FINAL SUMMARY RECORD

**Ad hoc Working Group SWIMWAY (WG-SWIMWAY 19-3)**

02 December 2019

Leeuwarden, Netherlands

**Final Version 22/01/2020**

1. **Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the Agenda**

The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Mr Kellermann, at 10:00 on 02 December 2019. He thanked the Waddenacademie for hosting the meeting.

The Chairperson welcomed Ms Walker, Mr Dänhardt, Mr Huisman and Mr Van der Heij as invited guests to the meeting, and passed on apologies from Ms Lages, Ms Sanns and Mr Frederiksen. A list of participants is at Annex 1.

The ad hoc WG-SWIMWAY adopted the draft agenda of the meeting with minor changes (Annex 2).

1. **Adoption of the draft summary record**

*Document: WG-Swimway-19-3-2-WG-Swimway-3\_Summary-record\_v0.3.docx, WG-Swimway-19-3-2-WG-Swimway-3\_Summary-record\_ANNEX4.pdf*

The WG-SWIMWAY adopted the draft summary record of the WG-Swimway-19-2 meeting.

1. **Announcements**

**Denmark**

* The revision of the Danish Statutory Order is on hold, due to the fact that there is a new government in place.

**Germany**

* The new [Deutsche Allianz Meeresforschung (DAM)](https://www.allianz-meeresforschung.de/aktuelles) will hold a first meeting in Hamburg, Germany in week 50 to present their research programme. Mr Dänhardt will participate and will share the outcome of this meeting with the group;
* In Schleswig-Holstein, the fish monitoring programme has stopped after 29 years. It will be continued by applying a new fishing method;
* In Lower Saxony, stow net monitoring will be continued in 2020. Also in Lower Saxony, the method may be changed, possibly with increased collaboration with the Thünen Institute for fisheries in Bremerhaven, Germany;

**Netherlands**

* On 29 November, the Waddentool SWIMWAY project has been officially approved and is now employing;
* Rijkswaterstaat and Programma Rijke Waddenzee are reviewing effects of natural and anthropogenic effects of bottom/seabed disturbance (literature review by consultant). The final draft will be shared with the SWIMWAY group;
* RWS has been approached by (Ian Beckers- Herman Wanningen) to discuss projects for the conference in 2023.

**CWSS**

* Since 15 September 2019, Ms Bettina Oleksik is working as administrative assistant at CWSS.

The group **noted** the information.

1. **Trilateral Network**

Mr Kellermann informed on the 30th meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 30) which was held in Wilhelmshaven, Germany on 21 November 2019. At this meeting, he had introduced himself to the WSB and informed on developments in the Task Group Monitoring and Assessment (TG-MA) and WG SWIMWWAY, in particular on the successful conference held in Hamburg (see Agenda Item 7). Information related to SWIMWAY will be channelled via the Task Group Management (TG-M) in the future (see [TG-M progress report to WSB 30](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/sites/default/files/WSB30%205.2-1_tg-m_report.pdf)). All [documents of WSB 30](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/events/30th-wadden-sea-board-meeting-wsb-30) are publicly available.

At WSB 30 it was proposed that a possible expert group fish may take up fisheries issues and link the outcomes of their work to the Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP). TG-M was asked to submit a proposal on how to handle this issue.

Mr Kellermann also reported on recent outcomes of the Task Group Monitoring and Assessment (TG-MA) meeting, which was held as back to back meeting with the Expert Group Data (EG-Data) on 4 – 5 November 2019. In the meeting, first steps towards a Quality Status Report (QSR) process were made. Regarding the QSR Synthesis report 2017, TG-MA acknowledged authorship of Editorial Board and endorsed the synthesis report without comments. At WSB 30, the WSB accepted the responsibility and authorship of the QSR Editorial Board for the QSR Synthesis Report 2017 on basis of the latest draft submitted by the Editorial Board and CWSS in spring 2018

In the back to back TG-MA and EG-Data meeting, also TMAP and data issues were tackled. Progress includes joint meetings of TG-MA and EG-Data, starting with a full overview on the trilateral data situation on 30 - 31 January 2020 for evaluation and for identifying the dimension of the data comparability problem. Also concomitant research with a view on supplying trilaterally available data may be advanced in future.

Mr Dänhardt reminded of additional available data that may support answering questions, and privately owned data, e.g., standardised bottom trawling by energy companies for wind park assessment.

Ms Busch informed there will be two WSB meetings in 2020, one in June in Denmark and one in November in Wilhelmshaven, Germany. These dates, as well as to be determined TG-M meeting dates, should be considered when planning next meetings of the ad hoc WG SWIMWAY.

The group **noted** the information.

1. **SWIMWAY projects**

*Document: WG-Swimway-19-3-5-1-Draft-policy-report.docx, WG-Swimway-19-3-5-2-Project Citizen Science*

Mr Kellerman presented the SWIMWAY vision as reminder on QSR trilateral fish targets and on the four pillars of the SWIWMAY Action Programme.

Mr Jørgensen reported on a meeting of the Trilateral Research Agenda (TRA) Road Map committee held in Hamburg in October 2019 under direction of Ms Lochte. The Road Map committee consists of one representative of policy and one of science for each country, as well as the CWSS as secretary. The roadmap committee agreed upon their ToR and started an inventory list of TRA relevant research projects in the three countries. Within the upcoming three to six months, the roadmap committee will draw up list of potential candidates and select a TRA programme committee to be confirmed by WSB. Ms Busch added that CWSS had submitted [WSB30/ 5.7. report on Science Cooperation TRA-RMC](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/sites/default/files/WSB30%205.7%20Science%20Cooperation%20TRA-RMC.pdf) to WSB 30.

The group **noted** the information

**5.1 Sluice management**

Mr Huisman reported on activities and projects on fish passages/dams in Lower Saxony and the Netherlands, which may be extended trilaterally.

The group **noted** the information.

**5.2 Physical bottlenecks for Wadden Sea fishes**

Mr Kellermann reported on development of a research project on bottlenecks, possibly eligible for funding by the German Federal Programme of Biological Diversity in 2020. A first project sketch will be drafted and submitted in mid-January 2020. This should in the best case relate to the Dutch SWIMWAY project and results of the SWIWMAY conference breakout session. In addition, the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (BMU) remains as option for submitting a project proposal in 2020.

The group **noted** the information.

**5.3 Project: Monitoring/Data exchange and access**

See Agenda item 6.

**5.4 Project: Policy review**

Ms Buitenkamp reported on the status of the policy report, which has yet to be completed. Mr Jørgensen commented that the Danish part will delivered before mid-December 2019.

The group discussed the submitted document and next steps.

Ms Walker commented that the document provides a good overview on available legislation and it is shown that trilateral fish targets go beyond national legislation. One conclusion is therefore that for a translation of fish targets, national legislation would need to be enhanced. There would be a possibility to influence on a national basis. Ms Buitenkamp suggested including the trilateral fish targets to the upcoming Natural 2000 review. Mr Dänhardt commented that during the SWIMWAY conference, one visionary suggestion was to work towards an EU Fish Directive – alike the Birds Directive. In addition he suggested to strongly link to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), as this is legally binding (unlike trilateral fish targets). Ms Nieuwerburgh commented that in the Netherlands the Wadden Sea is not under the MSDF, but Water Framework Directive (WFD).

Mr Jørgensen added the application aspect to be added in the process flow: targets – policy review- the next step would be recommendation to management.

Mr Kellermann summarised that the Danish input to the policy report will be delivered before Christmas 2019, and hence a complete draft of the document may be available by end 2019. He took up Ms Buitenkamp’s offer to finalise the report by end of January 2020. The question remains, which is the best way to use this report and how to feed it to political process. CWSS should also be consulted how to proceed.

Ms Buitenkamp suggested extracting a separate document, such as a “policy paper” from the report. Ms Walker suggested using the document for a gap analysis, possibly towards a Fish Directive. Mr Jørgensen suggested presenting this information to TG-M and asking for advice.

The group **noted** the information and **agreed** with the process to finalise the document. All members should think about suitable ways and means of how to feed the results into national and supranational decision-making processes. Next steps should then be taken up at the next meeting.

**5.5 Project: Citizen Science**

Mr Kellermann introduced a document from Mr Borcherding.

The group **noted** the information.

1. **Monitoring and data synthesis**

Ms Walker presented results of trilateral fish monitoring and long-term research projects, with the aim to 1) compile inventories of trilateral fish monitoring and reporting and 2) recommend future forum and implications for the setup of a trilateral expert group fish in 2020.

1. Several programmes have been used for the last QSR, besides TMAP data, which were compiled and presented in a pivot table. The table includes spatio-temporal information, as well as contextual information.
2. A future forum may consist of an adaptive framework of data collection and monitoring, as well as to further develop SMART targets and application of theory of change approaches.

Mr Huisman recommended to involve citizen science approaches and alike.

Mr Abel added to consider MSFD monitoring, including the online monitoring handbook: In Germany, all monitoring programmes for MSFD up to March 2020 need to be described in a monitoring handbook and accessible to the public.

The group **thanked** Ms Walker for the overview and **noted** the information. A final version will be available before end of 2019.

1. **SWIMWAY conference**

*Document: WG-Swimway-19-3-7-Draft-conference-report.docx*

Mr Dänhardt presented the report on the SWIMWAYs conference, including conference components and future steps.

The group discussed how to involve the policy pillar – as participation by politicians to the conference was low. Mr Kellermann suggested using the EU Green Day in Brussels as forum to inform on SWIMWAY or possibly suggest and initiate a brainstorming process towards a Fish Directive.

Ms Walker informed on already existing  [Species Fact Sheets for the Wadden Sea Fish Strategy](https://rijkewaddenzee.nl/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/NHP0090-factsheets-DEF-ONLINE-LOW2.pdf) providing an overview of 19 species in the Wadden Sea sampled in the demersal young fish survey.

Ms Buitenkamp suggested to use being part of a bigger picture to enhance visibility of SWIMWAY.

Ms Busch informed that conference participants and other interested persons on the mailing list will be informed in a last email containing the conference report and pictures, as well as information on the special issue. In addition, the report will be made available on the CWSS website.

The group **thanked** for the report and presentation and **endorsed** the document.

1. **Risk assessment, risk management**

*Document: WG-Swimway-19-3-9-SWOT.docx, WG-Swimway-19-3-9-SWOT\_Annex.pptx*

Mr Kellermann introduced to SWOT analysis (strengths and weaknesses, as well as opportunities and threats. The group performed a SWOT analysis with the following outcome:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **INTERNAL FACTORS** | **STRENGTHS** | **WEAKNESSES** |
| * Common understanding of the issue * Embedded in trilateral cooperation * Timely topic, matching other activities and frameworks * Important ecosystem element – linking trophic levels * important vectors for ecosystem understanding * Resonates with ecosystem approach | * Largely invisible (subject fish) * Lack of research priority for Wadden Sea * Differences between priorities in the three countries (DK, D, NL) * Justification- not enough to offer (input vs output). * Discontinuous participation to this group * long time scales * Asking for too much and no getting back in return |
| **EXTERNAL FACTORS** | **OPPORTUNITIES** | **THREATS** |
| * Flyway as inspiration to tell our story * Increasing awareness * Inspiring meetings, creative community * Foodweb-context * Overarching frameworks (Ocean research decade) * Part of a changing world (Climate change * Part of successful Swimway approach * Building with Nature | * No funding no SWIMWAY (projects and overall coordination) * Economic interests may block initiatives * Opposing trends in high water coastal protection * May generate new opposition (e.g., fisheries) |

Mr Kellermann summarised that there are a considerable number of strengths, about the same amount of weaknesses, a lot of opportunities and few threats.

The group **agreed** with this first collection of SWOT and that the process will be continued and these items will be taken up for risk assessment at the next meeting.

1. **Terms of Reference SWIMWAY organisation 2020 and beyond**

*Document: WG-Swimway-19-3-8-Proposal-ToR-constituency.docx*

The group discussed the first draft of Terms of Reference, including the uptake of fisheries to the SWIMWAY group.

Mr Jørgensen suggested referred to the Framework for Sustainable Fisheries as of Annex 3 in the [Tønder Declaration](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/sites/default/files/2014_toender%20declaration.pdf) 2014.

Ms Busch suggested to take up fisheries as far as these relate to the SWIMWAY Action Programme.

Mr Jørgensen reminded guidance from the WSB30 meeting in that fisheries should be considered. One way may be workshops and to consider involvement of the new partnership hub in Wilhelmshaven. The group may tackle the “Framework for Sustainable Fisheries” in their next meeting to determine what falls under this group. He further outlined that it falls under TG-M responsibility to see that all items of Trilateral Declarations are tackled in the most practical way, this includes fisheries.

The group **agreed** to take this item up at the next meeting and to **consider** bringing fisheries stakeholders in SWIMWAY together at a workshop.

The group discussed its structure and members, as well as the draft ToR as provided by the chair and CWSS (first results are in Annex 4). Mr Kellermann asked the group to come up with 1) a half pager per country/state on how to deal with the issue of stakeholders in SWIMWAY, including (national) and 2) suggestion to the Terms of Reference well before and in preparation of the next meeting.

The group **noted** the information and agreed to discuss the ToR and group structure at their next meeting, based on the half-pagers and suggestions to ToR

1. **Any other business and next meeting**

In light of the upcoming World Fish Migration Day 16 May 2020 and the global SWIMWAY initiative, Mr Kellermann will meet with Mr Wanningen on 3 December to discuss this matter.

The group **noted** the information and **expressed** principal willingness to contribute to global initiative.

Ms Busch referred to different activities labelled SWIMWAY and how these relate to each other. Mr Dänhardt indicated that there are two branches of the trilateral SWIMWAY and asked how to deal with that. He suggested to compile information on SWIMWAY on the CWSS homepage and to link to activities and other pages

The group **agreed** that Wadden Sea SWIMWAY activities should be presented under a CWSS website, and that the group should deliver input for such an overview.

The date of the next meeting will be selected under consideration of WSB31 and the next TG-M meetings. Location for the next meeting will be in Denmark. For a meeting in the Netherlands, RWS was suggested.

1. **Outlook**

The Chairperson thanked the Waddenacademie for splendid hospitality, CWSS for organisation and support, and participants for a fruitful discussion. He closed the meeting at 17:00 on 02 December 2019.

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**ANNEX 1: List of participants**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

3rd Meeting of the

**Ad hoc Working Group SWIMWAY (WG-SWIMWAY 2)**

02 December 2019

Leeuwarden, Germany

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Chair** | | | |
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| **Denmark** | | | |
| **Mr Henrik G. Pind Jørgensen**  Environment Protection Agency  Skovridervej 3, Arnum  DK-6510 Gram  phone: +45 72 54 34 44  [hepgj@mst.dk](mailto:hepgj@mst.dk) | |  | |
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| **Netherlands** | | | |
| **Ms Martha Buitenkamp**  Programma naar een Rijke Waddenzee  Brusselseweg 6  NL - 9321 TN Peize  Phone: +31 (0) 621578477 E-Mail: [m.buitenkamp@anantis.nl](mailto:m.buitenkamp@anantis.nl) | | **Ms Lies van Nieuwerburgh**  Ministry of infrastructure and Watermanagement  NL- Groningen  Phone: +31 6 15 21 22 34  E-Mail: [lies.van.nieuwerburgh@rws.nl](mailto:lies.van.nieuwerburgh@rws.nl) | |
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| **Secretary** | | | |
| **Ms Julia A Busch**  Common Wadden Sea Secretariat |  | | |
| **Invited guests** | | |
| **Mr Andreas Dänhardt**  Phone: +49 179 5171539  E-Mail: [andreas@daenhardt.com](mailto:andreas@daenhardt.com) | | **Mr Wouter van der Heij**  Waddenvereniging  Postbus 90  NL-8860 AB Harlingen  Phone: +  E-Mail: [vanderheij@waddenvereniging.nl](mailto:vanderheij@waddenvereniging.nl) |
| **Ms Paddy Walker**  Tethys: aquatic ecosystem advice  Mûnebuorren 25  NL 9132 EJ, Engwierum  Phone: +31622278193  E-Mail: Paddy [tethysadvice@gmail.com](mailto:tethysadvice@gmail.com) | | **Mr Jeroen Huisman**  Hogeschool Van Hall Larenstein – VHL University of Applied Science  PO box 1528  8901 BV Leeuwarden  jeroen.huisman@wur.nl/jeroen.huisman@hvhl.nl |

**ANNEX 2: Agenda**

FINAL AGENDA

**Ad hoc Working Group Swimway**

**(WG-Swimway 3)**

2 December 2019

Leeuwarden, Netherlands

1. Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the Agenda

The meeting will be opened by the Chairperson at 10:00 hours on 2 December 2019. WG-Swimway will be invited to adopt the draft agenda of the meeting.

1. **Adoption of the draft summary record**

*Document: WG-Swimway-19-3-2-WG-Swimway-3\_Summary-record\_v0.3.docx, WG-Swimway-19-3-2-WG-Swimway-3\_Summary-record\_ANNEX4.pdf*

Proposal: Adopt the draft Summary Record of WG-Swimway 19-2

1. Announcements

Participants of the meeting will be invited to make announcements relevant to the cooperation.

Proposal: Note the information

1. Trilateral network

Information on WSB 30 meeting in Wilhelmshaven and on the meeting of the Task Group Monitoring and Assessment [TG-MA] [Adi].

Proposal: note the information

1. Swimway projects

*Document: WG-Swimway-19-3-5-1-Draft-policy-report.docx, WG-Swimway-19-3-5-2-Project Citizen Science*

Information on recent developments with respect to funding organizations and in particular to review the projects run under the SWIMWAY action programme [Adi] & presentation on policy project [Martha].

* 1. Sluice management [Marina/Adi]
  2. Physical bottlenecks for Wadden Sea fishes
  3. Data exchange and access [Paddy]
  4. Policy review [Martha]
  5. Citizen science [Rainer]

Proposal: Note the information

1. Monitoring and data synthesis

Presentation on first results of monitoring study [Paddy], including 1) types of relevant data for the SWIMWAY approach (apart from fish, e.g. specific habitat data, or data on important predators or prey, which are linked to essential fish habitats); 2) inventory (including metadata, maps, contact person) of existing fish monitoring activities with possible relevance for TMAP; 3) Prepare a sketch of possible future SWIMWAY data collation and exchange systems.

Proposal: note the information

1. SWIMWAY conference

*Document: WG-Swimway-19-3-7-Draft-conference-report.docx*

Report on SWIWMAY conductivity conference [Andreas].

Proposal: note the information and endorse conference report

1. Risk assessment, risk management

*Document: WG-Swimway-19-3-9-SWOT.docx, WG-Swimway-19-3-9-SWOT\_Annex.pptx*

Perform SWOT analysis: discuss strengths and weaknesses of the group, as well as explore opportunities and threats of the SWIMWAY action programme [Adi].

Proposal: Agree upon SWOT of the SWIMWAY action programme.

1. Terms of Reference SWIMWAY organisation 2020 and beyond

*Document: WG-Swimway-19-3-8-Proposal-ToR-constituency.docx*

Discuss the perspective of an enlarged constituency and task list, [Adi].

Proposal: Recommend on transformation of the WG to an EG to the Task Group Management (TG-M) and to endorse the ToR

1. Any Other Business and next meeting

*Document: WG-Swimway-19-3-10-FishMigrationDay.docx, WG-Swimway-19-3-10-Annex-WFMD2020 brochure version nov 2019.pdf*

The group will be invited to note the document and to discuss any other business

1. Closing

The meeting will be closed no later than 17:00 hours on 2 December 2019.

**ANNEX 3: Action items arising from WG-SWIMWAY 1**

ACTION ITEMS

**Ad hoc Working Group SWIMWAY**

**(WG-SWIMWAY 3)**

2 December 2019

Leeuwarden, The Netherlands

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Action #** | **Agenda item** | **Actions agreed upon** | **Person responsible** | **Deadline** |
| 1 | 5.2 | Project outline for BMU | Adi | 2020-01 |
| 2 | 5.4 | Finalisation of policy review | DK, Martha | 2020-01 |
| 3 | 7 | Mailing to SWIMWAY conference participants and beyond | Conference committee | 2019-12 |
| 4 | 8 | Risk assessment based on SWOT | all | Next meeting |
| 5 | 9 | 1) a half pager per country/state on how to deal with the issue of stakeholders in SWIMWAY, including (national) and 2) suggestion to the Terms of Reference | all | 2019-1-15 |
| 6 | 10 | Date and location next meeting | Adi/CWSS, all | 2020-01 |
| 7 | 19-2/7 | Prepare road map for the SWIMWAY programme -2024 | Adi/all | 2019-12 |

**ANNEX 4: Amendments to proposed Terms of Reference for Future Expert Group**

Draft Terms of Reference for a trilateral Expert Group SWIMWAY

(EG-SWIMWAY)

2020 – 2024

2020 – 2024

**Background**

At the Ministerial Council Meetings in 2014 and 2018, the three countries stated and confirmed the wish, to implement the five Trilateral Fish Targets as laid down in the Wadden Sea Plan 2010. This is based on the facts of the fish community in the Wadden Sea being exceptionally diverse and that many fish populations experienced a steep decline in recent decades. To that effect the trilateral SWIMWAY Vision 2018-2024 was approved by the ministers at the 13th Governmental Conference on the protection of the Wadden Sea on 18 May 2018 in Leeuwarden, NL, and the SWIMWAY Action Programme as adopted by the Wadden Sea Board at WSB28. In fulfilling its mandate, this group will duly take into account and seek to promote the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) insofar as these are relevant to its work.

**Objective**

The overarching goal of the group is implementation of the latest adopted trilateral fish targets, by further elaborating and implementing the Swimway Action Programme and its four pillars: research and monitoring; policy; measures and stakeholder involvement, communication and education.

**Tasks**

(1) Coordination and implementation of the Swimway Vision and Action Programme;

(2) Develop and implement SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-bound) sub-targets for overarching Trilateral Fish Targets;

(3) Contribution to Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP);

(4) Contribution to and update of the thematic report on fish and fisheries of the Quality Status Report (QSR);

(5) Communication with and outreach to relevant stakeholders..

**Deliverables**

(1) Acquisition of collaborative projects with relevance to the SWIMWAY vision and action programme;

(2) SMART sub-targets for Trilateral Fish Targets and monitoring their implementation;

(3) Recommendation for operational fish monitoring programme(s) under TMAP;

(4) Regular QSR thematic reports (following process) on fish, based on recent monitoring and under consideration of additional data.

(5) Targeted outreach documents, including policy

**Composition/Membership**

Chairperson with capacity to function as SWIMWAY Action Programme Coordinator.

Two members per region (DK, HH, LS, NL, SH) and NGOs, representing scientific expertise in Wadden Sea fish and/or monitoring and management measures. Attention should be paid to involvement of stakeholders and the right level of representatives from each region.

Participation by additional experts to SWIWMAY meetings and activities is welcome.

**Time schedule**

According to the decision by the Ministerial Conference, the implementation of The Swimway Vision/Action Programme is foreseen to be accomplished within the German Presidency plus two years i.e. in the period 2020 – 2024.