

### What are the Dutch government's priorities in the Netherlands?

#### Sustainable fishery

- Reducing discards and seabed disruption, by introducing pulse fishing and continuing development and use of more sustainable and selective fishing vessels.
- Translating the possibilities provided by the European Fishery Fund in national schemes.
- Reaching agreement with the sector on implementing the prospects for sustainable fishing.
- Reaching agreement with business on the transition needed to manage biodiversity in the fish meal chain.

#### Protected area at sea

- Declaration of the applicability of the Nature Protection Act 1998 to the Netherlands EEZ.
- Designating four areas in the North Sea as Natura 2000 areas, before 2010.
- Ensuring that by 2012 these areas be managed in such a way as to guarantee their natural values.

#### Quality Objectives

- Defining a set of Ecological Quality Targets (EcoQO's) and making them operational, also for biodiversity

### What are the Dutch government's priorities in international cooperation?

#### Sustainable fishery

- Combating illegal, unreported and unregistered fishing (IUU fishing), in order to reduce the uncontrolled burden on the marine ecosystem and tackle unfair competition, and loss of income and increase the chance of regulated sustainable fishing succeeding.
- Reforming Regional Fishery Organisations (RFMOs).<sup>28</sup> The organisations should then apply the ecosystem approach in fishery management. The conservation of marine biodiversity and sustainable fishing are equally important points of departure.

#### Protected area at sea

- Contributing in bilateral policy and multilateral forums to a worldwide network of marine protected areas. Protection of marine areas makes the targeted protection of marine species, habitats and fish stocks possible.

#### Coordination in international frameworks

- Closer cohesion between different regimes with respect to biodiversity at European/Atlantic level (EU-OSPAR). This includes aligning the lists of threatened species and habitats in the OSPAR Convention and the Birds and Habitat Directives.



### On what themes and activities will the Dutch government seek cooperation with partners in civil society?

- Greening and increased sustainability of the North Sea Fishery by the Fishery Innovation Platform (VIP): business community, scientists and NGOs.
- Awareness-raising and conceptual development with respect to the problems of marine biodiversity and fishery chains and IUU fishing.
- Helping to implement projects, involvement in the tourism sector.
- Issuing measures to protect vulnerable species and habitats.
- Formulating and implementing a public-private partnership for sustainable fishing in West Africa.
- Implementing recommendations for a round table on fish meal (criteria and standards for sustainable fish meal industry) and translating them into a public-private partnership.

