

Oyster Foraging Guide Netherlands



Places



Tides



Rules



Safety

Check this before collecting shellfish





Do Not Rush Down



Not every shore
is **allowed**



Not every time
is **safe**



Not every visible
oyster can be **taken**



Self-collected
shellfish are **not**
recommended raw



Check 3 Things First

1 Official allowed area

- ☒ Check the official map for allowed areas
- ☒ Restricted or closed areas may change
- ☒ Rules may vary by location



2 Low tide time for that day

- ☒ Tides change every day
- ☒ The best time is around low tide
- ☒ Plan enough time to return safely



3 Food-safety and weather warnings

- ☒ Check water quality and shellfish alerts
- ☒ Avoid after heavy rain or during heatwaves
- ☒ Check wind and weather forecast
- ☒ Do not collect if there are warnings



Personal Use Comes First



- ✓ Maximum **10kg** total per person per day



- ✓ Includes oysters, mussels, cockles and periwinkles



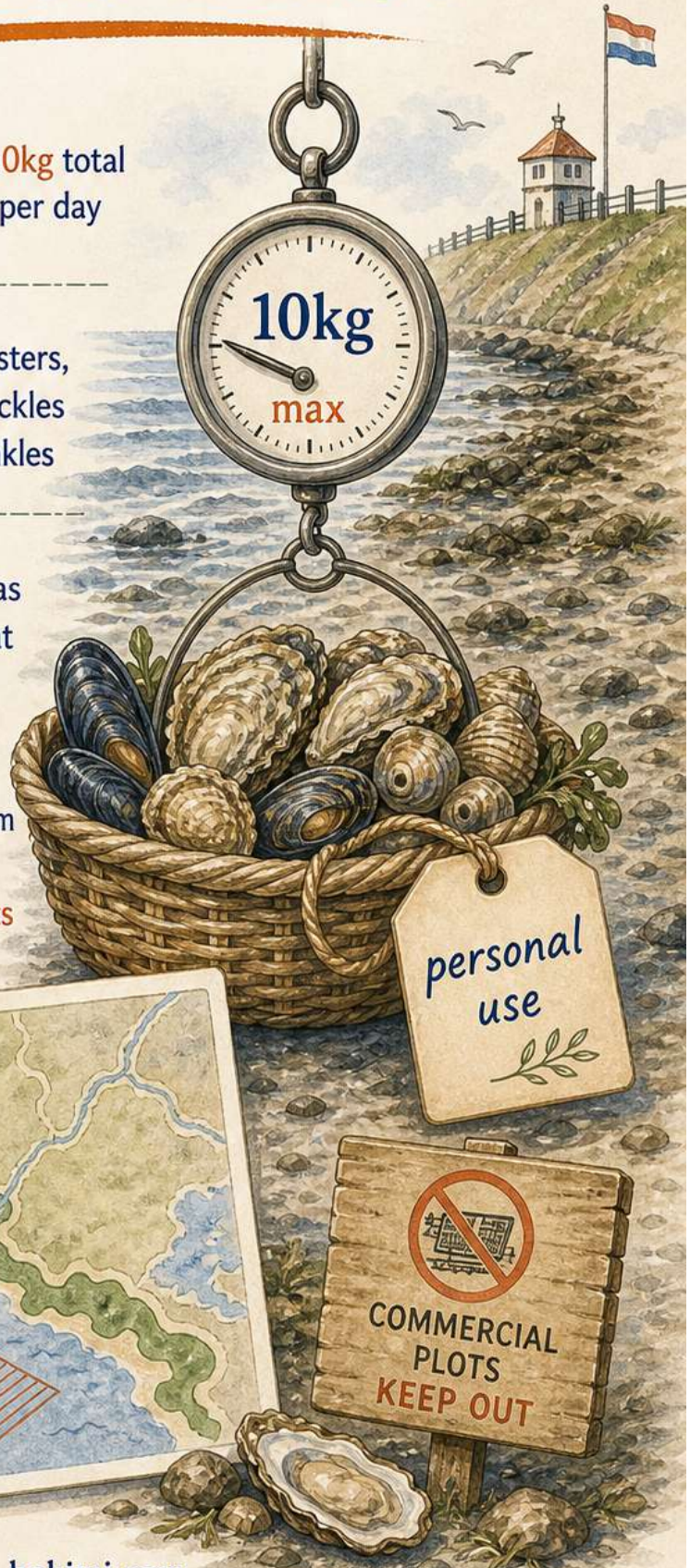
- ✓ Only in areas accessible at low water



- ✓ Stay away from **commercial** shellfish plots



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Be Extra Careful in Oosterschelde



Use only accessible areas



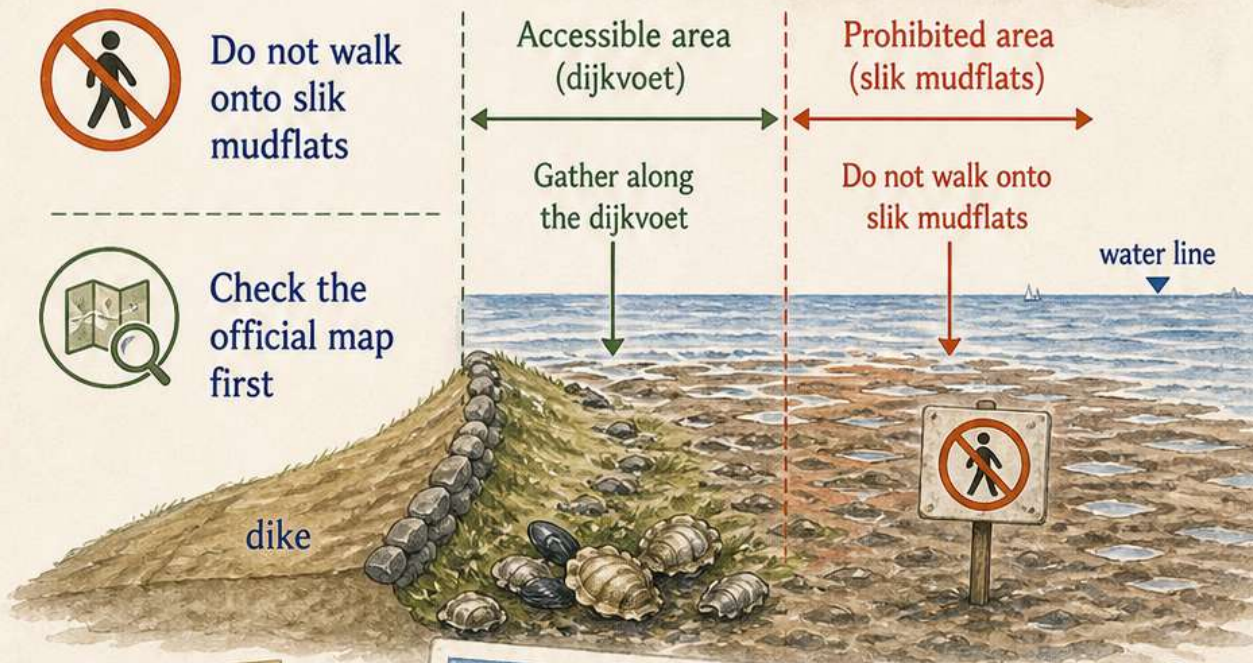
Gather only along the dijkvoet



Do not walk onto slik mudflats



Check the official map first



Official map

Accessible areas can change. Always check the official map before you go.



Tides Decide the Trip



- ☒ Act only around low tide



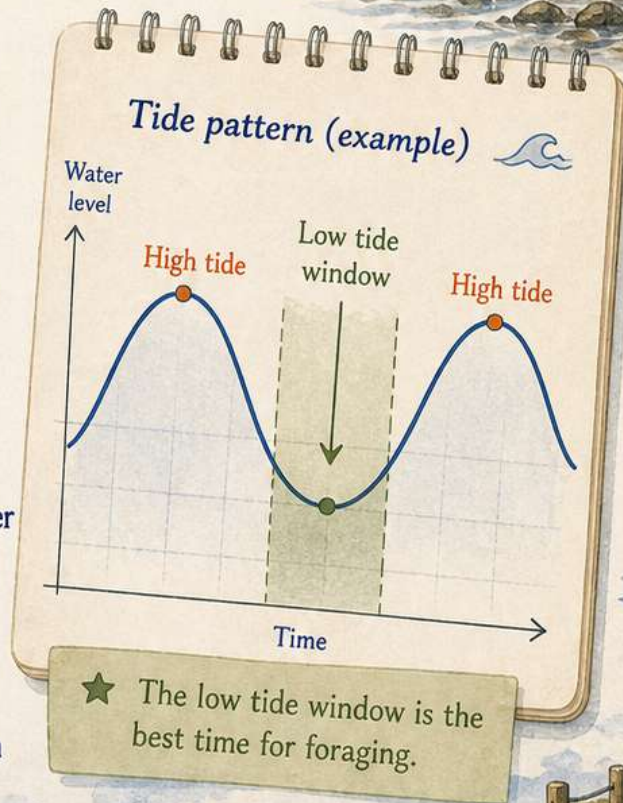
- ☒ Different places have different times



- ☒ Wind and weather change real water levels



- ☒ Plan your return time before starting



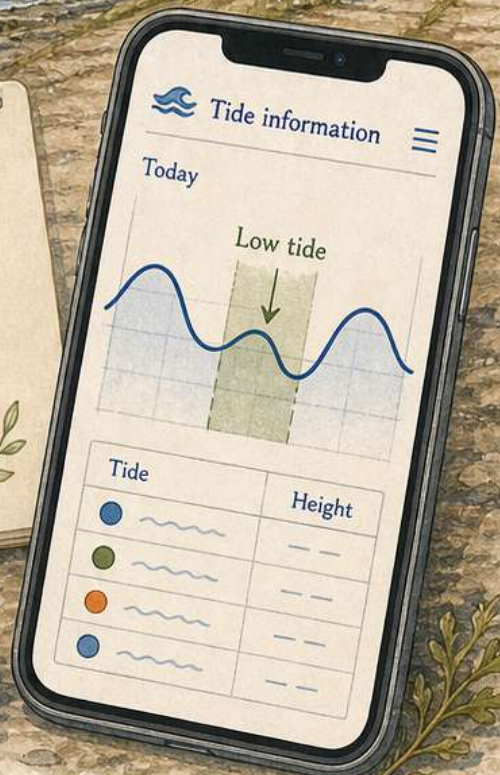
Before you go

- ☒ Check the tide
- ☒ Check the weather
- ☒ Bring the right gear
- ☒ Plan your return



Field tip

Tides change with wind, air pressure and weather. Always allow enough time to get back safely. ❤️



Season Is Not Everything



WINTER



Cooler weather
may reduce
some risks



SUMMER



Summer needs
extra care for
warm water
and algae



AFTER RAIN



Be cautious
after rain or
heatwaves



WARNINGS



If there is
a warning,
do not eat



Safety first,
enjoy nature.



Why it matters 

- Water temperature affects risks
- Algae can grow quickly in warm water
- Rain and heatwaves can increase pollution
- Warnings are there to protect you



Gear Checklist



Non-slip water shoes or boots



Thick gloves



Small bucket or mesh bag



First-aid kit and clean water



Waterproof phone pouch



Good gear makes the day safer and more enjoyable.



Safety Beats the Harvest



☒ Do not go alone



☒ Do not step onto soft mud



☒ Do not turn your back on the tide



☒ Children should observe only



☒ Treat cuts immediately



Self-Collected Shellfish Carry Risk



- ✓ May contain harmful substances



- ✓ May cause diarrhoea, vomiting or stomach pain



- ✓ Not recommended raw



- ✓ Pregnant people, older adults and children should be extra cautious



Take Less, Handle Gently



☒ Take only what
you can process



☒ Do not damage
the seabed



☒ Do not rake
randomly



☒ Do not take
shellfish you
cannot identify

Healthy coasts
mean shellfish
for the future. 



Leave habitat as you found it.



Small bucket, light footprint.

Good practice

- ☒ Collect gently
- ☒ Keep it clean
- ☒ Respect nature
- ☒ Share the coast



Common Mistakes

1

Thinking visible oysters can be taken



CHECK FIRST



Always confirm the allowed area.



2

Forgetting to check the rising tide



CHECK FIRST



Tide comes in faster than you think.



3

Walking onto mudflats



CHECK FIRST



Mudflats are dangerous and off-limits.



4

Treating 10kg as a goal



CHECK FIRST



10kg is the limit, not the target.



5

Eating self-collected oysters raw



CHECK FIRST



Not recommended raw. Cook thoroughly before eating.



Field tip

Follow the rules, respect nature, and keep everyone safe.



Why it matters

Your safety, the health of others, and the coastline all depend on responsible foraging.



Better as a Family Nature Trip



- ☒ Watch tides and shells



- ☒ Learn coastal ecology



- ☒ Do not let children open shells



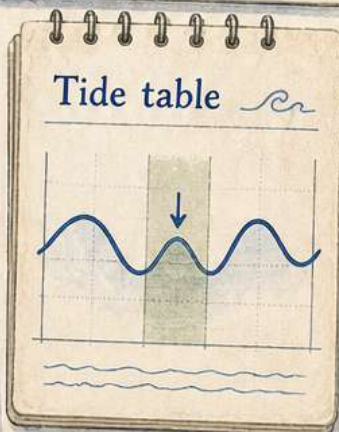
- ☒ Do not let children enter the water alone



Before You Go Checklist



Check the
official map
before you go.



Prepare well,
collect safely,
come home well.



Save This Guide



☒ Check official areas



☒ Respect tides and nature



☒ If uncertain, do not eat



☒ Follow Hokimi for more Netherlands guides

