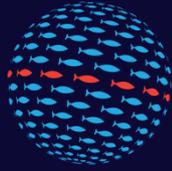


**swimway**  
wadden sea



# Wadden Sea World Heritage

## Three countries. One heritage.

Virtual meeting, 19.11.2020  
Paddy Walker,  
Andreas Dänhardt



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WORLD HERITAGE



Common  
Wadden Sea  
Secretariat

# Elements



Trilateral Fish Targets 2010



Trilateral Ministers Conference Declaration:  
2014 – Tønder - 2018 Leeuwarden



Swimway Vision and Action Programme 2018-2024



Trilateral Research Agenda 2018

# SWIMWAY or why do fish need an umbrella?

- Changes in fish populations
- Need better understanding
- QSR 2009 and 2017



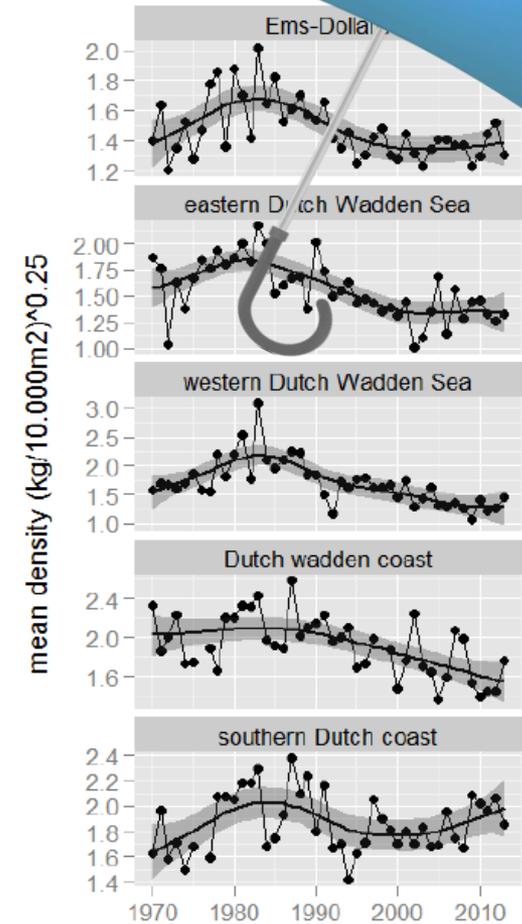
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# Swimway Programme

## Background

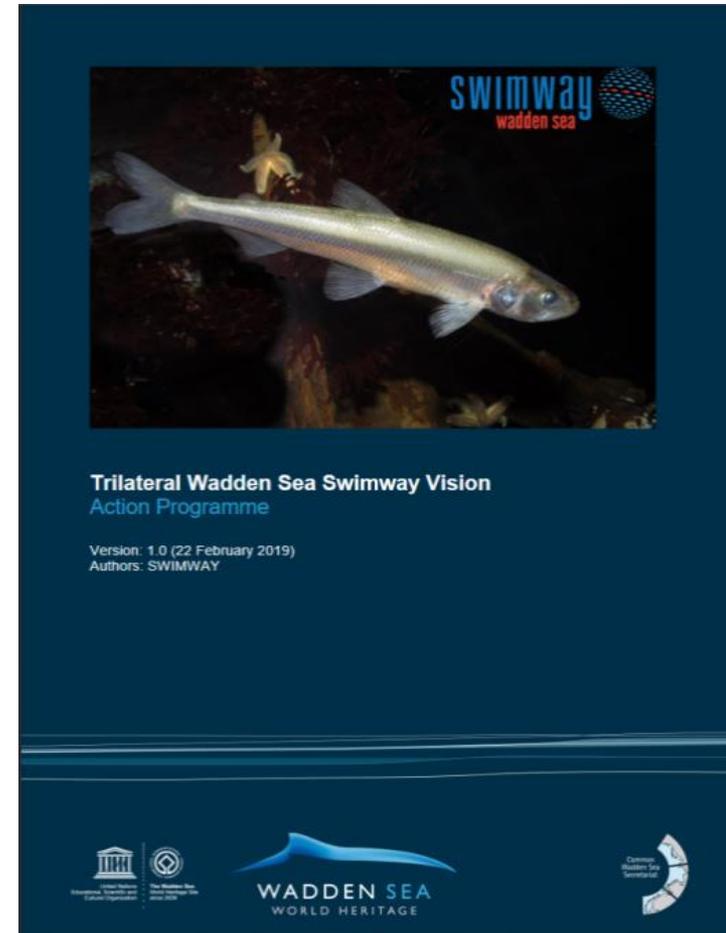
- Trilateral Ministers Conference Declaration 2014 – Tønder
- Wadden Sea Board: further implement fish targets
- 3 prior meetings in Hamburg (2015-2017)

## Aims

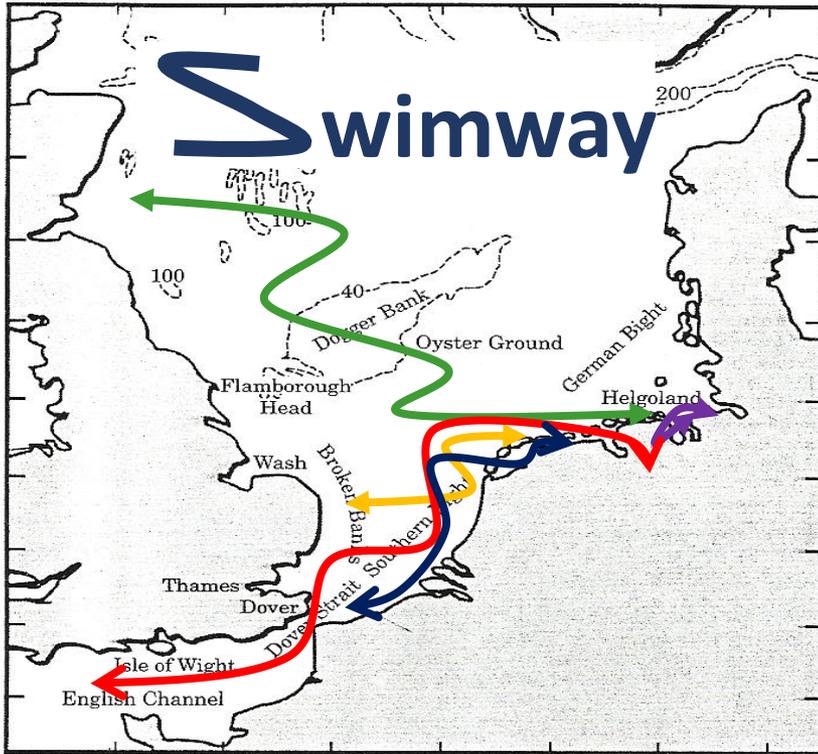
- Address Trilateral Fish Targets
- In 2017-2018 develop trilaterally supported programme for 2018-2024

## Outcome

- Presented at Wadden Sea Ministers Conference 2018



# Swimway Wadden Sea



- All species utilising the Wadden Sea
- Focus on life-cycle and identifying bottlenecks
- Build on existing work and inspire project development and collaboration

↔ Diadromous ↔ Juvenile migrants ↗ Seasonal migrants ↘ Adventitious ↻ Residents

# Trilateral Wadden Sea Swimway Vision



Life-cycle approach  
and bottleneck  
analysis



Viable stocks of populations and a natural reproduction of typical Wadden Sea fish species



Occurrence and abundance of fish species according to the natural dynamics in (a)biotic conditions



Favourable living conditions for endangered fish species

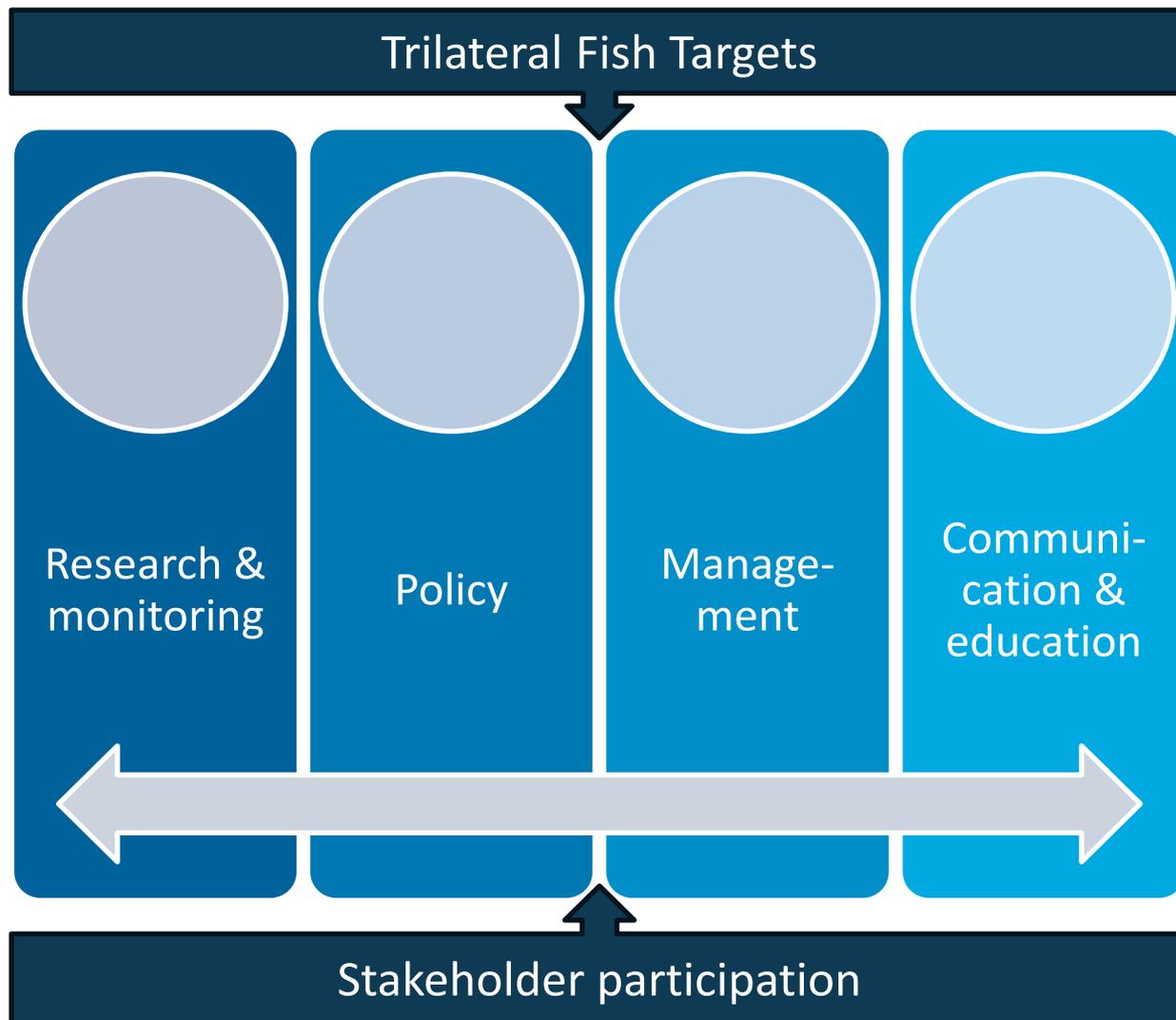


Maintenance of the diversity of natural habitats to provide substratum for spawning and nursery functions for juvenile fish



Maintaining and restoring the possibilities for the passage of migrating fish between the Wadden Sea and inland waters

# SWIMWAY structure



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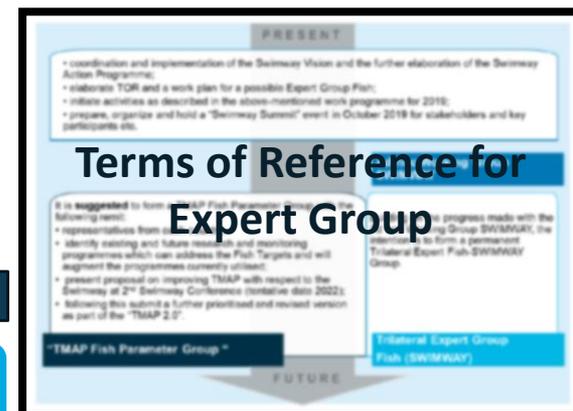
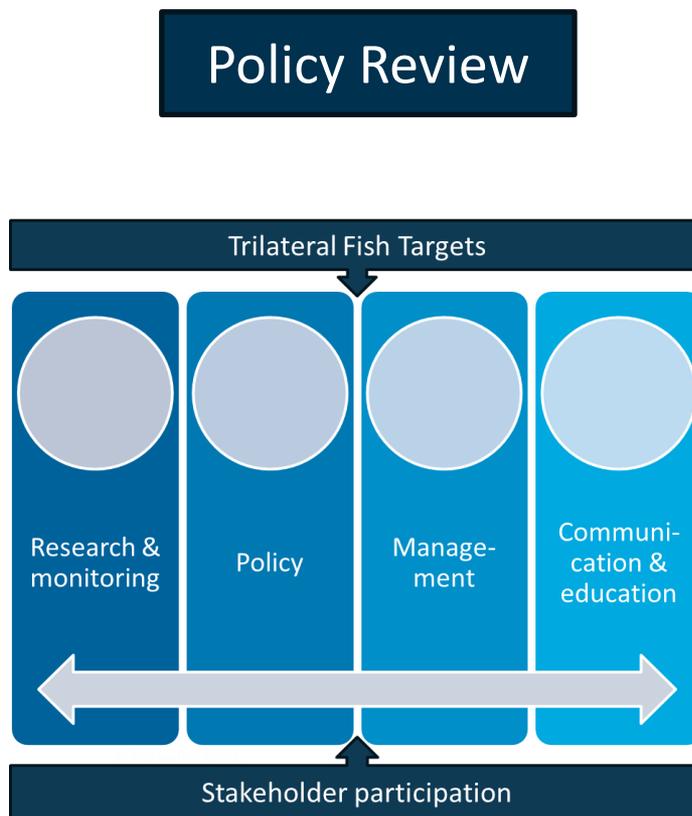


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# Progress in SWIMWAY activities



**Trilateral Research Agenda**  
Special attention .. for the long-distance migration routes of fish, sea-mammals and birds.



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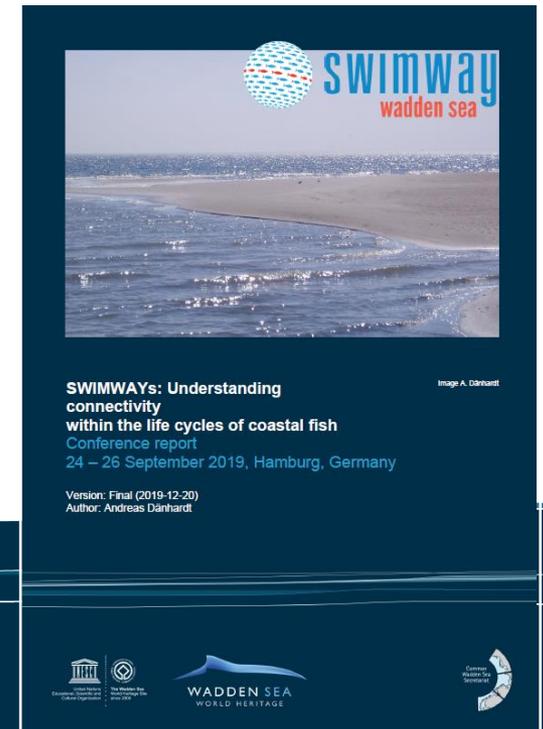
# Coming together: the first multilateral SWIMWAY conference



- Swimways: Understanding connectivity within the life cycles of coastal fish
- 24 -26 September 2019 in Hamburg
- 90 scientists, managers, NGOs and other stakeholders (but no politicians!)
- 4 sessions with keynotes, 1 conference keynote, 24 expert talks, 1 poster session, 1 education workshop and 4 interactive breakout sessions

## Outcome (highlights)

- Knowledge community made visible & connected
- Wadden Cs: Connectivity, connectivity, connectivity
- Reach beyond immediate community: TRA, UNESCO decades, ICES, etc.
- **Cooperative research projects parallel to immediate action (windows of opportunity)**



# Work priorities, networks and linking time scales

Take immediate conservation action



Acquiring missing knowledge & new context

2019-2024

Present: Wadden Tools (NL)

Under revision

Future: DAM Coastal Futures (D)

Application: Bottlenecks (D)

Draft proposal

In preperation

Past: Historical references (NL, D, DK, ...)



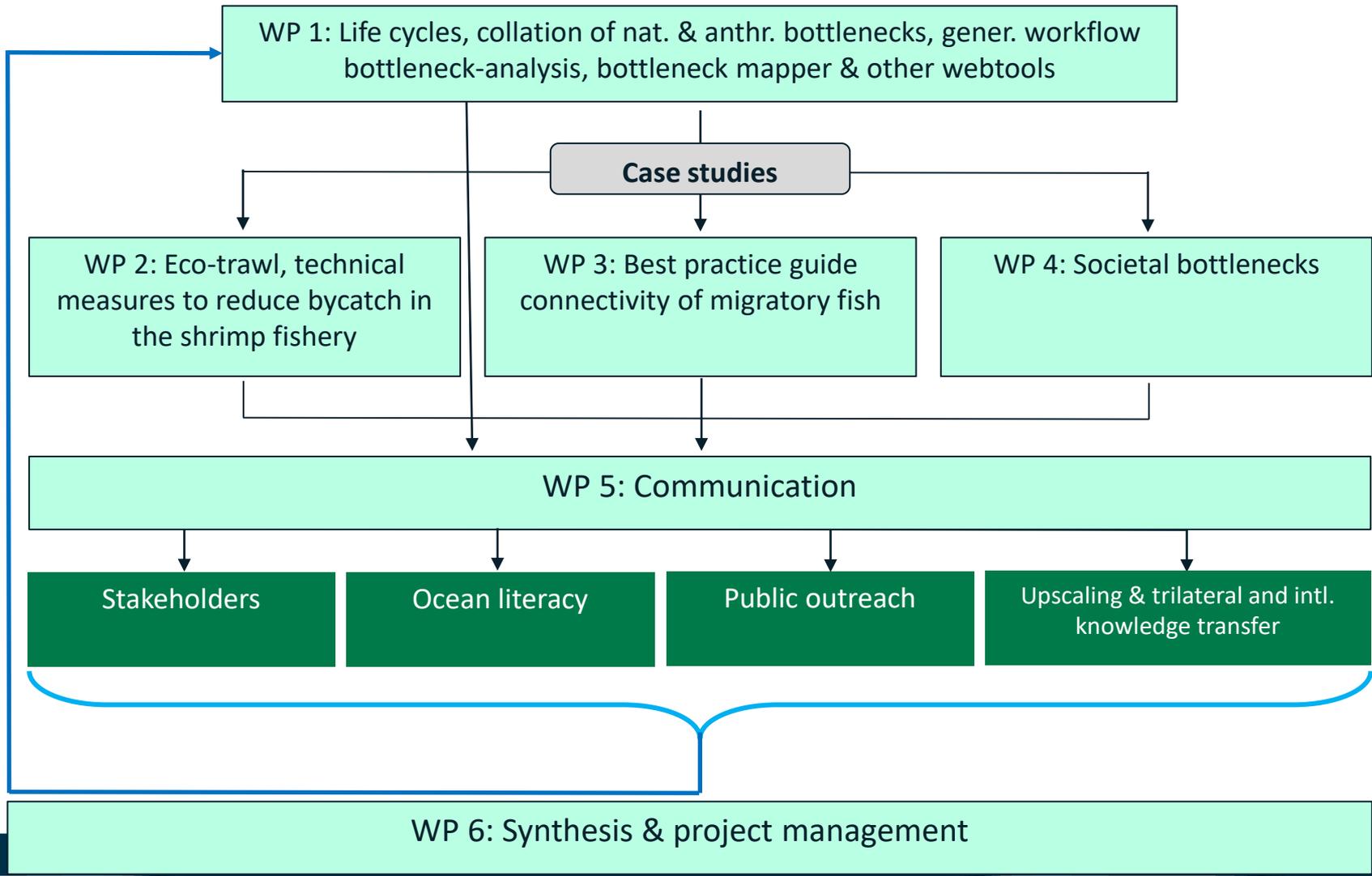
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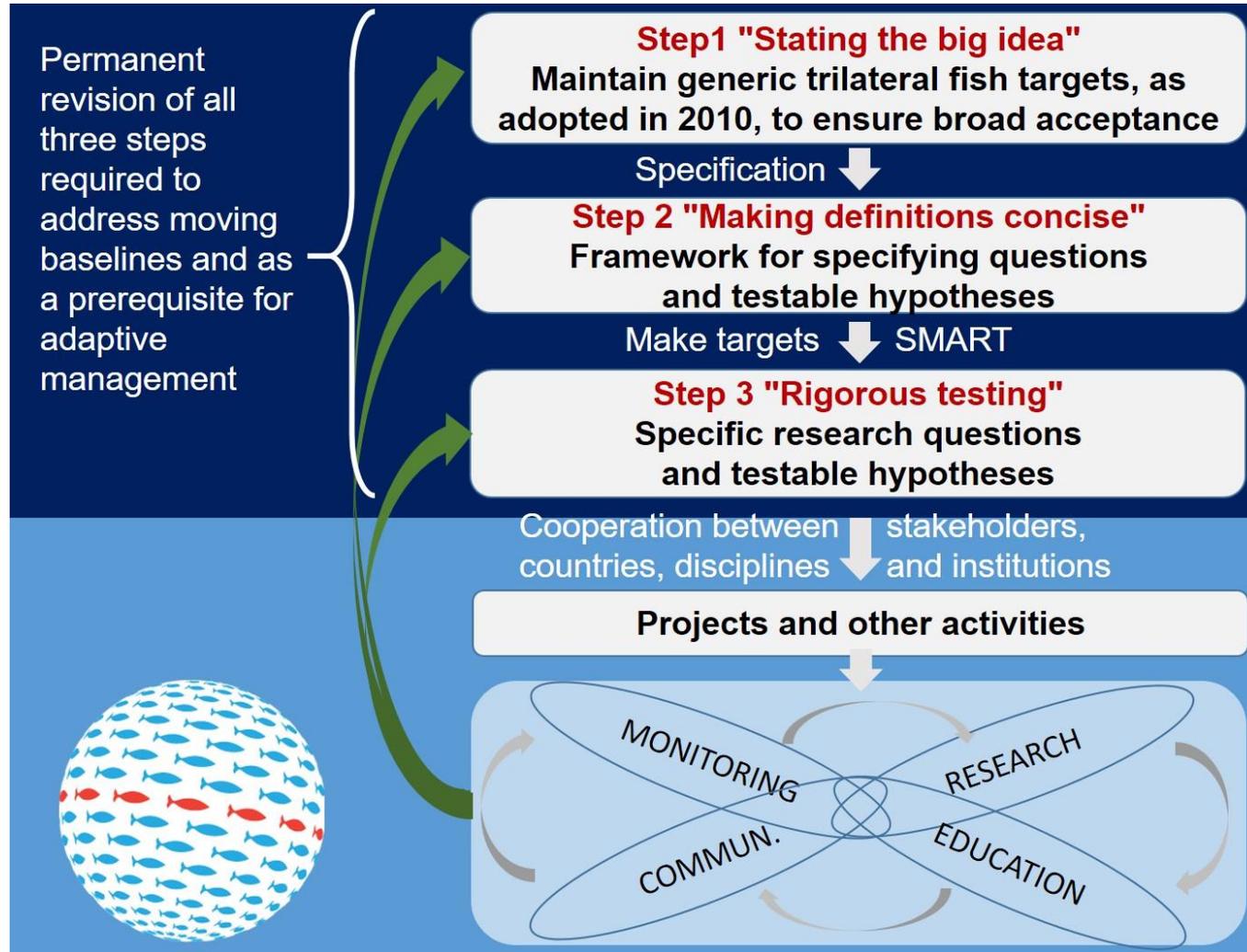


# SWIMWAY bottleneck project



# SWIMWAY projects and their relationship to trilateral fish targets

Cooperative research projects are at the heart of the requirement to implement the trilateral fish targets and drive the procedural iterations to reach this goal



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# The future of (WS fish supported to be bright by) SWIMWAY

Outlook what could be reported by the SWIMWAY Expert Group to the WSB on 19.11.2030?

- Trilateral fish targets become largely oblivious (because they are fulfilled)
- Fish realize and keep benefitting from the work of the SWIMWAY Wadden Sea group
- Harmonized monitoring and research including synergistic data exploitation across fish life cycles has become standard
- Effective incorporation of ecological knowledge and conservation issues into policies, curricula and people's everyday lives are implicit
- Together with international partners the SWIMWAY group still works hard to keep it this way



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THERE IS A PLACE – WHERE HEAVEN  
AND EARTH SHARE THE SAME STAGE

Photo: Jeff Wevers/istock

BUT DON'T FORGET THE WATER



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Experience and help preserve a natural wonder  
[www.waddensea-worldheritage.org](http://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org)

