

Final Draft
SUMMARY RECORD

**MEETING OF THE WADDEN SEA BOARD
TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA COOPERATION**

WSB 7

Hamburg, 6-7 March 2013

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

The chairman, Mr Ilse, opened the meeting at 13:00 h and welcomed the participants and supportive staff to the seventh meeting of the WSB. Mr Gabanyi welcomed the WSB members to Hamburg. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Document: WSB 7/2/1 Draft Agenda

The meeting **adopted** the draft agenda of the meeting. The agenda is in **Annex 2**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: SUMMARY RECORD WSB 6

Document: Final Draft Summary Record WSB 6

The final draft Summary Record WSB 6 was **adopted** with the following amendment on page 3, item Marine Strategy Framework Directive: "...Mr Verhulst answered that the Netherlands is not going to implement the MSFD in the Wadden Sea but will cooperate in a practical way".

AGENDA ITEM 4: ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Netherlands

- With the formation of a new government in The Netherlands the name of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Innovation has been changed into Ministry of Economic Affairs, also responsible for nature conservation. The Minister is Mr Kamp. Within the same ministry, the Minister for Agriculture, Ms Sharon Dijksma, is responsible for nature conservation.
- A new innovative way of dike enforcement will be carried out on Texel. A stretch of dike will be strengthened by sand at the seaward side. This also implies a principally new way of dealing with the Habitats Directive because an area of nature type salt marshes will be replaced by the nature type dunes.
- A large fish migration construction, to so-called fish migration river, is planned for the Afsluitdijk. It will be combined with touristic facilities. Currently a technical and financial feasibility study is carried out. The Wadden Sea Fund is a potential funding source.

Denmark

- Ms Bolette Lehn Petersen will be replaced by Mr Michael Lauenborg, also of the Culture Agency.
- The National Park Plan 2013-2018 has been adopted and the National Park is in operation.

- The TMAG chairman Mr Tom Knudsen retired 1st of March and will be replaced by Mr Henrik Pind Jørgensen.
- The EU LIFE housing project will finish by the end of March 2013.
- On 19 November 2013 there will be municipal elections.
- The Nature Agency has made available additional personnel for the preparation of the 2014 Wadden Sea Conference.
- The 2014 tall ship race will also visit Harlingen and Esbjerg.
- A Wadden Sea film project "One sea, three countries" is planned on the occasion of the Danish World Heritage designation 2014. Funding possibilities are investigated and suggestions welcome.

Germany

- In 2011, the Schleswig-Holstein administrative court ruled that any import of seed mussels from Great Britain and Ireland to the Wadden Sea requires a licence of the responsible nature conservation authorities, based on nature conservation laws and including the involvement of NGOs in the decision process, mainly because of the risk of importing alien species. In the past, at least 4 alien species were found in the transported seed mussels, which were formerly not known to live in the Wadden Sea of Schleswig-Holstein, of which one has settled, which is likely to have been imported with the mussel seed. In April 2012, the fisheries sector complained against the ruling that revision was not possible. In January 2013, the highest administrative court ruled that revision is not possible. This means that import of seed mussels to the German Wadden Sea will no longer be allowed if the risk of importing invasive alien species cannot be explicitly excluded within the licensing procedure.
- The new Schleswig-Holstein minister for the environment Dr. Habeck has started negotiations with the mussel fisheries sector about future perspectives for the sector, including revising the mussel programme. He also contacted the shrimp fisheries sector in order to evaluate whether or not the on-going process of MSC certification may be connected in a win-win-situation to the designation of no-take zones. Mr Verhulst informed the meeting that also in the Netherlands there is a discussion with the shrimp sector about no-take zones. He was in favour of harmonising the approaches in Germany and The Netherlands and proposed an exchange of detailed information.
- The new minister for the environment in Lower Saxony is Mr Stefan Wenzel. The new state secretary is Ms Almut Kottwitz.

The meeting **noted** the information.

AGENDA ITEM 5: BUSINESS PLAN 2010 – 13

Documents: WSB/7/5/1 sustainable fisheries; WSB/7/5/2 Report TG-M; WSB/7/5/3 Climate strategy; WSB/7/5/4 Report TG-S; WSB/7/5/5 Progress alien species

Task Group Management

The report of TG-M (Document WSB 7/5/2) was introduced by Ms Hedtkamp, chairperson of TG-M. Mr Verhulst supported the planned short update of the QSR.

The meeting **noted** the report.

The meeting discussed the guidance document sustainable fisheries (doc WSB 7/5/2) and **agreed** to the following stepwise approach concerning the further procedure:

- To define and formulate as specifically as possible the goals for sustainable fisheries in the Wadden Sea as a whole, including a frame for discussion and to draft this in

the form of a text for the draft Ministerial Council Declaration in a (very) small group (editorial team) by 15 April 2013;

- To discuss and agree on the draft text in a telephone conference by the end of April 2013;
- To contact the responsible fisheries authorities in the countries and negotiate a draft with the aim of reaching an agreement on the Ministerial Council Declaration text.

The WSB **took note** of document WSB 7/5/5 on the progress with regard to alien species issues.

Task Group Climate

The draft Climate Adaptation Strategy (doc WSB 7/5/3) was presented by the chairman of TG-C, Mr Piontkowitz, as well as the TG-C members Ms Sobottka, Ms Dickow and Mr Den Besten.

The WSB chairman underlined the importance of the issue for the coming governmental conference. In this respect he emphasised the need for identifying the main political messages from the strategy.

In the discussion several comments, questions and suggestions were raised:

- The trilateral strategy has a focus on long-term developments and the entire Wadden Sea, which is good. However, the strategy should also link to more regional or more short term activities (programmes) and give advice how to integrate them in the overall strategy. The strategy should explicitly emphasize the value of pilot projects with the view to learn which measures might best help to adapt, considering both the guiding principle for the Wadden Sea and the safety interests of the inhabitants
- Climate change adaptation must not be seen as an isolated matter and integration with almost all activities in the Wadden Sea is needed. Therefore early cooperation with different sectorial interests, local participants and stakeholders, as well as cooperation with non-governmental organisations, in particular the Nature NGOs and the Wadden Sea Forum, is needed. A good and even further improved cooperation between the coastal defence and the conservation sector is very important.
- What is the range of change that can be accepted, for example with regard to the reduction of the intertidal area? What are in this respect the objectives of the strategy?
- With a view to the high emphasis on spatial planning: which area is covered by the strategy? A closer connection with authorities responsible for ICZM may be needed.
- Evaluation of legislation is important because this sometimes does not provide sufficient options for flexibility and innovation, in particular for activities at the regional level.
- Concerning the interconnectivity issue it should be mentioned that geographical barriers are also important, and connectivity must be improved only in cases of proven problems of species protection caused by climate change.
- What is the possible added value of adaptation activities?
- Underlining the importance of on-going knowledge-build-up, exchange and monitoring efforts in the sandy coastal system and for stimulating innovative concepts
- What are the issues the trilateral cooperation should focus on? What does this mean for trilateral commitment in terms of money and personnel?

It was **agreed** that the TG-C will identify the main political messages and prepare a consolidated draft of the strategy for submission to the WSB-8 meeting in June.

Task Group Shipping

After a presentation by Ms Windhövel of the German Emergency Command on the “Katja” and “Flaminia” incidents, the WSB **agreed** to request the TG-S to investigate these cases in more detail, in particular with respect to the developments preceding the rescue activities. Final reports of the Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation (Bundesstelle für Seeunfalluntersuchung) about German incidents are available about one year after the respective incident (http://www.bsu-bund.de/DE/Publikationen/Unfallberichte/unfallberichte_node.html).

Mr de Hoop referred to the Sylt Declaration in which proper control and monitoring is called for and informed the meeting that the WSF shipping group is preparing a document on prevention. This document will be submitted to the WSB-8 meeting.

With a view to improve communication and cooperation Mr Rösner suggested to consider to merge the TG-S and the WSF shipping group after the 2014 Wadden Sea Conference

The meeting **noted** the progress report.

AGENDA ITEM 6: COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Document: WSB 7/6/1 Communication Strategy; WSB 7/6/2 Communication Strategy: Danish Amendments

In discussing the proposed Danish amendments for two additional strategic aims of external communication it was **agreed** to replace the 3rd strategic aims in the current draft with the Danish proposal and add the 2nd Danish proposal to the list of strategic aims for external communication.

The secretary informed the meeting that additional technical comments on the draft Communication Strategy had been received from Germany, which had been reviewed by the secretariat and agreement had been reached on the amendments. A final version of the Communication Strategy including the agreed amendments would now be produced and made public.

Additionally the secretary informed the meeting about the status of implementation of the Communication Strategy in accordance with the agreement of WSB 6. In particular he stated concerns around the continuation of the International Wadden Sea School (IWSS) which had produced many high quality products, and suggested to explore an extension of the cooperation with the WWF.

Mr Rösner indicated that the WWF was willing to discuss the extension of the cooperation on the IWSS with the secretariat and explore further cooperation options with a view to reinforce the IWSS work.

The meeting **thanked** the WWF for its contribution to the IWSS and **authorized** the secretary to enter into discussion with the WWF to explore cooperation options for the IWSS.

AGENDA ITEM 7: WADDEN SEA CONFERENCE

Document: WSB 7/7/1 Ministerial Council Declaration; WSB 7/7/2 ISWSS-13

Ms Marboe introduced document WSB 7/7/1, containing an overview of the documents and the time schedule for the 2014 Wadden Sea Conference, as well as a first preliminary draft of the Ministerial Council Declaration (MCD), prepared by the ad-hoc drafting group.

In discussing the preliminary draft MCD, the following first remarks were made:

Preamble

NL. More attention to local communities and local economy.

Wadden Sea World Heritage

- D. A text on conservation is missing.
Sustainable Tourism Strategy is a shared responsibility with the sector. To be signed by all stakeholders.
Flyway vision could be presented as a side event at Conference.
- NL. More specific text on modern ways of monitoring (remote sensing etc.).
Signing by all stakeholders, so still to verify if 'adopting' is the appropriate term. It has to become more clear what the resources requests are when submitting the strategy to the Council meeting.
More ambition should be included in the text such as "improve, enhance etc."

Nature Conservation and Integrated Ecosystem Management

- NL. N2000. Text must be more specific regarding harmonisation issues.
Estuarine restoration to be added.
Investigate options for strengthening the trilateral cooperation at the operational level.
Reservation on adoption of the Alien Species strategy.
- Adv. Text on Wadden Sea Plan to be added.

Energy

- NL. Harmonisation of good-practices regarding the increase in -offshore activities: Code of Conduct.
- D. Use in this respect the upcoming EU regulation on Energy Infrastructure.

Climate

- NL. Reference made to the points given under 7/5/3
- Adv. Regional boundaries of the cooperation to be addressed in relation to climate adaptation strategy.
Relation between tourism and climate to be addressed (study in PROWAD context summer 2013 available).
CO₂ goal of Sylt Declaration to be reconfirmed.
Oil, CCS and fracking to be addressed.
- D. No support for Oil and CCS as issues for the MCD.
- WSB German position **agreed**.

Maritime safety and pollution prevention shipping

- Adv. PSSA vision should be annexed. Communication between different responsible authorities very relevant.
- CWSS. This is covered in the operational part of the vision. The signal can be brought into TG-S.
- Adv. To be placed on agenda TG-S. The document of the WSF shipping group on improvement safety standards provides guidance.

TMAP

WSB No need to annex TMAP strategy to MCD.

Science Cooperation

- NL. Outcome ISWSS-13 to be analysed in terms of identification of relevant issues and state of scientific knowledge regarding these issues. To be discussed at coming WSB meeting.
- WSB Dutch proposal **agreed**.

Cultural Heritage

CWSS Indicative Planning Project is supported by the Wadden Academy. Wait for the results.

Wadden Sea Forum

WSF Extended outline shipping safety, goose management and ICZM strategy will be submitted to next WSB meeting.

The meeting **agreed** that written comments to the draft must be sent to the ad-hoc editorial group within three weeks, which will prepare a consolidated draft for discussion at WSB-8.

The meeting **adopted** the proposals from section 4 of the document with the general comment that the number of annexes to the Declaration should be limited and the most important ones identified. The time schedule should provide sufficient room for translating the draft Declaration.

Mr Verhulst proposed and the meeting **agreed** to discuss the ambition level of the MCD in relation to the necessary efforts at the WSB-8 meeting. The secretariat will prepare a list of efforts.

AGENDA ITEM 8: WADDEN SEA WORLD HERITAGE

Document: WSB 7/8/1 Report TG Sustainable Tourism Strategy; WSB 7/8/2 Wadden Sea World Heritage: Progress Report TG-WH

In response to the brief presentation of the documents by the secretary, Mr Rasmussen announced that the World Heritage Centre had informed Denmark that the Danish-German World Heritage nomination had passed the completeness check and been sent to the IUCN for evaluation; furthermore Denmark was willing to participate in the Wadden Sea World Heritage Programme as proposed; finally the prospects of having a Danish Foundation Committee member nominated soon were very good.

Ms Paulus welcomed the good progress with developing the sustainable tourism strategy as outlined in the document. The strategy was a central document for the forthcoming conference and should be endorsed by the broad number of organizations preparing it and not be confined to the ministers. She therefore called upon the presidency to make this a special event at the 2014 Conference by e.g. arranging for a joint signature ceremony. Mr Verheij as a member of the Task Group Sustainable Tourism Strategy added that this had already been discussed in the Task Group and very much supported the suggestion.

Mr Verhulst congratulated Denmark and Germany for the submission of the nomination and passing the completeness check; furthermore there was an urgent need from the Dutch side to discuss the use of the World Heritage logo at the next WSB meeting; finally, he looked forward to the nomination of a Danish member of the Foundation Committee.

As regards the logo issue use the secretary underlined that the outcome of the workshop, held on this issue, was that as a first step a brand description would be developed together with a partnership scheme as a basis for the further discussion with the aim of an agreement at the 2014 Conference. There was agreement in the Task Group World Heritage to prevent any use that would devalue its content and its exclusive use.

The meeting, having heard the discussion, **agreed** to

- (1) Congratulate the Task Group World Heritage with the elaboration of the nomination and the passing of the completeness check.
- (2) Note the information provided on the World Heritage and the development of the Sustainable Tourism Strategy.

- (3) Welcome the intention of Denmark to fully participate in the Wadden Sea World Heritage Communication and Marketing Programme 2010-13.
- (4) Consider having a special event including a signature ceremony around the Sustainable Tourism Strategy at the 2014 Conference.

The Dutch and the German delegations **expected** that a Danish member of the Foundation Committee would be nominated at the earliest possible date in order to commence the work.

An inspiring presentation on a comparison of marketing different World Heritage sites was given by Mr James Rebanks and welcomed by the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9: WADDEN SEA FORUM

Document: WSB 7/9/1 Progress WSF Activities

The WSF secretary, Mr Vollmer, introduced document WSB 7/9/1.

He informed the meeting that the WSF planning portal had been extended with fisheries data. See http://gis.eucc-d.de/waddengis_mapfish/index.htm

The WSF sustainability indicator data would be analysed in cooperation with the University of Groningen and the Wadden Academy.

WSF would organise an energy conference in the Eemshaven on 3 June 2013. The outcome of the conference would be submitted to WSB-8.

He finally announced that the WSF had produced a flyer in English and Dutch.

The meeting **noted** the report and the information.

AGENDA ITEM 10: CWSS BUDGET

On the request of the chairman, the secretary explained that the draft budget 2014 and the indicative budget 2015-16 had been discussed among the parties at the margin of the meeting and that he had been instructed to provide an overview of priorities of the work in 2014 with a view to a more detailed discussion of the proposed draft budget and possible reductions. This would be linked with the discussion on the estimate of the resource demand related to the draft Ministerial Council Declaration.

The meeting **noted** the information.

AGENDA ITEM 11: REPORT CWSS

Document: WSB 7/11/1 Report CWSS

The meeting **noted** the CWSS progress report on developments since the last meeting of the WSB.

On the proposal of Mr Verhulst it was **agreed** to invite the UK partners to an annual meeting to discuss the issues of the programme outlined in Annex I. Together with Ms Nickel, he would take the initiative to invite to the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 12: NEXT MEETING

WSB 8 will be held on **26-27 June 2013** in Copenhagen at a location to be determined. The meeting will be a two-day meeting with arrival the evening before. Delegations should be prepared to be able to arrange for parallel sessions to discuss and finalize the status report and other tasks and there should be availability of printers and a copying machine to enable

the copying of documents and drafts. It is the aim to have a draft agenda, draft status report and a complete draft Ministerial Council Declaration at the end of the meeting to be consulted over the summer.

AGENDA ITEM 13: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Verheij expressed contentment that the estuaries management would be addressed at the Conference and particularly referred to the management issues in the Eems-Dollard estuary where plans for dredging for deepening the shipping channel were under development.

AGENDA ITEM 14: CLOSING

The chairman thanked the participants for a very pleasant meeting and constructive discussions, and closed the meeting at app. 12:15 h.

Annex 1

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Annex 2

**AGENDA
MEETING OF THE WADDEN SEA BOARD
TRILATERAL WADDEN SEA COOPERATION
WSB 7
6-7 March 2013
HAMBURG**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Summary Record WSB 6
4. Announcements
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