

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 41)

15 May 2023
Esbjerg, Denmark



Agenda Item:	8
Subject:	Information paper to WSB on shipping and ports
Document No.:	WSB 41/8/2
Date:	26/4/2023
Submitted by:	Wadden Sea Forum

The project Sustainable Shipping and Ports at the Wadden Sea funded by the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU) held on April 19th 2023 its last meeting. The partners as well as the signatories of the *Sustainable Shipping and Ports Initiative for a well-protected Wadden Sea* were invited to participate. Together, they selected three topics on which they wish to continue to cooperate in the next years and asked the Wadden Sea Forum (WSF), lead of this project, to act as the supporting platform to this cross-sectoral collaboration.

The partners want to focus now on more concrete results in their common drive to reduce the impact of ports and shipping on the World Heritage Wadden Sea. They asked the Wadden Sea Forum to submit an advice to the Wadden Sea Board, about the follow-up towards the next Trilateral Governmental Conference.

Proposal: The WSB is invited to take note of the document.
The WSB is invited to support the continuation of the cross-sectoral dialogue.
The WSB is asked to welcome and advice on the follow-up of the Sustainable Shipping and Ports Initiative for a well-protected Wadden Sea in the next WSB.

Background

Since 2021, a cooperation between the shipping sector, the ports and the environmental NGOs (eNGOs) of the trilateral Wadden Sea Region has been initiated and was supported by two projects: the Partnership Hub Shipping project, funded by the TWSC, and the project Sustainable Shipping and Ports at the Wadden Sea, funded by the DBU. As a result of these projects, 39 organisations signed on November 29th 2022 a joint statement on the “Sustainable Shipping and Port Initiative for a well-protected Wadden Sea” (SustSPI) at the occasion of the 14th Trilateral Governmental Conference on the Protection of the Wadden Sea. Since then, six more organisations joined the cross-sectoral cooperation by signing the joint statement. *The present document contains an updated list of the signatories.*

On the final meeting of the “SustSPI” (2023-4-19) the partners (shipping, ports and nature protection) expressed their willingness to continue the Cross-sectoral dialogue and focus on concrete results in the next 4 years and other signatories strongly encourage them to do so.

The next steps for the cross-sectoral cooperation

As the two sister projects ended or are soon coming to an end, some partners of both projects, together with other signatories of the SustSPI, are reflecting on an appropriate approach to continue the cross-sectoral dialogue process. The partners are willing to enliven and to foster the cooperation for the future and to achieve concrete results over the course of the Danish presidency of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation, but they recognize that they need a solid structure, support from the WSB members and cooperation with the CWSS. They see the Wadden Sea Forum and its advisory role towards the WSB as an appropriate structure and they are prepared to organize support in the sector they represent.

At the last meeting of the project the project *Sustainable Shipping and Ports at the Wadden Sea* organised on April 19th 2023, the project partners as well as several signatories of the SustSPI worked on defining the next steps for the cooperation and selected four topics they wish to prioritise until 2026. The participants (*see the list of participating organisations below*) identified the three most important topics¹ which need close cooperation of the partners, in order to be successful:

1. Sediment management and dredging of and for seaports.
2. Shipping safety in relation to the Particularly Sensitive Sea Area of the Wadden Sea.
3. Transition to a climate-neutral and clean fleet for small and medium vessels in the Wadden Sea Region.

For each topic, the participants discussed possible achievements by 2026 as well as the kind of activities they could run together. They realize that cooperation with the governments and the CWSS is necessary, either through projects or other forms of cooperation (position papers, working groups and setting concrete common goals). In order to precise the goals the cross-sectoral cooperation aims to reach in the next four years and by which means, the participants agreed to meet twice before the next WSB42.

If the WSB welcomes an advice of the WSF, the signatories will finalise a road-map including specific objectives and activities for each of the four topics selected, define the role of each sector and which constraints are needed to be successful in the next years. As the WSF decided at its 43th plenary meeting end March 2023 to prioritise the topic of sustainable shipping and ports at the Wadden Sea (i.e., SustSPI) until 2026, it offered to lead the working process on the safety of navigation and sediment management and will act as liaison agent for the remaining topics as well as for the cross-sectoral cooperation in general. If the WSF can count on the support of several signatories of the SustSPI, the Core Group of the trilateral Wadden Seaports and the Wadden Sea Team of eNGOs, Ship owner organizations and CWSS, the WSF will lead and/or support the activities put in place.

¹ The topic, light management in ports, is considered to be dealt with in the Darker Sky project.

Once the road-map will have been defined, the signatories of the SustSPI will be invited to meet again – at the occasion of the WSF-44 plenary meeting in September – to initiate the concrete cooperation process on each of the four topics.

This detailed road-map will be submitted to the Wadden Sea Board prior to its 42nd meeting in November.

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**Signatories of the Sustainable Shipping and Ports
Initiative for a well-protected Wadden Sea (SustSPI)**

Status: 30.01.2023

Trilateral:

- Wadden Sea Forum e.V

Netherlands:

- Coalitie Wadden Natuurlijk representing It Fryske Gea, Landschap Noord-Holland, Sportvisserij Nederland, Stichting Het Groninger Landschap, Stichting WAD, Vereniging Natuurmomenten, Vogelbescherming Nederland, Waddenvereniging
- Gemeente Ameland – Municipality of Ameland
- Gemeente Schiermonnikoog – Municipality of Schiermonnikoog
- Gemeente Terschelling – Municipality of Terschelling
- Groningen Seaports
- Koninklijke Vereniging van Nederlandse Reders - Royal Association of Netherlands' Shipowners
- The North Sea Foundation
- Port of Den Helder
- Port of Den Oever
- Port of Harlingen
- Port of Lauwersoog

Germany:

- Beirat für den Nationalpark Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer – Advisory Council for the Lower Saxony Wadden Sea National Park
- Bremenports
- BUND Niedersachsen
- BUND Schleswig-Holstein
- JadeWeserPort Wilhelmshaven
- MARIKO
- NABU
- Niedersächsischer Heimatbund
- Niedersachsen Ports
- Nordseeheilbad Borkum
- Schutzstation Wattenmeer
- Schutzgemeinschaft Deutsche Nordseeküste e.V.
- Verband Deutscher Reeder - German Shipowners' Association
- Wilhelmshavener Hafenwirtschafts-Vereinigung e.V.
- WWF Germany

Denmark:

- Danmarks Naturfredningsforening - Danish Society for Nature Conservation
- Danske Rederier – Danish Shipping
- Dansk Sejlunion – Danish Sailing Association
- Danmarks Sportsfiskerforbund – Danish Sportfishing Association
- KIMO Denmark
- Municipality of Tønder
- Nationalpark Vadehavet – Danish Wadden Sea National Park
- Ørsted
- Port of Esbjerg

- Region Syddanmark – Region of Southern Denmark
- WWF Denmark

Organisation(s) that haven't signed the SustSPI but wrote a letter of support:

- Trilateral Wadden Sea Sailing Association

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Participating organisations to the DBU-7 meeting in the project
Sustainable Shipping and Ports at the Wadden Sea

- ARSU
- BUND Lower-Saxony
- Common Wadden Sea Secretariat
- Core Group trilateral Wadden Seaports
- Danish Society for Nature Conservation
- KIMO Denmark
- Royal Association of Netherland's Shipowners
- Maritimes Cluster Norddeutschland
- Municipality of Tønder
- Niedersachsen Ports
- Region Southern Denmark
- Schutzgemeinschaft Deutsche Nordseeküste
- Trilateral Wadden Sea Sailing Association
- Waddenvereniging
- Wadden Sea Forum
- Wilhelmshavener Hafenwirtschafts-Vereinigung
- WWF Germany

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