

ADOPTED SUMMARY RECORD

31st Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 31)

18 June 2020
Online meeting
Adopted version 04.03.2021



1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened by the chair, Karin Lochte, at 14:00 on 18 June 2020. She thanked CWSS for organizing the online meeting, which is a novelty for the Wadden Sea Board (WSB).

The chair welcomed Anne-Marie Rasmussen as new representative of Denmark, Ingelore Hering as new representative of Lower Saxony and Donné Slangen as new representative of the Netherlands to the WSB. She passed apologies of Slangen for not being able to join the meeting. The Netherlands were represented by Peter van Velzen. The chair bid farewell to outgoing representatives of Denmark, Christian Rieper, and of the Netherlands, Jaap Verhulst and expressed her hope to say goodbye properly in the next live meeting.

A list of participants is in Annex 1.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Document: [WSB 31/2 Draft Annotated Agenda](#)

Due to the restricted time frame of the meeting, the chair requested keeping discussions on decisions to be taken.

The agenda contains two brief presentations: 1) PROWAD Link (Harald Marencic) and 2) Oris cooperation (Sven Mostögl, see Agenda item 6). An outline of the Agenda can be found in Annex 2.

The WSB **adopted** the agenda.

3. Record WSB 30

Document: [WSB 31/3 Summary Record WSB 30](#)

The WSB **adopted** the summary record of WSB 30 without changes.

4. Announcements

Document: [WSB 31/4/2 Announcements by CWSS](#)

The chair reported on major outcomes of the representative's meeting on staff and budgetary issues earlier on 18 June 2020:

- The performance of CWSS has improved since appointment of Bernard Baerends as Executive Secretary of CWSS in September 2019;
- The performance of Bernard Baerends as Executive Secretary was positively evaluated, allowing continuation of his assignment at CWSS. His work was greatly acknowledged and the chair, also in the name of the representatives, thanked Bernard Baerends for his dedication and assured continued full support, this was echoed by several WSB members;
- A proposal for a vision CWSS 2022, which accounts for the tight staff situation at the Secretariat, has been presented. This vision will be discussed at their next meeting.

This summary record contains previously submitted written announcements of WSB members.

CWSS

- See [WSB 31/4/2 Announcements by CWSS](#)

Denmark

- The Danish Government closed down the opportunity to fishing of mussel in the Danish part of the Wadden Sea, but it will be possible to hand pick oysters commercially in the Wadden Sea;
- The Danish Wadden Sea National Park (Nationalpark Vadehavet) will celebrate its 10th anniversary on 16 October 2020. In each of the four municipalities, partners have organized complimentary week long programmes with the support of WSNP;
- As part of the 10th anniversary WSNP is hosting a national conference on 11 November 2020 entitled "Limits to growth? A day of debating sustainable tourism development" in collaboration with the National Outdoor Council and the University of Southern Denmark. Invited participants are Danish decision makers from the public and private sectors, NGOs. The conference will be held in Danish.

Germany

See separate Agenda item (4.1)

Netherlands

- The new Dutch Wadden Sea Management Authority at the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality has started on 2 March 2020, with Christine Wijshake and Dr Marre Walter appointed as Board and Management Director, respectively;
- The Dutch Safety Board is expected to publish its report about the MSC Zoe incident in the summer of 2020. The Ministry of Infrastructure and Watermanagement will respond to the report in autumn. The ministry will take into account the results of the investigation into the lashing of the containers in Rotterdam harbour and the results of the risk analysis of the loss of containers in the North Sea. When the investigation of the the Dutch Safety Board is completed the Dutch Minister of infrastructure and Watermanagement will consult with the German authorities with the aim to propose to the international maritime organization to limit the use of the southern route. Pending this process the Dutch delegation would like to discuss with the members of the WSB the possibility of sustaining actions from the trilateral cooperation;
- The Ministry of Infrastructure and Watermanagement is investigating the ecological effects of the incident with the MSC Zoe. There is some delay due to the Covid-19 crisis. We expect the result at the end of 2020. The ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Foodquality has completed its investigations into the effects on shellfish and seals. The reports show that no significant impact on these species could be found;
- During the investigation of the Dutch safety Board, the Dutch coast guard advises ships over 300 meters long and 4 meters wide to take the northern shipping route above the Dutch Wadden islands when encountering wave heights of 5 meters or more.
- The OOCL Rauma, which took the southern route lost seven containers last February. This ship is smaller than 300 meters. It did not carry hazardous substances. The containers and their contents have been salvaged as much as was possible.
- Claims for damage and possible damage in the future: the final offer of MSC is being discussed by the site management organizations, like municipalities, NGO's, Water boards and the State. The offer is also being discussed by the protection and indemnity associations, mainly insurers, which are involved;
- The Marine Resources Group of the North Sea Commission has issued a declaration on safe cargo shipping (June 2020). The declaration points to the importance of reducing the number of containers lost overboard each year and to mitigate their environmental impact, including on coastal communities and establish environmental liability and ensure that the polluter pays for the costs of clean up,
- Tineke Schokker reported that the Dutch Seal Management Agreement has been signed by all involved parties after two years of intensive discussion;
- Tineke Schokker informed that COVID-19 has a serious impact on the economy of the islands.

Nature NGOs

No announcements

Wadden Sea Forum

Manfred Vollmer reported his retirement by end of July 2020. From first of August, his successor Frank Ahlhorn will continue. He thanked the TWSC for cooperation, for trust and for pleasant company.

The chair and WSB thanked Manfred Vollmer for his dedication and work for the TWSC, and for the constructive and helpful cooperation which contributed to making the WSF a good working partner of the WSB.

The WSB **noted** the information.

4.1 International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium 2021

Document: [WSB 31/4/1 International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium 2021](#)

The chair thanked Schleswig-Holstein for organising and hosting the 15th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS). Invitation letters will be sent out after this meeting.

Vera Knoke invited the WSB to support and contribute to the ISWSS at all levels and asked for proposals for keynote speakers, moderators and rapporteurs, especially via the respective working groups.

Denmark suggested Prof. Susanne Becken, Griffith University & Principal Research Scientist, Department of Conservation NZ. and/or IKI (International Climate Initiative) as keynote speaker.

The WSB **thanked** Schleswig-Holstein and **noted** the information.

5. Implementation Leeuwarden Declaration

5.1 Wadden Sea World Heritage

5.1.1 Progress report TG-WH

Document: [WSB 31/5.1/1 Progress report TG-WH](#)

The chair invited comments on the progress report of the Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH).

The WSB **noted** the information

5.1.2 Development of the Single Integrated Management Plan

Document: [WSB 31/5.1/2 Status Report SIMP](#)

The chair shortly introduced two items for decision under this agenda item:

- 1) The following status statement for the Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP):

“The single integrated management plan for the Wadden Sea World Heritage is a political agreement of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC), meaning it is a legally non-binding document of common political interest.

Existing policy documents and legally binding instruments at the trilateral, regional, national, or local level are not altered or affected by the SIMP.

The recommendations presented in the SIMP which are derived from the process of developing the key topics are to be implemented by the three countries in cooperation, and individually, by the competent authorities on the basis of existing legislation and through the participation of interest groups.”

- 2) Proposal to publish relevant background information gathered in the process of developing the SIMP in an online microsite under the CWSS website in addition to publishing the concise stand-alone SIMP-document.

The WSB **noted** the progress report on the SIMP and **endorsed** the 1) SIMP status statement and 2) the publishing proposal as outlined in the document.

5.1.3 PROWAD LINK Progress Report

Document: [WSB 31/5.1/3 PROWAD LINK Progress Report](#)

Harald Marencic (CWSS, project leader of this Interreg project) introduced the PROWAD Link project with the presentation “Benefits by linking sustainable growth with nature protection”.

The WSB **noted** the information and **approved** a budget neutral extension of the project for nine months (until 31 May 2022).

5.1.4 Trilateral Wadden Sea World Heritage Foundation

Document: [WSB 31/5.1/4 Trilateral Wadden Sea World Heritage Foundation DE-proposal](#)

The chair thanked Germany for the draft and invited the WSB to comment or send amendments also after this meeting within four weeks time. Ilka Wagner stressed the importance to keep the timeline and Bernard Baerends suggested CWSS to be focal point for now to collect suggestions and comments. Suggestions for members of the proposed ad hoc Working Group should be sent to CWSS also within four weeks (mid July 2020).

Anne-Marie Rasmussen thanked Germany for preparation and expressed Danish support. To guide this work, the objectives should be formulated more precisely and linked to the trilateral research priorities.

Ingelore Hering thanked Denmark for their support and the Netherlands for the groundwork on a trilateral Foundation, which is now basis to the German proposal. She expressed her willingness to set-up a working group. Ilka Wagner underlined that this work is considered one of the key deliverables within the German presidency and should generate added value and become a true support for the trilateral cooperation.

Hans-Ulrich Rösner welcomes the establishment of a trilateral foundation, but reminded on open questions regarding financing of the foundation, including from governments.

The WSB **thanked** Germany for the initiative and **endorsed** establishment of an ad hoc working group that will, by WSB 33, submit proposals for the foundation statutes, the endowment transaction, financing and procedure in the starting phase and for business operations.

The WSB **tasked** CWSS for supporting the preparatory work with the option of using external advisory services (e.g., for legal support) and engaging such services if appropriate

5.2 Nature conservation and integrated ecosystem management

5.2.1 Progress Report TG-M

Document: [WSB 31/5.2/1 Report TG-M](#)

The chair invited participants to endorse the working approach on sustainable fisheries:

- 1) Update and completion of fishery inventory
- 2) Status and recommendations for principles of a 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)

The WSB **noted** the information and **endorsed** the working approach sustainable fisheries

5.2.2 Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative

Document: [WSB 31/5.2/2 WSFI IKI Project Outline Application](#)

The chair reported on the application of the WSFI on a project under the German BMU-IKI (International Climate Initiative) Programme under the lead of CWSS. She further reported that on agreement with the Russian representative, the planned Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI) Arctic workshop in Yamal in November 2020 will be postponed. Reasons are the uncertainties in the course of the Covid-19 pandemic in Russia and other countries

Members expressed their best wishes on a positive evaluation of the proposal in this first stage.

The WSB **noted** the information on the status of the WSFI IKI proposal.

5.3 **Climate**

Document: [WSB 31/5.3 Progress in Climate Vulnerability Index \(CVI\) project](#)

The chair reported on the progress in the Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI) project. With the envisaged workshop report "Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI) at UNESCO Wadden Sea - Phase 1: Outstanding Universal Value Vulnerability", which will contain results and recommendations, the project will be successfully completed.

Mieke Attema acknowledged the progress made in the CVI project and supports a continuation with phase 2: community vulnerability, which is the final phase of the CVI methodology. She offered financial support for the second phase of the CVI.

Janne Liburd proposed to extend the assessment from vulnerability to capacity and to include resourcefulness of communities.

Hans-Ulrich Rösner supports continuation with the CVI method, if the capacity of CWSS allows. Julia Busch (CWSS) reported that basic financial and personal resources were already planned for a second phase of the CVI in 2020. She stressed the relevance of the community vulnerability assessment with respect to the impact of climate change on key management topics of the SIMP. Barbara Engels supported the SIMP relevance of phase 2 of the CVI.

Manfred Vollmer is in favour of this second phase and offered to provide network and resources for implementation.

The WSB **acknowledged** the successful work and **generally supported** the second phase of the CVI on community vulnerability.

5.4 Trilateral monitoring and assessment programme

5.4.1 TG-MA progress report

Document: [WSB 31/5.4/1 TG-MA Progress Report](#)

The chair introduced the Task Group Monitoring and Assessment (TG-MA) progress report and gave reasons for skipping the Quality Status Report (QSR) synthesis report from 2017. She also pointed towards the note of the TG-MA chair Adi Kellermann regards missing but indispensable contributions from RWS colleagues in TG-MA. In response, Mieke Attema regretted the delay and informed that RWS is working toward securing RWS representation in the group. Ilka Wagner thanked for this statement and offered support if needed.

The WSB **noted** the information and **endorsed** the proposal to skip the QSR 2017 synthesis report.

5.4.2 Quality Status Report

Document: [WSB 31/5.4/2 QSR Proposal by TG-MA](#)

The chair invited participants to comment on the approach for future Quality Status Report (QSR) processes.

Martin Petersen commented that Denmark can basically endorse the proposal but stressed the need for streamlining data handling for a successful QSR.

Peter van Velzen from the Netherlands supported the approach of having yearly thematic reports.

Germany expressed support to this proposal but requested a clear concept for a QSR in general, QSR thematic reports and synthesis report, stressing the importance of the QSR as a product.

The WSB **endorsed** the general approach on future QSR processes and **instructed** TG-MA to develop a clear concept for thematic reports and synthesis reports of the QSR, as well as for data handling.

5.5 Science cooperation

Document: [WSB 31/5.5/1 Science Cooperation TRA-RMC Progress Report](#), [WSB 31/5.5/2 TPC-WSR ToR](#), [WSB 31/5.5/3 TPC-WSR chairs and members](#)

Progress report TRA-RMC; TPC WSR ToR and members

The chair reported that the process of nomination of participants for the Trilateral Programming Committee – Wadden Sea Research (TPC WSR) is nearly completed. Peter van Velzen acknowledged the progress made and will provide one pending Dutch member as soon

as possible. The Executive Secretary reminded to keep the timing, as the first meeting of TPC-WSR group is scheduled on 15 September 2020.

Karin Lochte reminded that a chair for this group is needed, which should also be linked to the ISWSS (compare 4.1). Germany will report on this within the upcoming two weeks.

The WSB **noted** the information and **adopted** the ToR of the Trilateral Programming Committee on Wadden Sea Research.

The WSB **agreed** with the member proposals of the TPC – WSR and will provide nominations for missing members and a chair in the next two weeks.

Wadden Sea research prioritisation, first approach

The chair reported on a first approach of research prioritisation, which is based on recommendations of the QSR 2017 thematic reports, as well as on the TRA.

Peter van Veltzen informed that the Netherlands are working with the national organisation for scientific research whether they can provide a future call which supports TRA. Ms Lochte added that the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research - BMBF may develop a matching call on Wadden Sea Research within the current German Marine Research Programme MARE:N. For a trilateral approach, it would be highly appreciated and advantageous, if also Denmark would join and engage.

Vera Knoke agreed with the chair, that the first approach on prioritisation may serve as a basis and stressed the need to further discuss the content in the future Trilateral Programming Committee.

The WSB **noted** the 1st approach on Wadden Sea research prioritisation.

5.6 Communication and education

Document: [WSB 31/5.6 Cooperation with Oris](#)

Sven Mostögl, Oris watch company, joined for this agenda item and gave a presentation on a possible cooperation of CWSS with ORIS. One new feature of the watch would be a display of lunar phases, which would allow a connection with the Wadden Sea tides.

The chair thanked for the presentation of this unusual but very valuable proposal.

Ilka Wagner stressed that this initiative with a private partner touches new ground. She inquired how the Wadden Sea would be connected with the watch and requested that it has to fulfil TWSC ambitions on sustainability. Sven Mostögl informed that the name of the Watch (preliminarily named “Dat Watt”) and a symbol connected to the Wadden Sea would be situated at the back of the watch.

Janne Liburd inquired, if a possibly longer-term business model involving the Wadden Sea has been developed. Sven Mostögl stressed the benefits of creating global awareness and that a long-term partnership agreement would need to be discussed.

The chair underlined the connection to the Partnership Hub in building long-term partnerships on themes of importance for the Wadden Sea nature and people.

Anne-Marie Rasmussen suggested discussing such engagements in general at WSB32. Hans-Ulrich Rösner reminded that a background check on sustainability (successfully done for Oris as outlined in WSB 31/5.6 Cooperation with Oris) should always be part of the process.

Peter van Velzen underlined the need to have a close look at the critical points given, but supported this collaboration and welcomed it as a good start and logic step in the Partnership Hub development.

The WSB **thanked** for the presentation and **endorsed** CWSS to negotiate a cooperation agreement with “Oris” and pursue the cooperation.

6. Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Hub/Center

Document: [WSB 31/6 OPteamPH Progress Report](#)

Bernard Baerends summarised that the COVID 19 pandemic caused delay in the progress. Still, the open position for a Partnership Hub project officer has received 38 applications, with interviews scheduled to 11 and 19 June 2020.

The WSB **noted** the information and tasked CWSS in close collaboration with the OPteamPH to prepare an application to register the “Trilateral Partnership in support of the Wadden Sea World Heritage” on the UN’s global registry of multi-stakeholder partnerships made in support of sustainable development for approval at WSB 32.

7. Wadden Sea Board Advisors: Wadden Sea Forum; Wadden Sea Team

7.1 Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) – Progress report

Document: [WSB 31/7.1 Wadden Sea Forum Progress Report](#)

Manfred Vollmer added to the written information in the WSF progress report that the project proposal “Clarence” on a climate resilient city did not succeed in an EU Horizon 2020 call.

Two proposals (Prevention of crisis and tourism, work environment and digital infrastructure) are envisaged under “Kommunen Innovativ”.

The WSB **noted** the information.

7.2 Wadden Sea Team (WST) – Outline

Documents: [WSB 31/7.2 Outline Shipping project WSTeam](#)

Hans-Ulrich Rösner reported on the proposal on climate friendly shipping and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSA), under lead of Bettina Taylor (BUND). This initiative should be linked to the round table shipping organized by WSF (compare 7.1). He requested advice on the outline of the project and encouragement of WSB to continue planning.

The Chair thanked both WST and WSF. Mieke Attema offered full support from the Netherlands to the proposal.

The WSF supported all three tasks mentioned in the WST project outline and confirmed a relation of the proposal to the planned round table shipping, but reminded that the round table concentrates on shipping safety.

Hans-Ulrich Rösner invited the WSB to approach the coordinator of the process, Bettina Taylor, directly with comments or suggestions, if applicable.

The WSB **noted** the information and **supported** the project outline in general.

8. Next meeting

Following an invitation by Denmark (originally for WSB 31), the WSB 32 meeting will be held in Esbjerg Denmark on 19 November 2020. Denmark is looking forward to welcoming the WSB.

CWSS will come forward with a proposal on the order of upcoming meeting hosts, as the original schedule has been changed, due to this online meeting.

In connection with WSB 32, a farewell for Christiane Paulus, Hubertus Hebbelmann, Christian Rieper, Jaap Verhulst and Manfred Vollmer may be organised.

9. Closing

The chair closed the meeting at 16:15 on 18 June 2020 and thanked participants for their patience, discipline, and contributions to this meeting.

ANNEX 1: List of participants

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**31st Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board
(WSB 31)**

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FINAL AGENDA

31st Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 31)

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1. **Opening of the Meeting**
2. **Adoption of the Agenda**
3. **Summary Record WSB 30**
4. **Announcements**
5. **Implementation Leeuwarden Declaration**
6. **Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Hub/Center**
7. **Wadden Sea Board Advisors: Wadden Sea Forum; Wadden Sea Team**
8. **Next meeting**
9. **Closing**

ANNEX 3: Action items arising from the 31st WSB

ACTION ITEMS

**31st Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board
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Action #	Agenda item	Actions agreed upon	Person responsible	Deadline
1	4.1	Support and contribute to the ISWSS at all levels propose keynote speakers, moderators and rapporteurs, especially via the respective working groups, to National Park Authority Schleswig-Holstein (marina.sanns@lkn.landsh.de).	all	
2	5.1.4	Suggest members of the proposed ad hoc working group trilateral Wadden Sea World Heritage Foundation	Delegations	Mid July 2020
3	5.1.4	proposals for the foundation statutes, the endowment transaction, financing and procedure in the starting phase and for business operations	Ad hoc Working Group	WSB 33
4	5.4.2	Develop a clear concept on how the QSR in general and thematic reports and synthesis reports of the QSR should look like, and how data handling should be facilitated	TG-MA	
5	5.5	Provide pending member/chair proposals for the TPC – WSR	NL, DE	ASAP
6	5.6	CWSS negotiate a cooperation agreement with “Oris” and pursue the cooperation	CWSS	Project framework: June 2020- June/July 2021
7	6	Prepare an application to register the Partnership Hub on the UN’s global registry of multi-stakeholder partnerships	CWSS in close collaboration with the OPteamPH	WSB 32
8	9	Come forward with a proposal on the order of upcoming meeting hosts.	CWSS	WSB 32