

Summary

Spatial planning for Lower Saxony's coastal area (ROKK)

The ROKK is an explanatory paper, put out by the Minister for Rural Areas, Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection and the Government Representation Oldenburg, which discusses the facts, conflicts, solutions and aims of spatial planning in Lower Saxony's coastal area (12 nautical miles zone). It consists of a text and three maps and outlines the intended uses and aims of the region.

In contrast to the already confirmed spatial planning measures, such as the Landesraumordnungsprogramm (LROP) (*State Environmental Planning Program*) and the Regionales Raumordnungsprogramm (RROP) (*Regional Environmental Planning Program*), the ROKK is only a statement of planning principles and informal goals, without any binding status.

The ROKK is the outcome of a process, attended by approximately 300 regional, national and international interest group representatives and members of the public. The process aimed to reach broad consensus that benefit all parties.

The ROKK faces the following challenges regarding spatial planning in the coastal zone:

- economic considerations: developing the harbours and connecting them to the hinterland
- shipping especially in the main traffic areas of the "German Bight - Western Approach" and the "Terschelling - German Bight"
- energy, especially the potential for offshore windmills
- tourism: the East Frisian Islands for example are of national importance,
- coastal fishing requirements
- resource exploitation, such as of oil, gas, clay and sand
- ecology, for example the protection of the wadden sea and valuable bird breeding areas
- cultural heritage: there are countless examples of the interaction of man with nature (such dikes, lighthouses, sluices, dwelling mounds) that need to be protected
- coastal protection: the main stretch of dikes needs to be strengthened due to the rising sea level
- disaster control and risk management: important questions here are the likelihood of natural disaster occurring and the extent of potential damage

The ROKK is an opportunity for local interest groups and residents become informed about the very important intended uses, conflicts and strategies within these issues. The ROKK is also a part of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).

If required, the ROKK will continue to be updated as the coming developments are implemented.