

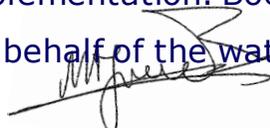
Future Vision for Water Recreation 2025

The Dutch live with water. We have reclaimed large portions of our country from the water. We are constantly aware of the danger of flooding. At the same time, there are countless ways in which we use water. Over the past decades, water has been playing an increasingly larger role in leisure activities: today, 57 percent of the Dutch engage in water recreation in one form or another during a day out or while on holiday. This has led to an increase in the links between water recreation and other functions of water like tourism, nature, housing, the economy and sports.

Interest in water recreation continues to grow, bringing with it a desire to further develop and utilise the unique possibilities in the Netherlands. In a country with an abundance of plans and new regulations, this demands not only a strong vision, but also a sector that cooperates with motivation and inspiration. The rise in the recreational use of water requires new facilities, additional space and better accessibility. To make 'Nederland Waterrecreatieland' (The Netherlands: land of water recreation) possible, it is vital to secure the existing flows of funds and to create new funding options.

The water recreation sector developed this vision. The organizations involved were: the Automobile/Tourism association ANWB, the Watersportverbond (Royal Dutch Yachting Union), Sportvisserij Nederland (Dutch Anglers Association), the Nederlands Platform voor Waterrecreatie (Netherlands Platform for Water Recreation) and HISWA Association. The Dutch Recreational Waterways Foundation (SRN) facilitated the development of the vision. The SRN's public partners were also involved in the vision's formation: the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG), the Association of Provincial Authorities (IPO), the Unie van Waterschappen (Association of Water Boards), the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture & Innovation (EL&I) and the Ministry of Infrastructure & the Environment (I&M). They support the course set out in the future vision and have voiced the intention of cooperating in its implementation. Boer & Croon supervised the formation of this vision.

On behalf of the water recreation sector,



Marja van der Tas
Chair Stichting Recreatietoervaart Nederland



The Future Vision for Water Recreation 2025 was drawn up based on eight ambitions



1

Waterrecreation is for everybody



2

Waterrecreation has a low threshold, is varied and affordable



3

Water recreation is possible in and around cities



4

Water recreation areas are accessible and are well linked to one another



5

Water recreation as a step towards water sports at the Olympic level



6

New water available for water recreation



7

Water recreation knows no borders



8

Water recreation is safe and sustainable

1. Water recreation is for everyone



In 2025, everyone will be able to become familiar with and participate in water recreation.

Young and old, adventurers and city dwellers, everyone can participate in water recreation. Engaging actively in a sport, seeking relaxation, enjoying nature, having fun on and around water, in cities and on the coast. Water recreation is about more than sailing and motorboats; it is also about canoeing, wakeboarding, fishing and surfing. The threshold for participation is low because water recreation is simple and close by. Becoming familiar with water recreation is easy and inexpensive. For young people, getting acquainted with water recreation and learning to deal with water is just as self-evident as school swimming lessons or school ice-skating.

2. Water recreation has a low threshold, is varied and affordable



In 2025, there will be affordable recreational possibilities near, on and in the water for everyone.

Owning a boat and possessing profound nautical knowledge are not requirements for participating in water recreation. The water recreation sector offers simple possibilities for being active on the water. There is a wide range of options for those seeking relaxation as well as for thrill seekers, for world-class athletes and the occasional water rat, for traditional water sports enthusiasts and the new 'channel-surfing' water generation. The water recreation sector and water management authorities have organized and harmonised the range of products services and facilities in such a way that water recreation is and will remain, affordable.

3. There is water recreation in and around cities



In 2025, water adds value to cities and regions.

Recreation in and around cities contributes to a healthy and liveable environment as well as to the regional economy, the environment and the link between city, countryside and water.

In 2025, urban development plans will always contain a section on water. In fact, it will be as it was in the 1700s when cities without water connections were unthinkable. However, this time, it is not only with a view to the economy. The quality of the living environment and the management of water in urban areas have become important motives. The canals and waterways in and around cities are once again multifunctional, used for industrial purposes as well as transport and recreation, areas.

4. Water recreation areas are accessible and are well linked to one another



In 2025, more wet areas, lakes and waterways will be accessible to water recreationists.

The Netherlands as a water-recreation country will become visible by making water areas accessible and by the infrastructural facilities that the various forms of water recreation make possible. Water in the Netherlands is accessible and navigable, and the water areas are well connected to one another.

In 2025, water owners, water management authorities, water operators and water users will have succeeded in making water in the Netherlands accessible. The accessibility of flood plains, rivers, lakes, coastal areas and even canals will have added new impetus to nature and water recreation.

5. Water recreation as a step towards water sports at the Olympic level



In 2025, there will be a wide range of sporting challenges on water.

Water recreation offers an abundance of opportunities for fulfilling sports ambitions. For young and old alike, for everyone in their own way, and at their own level. Some want to enjoy a match at the club level, others want to actively engage in sports to stay fit and healthy, and a few want to make an Olympic dream come true.

The Dutch sporting world desires to grow to the Olympic level. Our countries offers opportunities for this in eight branches, and four of those sports take place on or in water: sailing, rowing, swimming and skating.

6. New water available for water recreation



In 2025, through such intelligent combinations, new areas for water recreation will have come into use. Water recreation will have spread right across the Netherlands.

New water areas have been taken up for development so that new possibilities for water recreation are merging. National initiatives, like the Delta Programme and the Room for Rivers programme offer opportunities for innovative ideas. The North Sea coast will become attractive for water recreationists through the establishment of marinas and the development of the hinterland. New opportunities for water tourism have emerged in various provinces. In these areas, water recreation, climate programmes, water management projects, spatial planning issues and nature development have been combined intelligently.

7. Water recreation knows no borders



In 2025, the experience of Dutch water will not stop at the borders of the Netherlands.

International borders form no obstacle to water recreation. National borders disappear when experiencing water sports: the water areas along our borders constitute a logical whole with the nearby water areas and facilities of Germany and Belgium.

The English have fully discovered the safe passage to the Dutch coast. Other European water sports enthusiasts are only too happy to spend their leisure time in our water landscape. The Netherlands was created from water and that is something that always has and always will fascinate foreigners. The range of products and services is in harmony with this: a nautical experience but desired and presented from a cultural-historical perspective.

8. Water recreation is safe and sustainable



In 2025, we will not be worried about water recreation.

Water recreationists are aware of the joint use of water and waterways by others and they know what rules and regulations apply. Safe intersections of waterways with roads, railways tracks and hydraulic structures promote swift sailing for both professional and recreational sailors. Water recreationists are knowledgeable about the natural values of their surroundings. The water recreation sector is committed to strengthening those values. In 2025, the Netherlands will be a European leader in the field of emission-free sailing. The quality of the water will be undisputed, sailing water that is of bathing quality

The importance of a strong sector

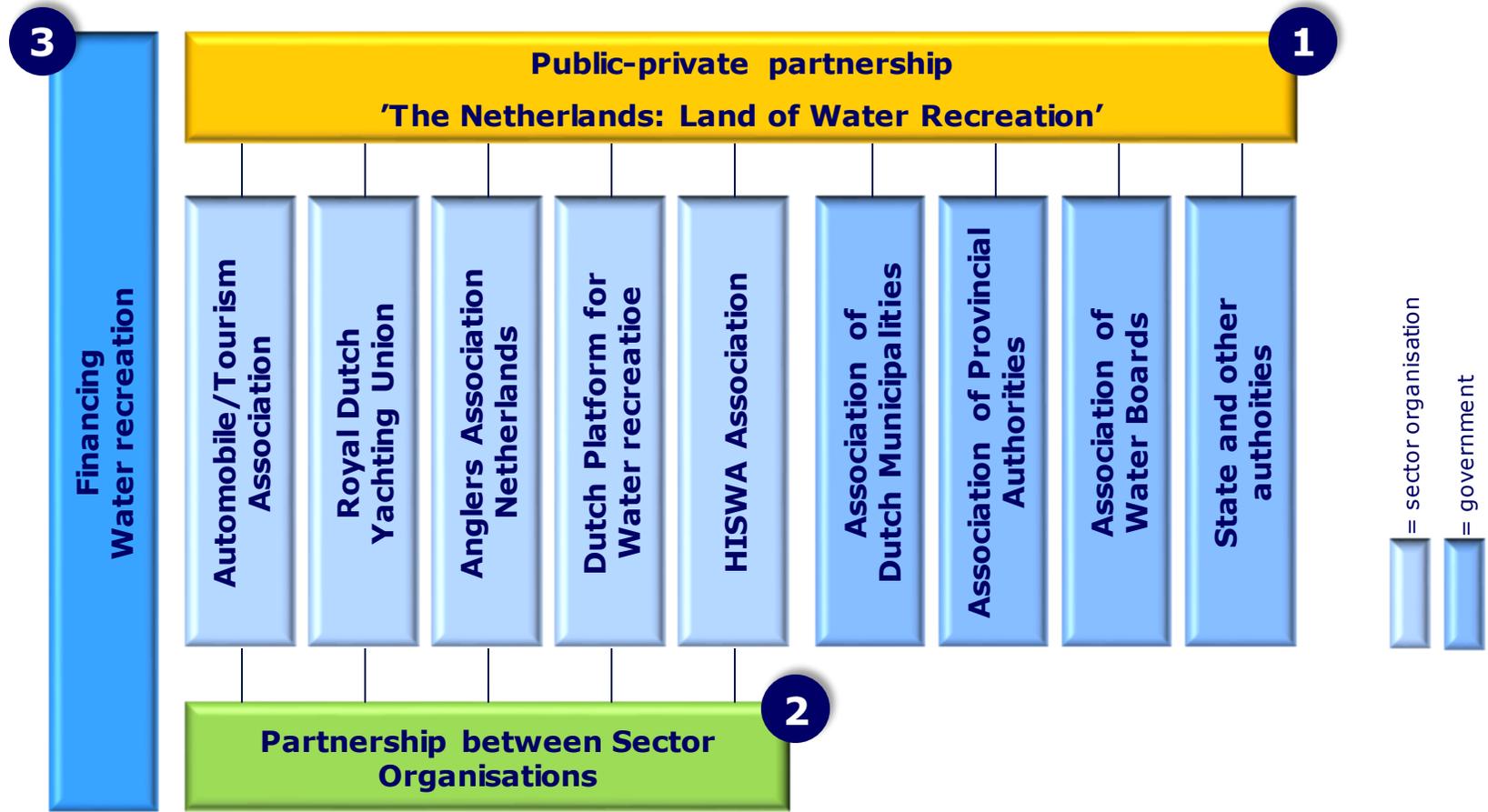
As a sector, we not only desire to be clear, uniform and consistent regarding our interests, but we would also like to promote synergy with other sectors, authorities and civil society organizations. After all, we have a common goal: to build a lovely and varied water recreation landscape. The basis for working on our goals and ambitions is consultation with one another. Consultation about the development of the Netherlands as a water recreation country and about the challenges and tasks that we encounter. In addition, we should freely share information, knowledge and competencies with each other. This is important if we are to arrive at a coordinated implementation of policies and programmes. Finally, the future vision for water recreation requires a good and transparent funding structure.

A structure in which the government, the water recreation sector and water recreationists have a role.

The water recreation sector would like to cooperate with the government and others by:

1. intensifying cooperation between public and private parties in the field of water recreation;
2. intensifying cooperation within the sector;
3. making a contribution to the funding for the development water recreation in the Netherlands.

The Future Vision for Water Recreation 2025 contains three new structures that will strengthen the sector



The SRN (Dutch Recreational Waterways Foundation) is a partnership between the ANWB, the Royal Dutch Yachting Union, HISWA Association, Association of Dutch Municipalities, Association of Water Boards, the state and the provinces.

Project Future of Water Recreation 2025
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