

BALANCE ISLAND

The Haringvliet dam has closed off the estuary, effectively eliminating the tidal flow. This has a negative impact on fish migration, water quality and other issues. In 2011 the government decided to allow the tide to partially return to the area ('Kierbesluit'). However, allowing salt water to enter the fresh water area creates problems. Balance Island, an artificial sand island off the Haringvliet, limits the problems and creates new opportunities for nature development and tourism throughout the area.

OLD SITUATION



NEW SITUATION

The construction of Balance Island creates a brackish water area that acts as a transition between the bodies of salt and fresh water.

BALANCE ISLAND

salt water

brackish water

NEW HABITAT

The construction of tidal sand banks and drifting dunes creates new habitats for rare species of fish and birds.

brackish water

Haringvliet-dam

fresh water

Haringvliet lake

ESTUARY

An estuary is created where fresh and salt water can mix into brackish water. Estuaries have very valuable natural potential.

SAND REPLENISHMENT

Close to the shore are shallow tidal areas with many sand banks.

sand banks

1

Sand will be replenished along the existing plates.



2

This creates an island close to the current shoreline.

3

ADVANTAGES

NATURE

The gradual return of the tides creates an ecological system that benefits many species of fish and birds.



FRESH WATER

Decrease in water related issues for agriculture and the drinking water supply. This results in the cost reduction.



RECREATION

The construction of a public marina facilitates nature recreation and water sports.



ICON

Balance Island is a showcase for Dutch water expertise, as well as a potential new export product.



FACTS & FIGURES

Required quantity of sand **5** million m³

Investment costs **€31** M

Construction period **6** months

Reclaimed area **180** ha
tidal sand banks

16 ha
drifting dunes