

## THE NUMBER

# 12

is the number of artificial islands Oldenburg scientists have constructed on the tidal flats off the East Frisian Island of Spiekeroog.

„We expose the salt-marsh plants on our artificial islands to the stress of flooding to study how they cope with changes in environmental conditions.“



Prof. Dr. Michael Kleyer  
Institute of Biology and Environmental Sciences

On six of the artificial islands the experts planted common saltmarsh-grass, sea purslane and sea-lavender, plants that are native to the Spiekerooger salt marshes.



The artificial islands are set at different heights to simulate the different flood zones of the salt marshes and ensure variations in the frequency with which the plants are exposed to the North Sea salt water. In this way the scientists analyse changes in the sea level and how they affect the vegetation.

