



**SDN** Schutzgemeinschaft  
Deutsche Nordseeküste e.V.

## Press release

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### North Sea waste dump - CO<sub>2</sub> to be injected under the North Sea

Schutzgemeinschaft Deutsche Nordseeküste e.V. (SDN) comments on the draft bill to amend the 'High Seas Dumping Act'

German North Sea. The Schutzgemeinschaft Deutsche Nordseeküste (SDN) is firmly opposed to the current draft bill on CO<sub>2</sub> storage in the North Sea seabed. This proposal envisages the large-scale use of CCS (carbon capture and storage) as a key measure to reduce emissions. 'We consider this approach to be risky and inefficient and reject any industrial use and potentially environmentally harmful interference in the North Sea habitat,' clarifies captain and sea pilot Ulrich Birstein, the second SDN chairman.

With reference to climate change, the government and industry have so far promoted CCS as a way of achieving greenhouse gas neutrality. Especially for emissions in the cement and lime industries that are difficult to avoid. Existing CCS projects on the high seas in some countries are often cited as successful examples of the safety of this technology. However, this consistently ignores the fact that there are already considerable conflicts over utilisation and ecology in German waters. Instead of efficiently avoiding and reducing emissions, the aim is to push for unnecessary technologisation. The associated risks, such as CO<sub>2</sub> leaks with acidification of marine habitats, are not problems that have been recognised for the first time. Just like shifting this risk burden onto future generations. And European and national environmental laws are also cancelled out and undermined in the long term.

The SDN is firmly opposed to CO<sub>2</sub> storage under the North Sea. The North Sea is too valuable a habitat. It must not become a landfill site for CO<sub>2</sub> and other harmful industrial waste. 'The conservation organisation is calling for a climate policy that focuses on sustainable emission reductions,' says Birstein. The focus must be on effective, sustainable and ecologically viable solutions.

SDN demands

- Abandonment of CCS in German waters
- Use of CCU (utilisation of CO<sub>2</sub>) instead of CCS (storage of CO<sub>2</sub>)
- Protection of the marine habitat
- Natural CO<sub>2</sub> storage as a sustainable alternative

With kind request for publication,

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### **Additional information:**

The Schutzgemeinschaft Deutsche Nordseeküste e.V. (SDN) is a supra-regional and non-profit environmental protection umbrella organisation that was founded in 1973 in response to extensive pollution of the North Sea. Since then, the conservation organisation has been committed to the protection of the North Sea as a living, economic and natural environment in a professional and cross-party manner. It serves around 200 local authorities, districts, nature conservation organisations, institutes, associations and individual members as a mouthpiece for the public as well as the ministerial administrations and parliaments of the federal government and the four North Sea coastal states. The common goal is to protect the unique features and beauty of the North Sea, the Wadden Sea and the neighbouring coastline from harmful human intervention and to find solutions to the problems of North Sea protection.

Some of the measures taken in recent decades in which the SDN has represented the interests of the coast as a lobby organisation and which are now considered to have been largely dealt with are the dumping of dilute acid, waste and sewage sludge, the emergency towing concept, antifouling, air monitoring, ballast water, tank cleaning, MARPOL I to IV and the acquisition of modern emergency tugs for the North Sea and Baltic Sea, as is currently the case for the Lower Elbe.  
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