

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 34)

18 November 2021
Cuxhaven, Germany



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| Agenda Item: | 5.3 |
| Subject: | Progress Report TG-MA |
| Document No.: | WSB 34/5.3 |
| Date: | 28 October 2021 |
| Submitted by: | TG-MA |

This document contains a progress report of the Task Group Monitoring and Assessment since WSB 33. A single TG-MA meeting was held as online conference call due to the contact and travel restriction resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Proposal: The WSB is invited to note the information.

Task Group Monitoring and Assessment (TG-MA) progress report to WSB 34

Since WSB-33 the TG-MA has progressed on the following specific items:

1. Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP) and trilateral data handling

1.1 TMAP

The TG-MA envisaged a series of workshops in 2021 with the aim to fill the discovered deficiencies in TMAP but also to explore the integration of new parameters from emerging issues (e.g. climate change, new pollutants, alien species). The workshops would be planned in cooperation with relevant trilateral groups (if applicable) but partly also with external experts. To allow for physical meetings, deemed necessary and conducive to produce adequate results, and under consideration of the COVID-19 situation, the events were shifted to autumn 2021 or winter 2021/22. Online events would be considered to safeguard further progress if necessary.

The following conceptual TMAP workshops were originally planned during 2021 to further modernize and develop the programme:

- Subtidal Habitats: originally scheduled for 1-2 November 2021 in Büsum, Germany, but needed to be postponed due to insufficient participation.
- Beaches and Dunes / Salt Marshes: The Expert Group confirmed to include the exercises into their regular meeting schedule and to split these activities into a review of the current TMAP status this autumn and another session on new/adjusted parameters in spring 2022.
- Geomorphology and Hydrology: Although initially planned as a separate workshop, these items were now allocated as sub-topics within an event on climate change foreseen early in 2022.

The EG-Swimway delivered a comprehensive proposal for a trilateral fish monitoring as part of TMAP to be further evaluated in TG-MA. The Expert Groups Alien Species and Climate Change had also been requested to come forward with a comparable draft monitoring proposals and the corresponding exchange was ongoing. TG-MA would further discuss on how to proceed with additional potential TMAP parameter groups while limiting the workshops to a feasible number.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

1.2 Trilateral Data Handling

The data delivery, storage and presentation processes would need to undergo further exploration and existing deficiencies needed to be defined more precisely. This process would result in a common workshop on data handling, which was originally planned to be held in Copenhagen during the first week of October on invitation by the Danish Environmental Protection Agency. The event needed to be postponed to the last week of January 2022. Members of TG-MA and EG-Data would be involved as well as selected external experts. The expertise of external data repository, storage, handling and exchange facilities with data requirements and data diversity, comparable with those of the trilateral cooperation, was considered useful to achieve tangible results and solutions. on data handling, storage and presentation. The aim of the event would be to assess and, based on the findings, potentially update the data handling strategy towards a realistic implementation scenario.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

2 Quality Status Report (QSR)

2.1 QSR Thematic Reports

The QSR Thematic Reports selected for updating were all in progress and partly finalized. Final drafts were originally expected by 15 October 2021, in time for a possible presentation of the findings during the 15th International Wadden Sea Symposium (30. November - 03. December 2021 in Büsum, Germany). Despite the noted delays in completion or during an extended review process, the expected contentual information would be fully available for the presentations scheduled at ISWSS. Once the drafts were accepted as complete, CWSS would coordinate the transfer of the reports into the web-based format as part of the common web page.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

3. Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP)

Members of TG-MA had been a vital part of the process to foster the SIMP rapid assessment reviews on invitation by TG-WH and TG-M.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.