Lots of birds use the coastal zone

The poster highlights a species that are often found along the Belgian, Dutch, Danish and German North Sea coasts. The tern species cover the North Sea from Africa to Iceland and their chicks are on our coasts, often seen with the naked eye. 

Threats

• Climate change: rising water levels cause flooding of nests and breeding failure.
• By-catch: many birds are accidently caught in fishing nets, where they drown.

Legal protection

All birds in the North Sea are protected by law through a number of international legal instruments and national regulations in the coastal states.

Key international instruments are:
• The EU Birds Directive that protects all species of birds naturally occurring in marine areas falling within the jurisdiction of the coastal states (Art 2 & Annex I).
• The EU Habitats Directive that provides protection for natural habitats and biotopes (Art 2 & Annex I).

More information on the legal protection and conservation status of birds in the North Sea can be found on the website of BirdLife Belgium: www.birdlife.org/datazone/species

For more information on the legal protection of birds in the European Union, please consult the website of the European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature