

Task Group Management

**TG-M 19-2**

October 8th & 9th 2019

Rømø, Denmark

**Agenda Item:** 5.11.2

**Subject:** Regulations on water sports and shipping in the Wadden Sea

**Document No.:** TG-M 19-2 5.11.2 with 3 annexes

**Date:** October 3rd 2019

**Submitted by:** Ms. M. Bauer, SH

**Background for rising the subject in TG-M:**

Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxony and Hamburg have applied for an adaptation of the ordinance regarding shipping and watersports on the federal waterways that lie within the boundaries of the Wadden Sea National Parks. The ordinance being in force stems from 1992, which means that there are several reasons for adjustment. One of them is to make coherent regulations that ensure that the conservation objectives of the relevant habitats and species that might be affected by vessels of any kind and certain watersports in particular are not impacted. This concern, above all, marine mammals such as harbor porpoises, grey - and harbor seals, roosting and molting sites of birds such as shelduck, eider and various waders and seagrass habitats. This ordinance is an important part of the regulations required within the National parks. While many regulations are part of the National Park Acts of the Länder, the competent authority for regulations of this kind concerning water sports and shipping is the Federal Ministry for Transport and Digitalization, BMVI

Recently, there has been a meeting with BMVI and representatives from water sport associations like sailing, canoeing, motor yachts, kitesurfing etc. with a first round of statements from these associations.

Representatives from an organization called Soltwaters (representing people who sail or do kayak in the Wadden Sea) showed a map which should illustrate that most of the protected areas in Germany are (supposed to be) no-go areas for them whereas the situation in NL and DK shall be totally different with virtually no areas which are closed for watersports (sailing, kitesurfing, motor boats). See map enclosed

While this doesn’t hold true for the National Parks (see map enclosed with the regulations intended for SH), it is important to know what the situation is like in DK and NL tob e able to discuss this further in the process mentioned above.

**Intention of discussing the topic in TG-M**

As the three states are obliged to fulfil the requirements of ensuring that a coherent network of Natura2000 sites exists and large parts also of the Dutch and the Danish Wadden sea are parts of this, it will be useful to have an overview of what regulations are in place concerning the effects of shipping and watersports on the habitats and species mentioned above.

Mammals and birds are sensitive to fast moving vessels as well as certain kinds of water sports such as kitesurfing, especially at certain times and in certain areas. Noise emission by ships is also a factor to be taken into consideration. The regulations made should also be in line with the WSP targets.

TG-M deals with topics regarding management in the Wadden Sea area, and it would be useful to know if there is common ground in the understanding of the effects of shipping and water sports and how the regulations in place are comparable and if they are sufficient.

**Proposal**: TG-M to share and discuss information about the regulations in place / intended for shipping and watersports in the Wadden Sea (speed limits, types of boats/water sports, (temporarily) closed areas) with regard to the provisions of the Habitats and Birds Directive and the targets of the Wadden Sea Plan

Annexed documents:

1. Sperrgebiete Wattenmeer v. 4.2 entvurf
2. Anl. 2 2017-09-07, Karte BefVo Übersicht SH
3. Sejlads i Vadehavet *(Added by chair*)