

THE SAND MOTOR

June 2015

A unique new natural feature was added to the Dutch coast in 2011 to protect us from the sea: the Sand Motor. The Sand Motor is a large artificial sand bank. The wind, the waves and the currents will gradually spread the sand along the coast of Zuid-Holland between Hoek van Holland and Scheveningen. This is known as 'Building with Nature'. In this way, we enhance coastal protection and create a dynamic natural and recreational area at the same time. If the Sand Motor proves effective, it can also be used elsewhere.



BUILDING WITH NATURE

The Sand Motor consists of 21.5 million cubic metres of sand. Dredging vessels picked up the sand ten kilometres offshore and deposited it to form a hook-shaped peninsula between Kijkduin and Ter Heijde. The Sand Motor will gradually change shape before it is ultimately transformed into a new dune landscape and a wider beach. This approach to 'building with nature' allows the coast to extend in a natural way.

NATURE AND RECREATION

The Sand Motor leads to the creation of a unique natural and recreational area that the wind and the sea currents will transform continuously. The area is an appealing habitat for a range of flora and fauna. Visitors can enjoy the experience of the natural surroundings on and around the Sand Motor.

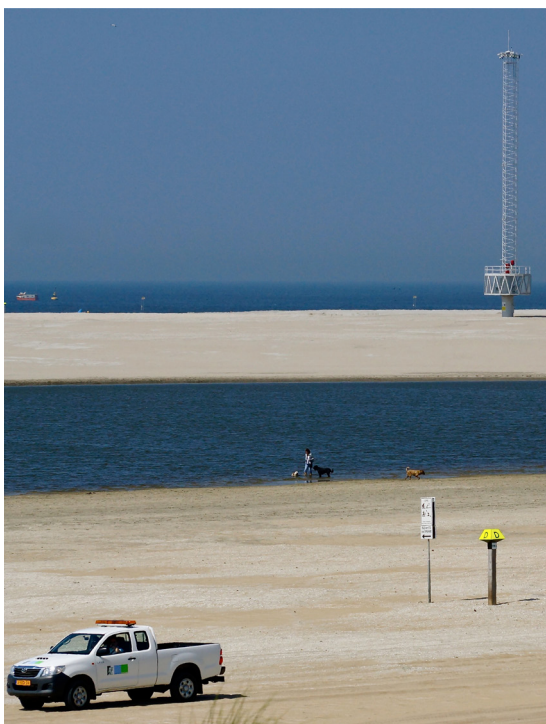


Photo: Roel Wijnants

RESEARCH

The Sand Motor is a pilot project. Scientists studying this new approach to coastal defence and coastal maintenance are looking at the impact of the weather, the waves and the currents on the spread of the sand. But they are also monitoring the ecosystem, groundwater levels and the impact on the surroundings, such as recreation and bather safety. The Sand Motor is home to the 'Argus Mast', a 40-metre-high mast named after the giant from Greek mythology with 100 eyes, on which eight cameras have been installed to film changes on the Sand Motor.

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MANAGEMENT AND STRUCTURING

A foundation - Het Zuid-Hollands Landschap - has been entrusted with the day-to-day management of the Sand Motor.

It has been welcoming numerous visitors to the Sand Motor since late 2011: ramblers and water sports adepts, but also rare birds and even seals.

SAFETY

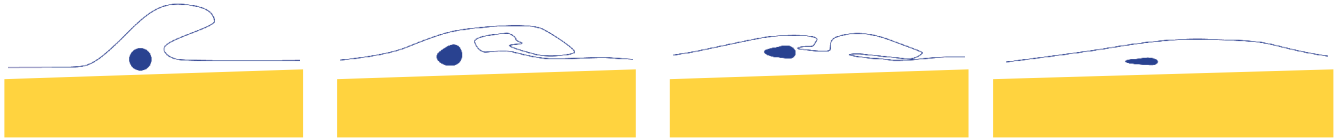
The Sand Motor is a unique sand flat that is submerged twice a day at high tide. Its dynamic nature can create hazardous situations, such as quick sands or strong sea currents.

The changes are monitored closely.

The safety situation on and around the Sand Motor is checked regularly. Signs and flags on the beach inform visitors about the current situation. You should always follow the instructions issued by the rescue services and other authorities.



Development of the Sand Motor over the next 15 years



THE SAND MOTOR IN BRIEF

- Coastal reinforcement and coastal maintenance
- More room for nature and recreation
- Knowledge development
- 21.5 million cubic metres of sand
- Surface area after construction: 128 hectares = 256 football pitches
- Expected result: 35 hectares of new beach and dunes
- Unique in the world



For more information:

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The Sand Motor is a pilot project of the province of Zuid-Holland and Rijkswaterstaat.



Rijkswaterstaat
Ministerie van Infrastructuur en Milieu

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