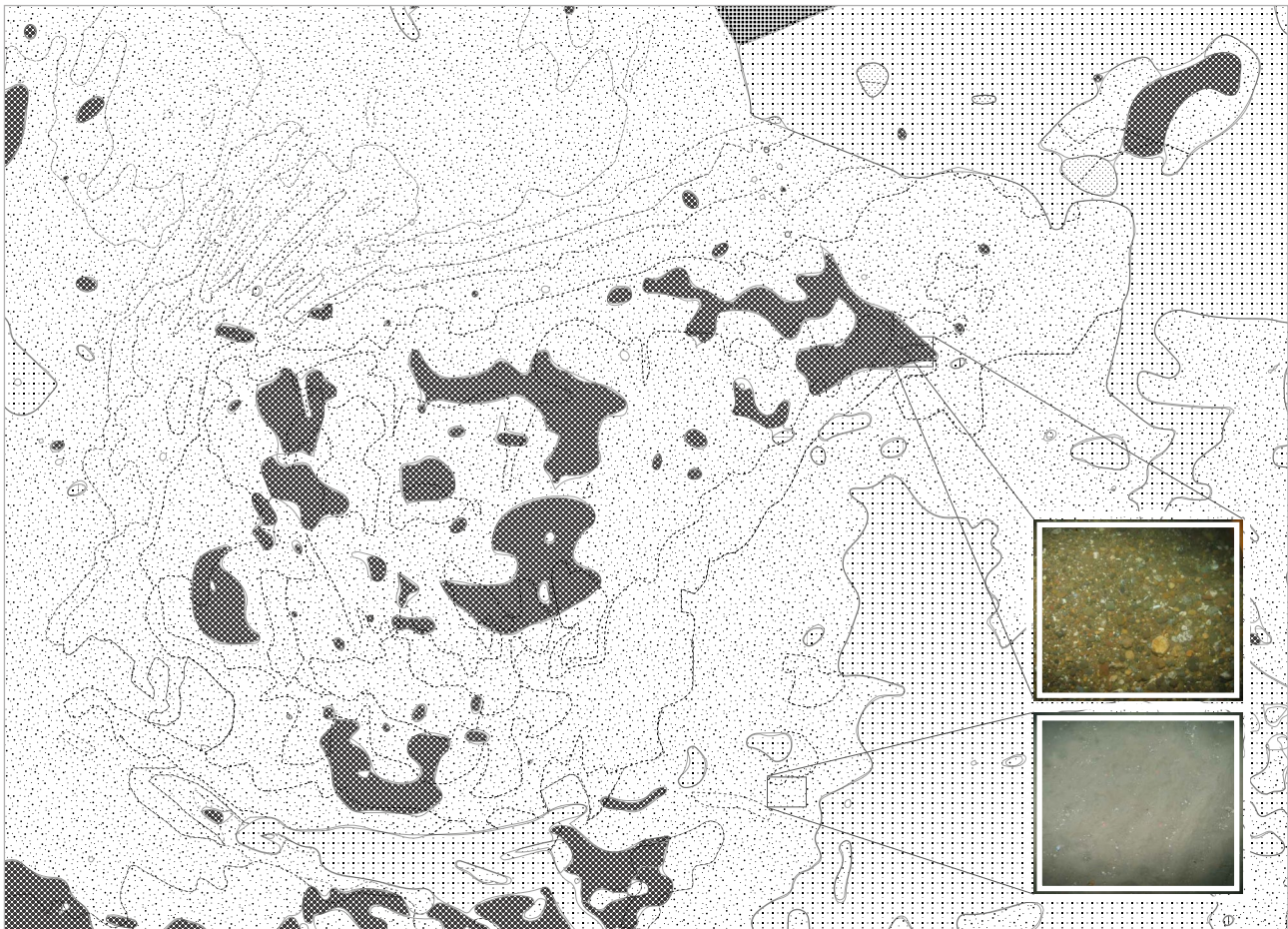
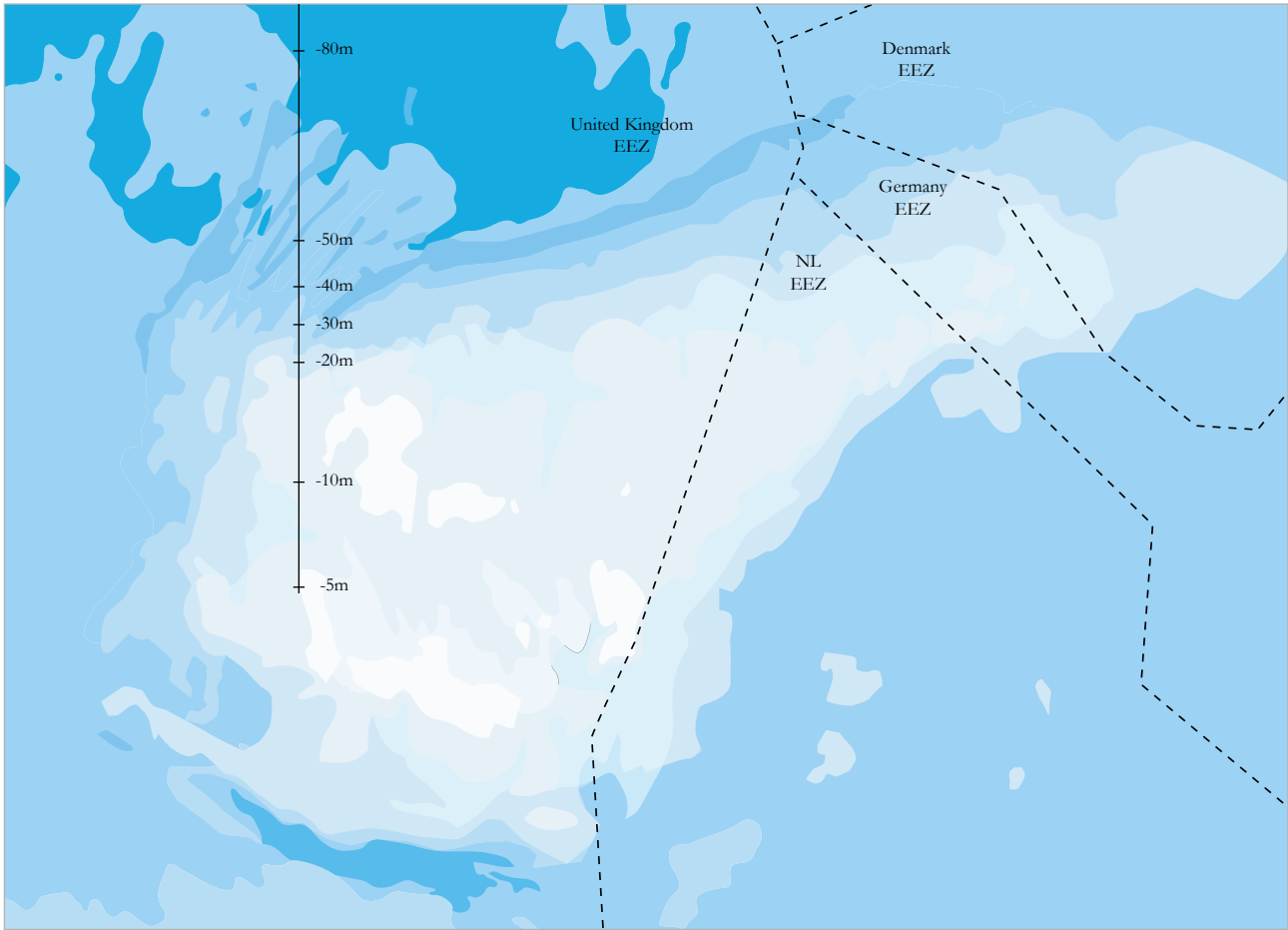
Scale: 1:1000000@A3 | Metres

Source: Google

- Water
- Capture the new island location
- Capital city line
- The Hague line

N |

| 0 200km |

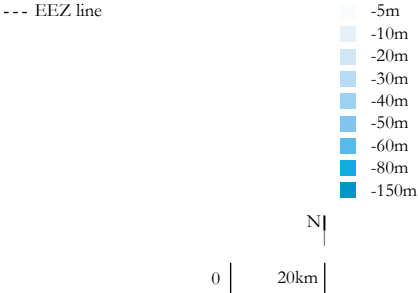


2.2 Site analysis

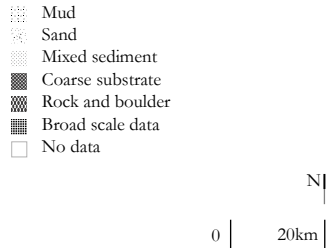
2.2.2 Site conditions mapping

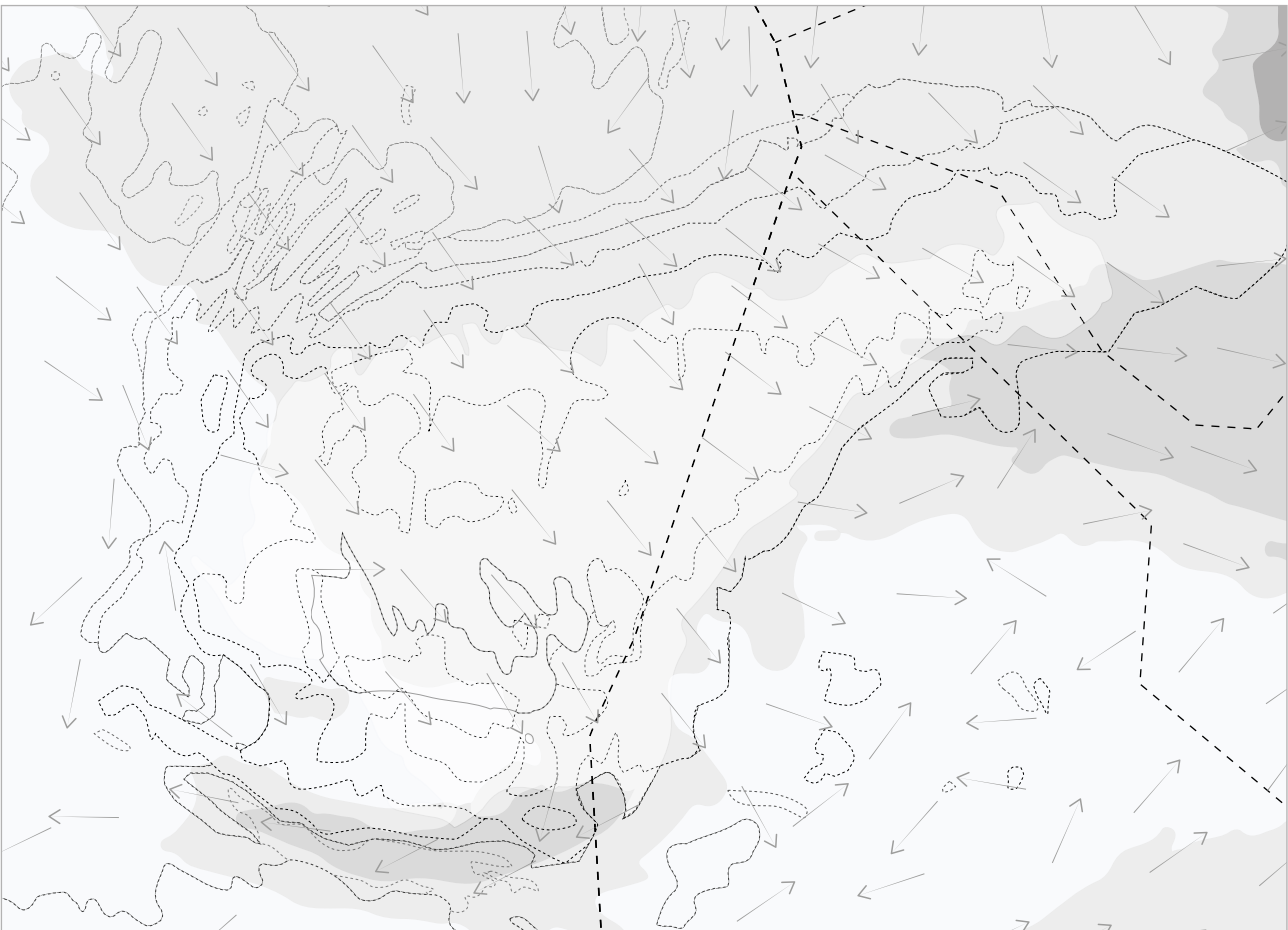
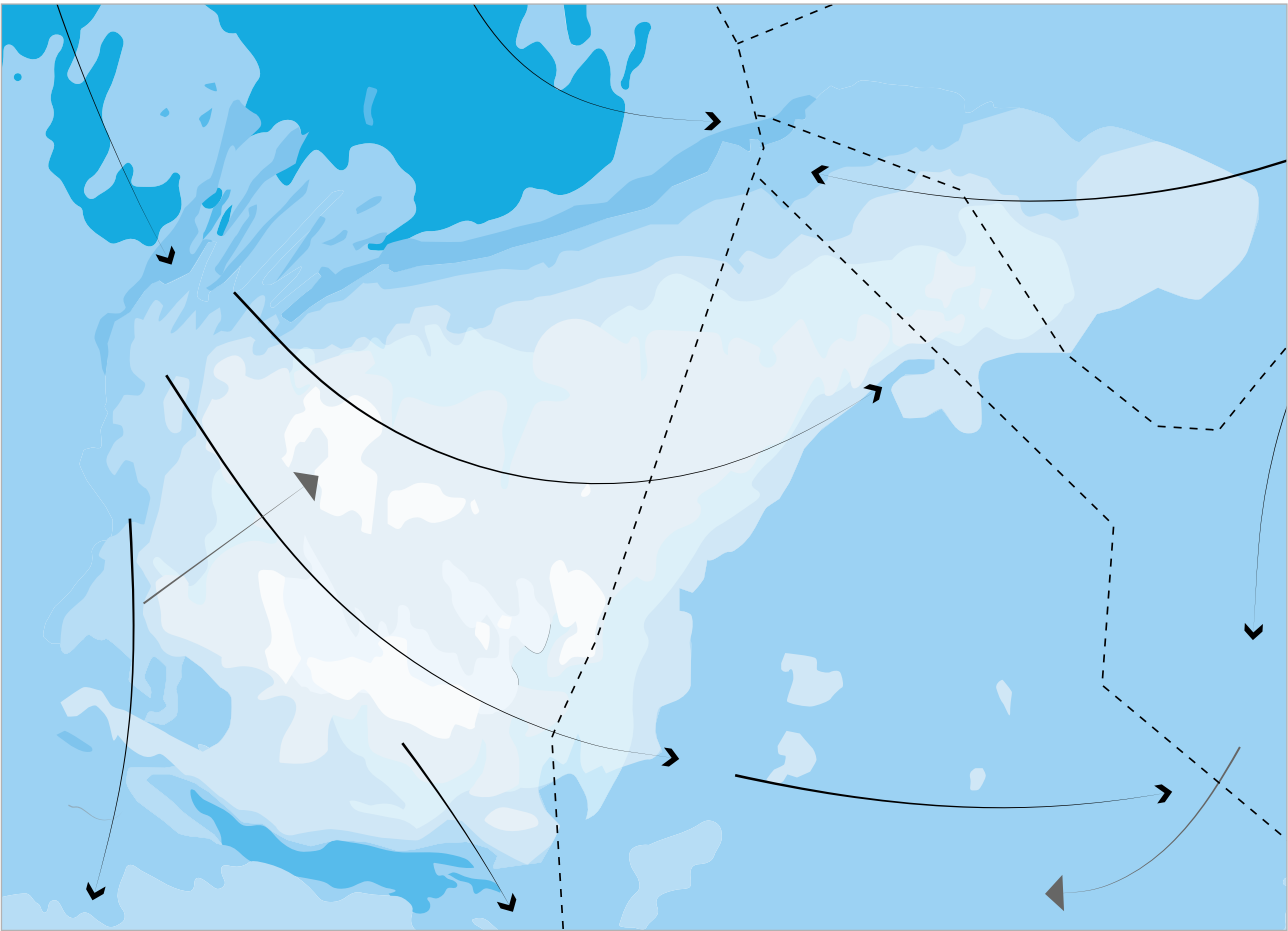
The research reveals the site is very complex in variations of height and is main a sandy bank, one of the largest fishing sand banks in the world.

Dogger Bank | Bathymetry
Scale: 1:1000000@A3
Source: <http://coastal-futures.net/wp-con->



Dogger Bank | Sand + Sediment
Scale: 1:1000000@A3
Source: <https://www.researchgate.net/>

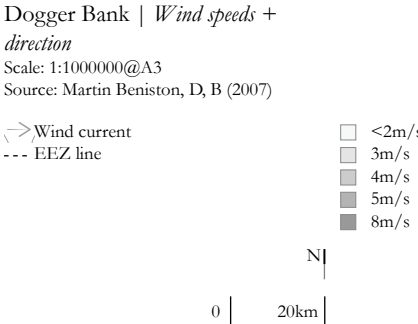
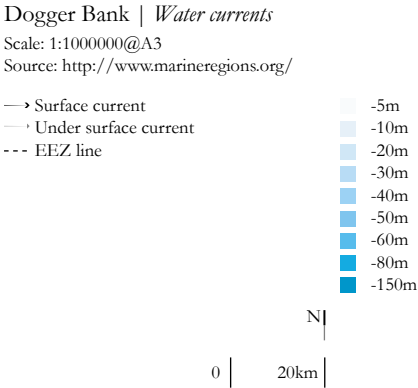


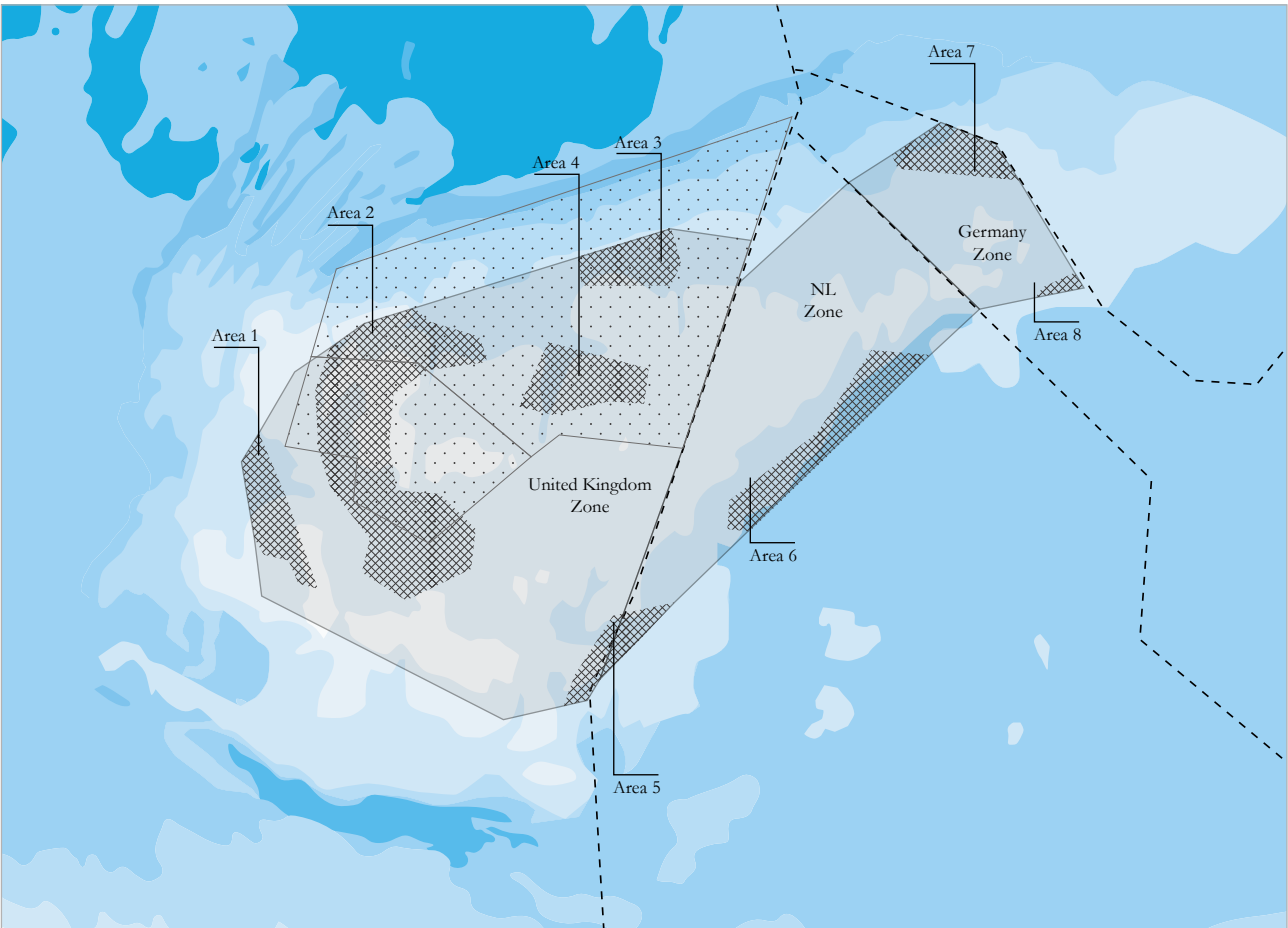
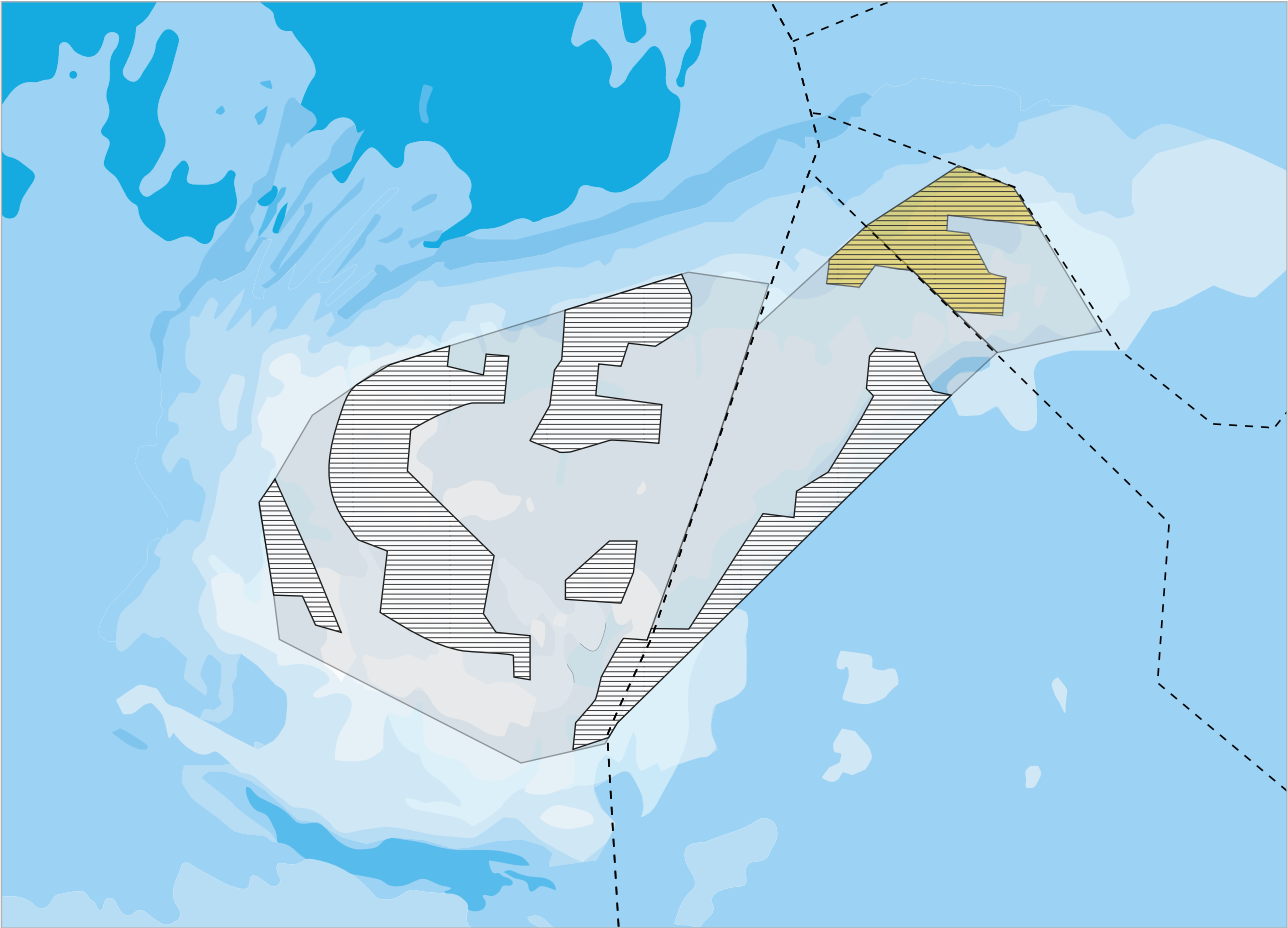


2.2 Site analysis

2.2.2 Site conditions mapping

The research reveals the site alters the change in direction of wind and currents. Presenting the notion that if something is built on the bank, it will not be washed away.





2.2 Site analysis

2.2.2 Site conditions mapping

PLANNING POLICY ZONES

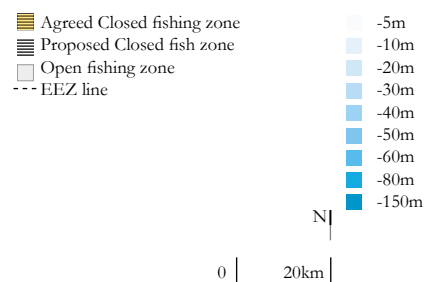
The research reveals the site is a contested spaces, filled with layers of borders, zones and rules. It is important to note, in the marine spatial planning policy in the North Sea countries, they created in isolation to that country's needs and never in collaboration. Note; as of January 2019 there has been an energy island proposed in collaboration but this has not been agreed on by the coastal nations.

Dogger Bank | *Open and closed*

areas

Scale: 1:1000000@A3

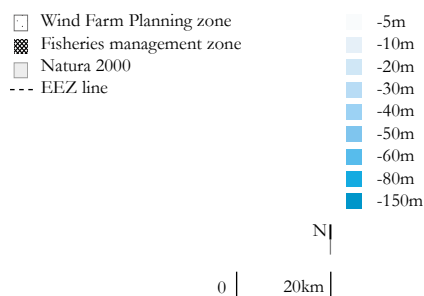
Source: <http://edepot.wur.nl/416465>



Dogger Bank | *Fishing, Planning and Coastal nation Zones*

Scale: 1:1000000@A3

Source: <http://nsrc.org/wp-content/>



Ecological conditions of the site

Area 1 West UK

An important fishing ground, a large part of the Western benthic community (about 50%) and also part of the South West benthic community. The boundary of the area is primarily determined by the sandeel fishery.

Area 2 West 2 UK

Contains 3 different benthic communities (North-eastern, Bank, and South-west). Largely the depth is less than 20 metres. This zone has high biodiversity due to the variety of sub-habitats it contains. The western boundary is defined the sandeel fishing ground. To the east, important beam, twin rig seine fisheries are conducted.

Area 3 North UK

The Northeastern and the Bank benthic community. Local ecological knowledge suggests this area has relatively high biodiversity value within the north eastern habitat. Important beam trawl fishing ground.

Area 4 Central Bank UK

Covers the Bank benthic community. It has been highly fished in recent years but it covers some of the habitat most subject to wave action on the Bank. The area is fished by beam, twin rig trawlers and seine netters.

Area 5 South UK/Netherlands

North of this area are shallower waters that are fishing grounds for plaice where beam and twin rig trawling and seine netting are conducted.

Area 6 South Netherlands

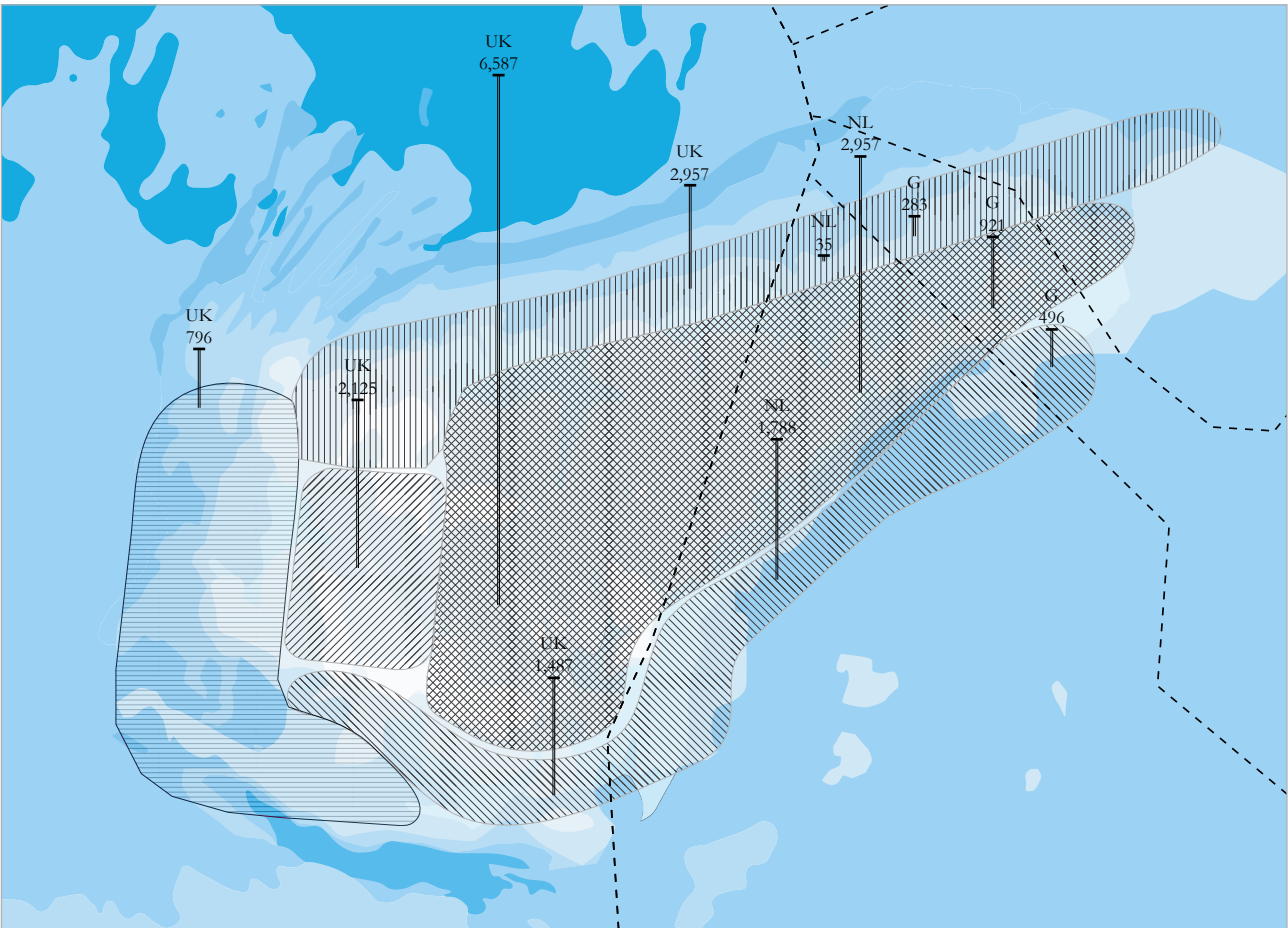
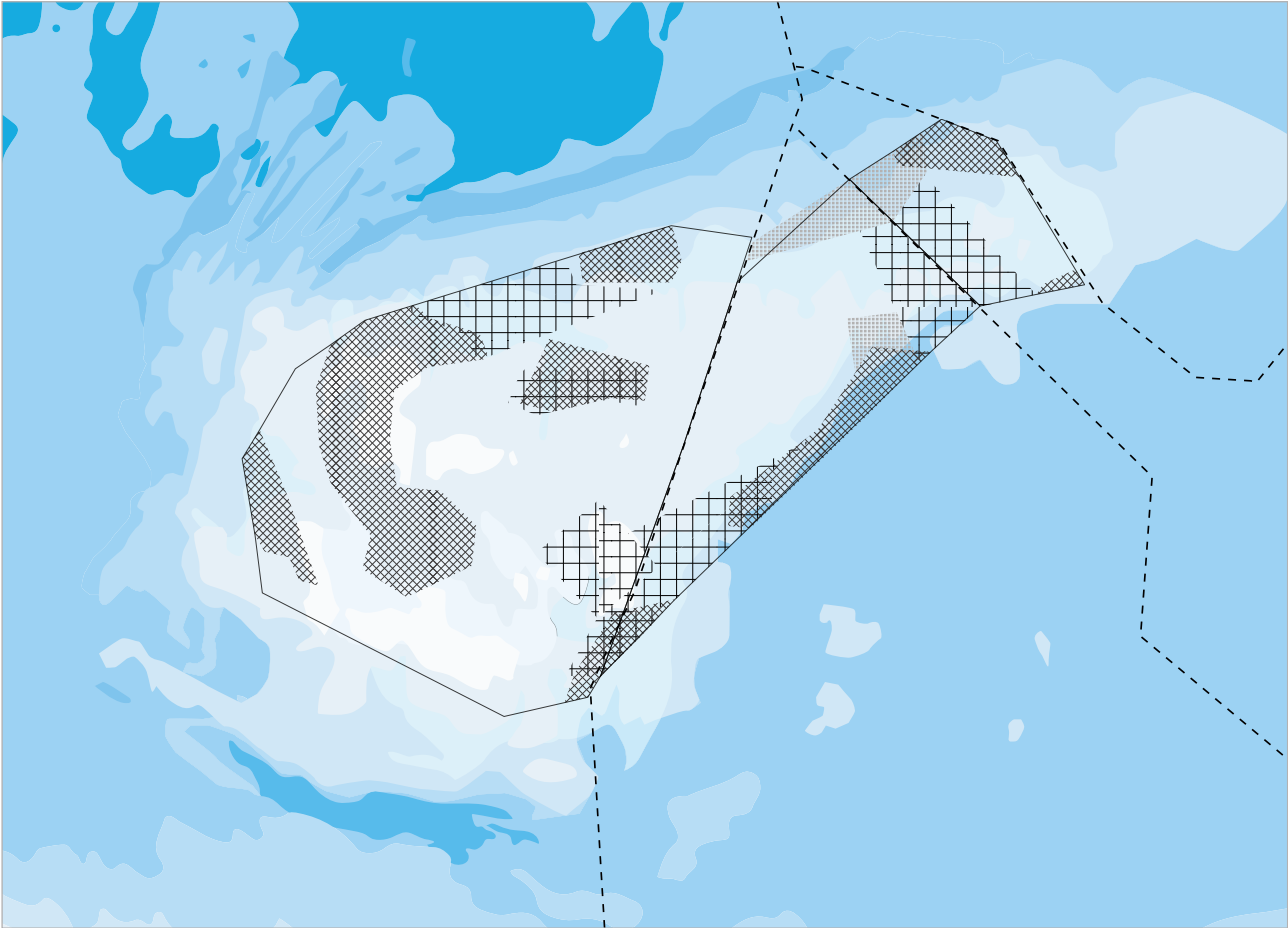
Sandeel fishing grounds in Dutch waters lie immediately north west of the area.

Area 7 North Germany

Covers the Northeastern and the Bank benthic community. Important area for beam trawl and twin rig fishery. The highest diversity in the area is found in the most northern part.

Area 8 South Germany

Covers the Southern community. Sandeel fishing grounds on the German section of the SAC are to the west and northwest of this area.



2.2 Site analysis

2.2.2 Site conditions mapping

Scientific research + Ecology zones

The research reveals the site has many scientifically research, Dogger Bank has a rich ecosystem in comparison to other location in the North Sea. It is important to note, one area that does not consider is appropriation in relation to EEZ is the five habitat communities identified.

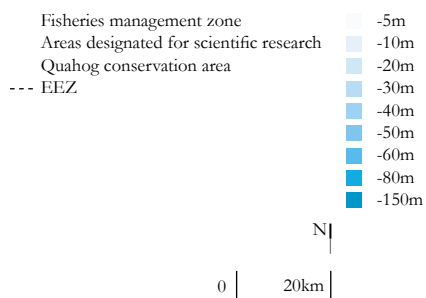
Total Habitats:

North-western: 1,611
 Bank: 10,484
 Southern: 3771
 South-west: 2,125
 Western: 781

These numbers are based on the endobenthic communities. Information is sourced from the report by van Moorsel (2011) to WWF.

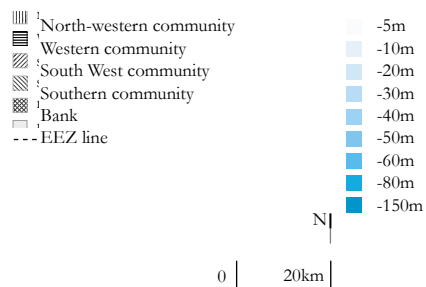
Dogger Bank | *Scientific research locations + conservation areas*

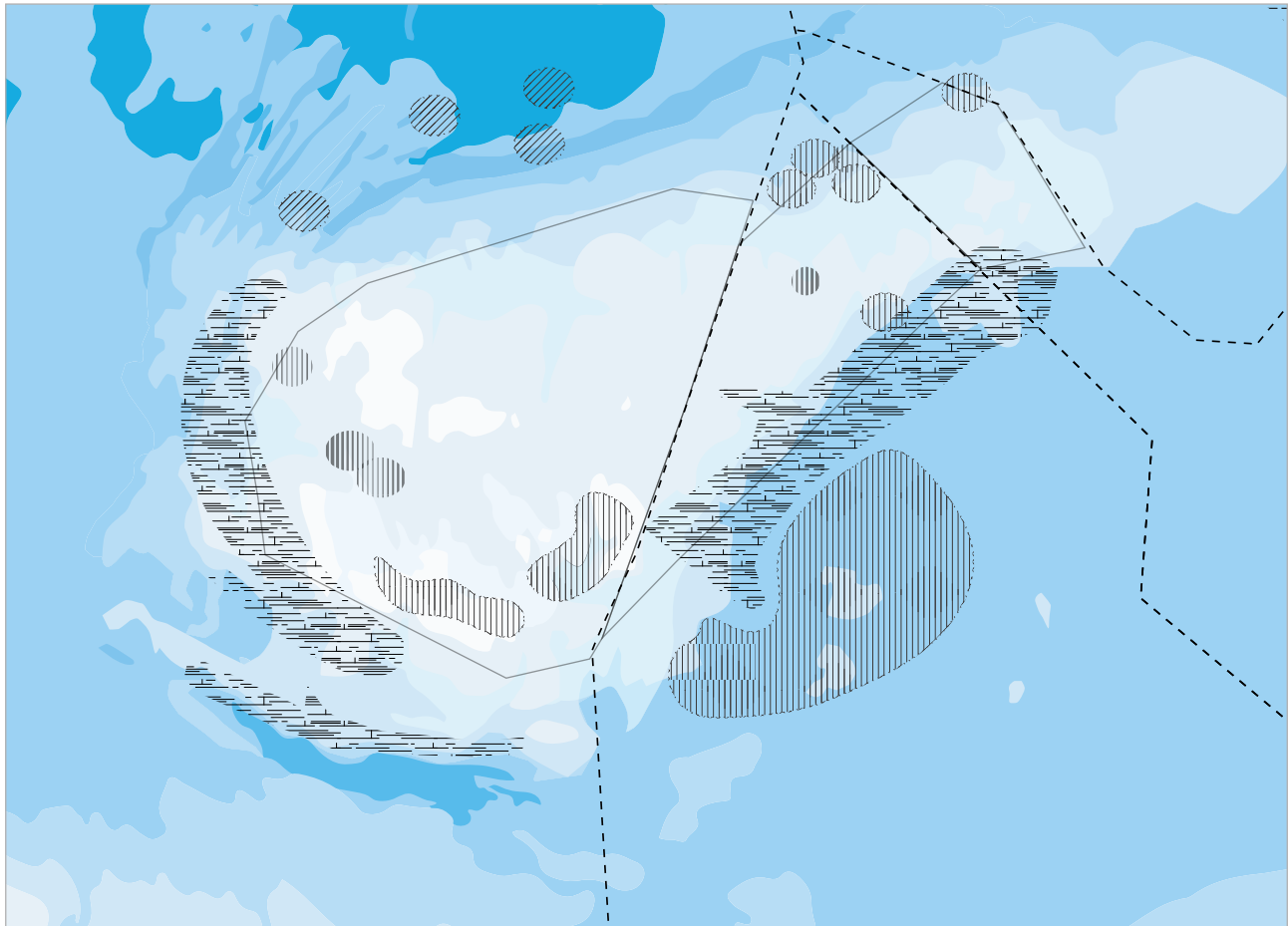
Scale: 1:1000000@A3
 Source: Species and habitats of the international Dogger Bank Research paper



Dogger Bank | *Habitat community zones*

Scale: 1:1000000@A3
 Source: doggerbank-fishery-manage-





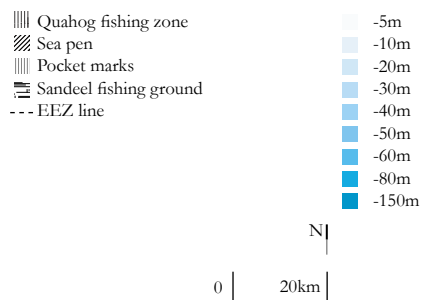
2.2.2 Site conditions mapping

Protein zones

The research reveals the site has different “hotspots” for different fish communities.

Dogger Bank | *Fishing Zones*

Scale: 1:1000000@A3
 Source: Species and habitats of a Dogger Bank Research paper

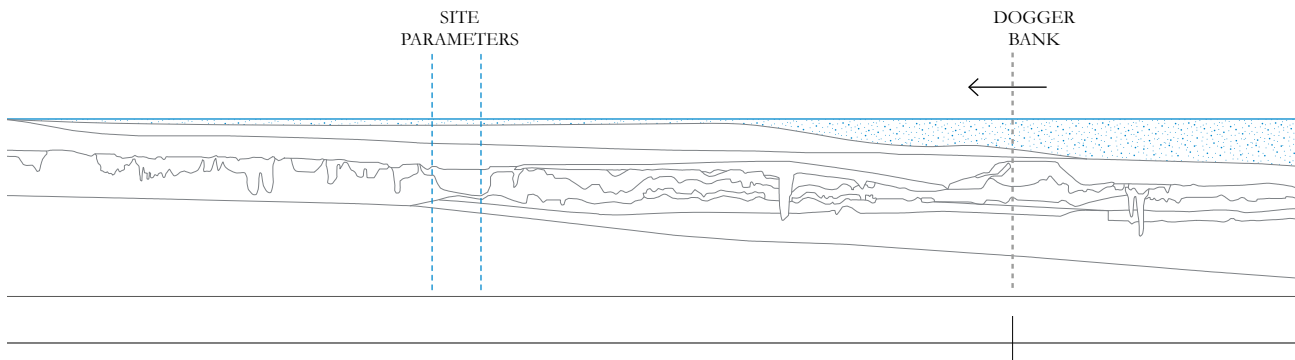




Non human life on Dogger Bank

SEISMIC DOGGER BANK SECTIONS

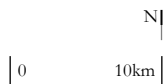
<i>Layers</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>
<i>DB1</i>	Transparent, structureless, tabular unit; (Incised upper surface)
<i>DB2a:</i> <i>DB2b:</i> <i>DB2c:</i> <i>DB2d:</i>	Massive opaque, structureless, stacked diamict units. (Sub glacial till, Bolder Bank)
<i>DB3a</i>	Massive unit with distinctive lenses (Younger/upper part of Dogger Bank)
<i>DB3b:</i> <i>DB3c:</i>	Sub-horizontal stratified fines. Folding. (Basel part of Dogger Bank) Transparent, structureless, tabular unit (Basel part of Dogger Bank)
<i>DB4a</i>	Dipping, off-lapping, semi-transparent sand units over glaciotectonitised sediments (Ice marginal fan, older/lower part of Dogger Bank) Massive, opaque, structureless, stacked units Sub glacial till, Bolders Bank)
<i>DB4b:</i>	Stratified channel infill (Sub glacial channels with glaciolacustrine and post glacial marine infill)
<i>DB5:</i>	Transparent draped unit with sand waves (Holocene, active sea floor)



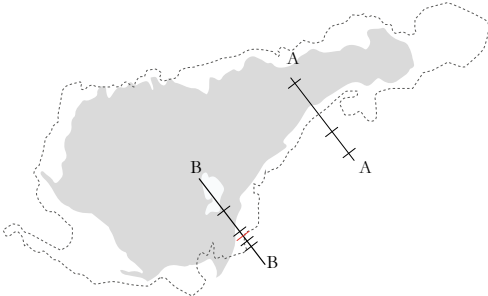
Dogger Bank | *Seismic Sections*

Scale: 1:500000

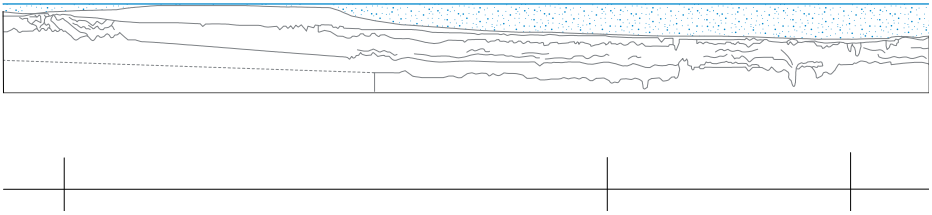
Source: <http://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/136679/1/1-s2.0->



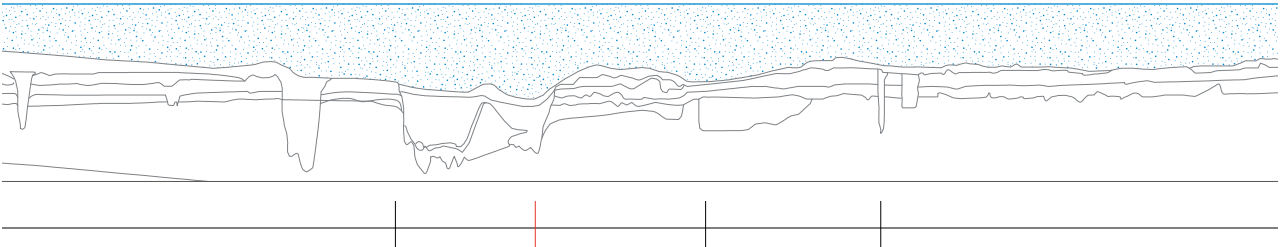
2.2 Site analysis



A-A



B-B



2.2.3 Historic precedent | Islands

Characteristics

An island can be created and characterised:

1. *Continental island*: Detached landmasses
2. *Oceanic island*: Emerging from the depths

What is an island?

Islands have a long tradition in science, art and the humanities. It was Charles Darwin who discovered the wonder of Galapagos, J. G. Ballard who created the *Concrete island* in 1984 and Plato's allegory of Atlantis, allowing us to extend the figure of the island from a master metaphor to derive insights and extrapolate them across fields.

The prevalence of islands lies in their epistemological power as cognitive tools and their imagination to allure vehicles for speculation.

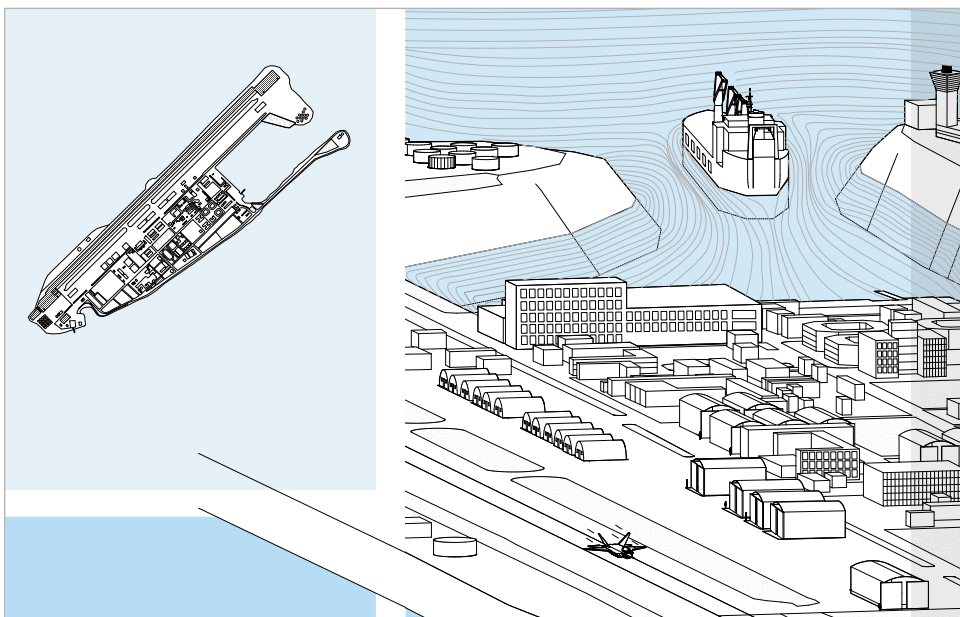
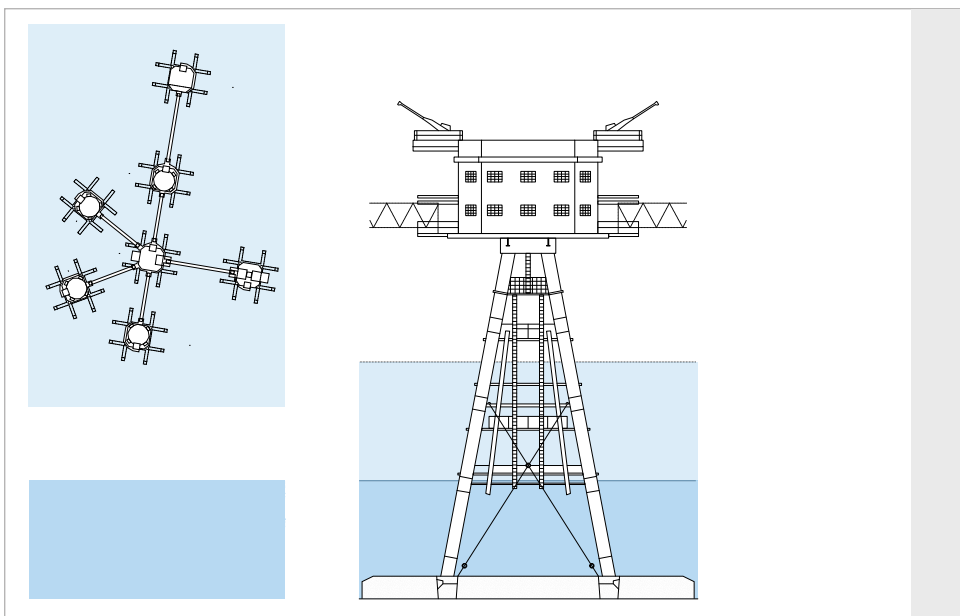
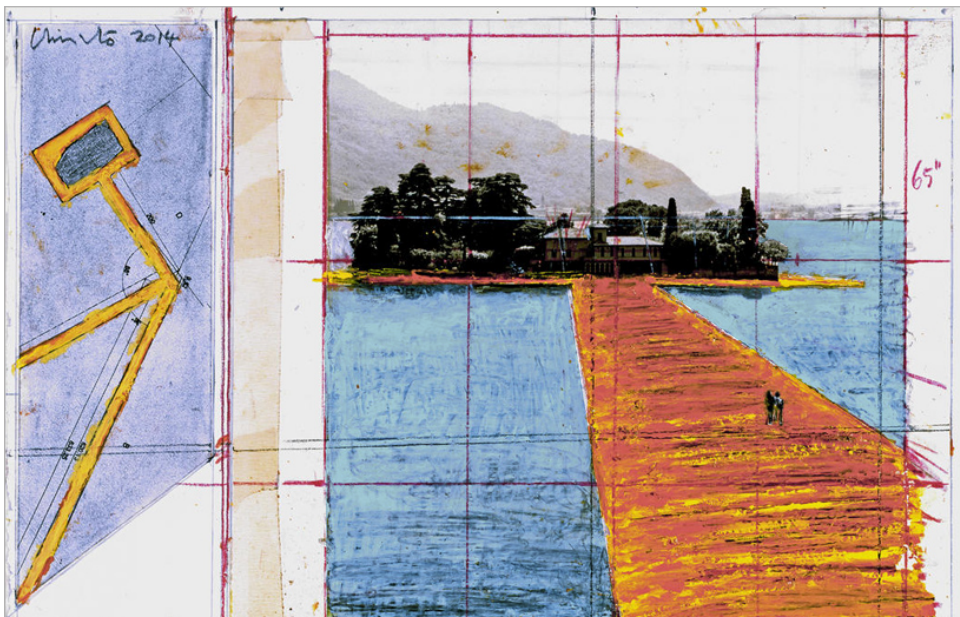
In Transitional Territories, we collectively analysed islands, mapping their *Islandscape* in three steps.

1. Relevant notions in order to compose an image
2. Describe natural and man-made elements
3. Delineate and narrative spatio-temporal relations between constituent parts of the islands and their wider context.

1+2+3 = Language model | identify and measure; structure, limits and potentialities of and islands' geographic space.

ISLANDS	CONSTRUCTION	ORIENTATION	CHARACTERISTICS
NATURAL (Reclaimed from nature)	SAND + ROCK NATURE FORMING IT	OUTCOME OF NATURE ALTERED TO MAN'S NEEDS	PROTECTION (fort)
ARTIFICIAL (Created by human intervention)	FLOATING ON TOP OF WATER FIXED TO SEABED SAND + ROCKS	IN RESPONSE TO LANDMASS IN RESPONSE TO POLITICAL, ECONOMIC OR CULTURAL DEMANDS SUPPLEMENT A NEED OF MAN e.g. extra space; new infrastructure (airport), recreational land	HIGH VALUE ACTIVITY (airport) COASTAL PROTECTION (wet land) CULTURE STATEMENT (art piece) CLEANLINESS (cemetery) RESIDENTIAL (family estate)

2.2 Site analysis



- Types of Islands
- Floating Pier | Christo and Jeanne (2016)
- Maunsell Forts | Thames Estuary (1942)
- Spratly Island | Fiery Cross Reef (1988)

Source: Islands + Tides | Transitional Territories collective studio work

2.2.4 Islandscape

Characteristics

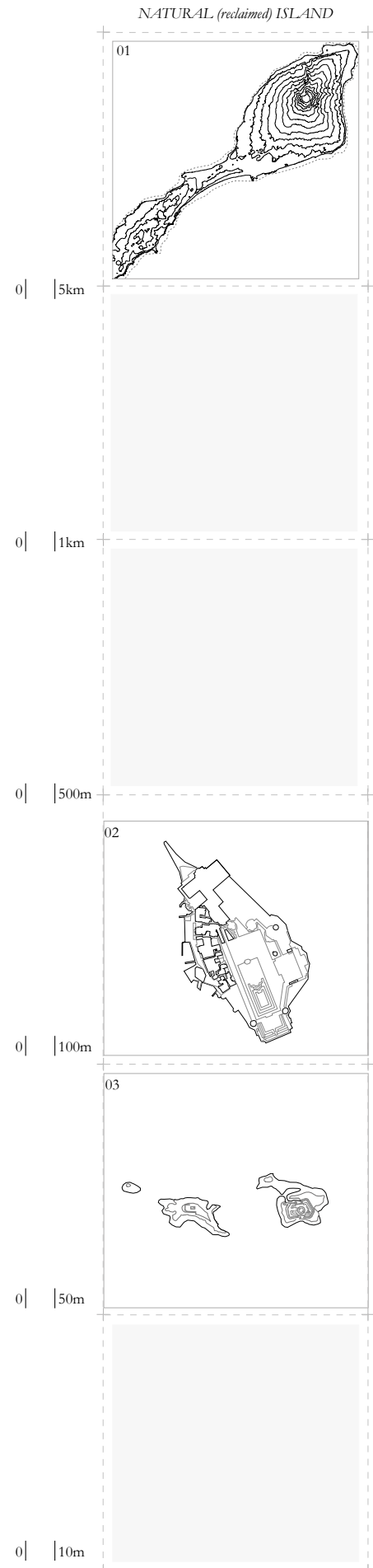
An island's design will respond to different things; nature, man ideals, landmass orientation.. Some islands will see their programme change in response to demand or if the water will reclaim the land.

The island matrix analysis (right) shows different scaled islands in different places around the world all exhibiting different characteristic. Because of the array of sizes the scale comparison had to be shown in 6 different scales. The work is an extracted from the Transitional Territories "Islands and Tides" Research Book (2018)

Islands Analysis

Scale
Source: Transitional Territories: Islands + Tides Research Book

- 01 Jan Mayer | Norwegian Sea
- 02 Isola Bella | Italy
- 03 Island of Saint Marcouf | France
- 04 Chek Lap Kok | Hong Kong
- 05 Øresund Bridge | Sweden : Denmark
- 06 Sacca Sessola | Venice
- 07 Amager strand | Island in Denmark
- 08 Hashima Island | Japan
- 09 Sealand | UK
- 10 Isola Madre | Italy
- 11 Fort Boyard | France
- 12 San Michele | Italy



ARTIFICIAL (man-made) ISLAND

CONNECTION TO SEABED

AXIS + ORIENTATION

2.2 Site analysis



2.2.4 Islandscape

Making the island

An island's design will be built on precedents on how to construct an island in the North Sea.

Dutch Bolder Method

1. Build a dyke around the land
2. Pump the water out
3. Put a network of ditches for water to drain remaining water to allow ground to settle
4. To stabilise land, plant reed seeds on ground, to evaporate water and allow ground to air
5. Fields of reed are burned and replaced with rape seeds, from winter to spring the polder goes yellow and ground is replaced with grains.

Rock coastal edge

1. Dredgers drop sand onto area - when sea is at its calmest.
2. To keep in place, barge loads of rubble are placed
3. Outer armour contains larger rocks (6 tonnes per rock), more sand on top, it is the sheer volume of rock and sand keeps the island in place
4. More rocks are interlocked
5. To stabilise sand, probes drill holes into the ground, vibrations shake the ground to stabilise and compact.

Rock+ coastal edge (to keep island low above sea)

1. Dredgers drop sand onto area
2. Steep rock slopes surround area
3. Specialised hollow concrete block cover top layer, designed to absorb and dissipate the force of wave
4. Concrete piles to calcify and compact the sand foundations

Harbour edge

1. Dredgers drop sand onto inner area
2. Steel piles surround outer edge
3. Steel piles surround inner area of sand and rock placed between the two areas
4. Concrete on top of rocks
5. Harbour fitting applied

Sand beach edge

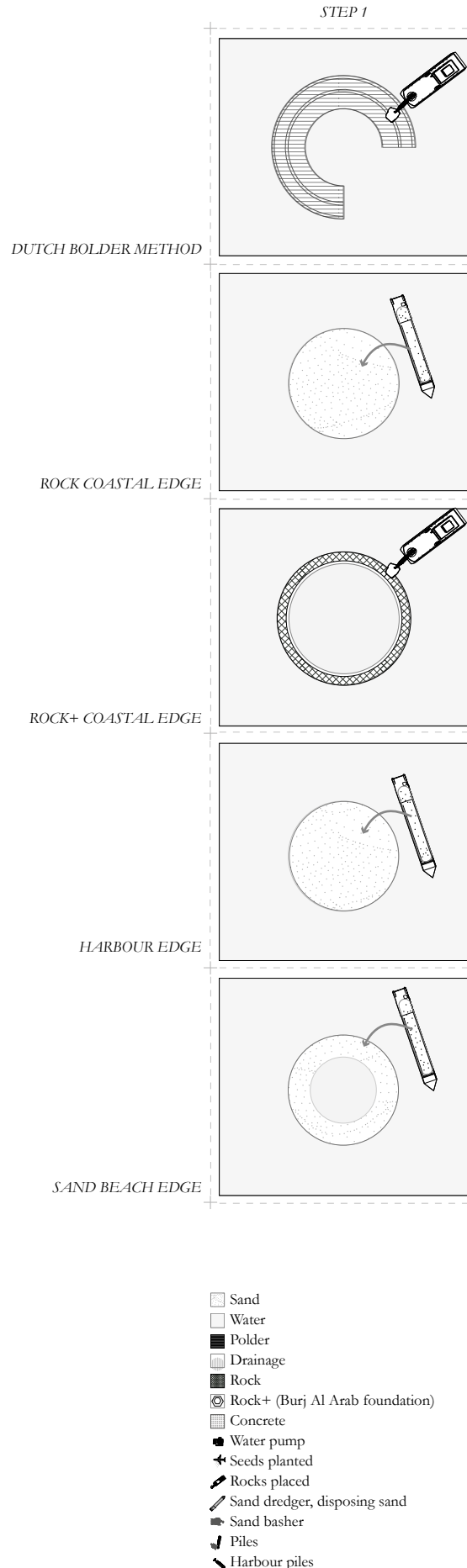
1. Sand makes a doughnut shape
2. Sand added to shape
3. Sand fill in middle
4. Diggers distribute sand
5. Sand circumference under water is large

Islands Construction Matrix

Scale

Source:

1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ir-1Vj1D930&ab_channel=AveryThing
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Whf-d1xvD58>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Whf-d1xvD58>

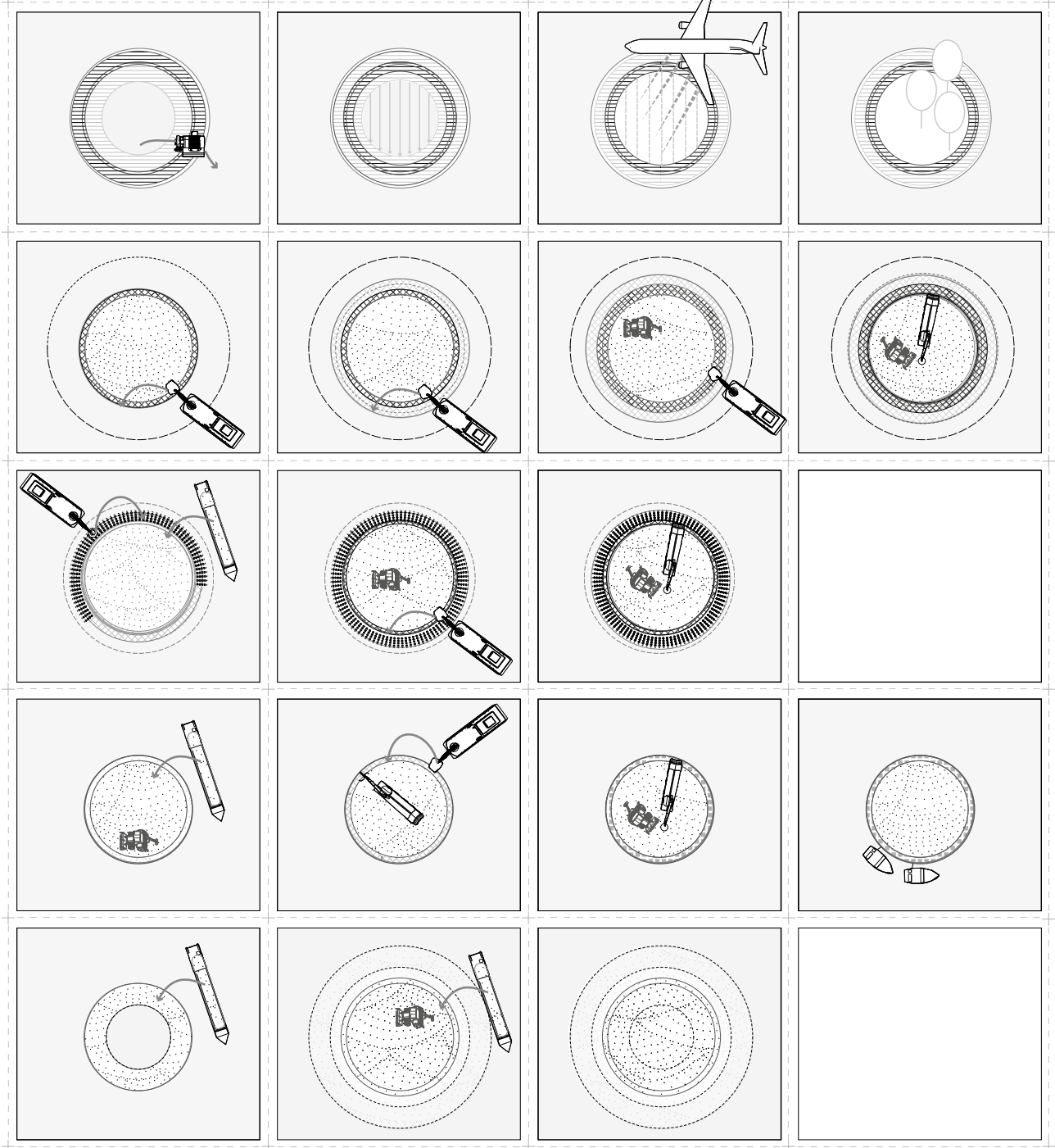


STEP 2

STEP 3

STEP 4

STEP 5



2. Site: Dogger bank, North Sea

2.3. Problem Statement

The North Sea has evolved into a global space of extreme dense activity, detrimental for a coastal nation's stability. However, we are now putting our national identity before the needs of nature, all in pursuit of the desires of man. Dogger Bank is a complex border web of zones.

The site analyses the Dogger Bank and its layers from the past to present conditions.

2.4. Design Question

Can we (re)claim a piece of land for nature and culture from the grey zone, to create an informal parliament of the North Sea?

Sub-questions

- 1. How to reclaim land in the North Sea whilst minimising the impact on the existing ecology? (Territory scale).*
- 2. How will the spatial order and orientation of this new commons subvert and convert the grey zone out of the national sovereignty and into a space of neutrality? (Urban scale)*
- 3. How does one experience a space of neutrality? (Architecture scale)*

2.3 Problem statement | 2.4 Design question



Another Time | Antony Gormley (2017)

3. Problem Analysis

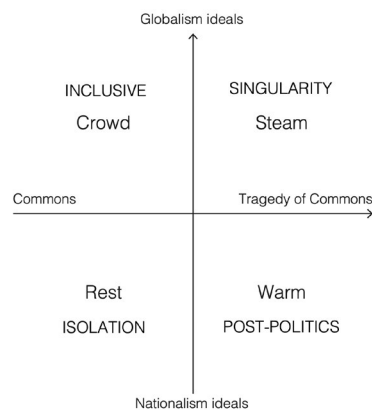
3. Problem Analysis

3.1. Research Framework

Research Methods - Analysis Methods

The graduation project follows an exploratory research framework intertwined with a constructivist and pragmatist paradigms. The project is approached on three scales; territorial (macro), architecture (meso) and tectonic (micro). On the territorial scale the data was collected using GIS and government websites, this was done in interdisciplinary groups. This data was mapped to show the current and projected outcomes. It gave us a small introduction into different aspects of the environment. – politics, economics, ecological and spatial relationship.

From this research my project started to develop initial fascinations and a problem statement which was then analysed; border as method, North Sea commons, cosmopolitan commons and jurisdiction and sovereignty. This was tested in a scenario-planning application axis diagram (below), it was important to test multiple extreme realities and interpret how different actors will experience the environment, taking into consideration the group work outcomes.



The exercise led me to investigating the three key theorists regarding spatial order and orientation (Schmitt), rethinking the status-quo (Latour) and the changing relationship of sovereign power (Agamben). The sources are key to understanding the relationships of man's power in relation to the environment. This literature review becomes a key aspect to the construction of the graduation project's narrative and the foundations to the design proposal.

The research question was a result from the territorial analysis and literature review, it takes into consideration the social and historical context of the North Sea through developing the research by design. Socially, it registers, what are the commons? What is a state of exception? And what are global glows of operation in the North Sea? Historically, it recognises what are the different types of borders from 1150 (when the North Sea was last seen to be "free") to borderlines that have been established today? How land appropriation and orientation has changed? And what can we learn from the past to prevent it from occurring again?

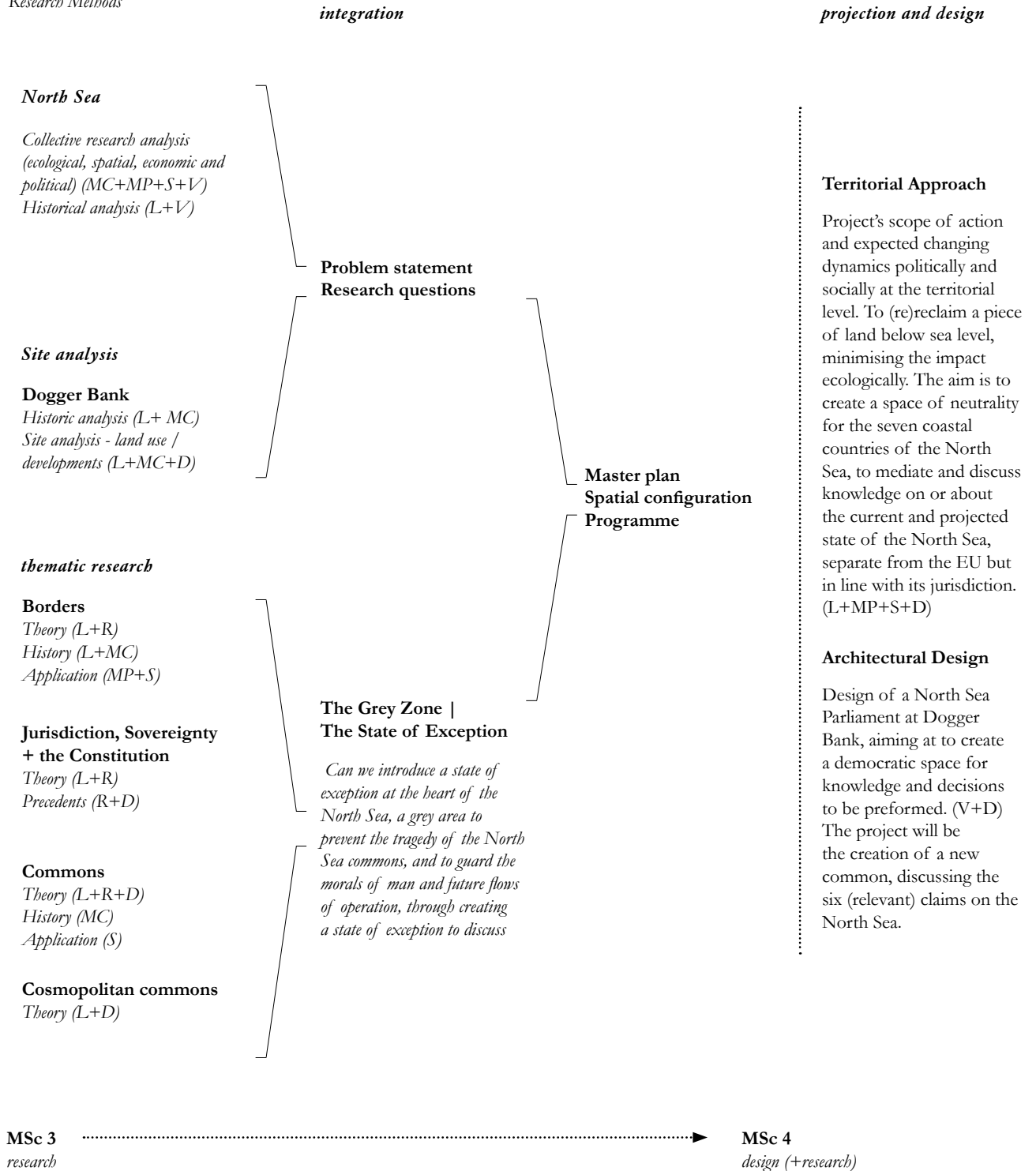
The studio symposium in December cemented the research through depicting the project in three different types of medias. A 400-word letter expressing our concern and design proposal, three images to visualise the project at three scales and finally, a gypsum model to contextualize it. Each was a different step to express and interpret the research in preparation for the next stage, the design.

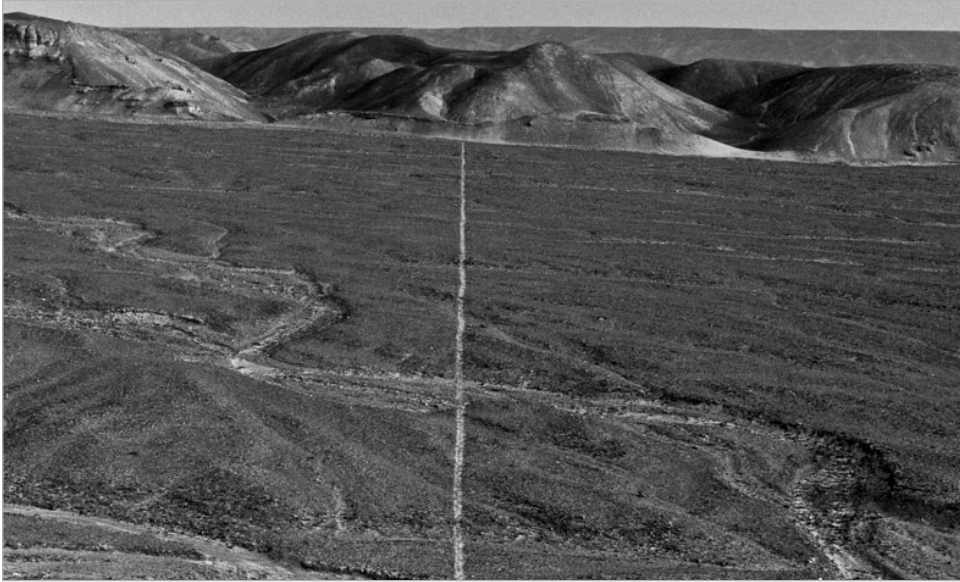
The graduation project is a reflection on the research outcomes tested and evaluated, a method to test the potential future North Sea.

3.1 Research framework

3.1. Research Framework

Research Methods





Walking A Line in Peru | Richard Long (1972)



A circle in Ireland | Richard Long (1975)

3.2 Subject

3. Problem Analysis

3.2. Subject

Borders

The project addresses the impact different types of borders have had on the North Sea. It showcases the tensions and conflicts that blur the line between inclusion and exclusion of life. Different ones have been established, evolved and erased throughout time. Borders can overlap, connect or disconnect us from one another. In the North Sea, multiple countries adhere to different rules, for their countrymen as well as regulations enforced by the European and International law. The North Sea commons resembles a complex web of permission, profit and passage for all who want to enter and enjoy the spoils of the many resources available within the common space. Though we must remember the non-human life in and around the North Sea. They are unaware of man's "invisible" borders, yet, most likely to be the ones who get are tangled up in these border webs.

Jurisdiction, Sovereignty and the Constitution

The North Sea is surrounded by seven democratic decision makers. Each have a projected 200km Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) border from their baseline, dissecting the North Sea into seven zones. Each zone enables the coastal nation to have control on all the economic resources within it, but jurisdiction allows everyone to still enter this zone for their personal gain – deemed by the state controlling the zone. Only in the territorial water (12 nautical miles from the baseline), can a coastal nation exercise its exclusive sovereign rights to an activity e.g. fishing. Finally, Bruno Latour refers to the "Constitution", a place for human and non-humans, for their properties and their relations, their abilities and their groupings. A way to bring nature (science representing things) and culture (politics representing subjects) into the same conversation. Two types of representatives faithfully defining the law outside the national limit (EU), to separately resolve disputes, which have now become too complex to do under the current arrangement.



A line of sticks in Somerset | Richard Long (1974)



A circle in the Andes | Richard Long (1972)

3.2 Subject

Commons

The North Sea commons is composed of four layers.

Layer 1; above the North Sea (air space – wind turbines, oil platforms).

Layer 2; on top of the North Sea water (the realm of travel, trade and sea power).

Layer 3; in the North Sea (creatures in the sea: flora, fauna and man's machines).

Layer 4; on the North Sea seabed (a réseau of data cables, pipelines and extraction equipment).

It is important to define the layers in the North Sea, to understand the infrastructure, lifeforms and interaction in this layered system. It introduces the idea that the North Sea is a contested space which is being exploited by man's desire, in more than one way. All to progress and embrace globalisation and the growth of a country's GDP - a measure of stability, strength and prosperity at the expense of the territory.

Cosmopolitan commons

Is defined as the space between nation states who widen their borders to protect their sovereignty. The world is seen on two scales; the individual and the global. In theory we seek the idea that individuals hold equal rights and a general value as humans (including moral universalism). But many see it difficult to relate equally to individuals everywhere. The world view finds inter-cultural openness and inclusiveness difficult to fully practice. Especially because the ideals of man can distort their moral compass when interacting with the commons. Subsequently, this can lead to the tragedy of the commons.

4. The Project

4. The Project

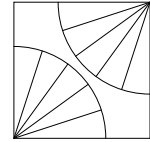
4.1. Proposition

The proposed design seeks to create a space of neutrality at the heart of the North Sea, at the main intersection of EEZ borders. It is based on the concept, to quote David Held; *“increased globalisation doesn't necessarily create an increased openness in the political environment”*. The unintended consequences of these activities are on our environment.

It is a symbolic project which creates an island to inhabit neutral spaces. It is a symbolic project, it looks to establish a neutral ground not held by an political boundary in the North Sea. Therefore it interrupts the current status-quo in order to create this space.

Guardian of the Grey Area

Fiona Thompson
55°42'54.4"N 4°06'12.4"E
North Sea



North Sea Parliament
Berlagezaal
Julianalaan 134
2628 BL Delft
Netherlands

7 December 2018

Dear Parliament members, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I am reaching out to you because we need your help. We want to ensure the survival of the North Sea commons. We want future generations to enjoy its wonders it has to offer and not let our actions result in its final chapter. We want the borders to once again unite us with our neighbouring maritime states. And to do that we need everyone involved.

This is the first campaign of its kind at the North Sea Parliament. To create a new space - a new commons - to represent the North Sea's interests. This campaign draws on Håkon Anderson's notion of the grey area as "a space where the cosmopolitan commons meet national jurisdiction and sovereignty". A space of ambiguity, placed at the heart of the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ).

For the record, the EEZ proposed by the United Nations has helped resolve many sovereignty disputes, claims and counter-claims. It has made the North Sea commons more stable, better managed and generated harmony over the years. However today, the North Sea's primary concern is no longer territorial claim but the tragedy of the commons. Since the time of industrialisation, advancements in technology have opened up new ways to engage with our environment; how we extract, exploit and utilise the space within the North Sea? This alters man's relationship to the sea.

The grey area presents a space of huge potential, not only to change trends in exploitation, power and greed. It is in fact a medium for countries to share with one another, for the common good of the North Sea, rather than satisfying their own agendas.

I do not believe imposing more national jurisdiction rules is the solution. This may result in a future of 'hard' borders, further segregating us from one another. Instead, I propose a space of neutrality. Where we negotiate the transition from individualistic preconception and self-interest to embrace the North Sea's globality by excluding one's national identity. The project aims to introduce a new site for the Embassy of the North Sea, currently in The Hague it will be relocated to the main intersection of the EEZ borders. The new site would provide a stronger geographical connection and understanding of the commons current condition.

This is a space for North Sea countries to meet, corporate and discuss the interventions needed for it to thrive. No country in the world can yet say they have put the needs of nature above the desires of man. Ask yourself if not me, who? If not now, when? I am inviting each member of parliament to step forward and step into the grey area.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Thompson



Territorial scale image | Transitional Territory Symposium

TERRITORY

The concept of cosmopolitanism practice transposed onto the North Sea. A world view on two scales; the individual and the global view of lots of individuals holding equal rights and a general views as humans (ones morals) seen to be difficult for some individuals everywhere to realise.

The circle represent the world and global view. The wall represents the web of sovereignty and jurisdiction (borders) present within the North Sea. But now it presents an idea that national identity is exceeding globalism ideals and once again thinking only as individuals no longer a collective.

4.1 Proposition



Architecture scale image | Transitional Territory Symposium

SPATIAL

Inspired by Hieronymus Bosch's *Garden of Earthly Delights* (1490-1510) painting to express three different North Sea conditions. (Left to right)

The garden of Eden (paradise)

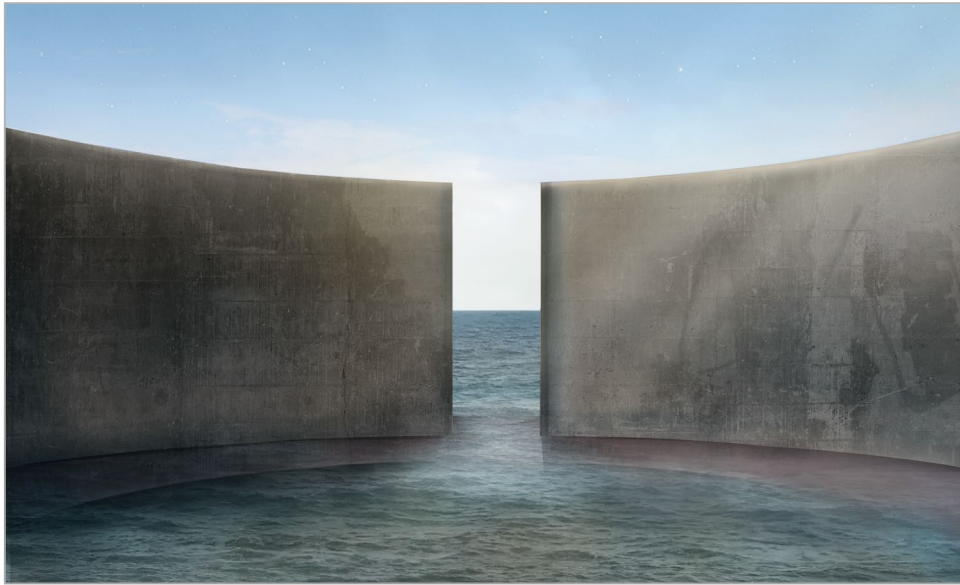
Purposely left empty, serene and idyllic, for the audience's imagination to compose the image, what does paradise in the North Sea look like?

The garden of current status quo

The current outlook of the North Sea, extraction, exploitation and harvesting. These practices need to be addressed, is this best method to interact with the our environment?

The garden of Hell

A barren ecological landscape supplemented by a high quantity of wind farms. The tragedy of the commons is now apparent and realise, we now need to let nature recover (hopefully) without man's further destructive behaviour, ambition and tendency.



Tectonic scale image | Transitional Territory Symposium

TECTONIC - THRESHOLD

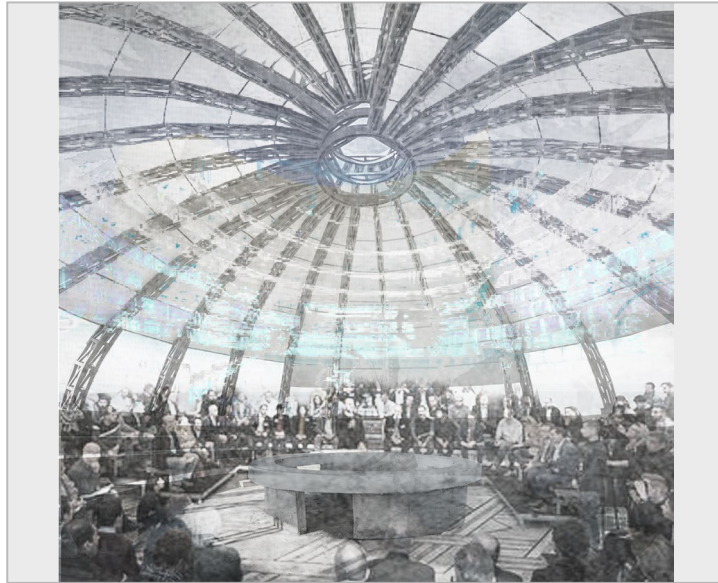
How do we compose the “garden of Eden” in the North Sea? We first need to create a space of exception (Carl Schmitt) for the public good, this will be the North Sea’s Grey Area.

Enclosing a space within the North Sea at the main point of intersection in the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ). It would become a space for the Embassy of the North Sea - a new Embassy currently situated in The Hague - it will embrace the normal practices an embassy would traditional represent but additionally follow a unique manifesto designed for the North Seas future.

It will be a space of neutrality, to debate and to cooperate with other countries. It will exemplary and first notion of its kind, to have the ambition to remove man’s self interest and put their national identity aside for the good of the commons future.

To ensure the ecological commons survival, the participants will especially discuss each others Marine Spatial Planning policy (MSP), a way to introduce the collaborative conversation.

4.1 Proposition



Typology image | The act of gathering

TPOLOGY - SPATIAL ORDER

The informal North Sea Parliament - and North Sea Institute - data gathering epicentre. A space for gathering people, knowledge in a neutral space.. The spaces will be designed to demonstrate democracy. The research presents a question, how does one interact in a parliament space? Who attends the parliament of the North Sea, to discuss internal disputes? And How does one move through the space?

4.2. Objectives

1. Spatial scale

The project will be located at the heart of the North Sea, on an area of land that once connected continental Europe with the United Kingdom, called *Doggerland* (land bridge). Around 6000BC a tsunami submerged the majority of this former landmass, leaving an island called Dogger Bank. As water levels rose in this period the remaining low-lying land slowly disappeared, before this too disappeared.

The highest point of this bank is where the project will be located at -10m below sea level. The challenge will be to reclaim a small piece of land that was once lost and to prevent the same fate from happening again, as well as to ensure minimal disruption on the local ecology (this space is a known fishing ground for the North Sea fishermen). The site location presents a poetic space of recapturing the essence of a land that was once connected the two land masses - especially today where there are political tensions. Physically it is the highest submerged point of the North Sea, making it possible to build an island at such a distance from a landmass.

2. Tectonic scale

This is a symbolic project which seeks to establish a neutral ground, not held by any political boundary. The new island will be located on Dogger Bank, it will encompass the idea of a grey area, a state of exception. It will become a new common which gathers knowledge in an institute and resolves disputes in an informal parliament. The institute will address six claims presently on the North Sea; protein, ecology, energy, extractivism, logistics and migration. Presently, a large proportion of surveys are conducted by the oil platform companies. Once the oil is no longer profitable or possible to extract, these surveys will no longer take place. A gap in the market will arise.

This knowledge from these surveys will then be passed to the decision makers gathered in the informal government. This will be a space for discussing and resolving internal disputes regarding the North Sea. It will be separate from the daily operations of Brussels and The Hague, yet still under the jurisdiction of the European Union and United Nations.

3. Typology Scale

The project aspires to investigate how to cultivate a space of exception - a space of neutrality – within the North Sea. Changing what is perceived or understood in the human consciousness and denounce man's political agendas once entered the space, to only consider the good of the North Sea commons as a result. Though, also taking into consideration the current demands of globalisation ideals (or nationalism ideals) placed on the North Sea.

4.2 Objectives | 4.3 Relevance

4.3. Relevance

Today, as media engulfs our daily lives with up to date accounts of current state of affairs, it is hard to shy away from contested topics such as Brexit, Trump's administration, economy, migration, climate. It gives the impression that each topic is a separate case and not a series of interconnected events. We try to congregate into one room to discuss the aforementioned topics, but this typically results in complex, expensive and time-consuming meetings with little to show of it. We need to reconnect the conversation and resolve disputes in a more effective and clear manner.

The project attempts to reflect on man's moral compass on its environment, to reconnect nature and culture in today's borders. The North Sea and its coastal nations become an interesting "precedent" site for this conversation. It encapsulates high levels of tensions, activity and climate change in this dense urban space and becomes a catalyst for the shift in conversation of change, for the common good rather than the individual.

The North Sea is a water body which has become a major source of wealth, prosperity and income, on both the large and small scale. Over exploited, extracted and utilised, as its rewards diminish our interaction with it will soon change. Therefore, a space for conversation and for data gathering on this environment needs to (re)arise. The creation of a new common, a space of exception that all coastal nations regard.

From an architectural perspective, it is a way to bring nature (science representing things) and culture (politics representing subjects) into the same conversation. Designing in collaboration with these representatives and the physical and ecological conditions of the North Sea will result in a programme and site-specific design for the good of the North Sea commons. The design will become the vessel for the future transitional North Sea territory.

4. The Project

4.4. Spatial Concept

a. Configuration and Composition

The island will be composed using projected border lines, site bathymetry, and the symbol of democracy - the circle. The site conditions; currents and wind will determine how the edges of the site will be composed.

Through the act of enclosure, the grey area will be formed at the heart of the North Sea.

The design will further embrace the democratic circle and narrative (the transfer of knowledge to decision making with the characters; nature and culture).

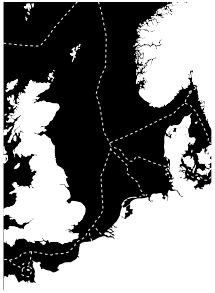

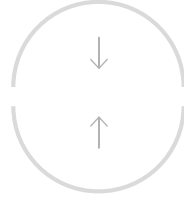
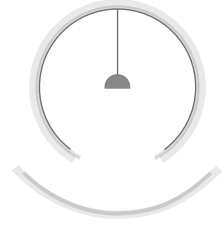
b. Performance

Seven political representatives for culture (Norway, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, France and United Kingdom) and scientist representative for nature will gather in mind and body

c. Function and Program

The design will be an (informal) North Sea Parliament and Research Institute, on an artificial island on Dogger Bank

4.4 Spatial concept

	TERRITORY	SPATIAL	TECTONIC	TPOLOGY
SCALE				
CHARACTERISTICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Borders Education Regulations Law making Participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grey Zone State of exception 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The act of enclosing Islandscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge → Decision making Research gathering centre (Informal) North Sea Parliament
MAKING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Political representative</i> Norway, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, France and United Kingdom (Stakeholders) <i>Cultural representative</i> Scientists Research analysts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (re)Reclaiming land Assemblage Caisson box construction method Recycled concrete tetrapod protection ring surrounding the island 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A space of neutrality for nature (scientists) and culture (politics) to be represented equally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Spaces:</i> Formal conversation space Informal conversation space Eating Hotel (short term stay) Harbour
SEQUENCE PERFORMANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six topics of interest (<i>North Sea Commons</i>) Proteins Ecology Energy Extractivism Logistics Migration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designing to the conditions of the North Sea 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gathering information Arriving Presenting Discussing Decision making Leaving

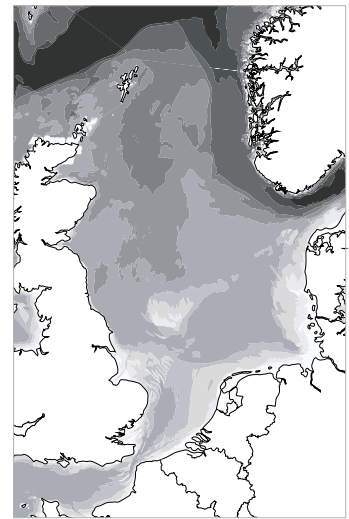
5. The Grey Zone Manifesto

G R

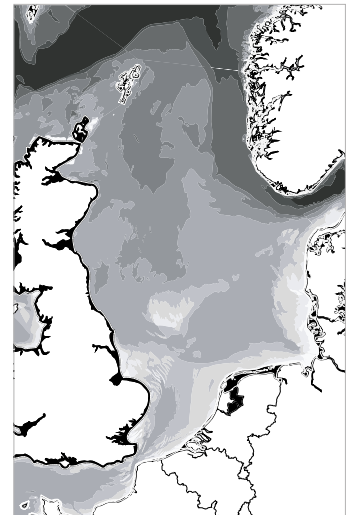
E Y

Z O

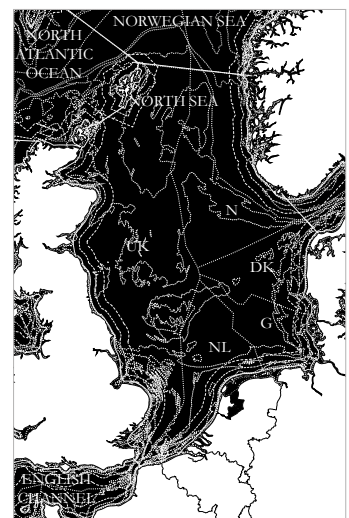
N E



1609 Hugo Grotius | *Mare Liberum*
The "Grey Area"



1671 National Ordinance Zones
Borderlands & The "Grey Area"



1992 Paris Agreement | *Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)*
The Grey Zone

NOMOS OF THE NORTH SEA

Man's desires for territorial claims have always exceeded their current land border. When the earth consists of 70 per cent water, it is not surprising that territorialisation is occurring on the fluid entity. The North Sea has always been a contested territory, with seven coastal countries surrounding it all exhibiting maritime powers. Conflicts have inevitably arisen in the borderlands of the North Sea.

Historically, these borderlands were areas identified along a country's coastal zone, between coastline and the projected nautical border of that nation, an extension of their territorial claim. An unclear "Grey Area" arose between nations' projected nautical borders (in between area between nations), as no one country had territorial claim on this nautical space. In September 1992 the Economic Exclusive Zones (EEZ) were implemented, the North Sea was divided into seven zones, this was to help resolve the "Grey Area" issue. To give clarity over jurisdiction, sovereignty rights and maritime affairs.

Today, the "Grey Area" has evolved into multiple unclear zones in the North Sea, where the "cosmopolitan commons meets national jurisdiction and sovereignty" (Andersson, 2013, p247). Each country adhering different rules for their countrymen, the exchanging of industry rights (e.g. fishing rights in another countries zone) and global networks (e.g. data cables). The North Sea is no longer clearly divided, as was the initial intention. One of the failing of the EEZ is the creation of self-interest amongst coastal nations and industry (private/public). No longer considered as one zone but seven, it has become a complex web of permission, profit and passage for the benefit of man. For too long we have ignored the consequences of our actions at the detriment of nature.

STRENGTHEN THE NORTH SEA COMMONS

To (re)consider the North Sea as a whole, it is important to perceive the North Sea commons as one system (network) also. This is composed of four layers (sub-networks); above the sea, on the sea surface, in the sea and along the seafloor. The layers help to disentangle the North Sea border webs and identify the different elements, objects and lifeforms (human and non-human) or actors collectively interacting and composing the whole system. By considering the North Sea commons as one system, human stakeholders

(public, private and civic) become aware of the whole issue and the importance of an integral development to co-create a better future.

GREY LINES IN THE SAND

The grey zone is an island created in response to the North Sea commons' failures and conflicts which have arisen amongst the seven coastal nation's stakeholders. The island transforms itself into a state of exception at the heart of the North Sea, the act of subverting and converting a piece of land reclamation on Dogger Bank. Is to guard the morals of man, the future flows of operation and to prevent the tragedy of the North Sea commons. It will become a space of neutrality and equality amongst the seven North Sea countries and industries. Changing what is perceived or understood in the human consciousness, denouncing man's political (national) agenda once entered the space, and to only consider the good of the North Sea commons as a result.

The grey zone's role is bringing together different stakeholders (actors) of each North Sea nation, industry and culture. To get them to look only at the interest of the North Sea rather than their own personal agenda. Stakeholders are encouraged to bring to the table complex issues regarding the state and future prosperity of the North Sea. Information is gathered, stored and shared openly and freely amongst those on the island. It will be an (informal) Parliament of the North Sea, not held by a single political boundary, it will resolve internal disputes of the North Sea, raise awareness amongst different sectors and introduce new conversations of concern. This is compiled of six claims; *energy, ecology, extractivism, protein, logistics and migration*.

The grey zone will become a new (unorthodox) platform for conversation, data gathering (stored specimens) and decision making for the future of the North Sea.

Those attending the parliament meetings are asked to ;

1. Sacrifice an aspect of their cultural identity during the conversation process.
2. To look at the matter of concern in regards to the whole system.
3. Work from the common good - not from what has been historically agreed upon - a willingness for change.
4. Stimulate self-organisation - the parliament is not concerned with controlling every aspect of the whole system by encouraging

stakeholders to act on their own.

5. To learn from the future and indicate a directions for change by revising and repositioning the basic values of socio-spatial visions by sensitising and increasing broader parts of society ("projected research").

6. Formulate a trans-border marine-spatial planning which considers the six claims and measures to mitigate their impact on climate change.

7. Time; the sea's fourth dimension stipulates all new problems should be conceived of as temporary, reversible, reusable and/or multipurpose, it should be able to adapt to changing demands or trends.

**7 rules are a culmination of extracted sources; Future Commons 2070 and The North Sea energy lab research*

The Parliament of the North Sea is a "vessel" for formal and informal conversations, opening the dialogue between different stakeholders, an alternative approach to 'typical' decision making progresses accustomed in the seven North Sea country's parliaments, the EU parliament and public/private industries. However, for the method to work, stakeholders have to also sacrifice a proportion of their time, to travel to the island and stay for a short period to help build the relationship between stakeholders and have a meaningful conversation. Many will find the thought of loss of control, the new methods and the unorthodox processes for decision making irrational or inconceivable to make a decision which should or can be implemented.

However, the Parliament of the North Sea presents a new way to bring to the table unexplored conversations, creating awareness of the status-quo and understand the problems the North Sea commons it is facing or will be in the future. Each stakeholder in attendance will present a current state of affairs and a vision statement, a tool to co-create their own future and to transfer information for the whole system to become aware of the whole issue and the importance of an integral development.

"Honest accounts are more productive as they raise questions and open up opportunities for debate. It is a misconception that failure ought to carry only negative associations, translate as embarrassment and have no utility. Instead it should force us to redefine value (...) change can only occur through combat or collapse"

- Keller Easterling, Form follows failures; (architecture review March 2019 issue extract)

6. Ephemeral Paper

Tidalectic

Designing in a sea of uncertainty

22.02.2019

5 Key words:

oceanic world-view, uncertainty, tidalectics, engagement, creativity

Flows and movement are typically associated with tangible and intangible goods and services, and the subsequent exchange and interaction which takes place across the world. Now consider flow and movement as a state of mind, and on ways of seeing the world. John Berger advocates this notion, the way in which “we see things is affected by what we know or what we believe” (Berger, 1972), he invites us to see the world differently. Though his writings and notions commonly refer to the understanding of art and visual images, the concept can be easily transferred to our understanding of the landscape which surrounds us and the built environment we have placed ourselves in. To see is to engage and to foster is to take an interest in the world in which we live. Yet, there is a “contrast between publicity’s interpretation of the world and the world’s actual condition is a very stark one” (Berger, 1972). Berger recognises that each of us plays a role in the current environment’s status. Though it can be noted, we sometimes lack awareness of our surrounding.

In 2017 curator Stefanie Hessler sought to engage viewers at an art exhibition in Vienna, with an experiment to get them to engage differently with the oceans and the world in which we inhabit, by formulating an oceanic world-view. The exhibition called Tidalectics, is a coined expression by Kamau Braithwaite to describe “land-based modes of thinking and living, the exhibition is reflective of the rhythmic fluidity of water and the incessant swelling and receding of the tides” (Hessler, 2018). Many of us find ourselves engaged and immersed on a path of ideas and thoughts striving for certainty and stability. Franco Cassano argues that we have an “obsession for fixity, assuredness and appropriation” (Cassano, 2012). However, it is now time to read and interpret our oceanic environment differently. Water is an element constantly in flux, then why should our readings and interpretations on it be so fixed?

One prevalent environmental conversation topic is rising sea levels. Two-thirds of the world is covered in water, it leaves little left for the world to inhabit and a lot of uncertainty for the one-tenth of the world’s population who live in low-elevation coastal areas (Greenfieldboyce, 2007). As a way of being, people have always built cities and towns along the coast, as a means of survival dating back to the time of the hunter-gatherer. But as the growth of these cities sets to continue, in the future many will find themselves living in uncertainty, as our world becomes ever more oceanic.

Virtually all decisions in life are affected by uncertainty, using the best available knowledge and data we can make the best predicted or projected outcomes, but there will be limits to how much we know (EFSAchannel, 2016). For example; there will be some uncertainty on the rate at which the ice caps will continue to melt, this may be altered if the trend and amount of fossil fuels which are burned changes amongst nations. Even though there are a range of possible outcomes, and some will be more likely than others, it will never be precisely known the amount at which it will rise in a given time period. Information on “uncertainties” helps people to better understand the likelihood of different outcomes and support informed decision-making, both in science, politics and in everyday life. Presenting possible scenario outcomes and how likely they are, the decision-makers can alter policies for the (public) good.

We need information on uncertainty, we can never be certain of the future, but if we consider the type of uncertainty we can make better decisions in designing for our built environment. However, the tools in our approach could be considered out-dated or inadequate for the task, we need new ways of seeing the world and its epistemology. For too long we have placed the nomos of the earth over the nomos of the sea. Carl Schmitt advocates a hierarchy between land and sea (Schmitt, 2006), based on the fundamental order and distribution of civilisations and their prospects. But if our prospects are at risk of being submerged by water, should we reconsider the order?

Dogger Bank becomes a prevalent example of a civilisation lost to rising sea level, a land once perceived to be fertile, accessible to water, rich in food and flat – a utopia, a garden of Eden for the hunter gatherer. However, a series of unfortunate events; the storegga slide, isostatic subsidence and the earth warming - by 1-2°C warmer than today. The story of the Mesolithic people and their home now becomes a cautionary tale of the consequences of a rapidly rising sea level. Glacial melt forced the Mesolithic people out of their homes, like the fabled Atlantis, this island of the North Sea is now lost and was nearly forgotten by current civilisation. Its only evidence of its past life, was decayed artefacts and fossils of its people found by the fisherman that now fish above it.

The ocean provides us with a metaphor to understand the invisible levels of the ocean – cultural, historical, geographical, social and linguistic (Hessler, 2018) - and to ask the questions which will help us understand our world, and the ones we have lost. We need to start to consider the challenges surrounding the uncertainty of sea level rise and the dialectic between land and sea by dissolving our current linear line of thinking.

In the eyes of today's society, the current prospects and approaches to addressing sea level rise has remained insufficient. Recently one of the most striking group of people in voicing their opinion and denying the situation is the protest amongst school children across the world. Initiated by a Swedish student, Greta Thunberg, a fifteen-year-old who has been missing lessons every Friday to protest outside the Swedish parliament against climate change. It has sparked response by others, in the UK a school walk-out strike in protest at the political inaction over the crisis was held on the Friday 15th February 2019 (Matthew Taylor, 2019). Berger writes; “seeing comes before words. The child looks and recognises before it can speak” (Berger, 1972), the idea behind this is that visual world is what creates the world we describe with words. Young people aren't apathetic but are passionate about their future and they see it is time for the decision-makers (politicians) to use their influence and power to change their approach. It is their future, and the actions of today will affect them more than those making them in the present.

It is clear many deny the condition status and it is not accepted by civilisation of all ages. Our understanding and aspiration for slowing down (or stopping) sea level rise is an oceanic concern. However, the problem how to change the outcome is something many do not agree upon. Agreements such as the Paris Agreement, an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, pledges to deal with greenhouse-gas-emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance starting in the year 2020. In 2016, 195 signatories across the world signed said agreement and yet in 2017 the Trump administration, who accepts the condition but not the agreement, delivered an official notice to the United Nations to withdraw from it. As they felt it was not in their economic interest and favours certain countries above the United States.

Though economic growth is a necessary condition in our global world, so is the land to which we live on. Tidalectics introduces new tools for us to think through “dissolving notions of time and space, the burring divisions between land and water, and coalescing human and more-than-human relationships – and to dive together into the sea of possible futures” (Hessler, 2018). It allows us to think in a more dynamic notion, the ocean's influence is not limited to just water and land but all terrestrial life. It is an oceanic system of exchange and encourages you to actively participate and engage in ways of reading and interpreting this uncertain, unpredictable and irrational fluid, in a new and unorthodox manner. If not, our currently dry feet - on land - will soon be submerged, it has happened before and will happen again.

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Ephemeral Paper



Underwater sculpture museum, the Canary Islands
The Rubicon: the figures in place on the seabed. Photo by Jason de Caires Taylor

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