

259 of 657 DOCUMENTS

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No change there

BYLINE: Charles Clover

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Marine reserves are one of the ways of repairing the damage before matters get even worse. But as **Daniel Pauly** observed, at the present snail-like pace, the world stands no chance of meeting the target it set itself in 2002 of setting up a network of marine reserves by 2012.

The Netherlands, like Britain, are proposing a series of reserves to comply with EU law.

But as Han Lindeboom, from the Institute of Marine Resources in Texel explained, these omit

20,000 sq km of North Sea known as the Central Oyster Grounds, where oysters were harvested in the 19th century - and where none are

found today.

Omitted also is the richest area of seabed for quahogs, pictured above, shellfish known to live to more than 400-years-old and at risk from bottom trawling.

But what makes the whole exercise pointless is the Dutch government's assurance that in these reserves "existing uses will not change".

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