

# Offshore Activities and Seabed Evolution

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Shallow coastal seabeds, for example of the North Sea, are subject to an increasing pressure by offshore operations, such as sand extraction and the construction/operation of offshore infrastructure. These activities interfere with the complex system coupling the seabed topography, seabed life, sediment dynamics and hydrodynamics.

On 6 November, the NCK community gathered in Utrecht for a theme day on the above topic, termed 'OASE': Offshore Activities and Seabed Evolution. The day was aimed at working towards a shared view on offshore challenges. To this end, four speakers from diverse backgrounds (NGOs, market, universities and government) presented their view on the state-of-the-art knowledge, ending with a specific statement. Each of these four statements was then used to spark a debate in small interactive group sessions. This led to short counterstatements from each subgroup, inspiring further plenary discussion among the attendees, which in fact formed a broad swath of the entire NCK community. Among the topics discussed were (i) the combined importance of measurements and modelling, (ii) the values of idealized and complex modelling for scientific purposes and for engineering consultancy, (iii) the role of the government, and (iv) the need to review earlier assumptions when the scales of interventions increase dramatically.

During the discussion and drinks, this OASE-day provided a fruitful platform to transfer ideas and open questions from offshore engineering practice and government to science, and vice versa, also involving NGOs as important stakeholders. Excerpts of the four presentations can be downloaded by clicking on the speaker names listed below.

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