Main reason for new pilot location: to develop, test and improve a method to ‘kickstart’ a new native oyster reef/bank in North Sea conditions.

**Advantages of this location:**
- No bottom disturbance
- No discussions about fishery activities
- Sandbank as shelter against rough conditions
- Within reach of larvae from existing reef and/or lake Grevelingen
- Survey data proof that native oyster are able to settle here

**Requirements/characteristics of design:**
- to potentially function as ‘kick-off’ for a new reef, if the pilot is successful
- to enable the potential use of ‘spat on shell’
- to enable cost-efficient monitoring
- to make use of simple and cheap materials
- to make use of natural materials, if possible

**Existing pilot locations (1 and 2), discovered native oyster reef (3), planned pilot location (4).**

**Restoration native oyster reef Dutch Voordelta**

The discover natural oyster reef measures at least 40 hectares, is approx. 20 years old and consists of *O. edulis*, *C. gigas* and *M. edulis*. Larvae source for *O. edulis* is Lake Grevelingen.

Photo: Peter van Rodijnen, Onderwaterbeelden

Native oyster reefs as bio-builders for a rich North Sea nature.

Author: Jeroen Helmer

**Feedback or want to learn more?**
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