



Cultural Heritage Agency
*Ministry of Education, Culture and
Science*

Drowned stone age landscapes and archaeology in the Dutch sector of the North-Sea: towards a way of preservation

Andrea Klomp
a.klomp@cultureelerfgoed.nl

European Marine Days 2015



Drowned stone age landscapes: awareness



Offshore Industry and Archaeology:
a creative relationship
**International Conference
and Networking Event**



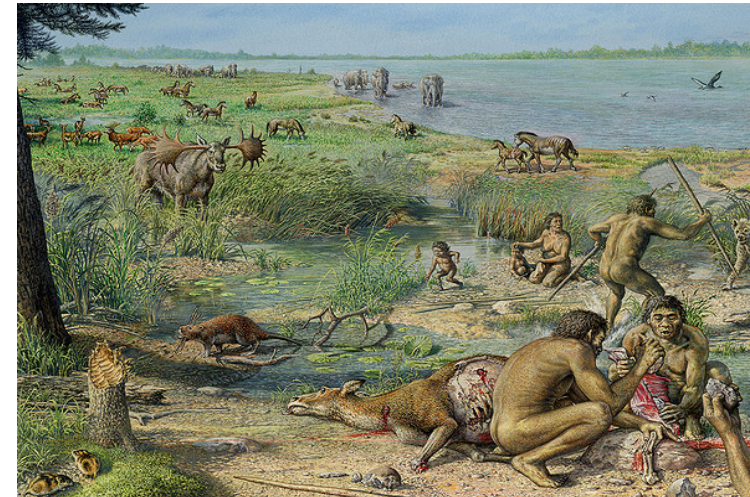
14th - 15th March 2013
Esbjerg, Denmark

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SPLASHCOS
Submerged Prehistoric Archaeology and
Landscapes of the Continental Shelf
www.splashcos.com



The drowned stone-age landscapes





Present offshore legislation in the Netherlands

- Law on dredging aggregates
- Law on environmental protection (EU habitats)
- National government policy

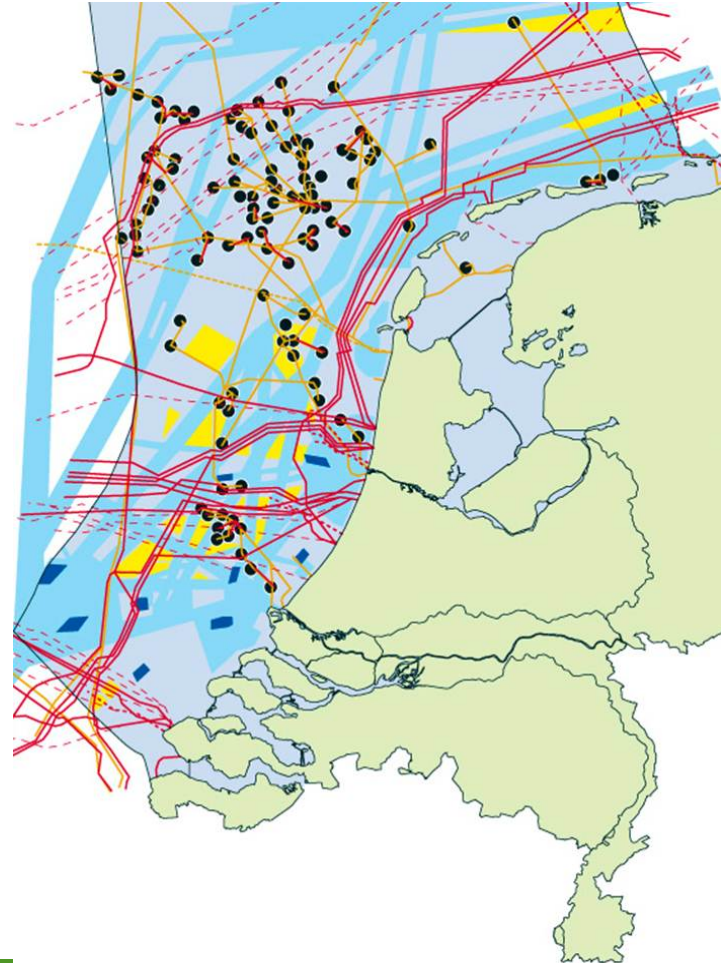
But: no formal protection rules for stone-age archaeology!!

Possibility: incorporation into licenses that have to be obtained before offshore activities can be carried out



But there is a whole lot going on!!

- Aggregate dredging
- Windmill parks
- Hydrocarbon platforms and pipelines
- Telecommunication and energy cables





First step: Data investigation

Complete analysis of all available data, carried out in 2012/2013 by Deltares and TNO | Geological Survey of The Netherlands

- Corings
- 2D seismics
- 2D geological maps
- 3D seismics

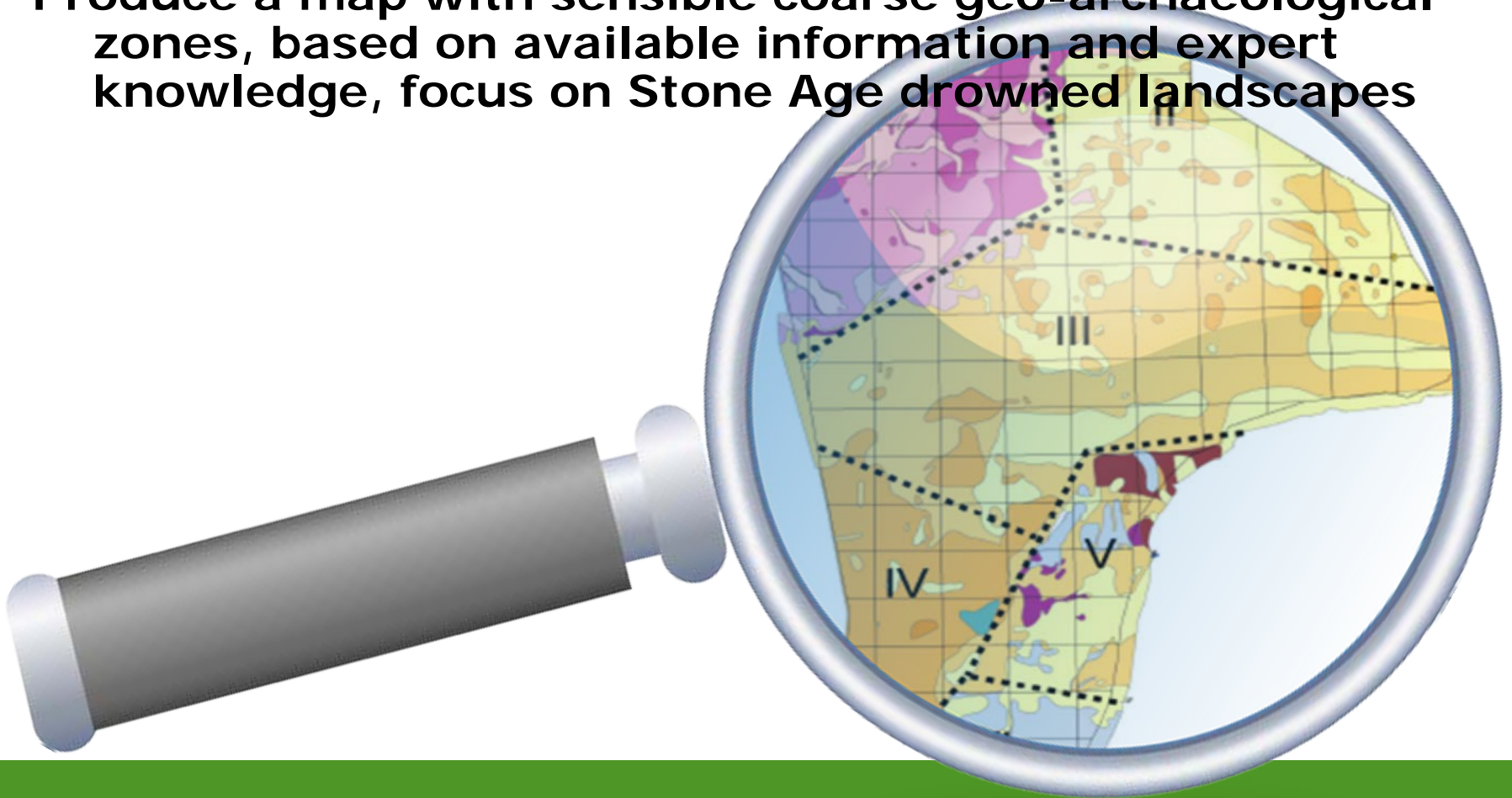
Producing the maps would take many years and would be very expensive (millions of euros)

→ Not feasible within time and present budget



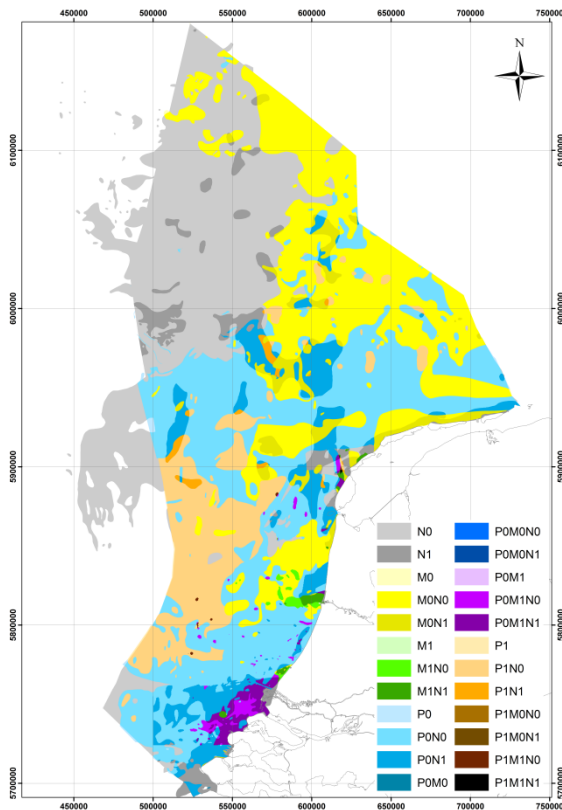
How to proceed? Work in progress

Produce a map with sensible coarse geo-archaeological zones, based on available information and expert knowledge, focus on Stone Age drowned landscapes





Archaeological zones, a first step



Combining lithostratigraphy with inferred preserved archaeology

This yields zones of different expected preservation of stone age archaeological landscapes

Further evaluation of these zones is necessary

Best practices policy for the zones has yet to be formulated



How to proceed? A further outlook

Geo-
archaeological
zone



Indication of
potential
archaeological
expectation
&
combination
with smaller
Features from
3D seismics



Best practices
for
archaeological
research for
each zone



Thank you for your attention!