

# Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 15  
4 November 2015  
Wilhelmshaven**



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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>5.2</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Report TG-MM</b>
<b>Document No.</b>	<b>WSB 15/5.2/1</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>19 October 2015</b>
<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>TG-MM</b>

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Attached is the report of the Task Group Management and Monitoring (TG-MM)

**Proposal:**      **The meeting is invited to discuss the report and to decide upon the proposals by TG-MM**

## **TASK GROUP MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING (TG-MM)**

### **REPORT TO WSB-15**

The TG-MM, chaired by Ms Stefanie Hedtkamp, has held one meeting (TG-MM 13) on 26 August 2015.

TG-MM 13 has discussed

- A. The implementation of the Tønder Declaration
- B. UNESCO request monitoring fisheries impact
- C. Fisheries in the intertidal

Below the outcome of the discussion, including proposals to the WSB, is given.

#### **A. IMPLEMENTATION TØNDER DECLARATION**

##### **Flyway cooperation**

TD §16. Agree to continue and where necessary expand the cooperation on management and research along the entire East Atlantic Flyway, as outlined in the vision in Annex 2, shared by relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations.

The Netherlands (programme PRW) intends to continue monitoring along the Flyway and also to investigate possible funds for long-term Flyway monitoring. In 2015 there had been counts in key areas only.

The results of the 2014 bird counts have revealed that the Wadden Sea seems to be a weak link in the Flyway chain. A press release to this has been published.

Germany (BMUB) is working on the continuation of the capacity building part of the WSFI.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information**

##### **Management and wardening**

TD §18. Therefore also strive for intensifying the cooperation at the operational management level.

TD §19. Ensure that there is adequate wardening over the whole Wadden Sea.

An invitation for a trilateral workshop on management issues has been circulated by a Dutch management organisation. TG-MM suggested that the tidal basin approach could be a suitable theme for the workshop. TG-MM proposes that a separate workshop on wardening should be organised.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the proposals**

**Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach**

**N2000 roof report**

TD §23 Agree therefore to cooperate in evaluating the assessments under the Habitats Directive, also with the aim to prepare a common Natura 2000 roof report for the Wadden Sea.

WSB-14 endorsed the proposal that an ad-hoc N2000 expert group be installed. Currently members for this group are appointed. The ad-hoc group will meet as soon as sufficient preparatory work at the national level has been carried out, including the preparation of specific national N2000 Wadden Sea assessments.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information**

**Breeding bird Action Plan**

TD §25. Instruct the WSB to develop and implement a trilateral Action Plan on improving conditions for breeding birds.

A final draft version of the Breeding Bird Action Plan will be available for discussion by TG-MM 14 (December 2015). TG-MM will first discuss the final draft before publication of the report.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach**

**Seal Agreement**

TD §27. Therefore continue the cooperation in the context of the Seal Agreement, including the Seal Management Plan, which will be updated in 2016, reconfirming the guidelines on taking and releasing of seals.

The Trilateral Seal Expert Group (TSEG) met on 1-2 October in Roskilde, Denmark. Main agenda items were the Grey and Harbour seal counts 2014/15, the upcoming QSR project and the Seal Management Plan (SMP). It was the first meeting with Lasse Fast Jensen as chairman. Despite the Harbour seal epidemic in 2014, the numbers remain stable. The same was concluded for grey seals, which were not affected by the disease at all. The seal reports will be published on 1 November 2015. Count dates for Grey and Harbour seal flights for the season 2015/16 were scheduled. The TSEG will produce the Thematic Chapter on Marine Mammals, with Lasse Fast Jensen as lead author. Pending issues around the SMP were discussed, such as enhanced information exchange with UK and Baltic seal groups. It was proposed to have first joint meeting in the light of the next regular TSEG meeting on 8 June 2015. The review of the current SMP, in preparation for the upcoming update, was initiated.

**Fish targets**

TD §28. Acknowledge the importance of fish for the Wadden Sea ecosystem and therefore instruct the WSB to work on the further implementation of the trilateral fish targets of the Wadden Sea Plan.

Currently resources are being sought in the Netherlands for elaborating the outline for a Swimway project.

In the Netherlands research funding had been allocated for investigating the role of the Wadden Sea in the life cycle of different fish species and for an analysis of essential habitats.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information**

#### **Alien species**

§35. Instruct the WSB to further develop the trilateral strategic framework for dealing with alien species in the Wadden Sea and to coordinate the further development of an alien species management and action plan, taking into account existing and upcoming legislation and projects.

The trilateral Working Group Alien Species (WG-AS) continues working on the development of an alien species management and action plan. A draft list of Wadden Sea marine alien species is under elaboration. A call for tender for developing a proposal for a Wadden Sea alien species monitoring and assessment programme has recently been sent out. It is expected that a draft of such a programme can be discussed at a trilateral workshop in the first half of 2016.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information**

#### **Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP)**

TD §60. Adopt the long-term common TMAP strategy as in Annex 6 as the basis for the further development of the TMAP, in close connection with the scientific community, with the aim to further increase its value in implementing EU Directives, and providing information for a wider range of stakeholders, also through the further development of the information system to allow for a better access of the data.

TG-MM took note of the recently published trilateral reports on breeding birds and migratory birds.

The breeding success report will be integrated with the breeding bird action list (see breeding birds above) and discussed by TG-MM 14.

TG-MM 14 will also discuss monitoring requirements under the MSFD and the EU Alien Species Regulation and invite monitoring experts to participate in this discussion.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information**

#### **Quality Status Report**

TD §61. Instruct the WSB to elaborate the next Wadden Sea Quality Status (Outlook) Report for 2016 in time for the 2018 Conference, in order also to be in line with the reporting cycles of the N2000 Directives and Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

TG-MM discussed the outcome of the second meetings of the QSR Editorial Board (9 September 2016) and elaborated, together with TG-WH, a proposal for responsibilities of TG-MM, TG-WH and the QSR Editorial Board for the preparation and contents of the QSR and the SoC report. The proposal is in document WSB 15/5.6/1.

**Proposal: WSB is referred to document WSB 15/5.6/1**

**Trilateral research agenda**

TD §63. Encourage discussions by the scientific community and policy makers on the major policy issues and related knowledge as a basis for further developing a trilateral research agenda and a trilateral research platform.

The trilateral research coordination group, consisting of Jouke van Dijk, Karsten Reise and Mette Guldberg has sent out invitations to the researchers listed in Annex 1, together with background information on the tasks to be performed, as well as a time schedule.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information**

**Trans boundary Ramsar site**

TD §73. Intend to list the Wadden Sea Ramsar sites as trans-boundary Ramsar site "Wadden Sea" on the Ramsar List of international importance and thus contribute to the ongoing efforts of the Ramsar Convention to promote the trans-boundary aspect of the protection and the management of wetlands e.g. through enhanced flyway cooperation as mentioned above.

The Netherlands is still waiting for final clarity about the delimitation of Dutch N2000 sites, which are connected with the Ramsar delimitation but the issue is in progress.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information**

## **B. MONITORING FISHERIES IMPACT IMPACT (UNESCO recommendation Nr. 7/2014)**

TG-MM inventoried current monitoring that may be relevant for assessing fisheries impact in the Wadden Sea.

In the Dutch Wadden Sea a lot of relevant monitoring is in place. There is also information on fisheries impact contained in EIAs which have to be carried out in the framework of licensing for shrimp and blue mussel fisheries. Other types of fishing are hardly taking place at the moment.

In Germany there are only landing data for shrimp without differentiation between Wadden Sea and North Sea. A recent study of WWF provides information on distribution of shrimping in the Wadden Sea and adjacent North Sea.

For mussel fishing black box data are collected by the fisheries administrations. Licenses are generally provided without an EIA, but in the framework of the new mussel agreement in Schleswig-Holstein an impact assessment will be carried out in 2016. Also in Lower-Saxony an impact assessment is planned before finalising the new blue mussel management plan.

Seafloor mapping is ongoing but not yet covering the whole area of the German Wadden Sea National Parks.

In Denmark there is little fisheries. It is unclear how seafloor integrity (MSFD) will be monitored. Eelgrass and mussel beds are monitored along a few transects.

Within OSPAR, work is ongoing on developing an MSFD indicator for seafloor integrity. ICES has pre-analysed surface abrasion as a measure for fisheries impact on biodiversity.

TG-MM concluded that there is currently no monitoring of damages to the seafloor (in particular the intertidal) by fisheries and that assessment of fisheries impact can only be done indirectly. There is also little monitoring of fisheries bycatch.

TG-MM therefore saw two possible approaches to meeting the UNESCO request:

1. To use all the available material, in particular EIAs, to present a generalised overview of fisheries impact in the Wadden Sea;
2. To extend monitoring to the subtidal and to connect it with data on fishing sites, including OSPAR/ICES data.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to decide on the approach to be followed**

### **C. FISHERIES INTERTIDAL**

WSB-14 had requested TG-MM to have a closer look at impacts of fisheries in the intertidal, in particular how to judge topical developments. TG-MM acknowledged that judging the developments also depended on the reference used. It was agreed to prepare an overview of developments according to topic and to compare this with the contents of the WSP2010. This could have a signal function, although most TG-MM members were of the opinion that giving an (alarm) signal is currently not necessary.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach**

## ANNEX 1. Trilateral Research Agenda

### 1. Researchers, selected for preparing proposals for themes for a trilateral research agenda

Main category	Researcher Subgroups (in bold, chairperson of the group)
1. Geosciences	<b>Jesper Bartholdy</b>
	Alexander Bartholomä
	Hessel Speelman
2. Ecology	Karsten Laursen
	Christian Buschbaum
	<b>Katja Phillippart</b>
3. Economy	<b>Torben Dall-Schmidt</b>
	Ingo Mose
	Jouke van Dijk
4. Cultural heritage	Mette Guldberg
	<b>Beate Ratter</b>
	Meindert Schroor
5. Climate and water	Aart Kroon
	Horst Sterr
	<b>Pier Vellinga</b>

### 2. Working schedule

**Step 1.** The subgroups write an overall outline of 3-4 pages of themes and issues within their field. Appendices and references are not necessary.

**Step 2.** The outline should serve as a starting point for a broad discussion among scholars in the same field, preferably at a workshop, meeting or the like – either arranged for the purpose or as part of another meeting.

**Step 3.** The subgroups finish their report concluding with suggestions for 5-10 important research questions within its field.

The report should contain an outline of

- Major achievements and persisting gaps of knowledge (5-10 most important research questions)
- Main questions relevant for policy
- Suggestions for transdisciplinary themes

The final report should be 3-4 pages. Appendices and references are not necessary.

Deadline for this final report is August 1<sup>st</sup> 2016.

**Step 4.** On the basis of the outlines from the subgroups, the working group will write a draft version for a trilateral research agenda. This draft version will be circulated in due time prior to the Trilateral Scientific Symposium in Denmark in February 2017.

**Step 5.** At the symposium a broad range of scholars gets the opportunity to comment on the work and give input to further content or enhancements.

**Step 6.** The working group will subsequently finish the proposal, so it will be ready to be presented to the ministers' conference in early 2018.

**Step 7.** The proposal is presented to the ministers' conference in the Netherlands 2018.

**Pilot Project**

Subgroup 3 and 4 will start their work autumn 2015 to be finished November-December 2015 as a sort of pilot project in order to provide an example of, how it could be – but not necessarily should be – done.