Approach
Quantifying long-term subsidence due to mineral extraction is relatively easy to carry out deep underground and at the surface of salt marshes, but more difficult at the surface of tidal areas because of the complex sediment dynamics within and between years. Current assessments are determining the scope for improved measurements of elevation and volumes of the tidal flats (e.g. satellite images, LIDAR). In addition, it is being examined how improved integration of the various monitoring components and programmes could be achieved.

Core
Gas and salt extraction lead to subsidence deep underground, with potential effects for the exposure duration of tidal flats, and thus food availability for wading birds. Subsidence of salt marshes can lead to an increased flood risk for nests during the breeding season. Extraction under the Wadden Sea is currently permitted provided that nature is not damaged in the process, and that the accretion capacities of tidal flats and salt marshes are not exceeded. Long-term programmes are currently monitoring possible effects.

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