

ADOPTED SUMMARY RECORD

34th Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 34)

18 November 2021
Online Meeting



1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened by the chair, Karin Lochte, at 09:00 on 18 November 2021. Due to Covid-19, the planned meeting in Cuxhaven was cancelled on short notice and transferred into an online meeting.

The chair passed on apologies by Joost de Ruig from Rijkswaterstaat, The Netherlands. He was replaced by Linda Rose-Santhagens who attended the WSB for the first time.

The chair passed on apologies by Donné Slangen from the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality in the Netherlands; the Ministry was represented by Peter van Velzen.,

She passed on apologies and the farewell by Ingelore Hering Lower Saxon Environment Ministry and welcomed her successor Volker Brengelmann.

The chair passed on further apologies by Theo Meskers of the Municipality of Hollands Kroon and by Preben Friis Hauge (Wadden Sea Forum) who was replaced by Pieter van Kuppenveld.

A list of participants is in Annex 1.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Document: [WSB 34/2 WSB 34 Draft Annotated Agenda](#)

The agenda contains a list of the key topics to be discussed and to be decided upon. An outline of the agenda can be found in Annex 2.

The WSB **adopted** the agenda.

3. Record WSB 33

Document: [WSB 34/3 WSB 33 Draft Summary Record](#)

On proposal by Vera Knoke, the meeting agreed to delete the last sentence on page 7, ending with “...socio-economic values”.

The WSB **adopted** the summary record of WSB 33 with the agreed changes.

4. Announcements

Denmark

- The authorities and Esbjerg Municipality are currently analysing the potential risk of PFAS-contaminated rivers and sediments on the mainland due to legal use of fire foam until 2011 on places where there has been practicing firefighting. Some of the rivers are unfortunately close to the Wadden Sea;
- The results of a pilot project on Sustainable Tourism Development (STD) in 11 Danish National Parks was presented in Esbjerg in November 2021. It demonstrated the constructive dialogue among stakeholders, the importance of collaboration and shared responsibilities across sectors, and the potential of national parks and protected areas to create value at multiple levels;
- The Danish Wadden Sea National Park will face major budget cuts in 2023 and therefore the new board may choose to concentrate on key obligations.

Germany

- Ilka Wagner announced that after the federal election in September, a new federal government is expected to be established in December 2021. Climate protection is one of the important political issues;
- The 15. International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS) in Büsum, Schleswig-Holstein (30.11. – 3.12.2021) was cancelled as meeting in person on short notice due to Covid-19. The meeting will now be held as online meeting which was fully acknowledged by the WSB. The CWSS was thanked by giving their support in using the newly established meeting platform “Wadden Sea World”;
- Mr Hans Gabanyi (Hamburg Agency for Environment and Energy) retired in November 2021, a successor has not yet been appointed. After 30 years as Director of the Hamburg Wadden Sea National Park, Mr Klaus Jane will retire by the end of 2021, a decision on a successor will be taken before end of 2021;
- A new farmland policy has been adopted for the Hamburg Wadden Sea National Park, which covers about 90% of the entire farmland of the island of Neuwerk;
- In Lower Saxony, a legislative process is ongoing, which intends to include the prohibition of all kinds of drilling in the Lower Saxon Wadden Sea National Park Act.

Netherlands

- After the elections in March 2021, the Netherlands expects to have a cabinet in December 2021. It is expected that the new government’s main focus are investments in climate and nature, including nitrogen reduction;
- After the MSC Zoe incident, the Dutch Safety Board prepared a number of recommendations in 2020 ([Safe container transport north of the Wadden Islands. Lessons learned following the loss of containers from MSC ZOE.](#)) A report in September 2021 has been published on the implementation of these recommendations of which two

are still ongoing: a joint proposal with DK and DE to IMO on container safety regulations, and a stronger cooperation with the German coastguard to monitor containerships;

- On request by WWF, Peter van Velzen informed about the buy-out of shrimp vessels in the Dutch Wadden Sea, which was financed by the Waddenfonds and agreed to send further information about the agreement including legal aspects.

Nature NGOs

- The German Nature NGOs published a critical joint statement on the BMVI proposal to amend the maritime traffic regulations within the German Wadden Sea National Parks mainly because of too many fast-traffic channels and more and larger kites surf areas, which are only partly in line with the compromises achieved previously on the regional level;
- In Denmark, a large project funded by a private foundation has improved the status of breeding birds also supporting the implementation of the Breeding Birds Action Plan. Also in the Netherlands, several projects are conducted to enhance the protection of beach breeding birds. A closer exchange between the projects should be envisaged;
- Due to opposition against plans for new mining activities and cables crossing in Schiermonnikoog, the Dutch government has postponed the plans;
- Stranded dead harbour porpoises are currently investigated by Wageningen University to find the causes.

Wadden Sea Forum

- The WSF announced that the project proposal TRILAWATT (maintain and analyse data on geomorphology, sedimentology and hydrodynamics, see progress report to WSB 33) has been approved;
- Part 2 of the joint shipping project (WST/WSF) has been approved by the German Federal Environmental Foundation (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt DBU);
- WSF is also cooperating with the initiative “water as leverage”.

CWSS

- CWSS has taken over the organisation of the Youth Conference in Sankt Peter Ording in September 2022 which will be funded by Germany (BfN). The project coordinator Ms Simone Prestes Dürrnagel started her job on 1 November 2021;
- Ditte Hviid, who replaced Annika Bostelmann as communication officer at CWSS during her parental leave, will leave the CWSS to take up a new position by 1 December 2021. The meeting welcomed back Annika Bostelmann and thanked Ditte Hviid for her commitment and work at CWSS and wished her all the best for her future work;
- The cooperation with the Swiss watchmaker company “Oris” supporting World Heritage communication and awareness continued with a marine litter collection event in the Dutch Wadden Sea in September 2021 ([details see website](#)). The Dutch Sailing Association (Wadvaarders) also supported the event with over 16 vessels;
- The Chair suggested to discuss the preparation of the next Marine Programme Site Managers Conference, which will take place in autumn 2023. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre has requested the Wadden Sea to host the conference. The event will take

place during the Danish presidency. Denmark announced its willingness to host this conference as trilateral event, probably in collaboration with Schleswig-Holstein and with the support of the CWSS. [Note: on 22 November 2021, UNESCO sent an official letter with a request to the Wadden Sea states to host the event in the Wadden Sea in autumn 2023.]

The WSB **noted** the information.

The WSB **took note of** the intention of Denmark to host the next Marine Programme Site Managers Conference as a trilateral event in autumn 2023 and to organize it together with Schleswig - Holstein and **instructed** CWSS to support the preparation.

5. Implementation Leeuwarden Declaration

5.1 Wadden Sea World Heritage

5.1.1 Progress report of the Single Integrated Management Plan

Document: [WSB 34 /5.1/1 Progress report of the SIMP](#)

The meeting welcomed the progress in development of the single integrated management plan (SIMP) and the input of the SIMP drafting groups on the five key topics.

The WSB **noted** the report.

5.1.2 Ad hoc Working Group Wadden Sea World Heritage Foundation (WG WHF)

Documents: [WSB 34/5.1/2 World Heritage Foundation. Draft Statutes and draft endowment transaction \(sent by email\)](#)

Thomas Borchers, chair of the ad hoc Working Group, informed about the progress in the establishment of a World Heritage Foundation and presented the draft statutes and the draft endowment transaction to the meeting.

He explained that both documents are the main documents for the establishment of a foundation. Both are in-line with the legal requirements of the Lower Saxony Foundation Law. Guidance from WSB was requested to define the role of the Founders in the Foundation and to get a common understanding to what extent the foundation should be independent from its 6 founders.

Peter van Velzen underlined that the independence of the foundation is an important condition for the Netherlands and that a veto or direct influence by the founders on the foundation was not acceptable. Therefore, he expected problems when the competent authority prepares the advice to the parliament. He underlined that trust should be given to the appointed members.

Ilka Wagner acknowledged the progress made so far and was positive to resolve the remaining issues. Although the foundation would be independent, Germany supported a veto right in case of major issues.

Anne Marie Rasmussen acknowledged the impressive work done so far and supported the view of Ilka Wagner. In addition, she proposed to better define the regional scope of the foundation in the funding guidelines and to have a close look at the Council and Board.

Hans-Ulrich Rösner acknowledged the good progress made in establishing a trilateral foundation. However, he advised to look into possible contradictions or compliance problems e.g., the overlap between the Executive Director of the Foundation Board and the Council the strict formulations in the Funding Guidelines.

Thomas Borchers thanked the WSB for guidance and support so that the founders would be able to take a final decision. After a legal check with the Netherlands and Denmark, and the inclusion of the Dutch comments on the ANBI requirement for tax exemption, the drafts would be submitted for national consultations.

The WSB **agreed** to submit the draft statutes and endowment act to the national consultations for further improvement, taking into account the considerations discussed. Editorial comments on the drafts should be submitted within one week (25 November 2021).

5.1.3 Report Network Group Sustainable Tourism

Document: [WSB 34/5.1/3 NG-ST progress report](#)

The WSB **noted** the information.

5.2 Nature conservation and integrated ecosystem management

Progress Report TG-M

Document: [WSB 34/5.2 TG-M progress report](#)

The WSB chair introduced the TG-M proposal to engage the level of competent national shipping authorities regarding shipping safety under initiative of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management and to potentially use the SIMP structure to further and follow-up this discussion on trilateral level.

The WSB **endorsed** the proposal and thanked the Dutch ministry for the initiative.

In addition, the WSB chair reminded on concerns regarding shipping safety which the Advisory Board of the National Park Lower Saxony had addressed to the Minister of Environment, Energy, Construction and Climate Protection of Lower Saxony, who approached Ms Lochte as chair of the TWSC on 3 March 2020. She informed the Ministry in May 2020 that the topic will be taken up in the TWSC by means of the round table shipping, which in the meantime has been postponed. For a follow-up letter to the Ministry, she would welcome progress in this matter and clear statements stressing the trilateral collaboration.

In the framework of the SIMP activities are being developed to strengthen exchange of information and trilateral collaboration in relation to shipping and ports, which will contribute to the Round Table. These, along with above stated proposal and the approved

joint project on shipping and ports by WSF and WST (see 4. Announcements WSF) may provide input in time for the Ministerial Declaration 2022.

The WSB **noted** the information and **agreed** to provide more information and clear statements on trilateral collaboration towards shipping safety to the Chair.

5.3 Trilateral monitoring and assessment programme

TG-MA progress report

Document: [WSB 34/5.3 TG MA progress report](#)

The WSB chair invited comments on the progress report of the Task Group Monitoring and Assessment, including progress in developing the Quality Status Report of the Wadden Sea.

The meeting **noted** the progress report and voiced its concern about the progress, i.a. because workshops were cancelled due to insufficient participation or postponed. This concerned specifically the data handling workshop. More concrete information would be needed about the obstacles, possible solutions and consequences to make progress. The topic would need to be addressed in time for the preparation of the next Governmental Conference.

The WSB **noted** the information and, as a matter of urgency, **encouraged** all members to support the work of TG-MA with high priority to enable the TG-MA to submit to the WSB the options ahead.

The Chair **agreed** to contact the TG-MA Chair Adi Kellermann on the issues of concern and to discuss how to proceed.

Special Agenda Item: Youth Involvement

A special item was added to the agenda to discuss the topic “Youth involvement” from various perspectives.

Ditte Hviid introduced the 2021 Annual Report with a lead article on the Wadden Sea young scientific generation, and the current activities of the International Wadden Sea School (IWSS on behalf of Anja Szczesinski). Simone Prestes Dürrnagel, CWSS project officer, introduced the upcoming Youth Conference in September 2022. Finally, Amelie Banke (FÖJ volunteer at CWSS, financed by Hamburg) shared her experience and views on youth engagement in the TWSC.

There was encouragement among board members for more direct involvement of young people in the TWSC. It was noted that an active involvement would be important to create a better understanding of the work done for the Wadden Sea trilaterally.

It was also discussed that the perception of mainly administrative type of work in the CWSS may be a barrier to greater involvement from young people who are seeking ways to get more involved. It was suggested that some thoughts should be given to the communication of our work in a more accessible and clear way, especially explaining why we engage in the work we are doing.

In many regions of the Wadden Sea, there is a long and strong history of volunteering. Green NGOs in the German Wadden Sea have over 40-years’ experience to train and work with

volunteers. Today you will find about 150 young volunteers at any one time in the Wadden Sea. There has also been some exchange of German volunteers with visitor centres across the border.. The meeting also discussed about the possibility of an exchange programme of internships or students between the three states.

With regards to the Youth Conference, the meeting discussed how to engage with existing volunteer networks and the feasibility of a youth ambassador system linked to World Heritage and the trilateral cooperation.

The Chair proposed that the Youth Conference should develop a statement as an input for the Governmental Conference. Furthermore, the role and function of a potential trilateral World Heritage youth ambassador system should be investigated, as well as, how to increase involvement of young people in the Trilateral Cooperation.

6. Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Hub

Document: [WSB 33/6/1 OPteam Partnership Hub Progress Report](#)

The meeting took note of the progress and agreed to the proposed approach indicated in the report. The chair thanked the OPteam for the working being done.

The WSB **noted** the report and **agreed** to the proposal to execute the final evaluation of the pilot phase of the Partnership Hub in 2022 according to § 2 Leeuwarden Declaration with support of an external consultant.

7. Trilateral Governmental Conference 2022

Documents:

[WSB 34/7/1 Progress Report Drafting Group Ministerial Declaration](#)

[WSB 34/7/3 Outline Conference Programme TGC 2022](#)

Thomas Borchers introduced the document for the preparation of the Declaration. On proposal by the drafting group, the meeting agreed to schedule an additional online WSB meeting end of April 2022 in addition to WSB 35 on 10 March 2022, to allow a proper discussion of the first draft of the Ministerial Declaration.

As proposed by the drafting group, the meeting discussed what could be key political themes and most relevant specific issues of concern to be taken up in the Declaration, and what will be the main products of the TWSC in the next years. This part was introduced by the secretary of the CWSS. He reminded the WSB that the milestones achieved in the TWSC over the last 40 years were all based upon political will and ambitions and suggested to aim again for this ambition in e.g. the topics listed in the SIMP by striving for the highest common denominator when furthering the trilateral exchange.

Ilka Wagner stated that the focus should include the five priority areas the German presidency had announced at the beginning of their period, namely implementation of the SIMP, partnerships and foundation, TMAP, flyway and international cooperation. In addition, topics on sustainable use of the area, also addressed in the SIMP, would need continued attention, e.g., renewable energy or fisheries. The Ministerial Declaration should be as precise

as possible with a good narrative in order to convince ministers. She supported the proposal by the Netherlands to put climate change and loss of biodiversity in the focus.

Anne Marie Rasmussen underlined the need to define concrete goals for the consultation of the Ministerial Declaration. The priorities for the Danish presidency were currently under preparation and would have the national and European policies as basis. Focus would be on nature conservation and restoration as well as climate change and energy transition. Sustainable use for the Wadden Sea area e.g. Tourism should be considered on this background. She informed the meeting that she herself with the consent from her minister will take over the position of chair of the WSB under the Danish presidency. The consequences for the Danish delegation will be examined. (see formal statement by Anne Marie Vaegter Rasmussen).

Peter van Velzen referred to the WSB 33 document with the Dutch priority items for the Ministerial Declaration, namely operationalization of management objectives, SIMP, sustainable use and ecosystem services, and most importantly climate change. The Declaration should also reflect the political ambition of the three states related to climate change and loss of biodiversity.

Hans-Ulrich Rösner supported the idea that the Declaration should come with a convincing narrative taking into account the increasingly high ambition level to be seen with international and European policies, and that TWSC should aim for the “highest denominator”.

In response to the call of Marco Brodde to improve the connection between the local and trilateral level, it was stated that the SIMP process is dealing with this issue by strengthening the involvement of the local site managers. Peter van Velzen stated that also more focus on operationalisation will help in this respect.

In addition, Cristina Egsvang offered to present a strategy on how they are working with trilateral themes at the next WSB.

The chair concluded that striving for an ambitious level was generally acknowledged. She called upon Germany and Denmark to submit their issues for the agenda for the next Conference, and signalled the consensus to focus on a few items to be well handled instead of taking on too much without sufficient resources.

Thomas Borchers gave a brief overview of the Conference Programme TGC 2022 pointing out that the Minister’s segment of the conference will start with the National Delegations Meetings on Tuesday, 29. November at noon, continue with the conference dinner, followed by the Governmental Council Meeting on Wednesday morning 30 November, to be finished by the signing ceremony and press conference.

The WSB **agreed** on an additional online meeting at the end of April (week 25-29 April).

The WSB **instructed** the Drafting Group to prepare a first draft of the Declaration to WSB 35 accordingly.

The WSB **noted** the general outline of the conference programme TGC 2022

Letter Wadden Sea Ports

Document: [WSB 34/7/2 Letter of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Ports](#)

The Wadden Sea Ports offered support and are interested to cooperate with Wadden Sea Forum and the Wadden Sea Team.

Frank Ahlhorn and Hans-Ulrich Rösner underlined that the Wadden Sea Ports were involved in the trilateral shipping project.

The WSB **welcomed** the letter and referred the WST/WSF to **note** the information.

8. Wadden Sea Board Advisors: Wadden Sea Forum; Wadden Sea Team

Pieter van Kuppenveld informed the meeting that the establishment of regional round tables on the coastal green deal was continued by WSF, and that the Dutch ‘Omgevingsberaad’ and the Danish Wadden Sea Board have been contacted. In Germany, there are contacts with members of the national park advisory boards. These regional round tables are requested to act as the backbone for fostering the connection between the local and the trilateral level

With regard to the progress report on the shipping round table and the recently started trilateral shipping project (WSF/WST) the advisors were asked to submit a paper to the next WSB 35.

In addition, given the other affiliated items on shipping as discussed under agenda item 5.2, the chair welcomed the proposal by the WSF and asked the CWSS and the WST/WSF to prepare a joint presentation at the next WSB 35 on shipping.

The WSB **noted** the information and welcomed a paper on the joint shipping project by WSF and WST, as well as an overview-presentation by CWSS.WST/WSF at WSB35

9. Any other business

As agreed and appreciated at last WSB meeting, time for discussion on highlight topics which also shows outcomes of trilateral group’s work should be more often included in the agenda. A few potential topics were mentioned and on proposal by the Chair, CWSS was instructed to collect suggestions for potential themes

The WSB **agreed** on CWSS to collect themes for substantial discussion at WSB meetings.

Bernard Baerends informed that the Representatives convened on 15 November 2021 in which the draft budgets of the CWSS for 2022 were discussed and principally agreed upon.

He was very pleased to inform the meeting that the core budget 2022 of the CWSS would be increased to cover the costs of two additional permanent staff members from 2022 onwards.

Regarding the draft supplementary budget CWSS 2022, like in former years, additional money is granted by the states (and also the Länder) to support the regular tasks as envisaged in the Leeuwarden Declaration. As the Representatives prioritised the item of renewable energy in the draft budget which has not been discussed and assessed beforehand in one of the trilateral groups, the WSB was asked for their approval. This prioritisation was generally welcomed and it was suggested to take into account relevant recent project outcomes, e.g. a webinar organised by the WSF in spring 2021, the contribution of Maren Bauer from Schleswig-Holstein to the UNESCO World Heritage Center Workshop on developing a guidance tool on renewable energies and World Heritage Sites, and the joint statement by the German working group of OCEaN (includes e.g. the Renewable Grid Initiative, NABU, WWF and transmission companies).

The WSB **agreed** to include the additional item renewably energy in the Supplementary Budget.

10. Next meeting

Overview:

WSB 35: 10 March 2022. Netherlands offered to host this meeting. Henk de Vries offered an excursion to the Wadden Sea (salt marsh restoration sites), which received positive reactions.

WSB 36 (Online Meeting) – End April 2022 (no date fixed yet) *Settled on 28 April 2022.*

WSB 37: 26 August 2022 in Wilhelmshaven, back-to-back with Wadden Sea Day.

WSB 38: Optional Sept 2022 (no date fixed yet, pending also on the progress made in August meeting of WSB).

WSB 39: 6 October 2022. Denmark offered to host this meeting

WSB 40: 29 November, Wilhelmshaven, day before Ministerial Council.

WSB 41: 30 Nov, Wilhelmshaven, after Ministerial Council, start-up under Danish presidency

The WSB **noted** the information.

11. Closing

The group thanked the Chair and CWSS for good organisation of the virtual meeting. The chair thanked participants for their engagement and open discussions and closed the meeting at 13:45.

ANNEX 1: List of participants

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**34th meeting of the Wadden Sea Board
(WSB 34)**

18 November 2021



Chair

Prof. Karin Lochte

Burbarg 11
24226 Heikendorf
Mobile: +49 170 9184620
E-Mail: Lochte@deutsche-meeresforschung.de

Denmark

Ms Anne-Marie Vægter Rasmussen
Ministry of Environment and Food of Denmark
Environmental Protection Agency
Tolderlundsvej 5
5000 Odense C
Phone: +45 72 54 47 22
Mobile: +45 21 78 28 01
E-Mail: anvra@mst.dk

Mr Martin Petersen
Head of Department,
Ministry of the Environment and Food,
Environmental Protection Agency,
Skovridervej 3,
DK - 6510 Gram
Phone: +45 2078 2279
E-Mail: mpete@mst.dk

Ms Janne Liburd
Professor, D.Phil., PhD, Department of Design and
Communication, Director, Centre for Tourism,
Innovation and Culture
Universitetsparken 1, DK-6000 Kolding
Phone: +45 6550 1576
Mobile: +45 2813 9918
E-Mail: liburd@sdu.dk

Ms Christina Egsvang Føns
Environmental Executive
Esbjerg Kommune
Torvegade 74
DK-6700 Esbjerg
Phone : +45 76161399
Mobile: +45 20473563
E-Mail : chfns@esbjergkommune.dk

Germany

Ms Ilka Wagner
Head of Division Marine Nature Conservation
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature
Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany
Köthener Strasse 2-3
D-10963 Berlin
Phone: +49 30 18 305 2780
Mobile: +49 173 276 3460
E-Mail: ilka.wagner@bmu.bund.de

Ms Vera Knoke
Ministry of Energy, Agriculture, the Environment,
Nature and Digitalization Schleswig-Holstein,
Mercatorstrasse 3
D - 24106 Kiel
Phone: +49 (0) 431-988 7288
Fax: +49 (0) 431 988 615 7288
E-Mail: vera.knoke@melund.landsh.de

<p>Mr Volker Brengelmann Ministry for Environment, Energy, Building and Climate Protection of Lower Saxony Archivstraße 2 D-30169 Hannover Phone: +49 511 120 3662 E-Mail: volker.brengelmann@mu.niedersachsen.de</p>	<p>Mr Klaus Janke Environmental authority of the free Hanseatic city of Hamburg (BUE), National Park Administration Hamburg Neuenfelder Str. 19 D-21109 Hamburg Phone: + 49 40 428403392 E-Mail : klaus.janke@bukea.hamburg.de</p>
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Netherlands

<p>Mr Peter van Velzen Manager Nature and Water at Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality PO Box 20401 NL – 2500 EK Den Haag Phone: +31 (0)70 3798822 (secr) E-Mail: p.a.a.vanvelzen@minlnv.nl</p>	<p>Ms Linda-Rose Sandhagens Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management P.O. Box 2232 3500 GB The Netherlands Phone: +31 (0)88 7974400 E-Mail: lindarose.sandhagens@rws.nl</p>
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<p>Mr. Henk Staghouwer Deputy Agriculture and Fishery, Landscape and Nature Province of Groningen Postbus 610 NL - 9700 AP Groningen Phone: +31 50 - 316 41 26 E-Mail: h.staghouwer@provinciegroningen.nl</p>	
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Advisors WSF

<p>Mr Pieter von Kuppenveld Wadden Sea Forum Trilateral Wadden Sea Sailing Association T: +31 223 61 86 83 Phone: +31 629 00 11 82 kuppenveld.pljvan@planet.nl</p>	<p>Mr Frank Ahlhorn Wadden Sea Forum Virchowstr. 1 D – 26382 Wilhelmshaven Phone: +49 4421 910818 E-Mail: ahlhorn@waddensea-forum.org</p>
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Advisors Environment

<p>Mr Hans-Ulrich Rösner Wadden Sea Team WWF Germany, Head of Wadden Sea Office Hafenstrasse 3 D - 25813 Husum Phone: +49 151 122 90 848 E-Mail: roesner@wwf.de</p>	<p>Mr Marco Brodde Wadden Sea Team Danish Ornithological Society Phone: +45 30 35 16 37 E-Mail: MarcoRohdeBrodde@gmail.com</p>
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<p>Mr Henk de Vries It Fryske Gea, Director Postbus 3 9244 ZN Beetsterzwaag Phone: +31 (512) 38 14 48 Mobile: +31 (6) 21 53 63 54 E-Mail: h.devries@itfryskegea.nl</p>	
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Common Wadden Sea Secretariat

Mr Bernard Baerends
Executive Secretary

Ms Amelie Banke
Ms Ditte Hviid
Mr Harald Marencic
Ms Julia Busch
Ms Simone Prestes Dürrnagel

Supporting Staff

Mr Thomas Borchers
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature
Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany
Robert-Schuman-Platz 3
D-53175 Bonn
Phone: +49 228 99 305 2629
Mobile: +49 173 2843906
E-Mail: Thomas.Borchers@bmu.bund.de

Ms Margrita Sobottka
National Park Authority Lower Saxony
Virchowstr. 1
D-26382 Wilhelmshaven
Phone: +49 (0)4421 911 277
Mobile: +49 (0)172 4421684
E-Mail: Margrita.Sobottka@nlpvw.niedersachsen.de

Ms Maren Bauer
Ministry of Energy, Agriculture, the Environment,
Nature and Digitalization Schleswig-Holstein
Mercatorstr. 3
D - 24106 Kiel
Phone: +49 431 988 7196
E-Mail: Maren.Bauer@melund.landsh.de

Mr Floris van Bentum
Directorate-General for Public Works and Water
Management
Directorate Noord-Nederland
PO Box 2301
NL-8901 JH Leeuwarden
Phone: +31 (0)615017894
E-Mail: floris.van.bentum@rws.nl

Mr Karst Jaarsma
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
Directorate-General Nature, Fisheries and Rural
Area
Postbus 20401
NL-2500 EK The Hague
Phone : +31 (0)64 85860
E-Mail: k.c.a.jaarsma@minlnv.nl

Ms Heidi Nielsen
Ministry for Environment and Food
Miljøstyrelsen
Skovridervej 3
DK-6510 Gram
Phone: +45 (0)22 19 42 14
E-Mail: heidn@mst.dk

Mr Henrik G. Pind Jørgensen
Environment Protection Agency
Skovridervej 3, Arnum
DK-6510 Gram
phone: +45 (0) 72 54 34 44
E-Mail: hepgj@mst.dk

Invited Guest

ANNEX 2: Agenda

FINAL AGENDA

**34th meeting of the Wadden Sea Board
(WSB 34)**

18 November 2021



- 1. Opening of the Meeting**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 3. Summary Record WSB 33**
- 4. Announcements**
- 5. Implementation Leeuwarden Declaration**
- 6. Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Hub**
- 7. Trilateral Governmental Conference 2022**
- 8. Wadden Sea Board Advisors: Wadden Sea Forum; Wadden Sea Team**
- 9. Any Other Business**
- 10. Next meeting**
- 11. Closing**

ANNEX 3: Action items arising from the 33rd WSB**ACTION ITEMS****34th meeting of the Wadden Sea Board
(WSB 34)**

18 November 2021



Action #	Agenda item	Actions agreed upon	Person responsible	Deadline
1	4	Support preparation of next Marine Programme Site Managers Conference	CWSS	WSB 34
2	5.1.2	Submit the draft statutes and endowment act to the national consultations. Editorial comments on the drafts should be submitted within one week (25 November 2021).	Founders WHF	25 November 2021, Deadline national consultations WSB35
3	5.2	Engage the level of competent national shipping authorities regarding shipping safety under initiative of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management and to potentially use SIMP structure to further and follow-up this discussion on trilateral level	Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management	As appropriate
4	5.3	Contact the TG-MA Chair Adi Kellermann on the issues of concern and to discuss how to proceed.	Chair	ASAP
5	6	Execute the final evaluation of the pilot phase of the Partnership Hub in 2022 according to § 2 Leeuwarden Declaration with support of an external consultant.	OpTeamPH	
6	7	Prepare a first draft of the Ministerial Conference Declaration	MCD drafting group	WSB 35
7	8	Prepare a progress report on joint shipping project	WST, WSF	WSB 35