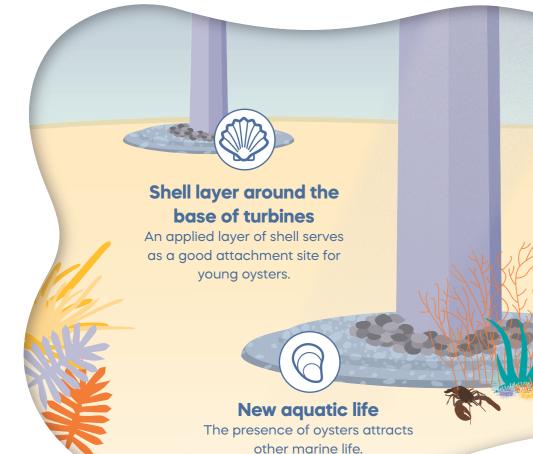
Project Blauwwind

Flat oysters at the base of offshore wind turbines

The Rich North Sea explores how marine life in the North Sea can flourish again by taking advantage of the potential of wind farms. Seabed disturbance, diseases and altered environmental factors have led to a huge decline in biodiversity and the disappearance of many fish, shellfish and other marine life. The Rich North Sea investigates how we can enrich the North Sea seabed by placing innovative structures and reefs.

In the Blauwwind project, we place flat oysters on the bottom near the base of wind turbines. Oysters filter the water and provide a suitable habitat for other marine life such as fish, soft corals, shrimps and crabs. Oysters are an important component for a healthy sea. In this project we are investigating whether the placed oysters will reproduce and how marine life develops around the oysters.





We will be using an underwater camera to monitor the development of marine life around the wind turbines for eight years.



Location

Borsele III & IV Wind Farm. 55km off the coast at Vlissingen.



Oyster tables containing 2,400 flat oysters have been set up on the scour protection, a layer of stones deposited around the windturbine to protect the foundation. We are investigating whether the oysters can reproduce here and whether the young oysters can settle.





