

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 31)

18 June 2020
Virtual Meeting



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| Agenda Item: | 5.2 |
| Subject: | Progress report TG-M |
| Document No.: | WSB 31/5.2/1 |
| Date: | 28 May 2020 |
| Submitted by: | TG-M |

This document contains a progress report of the Task Group Management (TG-M) and a work plan 2020 of the group (Annex 1).

At the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) meeting 30 held on 21 November 2019 in Wilhelmshaven, Germany, the Board instructed TG-M to come forward with a proposal how to handle the issue of sustainable fisheries. This document contains a working approach sustainable fisheries (item 7).

Proposal: The WSB is invited to note the information and to endorse the working approach sustainable fisheries.

Task Group Management (TG-M) progress report to WSB 31

Since WSB-30 the TG-M has progressed on the following specific items:

1. Flyway & Breeding Birds

§5 Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI): the 1st stage project application of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative to submitting under a call within the International Climate Initiative (IKI) funding instrument of the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety has been submitted end of March 2020 (see separate document WSB31/5.2/2).

§12 Breeding Bird Action Plan: An update of breeding bird monitoring guidelines (1994) is necessary due to shifted breeding times of some bird species, application of new techniques (e.g., GIS navigation in the field, online data input, etc.) and a new needed format of the guidelines itself like an applet instead of the outdated printed version. The development of new guidelines is delayed, as no personal resources found yet. Budget is available. This may serve as input to developments in the Task Group Monitoring and Assessment (TG-MA).

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

2. Fish targets / Swimway

Following the international conference “SWIMWAYS: Understanding connectivity within the life cycles of coastal fish” on 24 – 26 September 2019 in Hamburg, Germany, a set of material is now publicly available:

- Full conference report: <https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/node/973>
- Presentations and posters. <https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/events/swimways-understanding-connectivity-within-life-cycles-coastal-fish#Presentations>
- Photo gallery: <https://lightroom.adobe.com/shares/98f7f8a40eec496f961f7bfe520dfa5>
- Press release: <https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/node/809>

In their SWIMWAY 19-3 meeting, the group discussed draft reports on monitoring and policy, conducted a SWOT (strengths and weaknesses, as well as opportunities and threats) analysis and discussed a first draft of Terms of Reference and member composition for their transformation to an expert group.

In 2020, the group will prepare draft Terms of Reference and member composition, project application(s), outreach activities, as well as policy and monitoring recommendations. First steps towards these products were achieved at the SWIMWAY 20-1 meeting: As complementary to a recently granted Dutch Waddentools SWIMWAY Waddensee project, a German project proposal on bottlenecks for Wadden Sea fish is in preparation by the chair of the group Adi Kellermann and potential partners. Further, a monitoring report and policy report were discussed in the meeting. Both documents will serve as basis for the formulation of monitoring recommendations to TG-MA and policy recommendations to TG-M.

The group noted impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, formation of project consortia and preparation and submission of project proposals are hampered by travel restrictions.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

3. Wardening & management

The wardening workshop will be postponed to 2021, due to the COVID-19 travel- and meeting restrictions.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

4. Seal Management Plan

Denmark informed that the Danish Seal Management Plan (SMP) will be updated and that the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC)-SMP will be incorporated into this national Danish Plan.

Due to retirement of the chairperson Mr. Czeck, Ms Ursula Siebert, Institute for Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Research (ITAW), has been determined as new chairperson of EG-Seals.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

5. Harbour porpoises

In October 2017, the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) received a letter from an Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) Advisory Committee, proposing to consider the formal inclusion of harbour porpoises (*Phocoena phocoena*) in the mandate of the TWSC (see WSB 21/5.2/1). Following recommendations from a symposium “Bright Future? Harbour porpoises in the Wadden Sea” and a subsequent expert workshop both held in April 2019, the trilateral Expert Group Seals (EG-Seals) agreed that harbour porpoises are an integral part of the Wadden Sea ecosystem and should be tackled by their group.

Consequently, the Wadden Sea Board, in their 30th meeting held on 21 November 2019 in Wilhelmshaven, Germany, endorsed the TG-M recommendation to including harbour porpoises into the responsibilities of the EG-Seals and the Board instructed TG-M to inform ASCOBANS about this decision. ASCOBANS has been informed by means of a letter drafted by CWSS and TG-M and signed by Professor Karin Lochte, chair of the WSB.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

6. Alien Species

As usage of eDNA in alien species monitoring can play an important role in monitoring, an information exchange meeting with eDNA experts was planned back-to-back with EG-AS 2. This meeting has been postponed.

A final draft concept for the content of the planned alien species network platform is available (template). The technical outline (functionality, navigation, view) for the site has been developed and CWSS is in contact with a company for implementation of the platform as microsite. The upload of content will follow after summer in cooperation with EG-AS.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

7. Sustainable Fisheries

At the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) meeting 30 held on 21 November 2019 in Wilhelmshaven, Germany, the Board instructed TG-M to come forward with a proposal how to handle the issue of sustainable fisheries.

CWSS produced an inventory, which gives an overview of the current situation/practices of sustainable fisheries based on the “Framework for Sustainable Fisheries” (Annex 3 [Tønder Declaration](#)), the QSR 2017 [Thematic Report on Fisheries](#) (Baer et al 2017), the corresponding paragraphs from the Tønder Declaration and the formerly requested update of the fisheries activities inventory from the regions (of TG-M 13 meeting in 2015). Subsequently, TG-M members updated this inventory with recent information. A topical virtual

meeting on sustainable fisheries is planned with TG-M members and the option to invite fisheries experts before the summer break.

TG-M agreed on the following proposal for a working approach sustainable fisheries (see 21 in Annex 1)

- 1) Update and completion of fishery inventory
- 2) Status and recommendations for principles Framework for Sustainable Fisheries (Annex 3 [Tønder Declaration](#))

Product 1: Inventory on fishery activities in the Wadden Sea Conservation Area.

Product 2: Document with status and recommendations for principles of the Framework for Sustainable Fisheries (Annex 3 [Tønder Declaration](#)), including analysis how existing legislative framework, regulations, agreements and initiatives support the Framework for Sustainable Fisheries.

Both products will also serve as basis for the key topic 'sustainable fisheries' in the Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP) following the referential structure as agreed in the joint SIMP Meeting TG-M & TG-WH on 24 January 2020 (compare 3b in Annex 1).

In Denmark, a political decision underlined annulment of the possibility of re-opening the cockle-/mussel fishery in the Danish Wadden Sea.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information and to endorse the working approach sustainable fisheries.

8. Marine litter

At WSB 30, TG-M had informed on an inventory on activities based on a Danish initiative/template which should contain corresponding information on UN, EU and OSPAR level under lead of Rijkswaterstaat (RWS). Due to interruption of RWS contribution to trilateral work, this information could not be presented in a summarizing document for WSB 31 as originally planned.

A presentation on "The container incident with the MSC Zoe: assessing damage and compensation for Arctic breeding migratory bird populations under the EU environmental liability directive" by Ms Katja Philippart from the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ) was accepted for oral presentation at the International Symposium on Plastics in the Arctic on 21 – 23 April 2020 in Reykjavík, Island (<https://arcticplastics2020.is/index.php/en>). This submission was very much welcomed and supported by the chair of the TG-M and the CWSS, as the presentation would give insight in the connection of the Wadden Sea with the Arctic region, illustrated by ongoing prominent research on migrating birds between the two regions and as such also raising awareness at the policy level of the importance of these connections. Due to the COVID 19 restrictions, the symposium was postponed to September 2020.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

9. Light Emissions

The Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) has taken up initiative on the issue of Light Emissions/Dark Sky within the Trilateral Partnership in support of the Wadden Sea World Heritage.

The following projects are presently designated or on the way for a certification by the [International Dark Sky Association](#) (see WSF 2020, Final Report Dark Skies Above the UNESCO Wadden Sea World Heritage). In the Netherlands, Lauwersmeer National Park and De Boschplaat (island Terschelling) are designated dark sky places. In Denmark, the Danish minister of the Environment will endorse the application of the "Dark sky Mandø" project as "Dark Sky Place" later this year. The implications for the tourist sector of these

projects are eminent, as a comparable project in the eastern part of Denmark has been documented to attract 40-50% of its guest on account of the possibility to stay in a Dark Sky area. In Germany, the islands Pellworm (Schleswig-Holstein) and Spiekeroog (Lower Saxony) are preparing certification for a dark sky island.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

10. Energy

At TG-M20-1, CWSS SIMP officer Ms Luna presented a first draft of the SIMP headings “Inventory” and “Common ground” for the key topics renewable energy and energy from oil and gas from oil and gas. TG-M agreed to support Ms Luna with contacts for specific experts on this document. In addition, first information has been compiled by TG-M members under lead of Schleswig-Holstein.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

11. Ports and shipping

At the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) meeting 30 held on 21 November 2019 in Wilhelmshaven, Germany, the establishment of a round table for shipping led by the WSF with the support of the CWSS and in collaboration to TG-M ([WSB30/5.8/2 WSF Shipping Group](#)) was approved and is being followed up (WSB31/7.1). TG-M actively support the preparation with its network to raise awareness about the issue and to contact further representatives of shipping organisations, authorities and governments.

In addition, TG-M welcomed WSF to taking up two additional items in the round table approach:

- 1) A proposal from the Dutch delegation regarding the implementation of the “Operational Plan” (Annex 5, Tønder Declaration)(WSB 30/5.6 TG-M on Dutch proposal) and
- 2) Concerns of the Advisory Board of the National Park Lower Saxony as addressed to the Ministry of Environment, Energy, Construction and Climate Protection Lower Saxony, and the corresponding letter of the Ministry to Prof Dr Karin Lochte, chair of the TWSC. The Ministry of Environment, Energy, Construction and Climate Protection Lower Saxony has been informed accordingly by means of a letter by Prof. Lochte with support from CWSS.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

12. Trilateral Research Agenda

The Trilateral Research Agenda is tackled under Agenda item 5.5 and respective documents.

13. Natura 2000 roof report

TG-M approved the general structure and conclusion of the feasibility study and agreed adding a section in implementation of Natura 2000 (N2000) in the three countries to the document.

The N2000 Roof Report origins from the High Level evaluation report done by Andy Brown in 2010 (Recommendation no. 13: “*The TWSC should develop a Natura 2000 roof report for the Wadden Sea to be annexed to Article 17 national reports due in 2013 and this intention should be included in the 2010 Governmental Declaration. After 2013 consideration should be given to extending this report so that it also covers the obligations under the WFD and the MSFD.*”). The recommendation was attached to the 1st generation national N2000 plans that were implemented during that time in the three countries. In the years

following, it became clear that the challenge of compile, process and compare information, especially data, from the three countries was out of proportion to the necessary effort.

When the 2nd generation of N2000 plans were implemented further specific attempts were made to elaborate a trilateral “Nature 2000 Roof Report”, but the problems persisted to exist.

Therefore, a more specific analysis of the obstacles, done by an expert at The University of Aarhus, has been undertaken at the request of TG-M. This has been done in the shape of a “feasibility-study”. A preliminary version of this study has been on the agenda of the TG-M 20-2 on 14 May 2020. The study has been done based on the reporting of the Habitats Directive Art. 17 obligations for the 2nd generation N2000 plans. Conclusions herein confirm the non-feasibility of the target considering the cost-benefit ratio. TG-M and the expert will finish the study including main obstacles to successful completion of such task (an interregional N2000 Roof Report).

In 2019 the 3 round of Art. 17 reporting was made, but since the EU-requirements for the data-acquisition have not changed, the conclusion based on the 2nd gen. reporting stands.

TG-M may consider how to address N2000 reporting in the Wadden Sea shortly in the Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP).

Proposal: The WSB is invited to take note that, based on draft recommendations presented to TG-M so far, a N2000 roof report is not feasible under the given circumstances. Information for a final decision will be presented for WSB32 in November 2020.

14. Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP)

See separate WSB agenda item (WSB31/5.1/2).

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

15. QSR

QSR is handled under the auspices of TG-MA (WSB31/5.4/2). TG-MA will coordinate in due time with TG-M when management relevant recommendations are available.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

16. TG-M Work plan 2020

At the request of WSB-29, TG-M had specified the group’s deliverables/products for 2020. The work plan is considered a living document and has been updated accordingly (Annex 1).

ANNEX 1: Work Plan 2020 Task Group Management (TG-M)

Table: Work plan 2020 of the Task Group Management (TG-M) with deliverables/products of the group's responsibility in black, and supervision and coordination activities in grey. Items in brackets are temporary dealt with in TG-M but will need further allocation within the TWSC (e.g., Partnership Hub) (Work Plan as amended at TG-M20-2 2020-05-14).

| Leeuwarden Declaration | TG-M role | Products 2020 (what) | Responsible group/body/person (who) | Time schedule incl. milestones (when) |
|---|------------------------|---|---|---|
| 3. Single integrated management plan (SIMP) | Support and contribute | First final draft of the complete SIMP | TG-WH, CWSS (SIMP officer) | 2020-11 |
| 3a Tourism | None | Content on chosen SIMP key topic headings | NG-ST leads, Support managers and TG-MA | TBD by NG-ST |
| 3b. Fisheries | Responsible | Proposal working approach | TG-M | 2020-03 (TG-M 20-1) |
| | | Content on SIMP key topic headings "Inventory" and "Common ground" | TG-M and fisheries specialists (potential Task Group or Round Table) | 2020-03 Basic info 2020-06 2020-09 Revision |
| | | Content on SIMP key topic headings "Strategies and actions for management" based on "Threats and opportunities" and considering "Climate change" | TG-M and fisheries specialists (potential Task Group or Round Table). | 2020-06 to 2020-09 Workshop or meeting of fisheries specialists (potential Task Group or Round Table) First Draft and Revision 2020-09-20 Revision |
| | | Overview on fish monitoring and data | Ad hoc WG SWIMWAY | DONE 2019 |
| 3c. Shipping and ports | Responsible /Support | Content on SIMP key topic headings "Inventory", "Strategies and actions for management" based on "Threats and opportunities" and considering "Climate change" | WSF, with support from TG-M and CWSS. | TBD WSF |
| 3d. Renewable energy, Energy from Oil and Gas, (Coastal flood defence and protection) | Responsible (Support) | Proposal working approach | TG-M/SH | 2020-03 (TG-M 20-1) |
| | | Content on SIMP headings "Inventory" and "Common ground" | TG-M/SH, CWSS (SIMP officer) (EG-C responsible) | 2020-03 Basic info 2020-06 2020-09 Revision |

| Leeuwarden Declaration | TG-M role | Products 2020 (what) | Responsible group/body/person (who) | Time schedule incl. milestones (when) |
|--|----------------------|--|---|--|
| | | | for coastal flood defence and protection) | |
| | | Content on SIMP key topic headings "Strategies and actions for management" based on "Threats and opportunities" and considering "Climate change" | TG-M, CWSS (SIMP officer), and depending on working approach proposal. Collaboration with EG-C for climate change as appropriate. (EG-C responsible for coastal flood defence and protection) | 2020-06 to 2020-09 Workshop or meeting depending on working approach proposal First Draft and Revision 2020-09-20 Revision |
| | | Monitoring, data collection and data management | TG-MA | TBD TG-MA |
| 5. Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) | Observe | Arctic Cooperation | WSFI SG | 2020-11 |
| | Observe | Monitoring of key sites along Flyway | | 2020-02, on-going |
| | Observe | Capacity Building | | On-going |
| 12. Breeding Bird Action Plan | Oversee ¹ | Breeding bird trend report | EG-MB/BB | 2020-08 |
| 13. SWIMWAY | Observe/support | Implementation SWIMWAY Vison | TG-M/ad hoc WG SWIMWAY | |
| | Observe/support | ToR and work programme for EG Fish | | 2020-11 |
| 14. Management & Wardening | Responsible | (Site) Managers Workshop | TG-M | |
| | Responsible | Wardening Workshop | | TBD (to account for COVID 19) |
| 15. Seal Management Plan 2018-2022 | Evaluate and support | SMP and Annual Reporting | EG-Seals | |

¹ Oversee: Processes and products are followed and aligned to trilateral policy and coordinated where necessary

| Leeuwarden Declaration | TG-M role | Products 2020 (what) | Responsible group/body/person (who) | Time schedule incl. milestones (when) |
|---|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| | Oversee | Annual Reporting on harbour seal and grey seal population | | 2020-07 and -11 |
| 16. Harbour porpoises | Observe and evaluate | Inclusion to ToR of EG-Seals | EG-Seals | 2020-11 |
| 17. Alien Species (MAPAS) | Oversee | Implementation MAPAS / Alien Species Platform | EG-AS | 2020-11 (on-going) |
| 20. Quality Status Report | Support | Draft Proposal for next QSR (joint note TG-MA TG-M) | TG-MA | TBD TG-MA |
| 21. Sustainable fisheries | Responsible | Inventory on fishery activities in the Wadden Sea Conservation Area. | TG-M/CWSS | 2020-06 (compare SIMP 3b) |
| | | Document with status and recommendations for principles of the Framework Sustainable Fishery | TG-M/CWSS | TBD |
| 22.-23 Marine litter | Responsible /Support if needed/Initiation phase | Inventory on activities | [TG-M] NL/D/ QSR thematic report authors/ TG-WH | 2020-xx for WSB 32 |
| [24. Light emissions] | Support | Inventory on activities | WSF/Partnership Hub | |
| 29. Renewable energy and its transportation | Responsible | Overview on concepts for renewable energy transport/sea floor /(Inventory study 2020) | TG-M (DK, D, NL, coordination by ?) | TBD (compare SIMP 3d) |
| [30.-34. Sustainable – Shipping and Ports] | Responsible | Concept on Awareness and Education | TG-M | TBD (compare SIMP 3c) |
| | Support | WSF Round table approach | [WSF in collaboration with TG-M] | TBD (compare SIMP 3c) |
| 36. Joint Program on Research | Support | Installation of T Programming Committee on Wadden Sea Research | TRA-RMC | TBD by TRA-RMC/WSB |

| Leeuwarden Declaration | TG-M role | Products 2020 (what) | Responsible group/body/person (who) | Time schedule incl. milestones (when) |
|--|-----------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 44. 15 th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium | Support | Establishment of planning committee and organisation | Schleswig-Holstein | 2021-03-23 to 2021-03-26 |
| Wadden Sea Plan (WSP) | Supervise | Implementation of WSP/Towards technical update of WSP | [TG-M] | On-going |