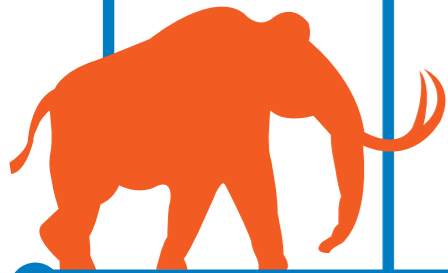




North Sea

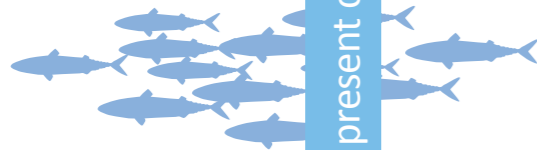
Our changing sea

2.6 million years ago
North Sea is part of the European mainland



8,000 years ago
Final retreat of glaciers causes the sea to rise and break the land bridge between Britain and France

19th Century
Doggerland becomes a submerged sandbank, plentiful in fish



Last ice age
'Doggerland' consists of hills and valleys, trodden by woolly mammoths

3,000 years ago present coastlines of the North Sea are established

1753
Whitby is a large whaling port, ships built here hunt off Greenland



1883
An oyster reef 24,000 km² in size occurs in the Southern North Sea



1900
Scientists estimate 260,000km², the North Sea's entire 'trawlable' area is trawled twice over annually

1950's
Grimsby is the largest and busiest fishing port in the world

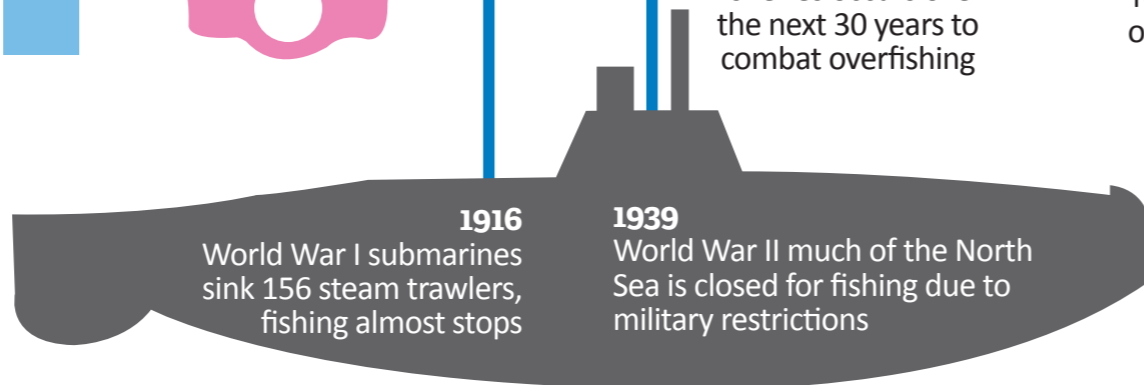
1930's
Bluefin tuna are common, the largest caught weighs **387kg**



1955
East Anglia's herring fishery collapses, new management for fisheries occurs over the next 30 years to combat overfishing

1916
World War I submarines sink 156 steam trawlers, fishing almost stops

1939
World War II much of the North Sea is closed for fishing due to military restrictions



1959
Petroleum and natural gas are discovered beneath the seafloor, extraction begins

1970
Fish landings rise from less than 1 million tonnes in 1900 to more than 3.5 million tonnes



1985
The Farne Islands are designated a Special Protection Area for their seabird colonies

1975
UK begins recovering offshore oil

1990s
Coal mining ceases reducing waste dumped at sea. North East coastal and marine wildlife begins to thrive

1970's
Grey seals begin breeding on the Lincolnshire coast

2005
The Wash & North Norfolk Coast is designated a Special Area of Conservation, the only site in England where common seals are protected

2013
Grey seal pups born at Donna Nook reach a record 1,676



1992
Habitats Directive passes allowing creation of a network of protected areas



2008
Inner Dowsing and Lynn windfarms off Lincolnshire are first to generate offshore power

2006
Natural gas becomes an important energy source, the 'Langeled' pipeline is constructed between the UK and Norway

2009
Marine and Coastal Access Act becomes law and brings changes to licensing, planning, creation of protected areas and inshore fisheries management



2010
Seasearch divers identify Cromer Shoal Chalk reef off Norfolk as Europe's largest chalk reef

2010
Britain's 3rd No Take Zone, covering 1km² is designated at Flamborough Head

2011
127 Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) are recommended to Government for protection of wildlife, 27 occur in the North Sea

2011
New species of purple sponge discovered in the southern North Sea

2013
3 of the 27 North Sea MCZs are designated in the North East



2014
East Inshore and Offshore Marine Plan is adopted, the first in the UK

Spring 2015
MCZ tranche 2 consultation anticipated. Show your support for marine wildlife and become an MCZ friend at wildlifetrusts.org

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