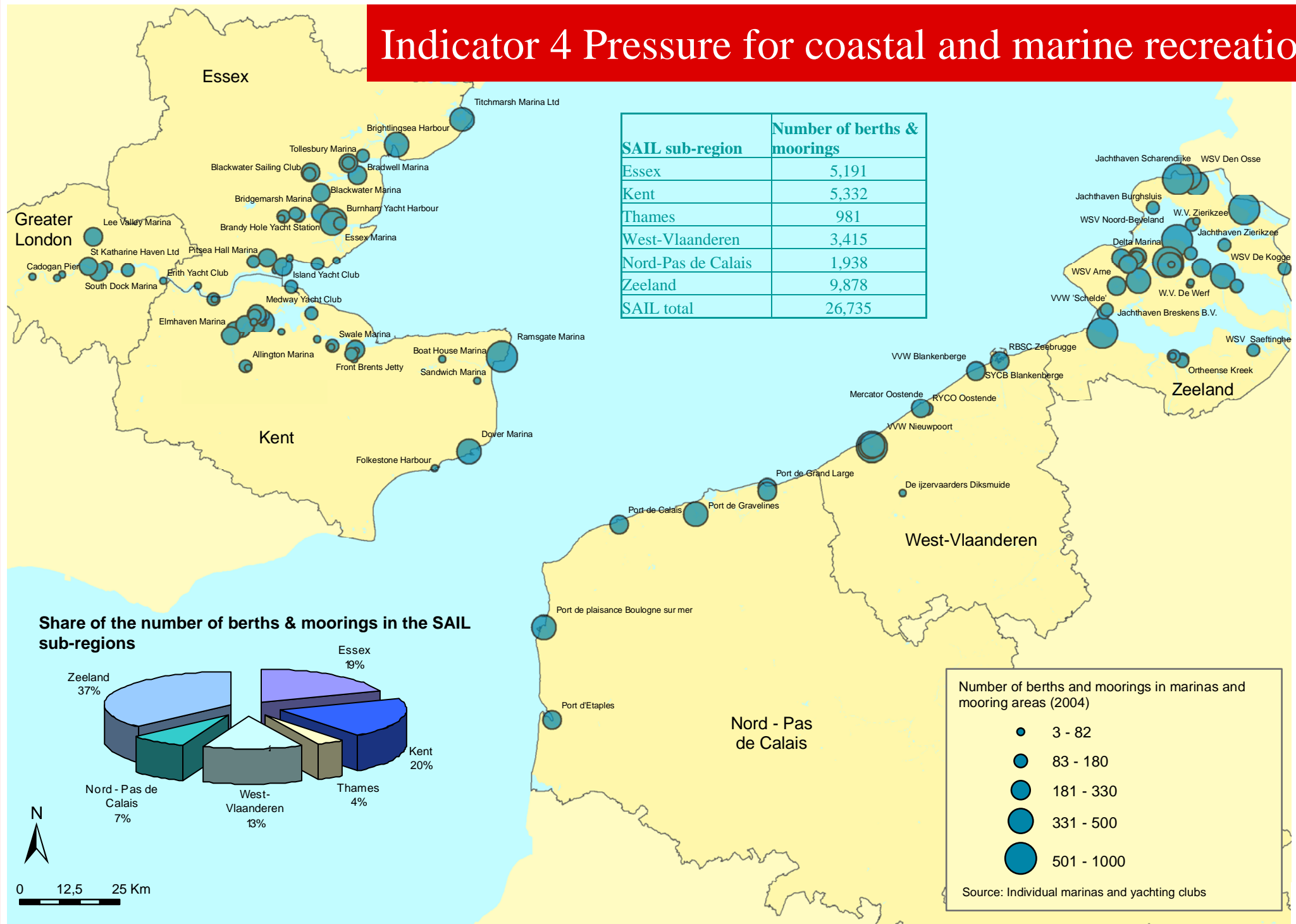


Indicator 4 Pressure for coastal and marine recreation



- *Number of berths and moorings for recreational boating in marinas and yacht clubs*

Key Message

- There are approximately 130 marinas and yacht clubs in the Southern North Sea region, featuring around 27,000 berths and moorings for recreational boating. The province of Zeeland has the highest number of both marinas and berths. The largest marinas are located in Nord-Pas de Calais and West-Vlaanderen.
- The impact on the coast in terms of water pollution and seabed disturbance is expected to be higher where pressure exerted by recreational boating is more important.

Why monitor the pressure for coastal and marine recreation?

The number of berths and moorings in marinas and yacht clubs is a measure of the pressure exerted on coastal waters by recreational boating. Marinas require additional space, resources and infrastructure. Effects on ecosystems are mainly in terms of chemical pollution (oil, paintings), noise and mechanical disturbance (on sediments and benthic organisms) as well as an eroding effect on the foreshore, especially in estuaries, rivers and canals.

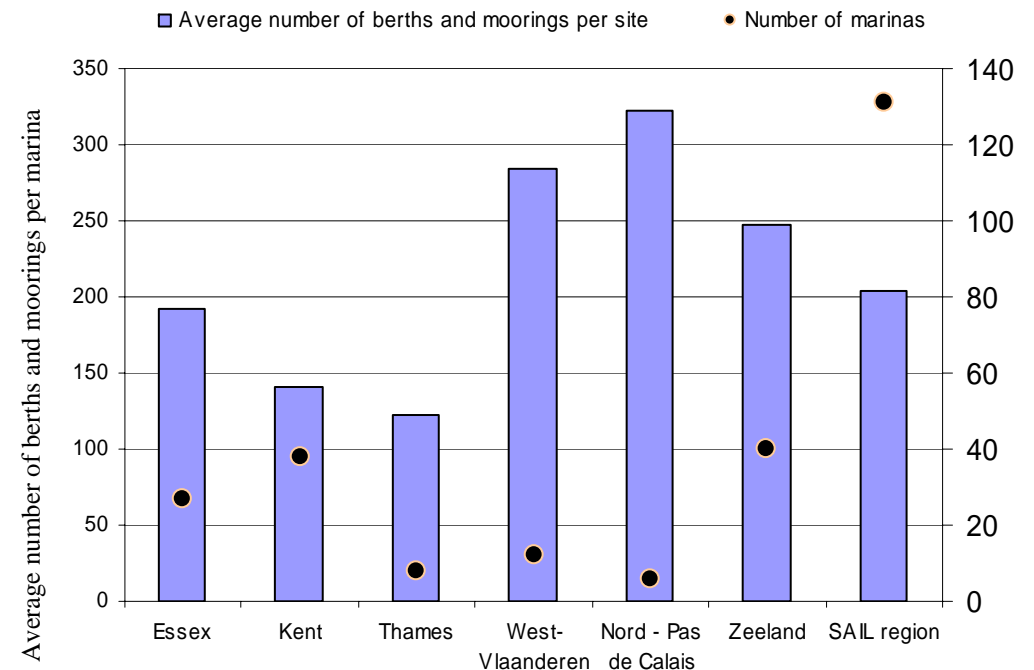
This measurement is needed to (1) monitor the increasing demand for recreational boating and infrastructure around the Southern North Sea; (2) know where the largest concentrations of berths and moorings occur; and (3) know where growth is most significant.



Where do the data come from?

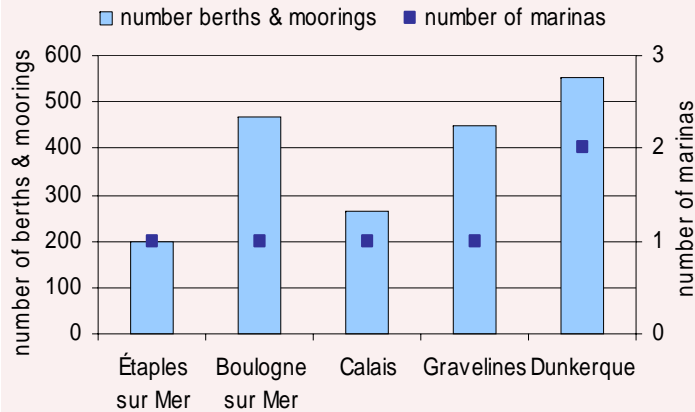
No centralized database or statistics are kept of this measurement. In the absence of national or regional statistics a baseline survey was conducted by contacting ports, marinas and yacht clubs individually. A list of marinas, ports and yacht clubs for the United Kingdom is available from the Royal Yachting Association (<http://www.rya.org> and <http://www.marina-info.com>). The Port of London website also provides valuable data on moorings and other services: http://www.portoflondon.co.uk/leisure_river_map/moorings.cfm/site/leisure. For France, the network 'Plaisance Côte d'Opale' at <http://www.plaisance-opale.com> provides a reference point. In The Netherlands <http://www.allejachthavens.nl> was used for the present study as an inventory of existing facilities; recently, Deltagids (<http://www.deltawaterland.nl>) has listed information on marinas in the Dutch Delta area.

Berths and moorings in the SAIL region

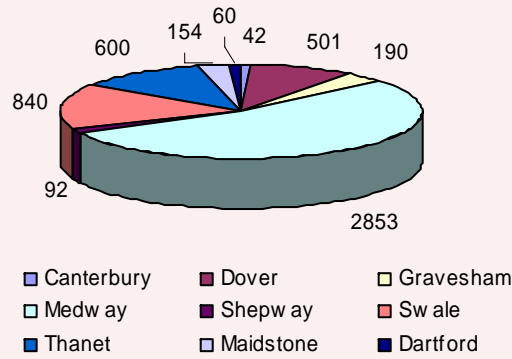


Number of berths & moorings in the SAIL sub-regions (2004)

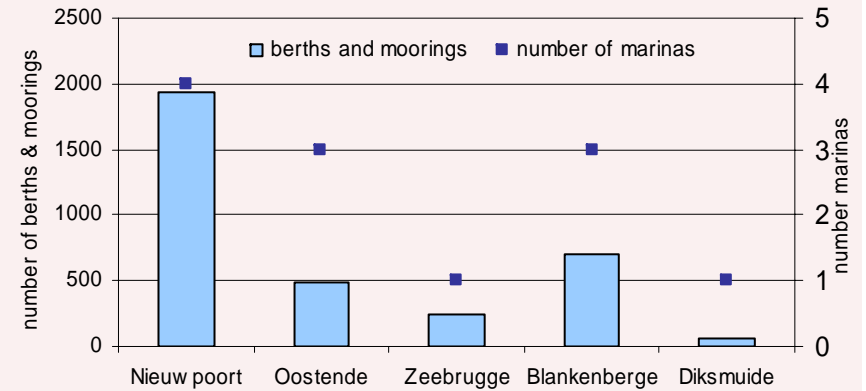
Nord-Pas de Calais



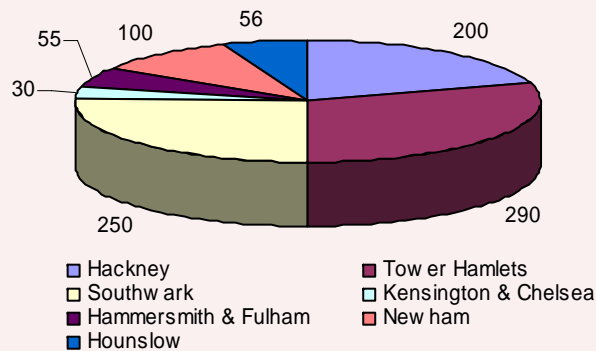
Kent



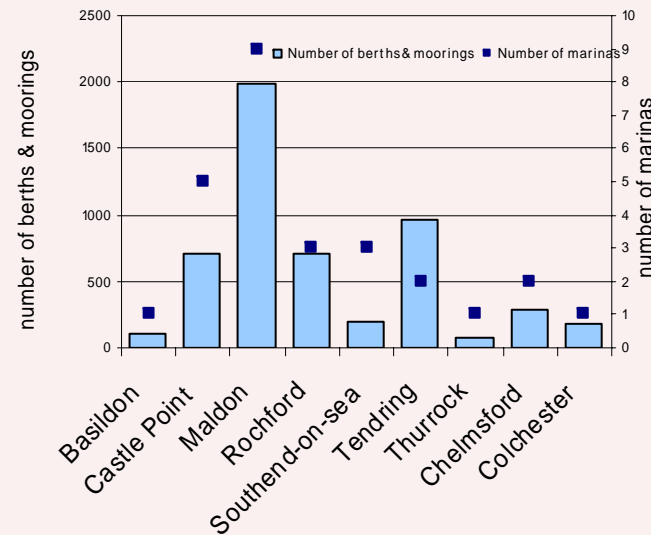
West-Vlaanderen



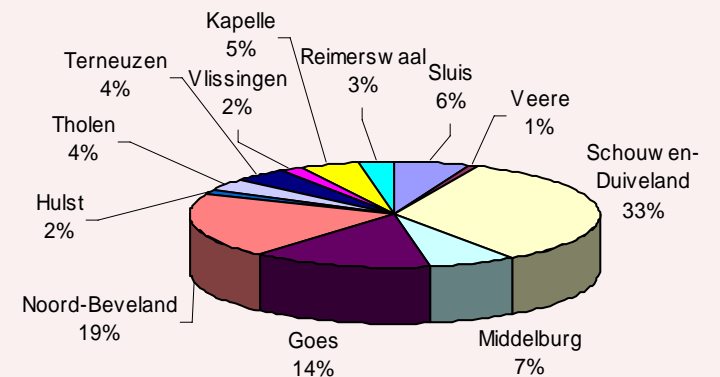
Share of the number of berths and moorings in the Thames area



Essex



Share of berths in Zeeland municipalities (%)



Total number of berths in Zeeland : 9,878

What does the indicator show?

With more than 130 marinas and yacht clubs, and approximately 27,000 berths and moorings, recreational boating is an important activity in the southern North Sea. The province of Zeeland has a 'sea-going' tradition and contributes the highest number of marinas (40-or almost one third of the SAIL total) and berths and moorings (9,878 or 37% of the SAIL total). Kent has a large number of smaller marinas, with more than half of Kent mooring facilities located around the estuaries of the river Medway. In Essex, most of the mooring facilities in marinas and yacht clubs are harboured in the Maldon area (2,000 berths and moorings) and - to a lesser extent - in Tendring. The largest marinas are located in Nord-Pas de Calais and West-Vlaanderen (average of 323 and 285 berths and moorings per marina, respectively). Nieuwpoort at the Belgian coast is by far the largest marina in the region, with nearly 2,000 berths in the complex.



Fig: detailed map of marinas and number of berths in Zeeland



Fig: detailed map of marinas and mooring sites in Kent, Essex and Thames

According to the Royal Yachting Association's *Planning and Environmental Strategy for Sustainable Boating*, the challenge will be to identify areas that are currently underused and could be more effectively used. Sustainable planning for recreation boating requirements should be included in both strategic regional level and local development plans. It is expected that strategic planning of infrastructure for recreational boating and its efficient use can contribute to reducing congestion, creating new jobs and increasing spending in coastal towns.



What are the implications for planning and managing the coast?

Coastal areas important for recreational boating are generally also important for nature or landscape conservation purposes (Special Areas of Conservation SAC and Special Protection Areas SPA, National Parks). The implementation of the EU Habitats Regulations increasingly restricts the provision of facilities for recreational boating. Some of the major environmental concerns around marinas and mooring areas include the release and bio-accumulation of hazardous substances such as TBT (from antifouling paints) and Poly Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), as well as marine litter. The implementation of dry stack-storage sites, mainly for safety and protection of the yachts, may in part reduce this impact off-season. However, it may also add to the increasing demand for space in the coastal zone.

How reliable is the indicator?

The British Marine Federation (BMF) conducted a survey in 2003 for the British coast, with a response rate varying from 43% to 74%. Mooring numbers for the South East Coast were used to cross-check the data presented here. For the Thames area 526 moorings were reported by the BMF. Although yacht clubs and shipyards were also surveyed, the true number of berths and moorings in Kent and Essex is expected to be underestimated due to the presence of mooring sites. Since mooring areas outside marinas are practically non-existent along the continental coast, data outside the UK is expected to be very reliable.



