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Date: 27 February 2026
Subject: Notification of Real Time Closure (RTC), RTC_NL_1_2026

Referentie
RVO-VIR / HVS202600022568
Besluitnummer: 2600008051

Dear Sir/Madam,

We have received a report of the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA). This report has consequences for fisheries in the North Sea. In this letter, we inform you what these consequences are.

Notification for the closure of an area (RTC) in Dutch waters
We close an area, Real Time Closure (RTC), in the Dutch waters of the North Sea for exceeding the catch trigger level of whiting. This area will be closed for all fisheries <u>except</u> for fisheries with the following fishing gear:

- Pelagic trawls, purse seines, driftnets and jiggers targeting herring, mackerel, and horse mackerel;
- Pots;
- Scallop dredges;
- Gillnets.

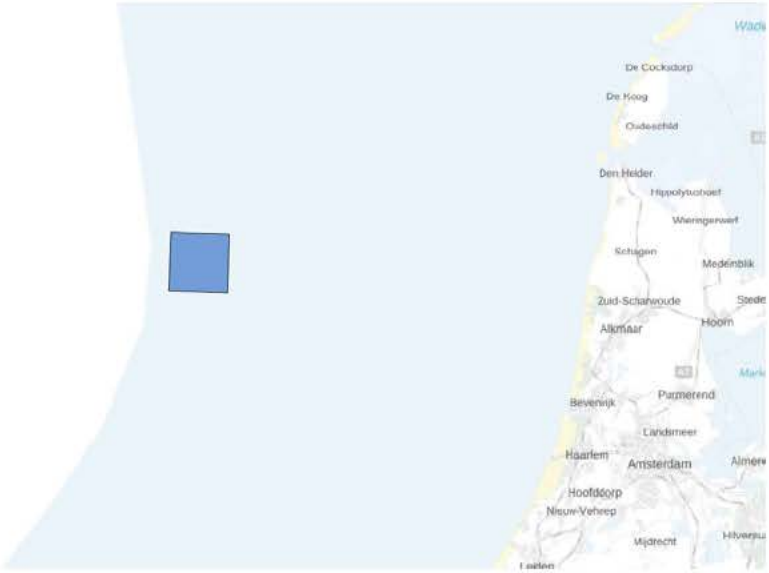
Findings of the last haul inspection on 26 February 2026
On 26 February 2026 at 09:00 UTC, a last haul inspection has taken place at position 52°45.08 N 3°21.20 E. The results show that the total share of juvenile whiting was 42%. This share exceeds the 10% catch trigger level for juveniles.

Duration of closure
The area (RTC_NL_1_2026, see image and coordinates on the next page) is closed for a period of 21 days, starting on 28 February 2026 at 00:00 UTC, until 20 March 2026 at 23:59 UTC. After that, the RTC will end automatically.

The RTC is located in the North Sea, ICES-area 27.4.c, in the fishing zone, consisting of the following coordinates:

RTC_NL_1_2026

1. **52°48.679 N 3°15.494 E**
2. **52°41.583 N 3°15.494 E**
3. **52°41.583 N 3°27.188 E**
4. **52°48.679 N 3°27.188 E**
   And back to position 1



More information
I hope to have informed you sufficiently. Do you have any questions? You can find more information about RTCs on the website of RVO: Real Time Closures in the North Sea, and in the Commission Regulation (EU) No 724/2010.

For further questions, you can contact us at vr@rvo.nl. Or call us at: +31 88 042 42 42.

Yours Faithfully,

On behalf of the State Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature:

[redacted]

[redacted]
Team Manager Fishery Regulations Department
Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)