ADOPTED SUMMARY RECORD

45th Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 45)

28 May 2025
Hamburg

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Anne-Marie Rasmussen, at 09:00 hours on 28 May 2025. The Chair welcomed Stefan van Keijzerswaard as new Member of the WSB. She also welcomed Thomas Larsen stepping in for Kristian Hansted, who will leave the TWSC, and also thanked Karst Jaarsma for his work at the TWSC and wished him all the best in his new post.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Document: WSB 45/2 rev.1 WSB 45 draft annotated agenda

Ilka Wagner requested postponing the discussion on a draft guidance document on Wadden Sea Quality Status reporting (Agenda item 5.4) to the next meeting, as it would be premature to discuss it without a meeting paper. This was agreed by the Chair.

An outline of the agenda is in Annex 2 and the list of documents not foreseen for discussion during the meeting are in Table 1.

Table 1: List of documents submitted to WSB 45 but not foreseen for discussion during the meeting.

Agenda item	Submitted by	Description	Proposal
WSB45/4	CWSS	CWSS announcements	Take note
WSB45/6/2	CWSS	TWSC business plan	Take note

The WSB **adopted** the agenda as submitted with the remarks regarding item 5.4.

3. Summary Record WSB 44

Documents: WSB 44/3 Final Draft Summary Record WSB 44

The WSB **adopted** the final draft summary record of WSB 44 as submitted.

4. Announcements

Document: WSB 45/4 Announcements by CWSS

CWSS

- For CWSS announcements see document **WSB45/4** in Table 1.
- In addition, the secretary informed the meeting about **new staff appointments**. Monika Radominska will replace Julia Busch (EG-Climate and EG-Fish) during her parental leave. Within the IKI project (see

also WSB45/1), Rebecca Stewart had started as project coordinator until the end of the project, and Elvis Lyonga Edimo had taken up the role of communications manager. The position of finance officer in the IKI project was still vacant.

Germany

Federal:

- **A new government and Environment Minister**, Carsten Schneider (CDU), were appointed. The Ministry is now named "Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN)" and includes climate as a focus topic.
- First **National Ocean Conference** was held in May in Berlin with about 400 participants and the importance of intact and sustainably used seas was underlined during the event. Politicians and national stakeholders complemented by selected international players and invited guests discussed, among others, nature-based solutions, financing instruments, pollution, and sustainable use.
- The Federal **Action Plan on Nature-based Solutions for Climate and Biodiversity (ANK)** will prolonged and updated as a key contribution to significantly improving the general condition of ecosystems in Germany, thus strengthening their resilience and climate mitigation performance. The overall volume up to now is 3.5 billion euros with about 100 million euros dedicated to ocean and coastal affairs.
- A **fisheries dialogue** has been hold in Germany between the federal level, the federal states, NGOs, fishermen and -women. The format originally targeted fisheries activities in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. The adopted conclusions revealed clear support for the 10% target on strict protection within MPAs.
- Reference was made to a legal case raised by a fisheries association (Verband der Deutschen Kutter- und Küstenfischer e.V. - VDK) against the European Commission. The European Court of Justice ruled in favour of banning certain fishing techniques and gear (such as mobile bottom trawling) within Marine Protected Areas in the German EEZ, therefore confirming the fisheries restriction the Commission has set in accordance with the CFP.

Lower Saxony:

- **Changes in Government:** Since May 20, 2025, Lower Saxony has a new Prime Minister. Olaf Lies, previous Minister of Economic Affairs and former Ministry for the Environment and Energy, took over.
- **Fisheries:** The two Lower Saxon ministries for the environment and for agriculture started a dialogue on fisheries. The dialogue aims to find solutions for sustainable and ecosystem compatible fishing in the Lower Saxon territorial sea. Especially within parts of the LS National Park, no take areas shall be installed. The dialogue addresses Lower Saxon fishermen, green NGOs and coastal communities. Kick-off was End of April 2025, an agreement is targeted for next year.
- **Energy Transition:** This announcement is concerning the double use of fairways (especially in the Ems estuary) for energy cables – an issue which was addressed also by the Dutch government (as announced in WSB44). The three Lower Saxon Ministers responsible for environment, economy and spatial planning state sent a letter to the competent federal ministries (28 February 2025). In view of the large number of future infrastructure projects for energy transmission in German coastal waters, it is clear that solutions must be sought to reconcile the demands of use and space. They strongly suggest that, in addition to the ongoing review of new routes in the Wadden Sea UNESCO World Heritage Site, the feasibility of laying cables in or along the edge of shipping lanes should also be examined, taking into account all technical solution options (such as increasing standard laying depths, using technical monitoring systems) and additional measures to ensure the ease and safety of shipping traffic. An answer is pending.
- **Upcoming Events:** The 2025 Wadden Sea Day will take place on 28 August at the Wadden Sea World Heritage Visitor Centre in Wilhelmshaven - this year under the lead of the National Parc Authority. It titles: "Crossing the Dike- Ecological, Landscape and Cultural Perspectives between

Land and Sea" and will focus on the complex, intertwined relationships between the Wadden Sea and the hinterland.

Hamburg

- **Elections in Hamburg** resulted in a confirmation of a red-green senate, with Katharina Fegebank, also second mayor of Hamburg, appointed as senator of the Agency for Environment, Climate, Energy and Agriculture (BUKEA).
- Hamburg recently hosted a **conference on the Federal Action Plan on Nature-based Solutions for Climate and Biodiversity (ANK)** by the BMUKN. 25 projects were presented with involvement of four coastal federal states.

Schleswig-Holstein

- Three European NGOs, i.a the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) and the Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH), raised a legal complaint towards EU Commission according widespread bottom trawling fisheries in MPA, i.a. in the two German Wadden Sea National Parks of Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony, without proper EIA under the Habitats Directive. In their complaint, the NGOs highlight widespread breaches of EU law, with Member States failing to stop harmful activities in MPAs. They urge the European Commission to act decisively and urgently.
- Fisheries dialogue in Schleswig-Holstein is ongoing between the ministry, NGOs and fishermen.

Netherlands

- The 16th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS) will be organized by the Netherlands. The event take place from Tuesday, 28 October, to Thursday, 30 October 2025, in Groningen. Building on the commitments of the 2023 Wilhelmshaven Declaration, this symposium will bring together around 200 scientists from Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands to jointly explore critical issues in the UNESCO Wadden Sea World Heritage Site.
  The focus of the symposium will be on the cumulative impacts of both natural (e.g., tides, seasons) and human-induced (e.g., climate change, pollution, fisheries, energy, ports & shipping, coastal defence, tourism) forces on the site's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Strengthening our understanding of these complex interactions is crucial for shaping effective policies, improving management efforts, and addressing future challenges. The insights gained will contribute to the Trilateral Governmental Conference in early 2026 in Denmark.
  The United Nations endorsed the ISWSS as an Oceans Decade event.
- The draft documentation for the **Programmatic Approach to Safeguarding the Outstanding Universal Value of the Wadden Sea (PAWOZ)** is now available for public consultation. The Minister of Climate and Green Growth (KGG) is currently investigating the following four key areas, each with specific spatial implications:

1. Preferred Route via Schiermonnikoog: The minister is examining the feasibility of the preferred route, which involves laying an underground cable beneath Schiermonnikoog. This route aims to connect the Doordewind offshore wind energy area to the Eemshaven, considering environmental impacts and technical challenges associated with this specific path
2. Hydrogen Demonstration Project: For the Ten Noorden van de Waddeneilanden (TNW) wind energy area, designated as a hydrogen demonstration project, the minister is exploring the development of a new hydrogen pipeline. This includes assessing potential routes for the pipeline to bring hydrogen ashore to Eemshaven, evaluating spatial constraints, and integration with existing infrastructure.
3. Reuse of Existing Gas Pipelines: The possibility of repurposing existing offshore gas pipelines for hydrogen transport is under investigation. This involves analyzing the technical and commercial viability of using current pipeline corridors, which would have implications for spatial planning and environmental considerations.
   Each of these areas of investigation has significant spatial implications, involving careful consideration of environmental impacts, land use planning, and integration with existing and future energy infrastructure. A Heritage Impact Assessment has been performed.
   Definite decisions are expected during the summer.

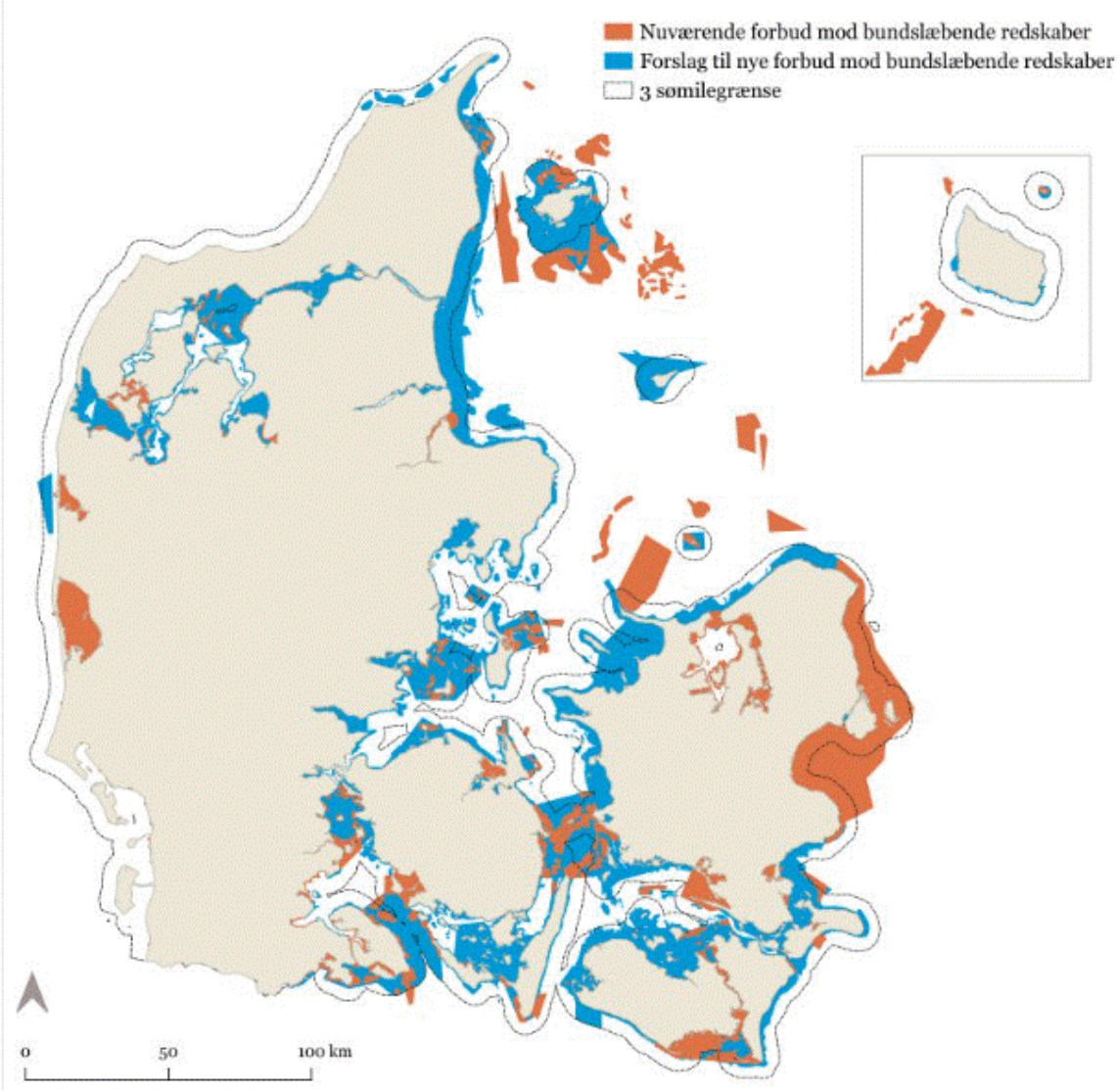
- A draft permit for **shrimp fishing** in the Dutch Wadden Sea has been published for public consultation which ended in the end of April. The aim is to grant a permit for twenty years. Within this period there will be three rounds of thorough evaluations: 2033, 2039 and 2045.
  The final decision making will take place before the first of July 2025.
- **East Atlantic Flyway Assessment Report:** Every three years, simultaneous bird counts are conducted in the countries along the East Atlantic Flyway. In January 2023, over 13,000 people from 36 countries made a joint effort to count migratory birds at more than 7,000 sites along the East Atlantic Flyway. On occasion of World Migratory Bird Day, a newly published report based on extensive analysis of the flyway count data presents key findings for managers and policymakers along the flyway.
  The endeavour is organised by the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation in collaboration with BirdLife International, Wetlands International, and numerous local and international partners. The majority of the funding provided by the Netherlands.
- On 16 April, Germany and the Netherlands signed a new cooperation document for a more sustainable **sediment strategy for the Eems-Dollard**. In doing so, the Netherlands and Germany have established a number of principles on how to deal with the silt in that area.
  The sediment strategy aims to significantly lower silt concentrations, improve habitats and deal with changes caused by climate change in a proactive manner. To achieve these goals, a number of action perspectives are being pursued, including the retention or extraction of silt, salt marsh development and changes in the elevation of sandbanks.
  The agreement is a continuation of the agreement between Germany and the Netherlands in 2019. Since then, cooperation and knowledge exchange have been strengthened, many projects have been carried out in the Eems Dollard and a large-scale silt measurement campaign has been set up.
  In the new agreement, the focus is on strengthening the integrated sediment management. This is partly possible because the German authorities in the field of waterway management and shipping are now also involved. In addition, efforts are being made to improve the insight into the effects of the measures taken for the entire system of the Ems estuary. This is done by developing a common understanding of the system, to be contained in existing and future target parameters.
- In the Wilhelmshaven Declaration 2023, it was agreed that an evaluation of the measures taken in the context of **shipping safety** (PSSA, action point 24) would be advocated. This review should be carried out with the responsible shipping authorities and relevant stakeholders.
  The Wadden Sea was recognized as a particularly vulnerable marine area in 2002. This means that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) considers the Wadden Sea to be an ecologically very valuable and vulnerable area, and that extra protection is needed to limit damage caused by shipping.
  On the initiative of the Dutch and German delegations, a Plan of Action for the work to be carried out has been drawn up in the working group. This action plan was agreed by the three countries last year. Germany and the Netherlands have now made an inventory of the measures taken. There is no indication yet when the Danish inventory will be ready. As soon as this is ready, an overall picture can be drawn up and the desirable next steps can be determined to arrive at a proper assessment of the measures.
  During the preparatory discussions for the new Esbjerg Declaration, the question was raised as to the priority given to the PSSA review. Another factor is that the IMO is primarily responsible for shipping safety. For the time being, we assume that shipping safety is an important topic when it comes to the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the Wadden Sea. That is why we assume that the continuation of the inventory and evaluation is useful and we hope to receive the Danish inventory soon.
- The brand new **WEC (World Heritage Centre Wadden Sea)** has opened in the harbour of Lauwersoog, the new home of the Pieterburen Seal Centre. The visitor centre has an interactive Wadden Sea Experience and allows tourists to discover the UNESCO World Heritage in a completely new way, while enjoying a panoramic view. The building has been designed by Dorte Mandrup, who also designed the visitor centre in Ribe in Denmark.
  https://youtu.be/1UCPV710CJ8?si=f4Obrkt0CrMw2tdW
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3lX5WVb7Eo

Denmark

Agency for Green Transition and Aquatic Environment (SGAV):

- Many elements are still in the process of being established within the **new agency and ministry**.
- Parts of the Danish Agricultural Agency and the Danish Environmental Protection Agency have now been merged to form the Agency for Green Transition and Aquatic Environment.
- **Overall objective:** 10% of Denmark's total land area must be converted into nature and forest.
- The practical planning of the upcoming **Ministerial Conference** is still in its early stages, and Denmark is very much looking forward to welcoming all participants in Esbjerg next spring.
- The Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries has submitted **two statutory orders for public consultation**. These proposals aim to ban bottom trawling fishing in specific marine areas along the Danish coastline—particularly in EU-designated habitat areas and seagrass restoration zones. When the regulation takes effect, the total area protected from bottom-trawling will increase from approximately 4.6% to 12.4% of Denmark's marine territory. Key coastal habitat areas have been left out, including the Wadden Sea.

Link to map material that is under consultation



Current and proposed bans on bottom-trawling in Danish waters. Legend: orange: current ban on bottom-trawling | blue: proposed new ban on bottom-trawling | gear grey line: 3 nautical mile limit

The municipalities:

- In accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive, the Danish Green Tripartite Agreement, between the government, the agriculture industry and environmental organizations, aims **to reduce**

levels of nitrogen and phosphorus in Danish coastal waters to restore marine and plant life. Researchers are now working to analyze, through data driven modelling of coastal sea currents, how much the coastal waters in the northern part of the Wadden Sea are mixing and exchanging pollutants. Through the longstanding Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation, the researchers can access German data to further deepen our understanding of the coastal dynamics to the benefit of the whole region.

Danish Coastal Authority

- The political agreement on the **Marine Nature Fund**, which allocated approximately 65 million euros for projects, are handing out the first initials millions for projects. The Fund will cover all Danish waters including the Wadden Sea. The aim, besides nature and biodiversity restoration, are also to conduct evidence-based research and testing on the coexistence between offshore wind development and marine nature.
- Kristian Hansted will no longer represent the Danish Coastal Authority in the board due to the fact, that he has resigned his position. His successor is expected to be present at the next board meeting.

Advisors

Hans-Ulrich Rösner

- In Lower Saxony, the **first German electric ferry** route was put into service for the Norddeich-Norderney route this spring. This very positive development shows that such electric ferries in the Wadden Sea are possible in principle and should also be considered by other shipping companies.

Marco Brodde

- **Beach buggies/kite buggies** have been common on beaches on the islands Rømø and Fanø (DK) for many years. But in early spring 2025, the authorities announced that this kind of traffic was actually not allowed. After a very fast formal process, some beaches are now designated for using those vehicles again. The green NGOs support that it is clear where buggies can be used but criticize that the areas are not very well or precisely outlined in the legislation. The activities take place in NATURA 2000 which seemed not being considered at all.

The WSB **noted** the information.

5. Implementation Wilhelmshaven Declaration

5.1 Protect and strengthen the Outstanding Universal Value (paras 1-16)

5.1.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Document: WSB 45/5.1 TG-WH progress report

Soledad Luna provided an update on the outcomes of the last sessions of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (2023 and 2024) and presented the revised preliminary timeline for the joint Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). She noted that the Netherlands had requested an extension of the consultation phase to 30 September 2025, instead of the original deadline on 30 June 2025, which would imply slight adjustments to the subsequent activities. Members and Advisors discussed strategic and organisational aspects of the elaboration process and adopted the updated timeline. Regarding the general communication with UNESCO participants agreed, that a pro-active approach should be favoured.

With regard to the expert review of the draft Scoping Report for the joint SEA, and at the initiative of the Netherlands, the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) was invited to present a proposal at WSB 45. The NCEA was an independent advisory body on strategic and environmental assessments, active in the Netherlands and internationally. Since 2024, it has had an MoU with the World

Heritage Centre (WHC) and IUCN to support capacity development and provide independent reviews of ESIA and SEA processes. Willemijn Smal and Patrick Patiwael introduced the NCEA and their proposed approach for reviewing the draft Scoping Report for the Wadden Sea and invited participants to raise any open questions.

Upon request by Wagner, it was clarified that the NCEA could, if formally requested, also conduct expert reviews of the national components and the full joint SEA. However, the current proposal only covers the review of the draft Scoping Report, though a similar approach would be applied. NCEA informed that the organization would review the Dutch national compound anyway.

Following the NCEA presentation, Vera Knoke noted that Germany did not have a comparable advisory body and requested examples of previous NCEA reports to better understand the expected output (examples attached as Annex 5).

Peter Paul Mertens emphasised the importance of balanced representation from all three countries in any NCEA working group. Wagner raised the question how to find available experts from each country in a balanced way. Knoke noted that, since most of the WHC Decision issues relate to the Netherlands and Germany rather than Denmark, representation should reflect the relevance and legal sensitivities of the issues.

Smal and Patiwael confirmed that their approach allowed time to identify appropriate experts. While they envisaged to include relevant experience to the process from their side, they also welcomed expert nominations from the TWSC.

Mertens asked about NCEA's experience with transboundary SEAs. Smal and Patiwael referred to their work under the ESPOO Convention, highlighting the importance of appropriate country representation. The secretary, Sascha Klöpper, inquired about similar organisations in other countries. NCEA explained they were rather unique in structure, with only few similar organisations in Canada and Belgium, which were not considered as independent.

Hans-Ulrich Rösner underlined the importance of incorporating the consultation feedback on the scoping report into the review. NCEA confirmed their experience in handling stakeholder input, and Luna added that TG-WH agreed to schedule the consultation phase early in order to contribute to the expert review process.

Marco Brodde voiced concern on the complexity of the joint SEA process and asked how NCEA would involve experts from trilateral working groups. NCEA clarified that these experts could be considered, but independence was essential, guided by their internal protocol.

Rösner emphasised that the SEA should lead to a meaningful result and not become an extensive and potentially ineffective document. In response to a question from the Chair, the NCEA confirmed that the expert review would be aligned with WHC requirements.

The meeting expressed support for NCEA's involvement. The delegations endorsed NCEA reviewing the Scoping Report. Wagner emphasised the importance of relevant expertise and to focus on the substance. Knoke supported the involvement and suggested it could extend to the joint SEA if this initial experience proves successful. Mertens highlighted NCEA's strong reputation in the Netherlands and its MoU with WHC/IUCN as a benefit to the TWSC. Jaarsma added that, in the Netherlands, NCEA's review of the Scoping Report was not mandatory, but SEA review was. Janne Lieven noted that as NCEA would already be reviewing the Dutch national SEA component, it would be rather logical to commission the review the Scoping Report accordingly. The secretary added that NCEA's input would help align national components within the joint SEA.

The WSB agreed to formally request NCEA to begin the review process. Wagner recommended informing the WHC of this intention.

Further information on NCEA is attached as **Annex 5**.

The WSB **noted** the information, **adopted** the updated timeline and **advised** conducting the expert review of the draft scoping report with NCEA.

5.2 Enhance Sustainability of Human Uses and foster Transformative Change (paras 17-37)

Task Group Coordination and Management

Document: WSB 45/5.2 TG-CM progress report

EU Nature Restoration Regulation NRR

Jaarsma, Heidi Nielsen, and Thomas Borchers informed the meeting on the national implementation steps of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR), also with a trilateral perspective with input from the relevant trilateral groups. The meeting was invited to discuss the contribution of the TWSC to the implementation of the NRR.

Petersen noted that it was too early for Denmark to act on specific recommendations. Larsen added that Denmark's first action plan will likely build on existing projects and activities, as there was insufficient time to develop and introduce new measures.

Wagner thanked the presenters and appreciated the specific recommendations provided by the trilateral expert groups. She emphasised that the exchange of information and dialogue within the TWSC was valuable in itself. Wagner highlighted the importance of aligning approaches and improving communication on Wadden Sea matters and expressed support to the idea to hold a joint trilateral workshop as a valuable opportunity to strengthen cooperation in a complex process.

Mertens supported the idea of a joint workshop but stressed the need for further discussion and a formal WSB decision before forwarding the expert group recommendations to national NRR groups. Knoke supported both actions: forwarding the recommendations and organising a joint workshop. She welcomed the recommendations document and noted that it clearly identified existing gaps, such as the absence of an expert group on subtidal habitats.

Borchers proposed holding the workshop next year, potentially with involvement of the European Commission. He noted that similar regional cooperation on NRR implementation was taking place under OSPAR, supported by available funding, and suggested the Wadden Sea could use this opportunity to raise its profile and highlight its contributions. Mertens supported the proposal and recommended providing feedback to the European Commission to show how the TWSC was addressing cross-border issues.

Brodde also expressed support, emphasising the need for improved communication on the TWSC efforts. He noted that this would raise awareness of conservation goals and strengthen the work of local NGOs.

The Chair summarised that the meeting agreed to forward the specific recommendations from the TWSC expert groups to the national groups working on NRR action plans in the three Wadden Sea countries. She concluded that a trilateral workshop in the coming year would be valuable to further discuss the recommendations, clarify the trilateral role, and enhance the visibility of the TWSC's work.

The WSB **agreed** to forward the specific recommendations provided by the TWSC expert groups to the national groups working on the NRR action plans and **agreed** to organise a trilateral workshop next year.

Framework Sustainable Fisheries

The Task Group Coordination and Management (TG-CM) proposed to postpone the review of the Framework Sustainable Fisheries (2014 - activity 6 of SIMP key topic fisheries) due to the high workload of the group including activities resulting from UNESCO's request for a joint SEA and the implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation.

The WSB **agreed** to postpone TG-CM activities on fisheries as outlined.

LANICE project

Maren Bauer, Chair of the ad-hoc Working Group on Renewable Energy (WG-RE), introduced the approach for progressing with activities within the LANICE project in light of the WHC request for a joint strategic and systematic approach to connect renewable energy infrastructure with the mainland. The approach included involving the policy level through dedicated sessions and workshops, using the TWSC as a knowledge hub via CWSS and partner engagement in cross-sectoral activities, and aligning with the joint SEA process. The aim was to engage relevant sectors in developing actionable, broadly supported results that contribute to effective planning and implementation.

Mertens thanked Bauer for the presentation and noted that a joint strategy would also serve to demonstrate how the TWSC addresses UNESCO's request. Wagner expressed support for the proposal and raised the question of how exactly the project could complement the joint SEA.

Bauer explained that the LANICE project results could provide potential solutions to issues identified in the SEA, including to concrete plans, programmes, and projects (e.g., the mitigation toolbox).

The meeting accepted the proposed way forward to use outputs of the LANICE project as part of the one-page joint strategy on linear renewable's infrastructure crossings requested by UNESCO.

The WSB **adopted** the proposed way forward.

Tourism Impacts

The document presented progress and status of the project "Development of Monitoring and Assessment Guidelines to Detect and Mitigate Tourism Impacts on the OUV" aiming for an improved understanding, monitoring and assessment of impacts on the OUV from tourism activities.

Petersen expressed support for the idea of combining data on tourism intensity with ecological information using innovative methods to improve understanding of impacts on the OUV.

Brodde, however, noted that some participants at the Danish workshop were sceptical about the usefulness of the approach. They doubted that merging these two data sets would produce meaningful new insights, pointing out that administrators already understood tourist numbers and conflict areas, and feared that action could be taken immediately.

The WSB **noted** the progress on the project "Development of Monitoring and Assessment Guidelines to Detect and Mitigate Tourism Impacts on the OUV".

5.3 Mitigate and adapt to climate change (paras 38-43)

5.3.1 Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

Document: WSB 45/5.3 rev.1 Climate Change Adaptation Strategy

The trilateral Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2014) was revised and updated by the trilateral Expert Group Climate Change Adaptation (EG-C) to better align it with the Wilhelmshaven Declaration as well as

the SIMP. The revised CCAS included trilateral key activities for the implementation of the strategy. The meeting was invited to adopt the revised strategy.

Larsen introduced the process, explaining that the proposal was to acknowledge the updated Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (CCAS), with its formal placement in relation to the Ministerial Declaration (MD) to be decided at a later stage. Margrita Sobottka added that the CCAS, adopted in 2014 as part of the Tønder Declaration, was developed and adopted before Denmark joined the World Heritage. The revised CCAS included Denmark and incorporated the Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the Nature Restoration Regulation. She noted the strategy was action-oriented at a meta-level, serving as a recommendation to the trilateral implementation level, addressing climate change as a long-term planning issue.

Petersen supported adopting the strategy, highlighting its ambitious nature. He noted the need for clarity on how to strengthen trilateral policies as recommended.

Rösner expressed strong support, emphasising the CCAS's political relevance and noting that similar high-level documents had been annexed to Ministerial Declarations in the past. Knoke agreed, stressing the importance of political acknowledgement. Wagner thanked the expert group and underscored the strategy's significance within the TWSC context. Roeland Bakker added that the CCAS addressed issues pertinent to the upcoming Ministerial Declaration and emphasised the importance of its continuous monitoring.

The Chair suggested that future meetings could explore how to effectively implement the CCAS and determine the most appropriate way to ensure its political recognition.

The WSB **adopted** the updated CCAS.

5.4 Manage and communicate effectively (paras 44-56)

Wadden Sea Quality Status Report and Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme

CWSS performed an internal review of the QSR planning and production process and was in the process of developing a corresponding QSR guidance document including a process description. This guidance document should be the basis for an efficient future QSR process. It was originally planned to inform about status together with information on the technical status of the trilateral data handling and state-of-affairs regarding the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP) during the meeting. Due to limited time and the general reservation from Germany at the beginning of the meeting, it was decided that Antonia Immerz would send a recording of the presentation as annex to the summary record as input for the discussion during the next WSB (46) meeting.

The WSB **agreed** to postpone the item to WSB 46.

5.5 Intensify collaboration and strengthen engagement by working with partners (paras 57-66)

Stakeholder involvement

The secretary introduced a document from CWSS addressing stakeholder involvement following the cancellation of the Wadden Sea Forum. CWSS was requested to develop a proposal on how to involve stakeholders in the future taking into account the potential role and capacity of Partnership Hub activities. Members and Advisors were invited to discuss the outlined way forward and to agree on the proposals within the document.

The meeting first discussed the nomination process for new WSB Advisors. Petersen emphasised that the representation of stakeholders should not be organised by CWSS but the national delegations. He expressed flexibility if a country wishes to nominate more than one advisor. Knoke stressed the need to

clarify the advisors' roles and types, the number to be appointed, and their alignment with trilateral stakeholder interests.

Van Keijzerswaard proposed defining what the WSB aims to achieve with stakeholder engagement, such as participation in projects related to sustainable use, without creating a new structure. Instead, existing platforms like the Partnership Hub could be used. He pointed towards the Dutch national advisory group and suggested to requesting representatives to act as the Dutch advisor(s) in the WSB.

Rösner supported appointing one representative from each existing national advisory board (or comparable structure) as the most practical approach for stakeholder representation in the WSB, in addition to the advisors by the environmental NGOs. Knoke added that before appointing advisors, the WSB should clarify their intended role and focus, and whether advisors should be nominated by country or by sector.

Petersen agreed with Rösner that a new forum should not be established and reiterated that advisors should be nominated by national delegations, not by CWSS; a position supported by Knoke. The Chair cautioned against appointing advisors from every sector to avoid complicating the process and concluded that representation from existing national advisory boards would be appropriate.

Petersen emphasised focusing on nominating advisors and allowing them to determine their cooperation. Mertens proposed a pilot phase with one advisor per country forming a constitutional group to decide if and how to organise themselves. Knoke supported this approach. Petersen and Mertens supported launching the pilot advisor group while continuing to collect feedback. Wagner agreed, emphasising that selecting pilot representatives and contributing further ideas should be part of a shared process.

Lieven requested additional time for delegations to provide feedback on the stakeholder document and to provide supplementary ideas. She suggested each delegation coordinate internally before submitting comments to CWSS for consolidation ahead of WSB 46. Advisors from the Wadden Sea Team were also invited to submit comments.

Regarding the continuation of specific former WSF working groups, it was clarified that CWSS and TWSC have no mandate to maintain these groups if topics lie outside its remit and recommended that members would be informed accordingly.

The WSB **agreed** to nominate one advisor (in addition to the advisors from the environmental NGOs) per country to participate in WSB 46.

The WSB **agreed** that the stakeholder document would be revisited by the delegations and advisors to provide further comments to CWSS in order to prepare a consolidated updated version for WSB 46.

6. Trilateral Governance

Trilateral Governmental Conference

Document: ***WSB 45/6/1***

Based on the first proposal from the Danish Presidency and initial discussion in the Drafting Group Ministerial Declaration (DG MD), Nielsen presented two structural concepts aiming at producing a concise policy focused declaration which would be easy to communicate.

Wagner thanked Nielsen and made three remarks: (1) Germany was generally in favour of a short Ministerial Declaration, (2) the content should be discussed before agreeing on the final format, and (3) it was important to build on the long-standing history and achievements of the TWSC, particularly regarding biodiversity, conservation, climate change, and coastal adaptation. Without draft content, it had been difficult to assess the feasibility of the proposal, especially considering the time required for consultations. Petersen agreed with Germany and added that an early agreement on the format could

support the drafting group. In response, Wagner expressed concern that committing to a format too early may hinder the development of appropriate content.

Mertens also supported a short document but stressed the need for clarity on structure and substance. Knoke expressed uncertainty about an action plan given the time needed for consultation in the regions and the need to contain politically relevant content. It would be very ambitious to have a comprehensive and meaningful paper ready for approval by the ministers before the upcoming Trilateral Governmental Conference (TGC). Nielsen explained that once signed by ministers, the action plan cannot be changed and that some flexibility would be beneficial for future implementation. She emphasized the necessity of a short declaration to ensure governmental support.

Brodde pointed out that NGOs prefer detailed paragraphs to hold politicians accountable and therefore support including a list of projects in the action plan. At the same time, they recognise the challenge of managing numerous paragraphs in the TWSC/CWSS's business plan and generally support a concise easy to handle document. Nonetheless, it would be unfortunate to omit significant overarching issues such as shipping and fisheries concerns. Nielsen assured that the drafting group would aim at maintaining a balance and that it was not intended to exclude important issues. Mertens agreed that the action plan should list concrete expected results while also addressing broader issues.

The secretary referred to the question previously discussed in the drafting group as to which body would finally approve the action plan. The political level of approval was considered as a crucial point. Petersen proposed that final approval should be in WSB. The chair emphasised the importance of the WSB's ability to adapt to changes, especially considering current developments. She proposed that the drafting group should prepare an elaborated draft on format and content for discussion and decision at the next WSB (46) meeting. This draft should enable assessment and clarification to inform a decision on which parts would require ministerial or WSB approval.

Wagner agreed with the suggestion and emphasised the importance of having an outline of contents, while reaffirming her openness for a concise document and an action plan. She underlined the need to reflect on achievements, look ahead, and adopt the action plan together with the Ministerial Declaration.

The Chair requested that the drafting group should prepare a first draft document for discussion at the next WSB meeting in September, in an advanced status allowing the consultation to start soon thereafter. It should reflect the relevance and political commitment of both, the Declaration and an action plan.

Nielsen suggested that the drafting group could start by preparing a one-page draft and, as a next step, key points could be translated into bullet points for the action plan, outlining tasks for cooperation. This would provide the WSB with a concrete basis for discussion.

Rösner expressed that the environmental NGOs would like to contribute to the content and proposed submitting a short paper similar to previous calls for action for former declarations. The Chair welcomed the suggestion and asked him to submit the document to the drafting group via CWSS.

The WSB **requested** the drafting group to prepare a concise first draft for discussion at the upcoming WSB 46 in September.

TWSC business plan

Document: ***WSB 45/6****/2*

The WSB **noted** the business plan.

7. Wadden Sea Board Advisors

The contribution from the WSB Advisors was expressed under agenda item 6.1. The environmental NGOs would like to contribute to the content of the upcoming Ministerial Declaration and proposed submitting a short paper (a half-page format was suggested), similar to previous calls for action.

The WSB **welcomed** the suggestion and asked the Advisors to submit their contribution to the drafting group via CWSS.

8. Any Other Business

No other business was discussed.

The WSB **noted** the information.

9. Closing

The Chair thanked the participants for joining and for their contributions and closed the meeting at 15:10 hours on 28 May 2025.

The next WSB 46 meeting was scheduled for 25 September 2025 in person.

ANNEX 1: List of participants

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

45th meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 45)

28 May 2025
Hamburg

Common Wadden Sea Secretariat

Chair	
Anne-Marie Vægter Rasmussen Chief Advisor Agency for Green Transition and Aquatic Environment, Ministry of Green Transition Haraldsgade 53 2100 København Ø Phone: +45 72 54 47 22 Mobile: +45 21 78 28 01 E-Mail: anvra@mst.dk	
Denmark	
Martin Petersen Head of Delegation Agency for Green Transition and Aquatic Environment, Ministry of Green Transition Jacob Gades Alle 12 DK-A6600 Vejen Phone: +45 33 95 80 00 E-Mail: mpete@sgav.dk	**Thomas Larsen** Ministry of Environment Danish Coastal Authority Højbovej 1, DK - 7620 Lemvig mobile ++45 91 35 74 42. E-Mail: tla@kyst.dk
Germany	
Ilka Wagner Head of Delegation Head of Division Marine Biodiversity, Marine Protected Areas, Marine Climate Action, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety Köthener Str. 2-3 D-10963 Berlin Phone: + 49 (0)30 18 305-2780 Mobil: + 49 (0)173 276 3460 E-Mail: ilka.wagner@bmukn.bund.de	**Vera Knoke** Head of Division Marine Protection and National Park, Schleswig-Holstein Ministry of Energy Transition, Climate Protection, Environment and Nature Mercatorstrasse 3 D - 24106 Kiel Phone: +49 (0) 431-988 7288 E-Mail: vera.knoke@mekun.landsh.de
Ms Alexandra Stück Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate Protection of Lower Saxony Archivstraße 2 D-30169 Hannover Phone: +49 511 120 3662 E-Mail: alexandra.stueck@mu.niedersachsen.de	**Janne Lieven** Director, Hamburg Wadden Sea National Park Authority, Hamburg Agency for Environment, Climate, Energy and Agriculture (BUKEA) Neuenfelder Straße 19 D-21109 Hamburg Phone: +49 (0)40 428 40-3392 E-Mail: janne.lieven@bukea.hamburg.de

Netherlands	
Peter Paul Mertens Head of Delegation Acting Director of Fisheries and Large Waters, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature Bezuidenhoutseweg 73 P.O. Box 20401, NL - 2500 EK Den Haag Phone +31 6 50 16 45 24 E-Mail: p.p.mertens@minlnv.nl	**Stefan van Keijzerswaard** Chair Vereniging van Waddenzeegemeenten (Gemeente Het Hogeland) Waddenpromenade 7-1 8861 NT Harlingen Phone: +31 E-Mail: s.vankeijzerswaard@hethogeland.nl
Joost de Ruig General Director Rijkswaterstaat Northern Netherlands P.O. Box 2232 NL -3500 GE Utrecht Phone: +31 6 10027159 mail: joost.de.ruig@rws.nl	
Advisors Environment	
Marco Brodde Wadden Sea Team Danish Ornithological Society Phone: +45 30 35 16 37 E-Mail: MarcoRohdeBrodde@gmail.com	**Hans-Ulrich Rösner** Wadden Sea Team Wadden Sea Office, WWF Germany Hafenstraße 3 D-25813 Husum Phone: +49 151 122 90 848 E-Mail: hans-ulrich.roesner@wwf.de
Common Wadden Sea Secretariat	
Sascha Klöpper Executive Secretary Virchowstr. 1 D- 26382 Wilhelmshaven Phone: +49 4421 9108-14 Mobile: +49 151 61130990 E-Mail: kloepper@waddensea-secretariat.org	**Soledad Luna** **Antonia Immerz**
Supporting Staff	
Maren Bauer Schleswig-Holstein Ministry of Energy Transition, Climate Protection, Environment and Nature Mercatorstrasse 3 D - 24106 Kiel Phone: +49 (0) 431-988 7196 E-Mail: maren.bauer@mekun.landsh.de	**Thomas Borchers** Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety Robert-Schuman-Platz 3 D-53175 Bonn Phone: +49 (0)30 18 305-2780 Mobile: +49 (0)173 276 3460 E-Mail: thomas.borchers@bmukn.bund.de

Carolin Galler Lower Saxon Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Protection Archivstr. 2 D-30169 Hannover Phone: +49 (0) 511 120 3378 E-Mail: carolin.galler@mu.niedersachsen.de	**Marina Sanns** Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park Authority Schlossgarten 1 D-25832 Tönning Phone: +49 (0)4861 616-45 E-Mail: marina.sanns@lkn.landsh.de
Margrita Sobottka Lower Saxon Wadden Sea National Park Authority Virchowstr. 1 D-26382 Wilhelmshaven Phone: +49 (0)4421 911 277 Mobile: +49 (0)172 4421684 E-Mail: Margrita.Sobottka@nlpvw.niedersachsen.de	**Heidi Nielsen** Agency for Green Transition and Aquatic Environment, Ministry of Green Transition Jacob Gades Allé DK-6600 Veien Phone: +45 (0)22 19 42 14 E-Mail: heidn@mst.dk
Roeland Bakker Rijkswaterstaat Noord Nederland Zuidersingel 3 NL-8911 AV Leeuwarden Phone: +31 (0)6 13 53 30 18 E-Mail: roeland.bakker@rws.nl	**Karst Jaarsma** Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature Postbus 20401 NL 2500 EK The Hague Phone: +31 (0) 655493856 E-Mail: k.c.a.jaarsma@minlnv.nl
Kaj Valk Executive Secretary Vereniging van Waddenzeegemeenten Waddenpromenade 7-1 8861 NT Harlingen Phone: +31 6 22 91 27 26 E-Mail: k.valk@sudwestfryslan.nl	**Catherine Zucco** WWF Germany, Meeresschutzzentrum Mönkebergstr. 27 D-20095 Hamburg Phone: +49 (0)40 530200315 E-Mails: catherine.zucco@wwf.de
Invited Guest	
Willemijn Smal NCEA	**Patrick Patiwael** NCEA

ANNEX 2: Agenda

ADOPTED AGENDA

45th meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 45)

28 May 2025
Hamburg

1. **Opening of the Meeting**
2. **Adoption of the Agenda**
3. **Summary Record WSB 44**
4. **Announcements**
5. **Implementation Wilhelmshaven Declaration**
6. **Trilateral Governance**
7. **Wadden Sea Board Advisors**
8. **Any Other Business**
9. **Closing**

ANNEX 3: Action items arising from the 45th WSB

ACTION ITEMS

45th meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 45)

28 May 2025
Hamburg

Action #	Agenda item	Actions agreed upon	Person responsible	Deadline
I	5.1	Prepare formal request NCEA to begin the review process	CWSS & WSB	asap
II	5.2	Forward the specific recommendations from the TWSC expert groups to the national groups working on NRR action plans	Country Delegations	asap
III	5.2	Organise a trilateral workshop on National Restoration Plans	CWSS & TG-CM	First half of 2026
IV	5.4	Provide recording of presentation on status of TMAP and QSR Guidance Document	CWSS	asap
V	5.5	Nominate one advisor per country for their participation at WSB 46	National Delegations	Before WSB 46
VI	5.5	Prepare a consolidated updated version of stakeholder engagement document considering further comments from the delegations and advisors	CWSS	WSB 46
VII	6	Approval, 2nd draft MD, including all input from TG's/EG's/TPC etc. for national consultation.	DG MD	WSB 46

ANNEX 4: Presentations and additional information

Presentations from both days are available in a shared folder. The corresponding link is included in the original message with the draft summary record of WSB 45.

****Link expiry date: September 25, 2025****

Please note that there is an additional video presentation on TMAP and QSR to inform the WSB on work in progress by Antonia Immerz (CWSS) in the aftermath of the WSB 45 meeting as the corresponding agenda item had to be postponed and is therefore not an official annex.

WSB 45 "Impulse lectures/presentations: Data & monitoring", May 27, 2025:

- WSB 45 - TMAP – Immerz
- WSB 45 - ANK-Projekt - Blohm
- WSB 45 - TrilaWatt - Lepper
- WSB 45 - Technical Support Instrument - Jaarsma

WSB 45, May 28, 2025:

- WSB 45 -Annex 4a- 5-1-P1 TG-WH progress
- WSB 45 -Annex 4b- 5-1-P2 NCEA Proposal scoping review SEA Wadden Sea
- WSB 45 -Annex 4c- 5-2-P1 Recommendation for the implementation of NRR
- WSB 45 -Annex 4d- 5-2-P2 LANICE
- WSB 45 -Annex 4e- 6-P1 Towards a Renewed Ministerial Declaration (MCD-15) Danish Presidency

ANNEX 5: NCEA

WSB 45 requested examples of the advice NCEA has given in the past. NCEA provides advice in the Netherlands and internationally. For the latter, the NCEA provides coaching (in situations where the government has no or little experience with SEA, not publicly available) and independent advice (publicly available). Below are recent examples from both international and Dutch advisory reviews by the NCEA: one Dutch scoping review was translated in English (just to give a general idea) and other two about the Wadden Sea are in Dutch. Hopefully these examples clarify the way NCEA advises.

- Independent advisory report: Review EIA – Mount Nimba, Guinea (2024) https://www.eia.nl/en/news/two-advisory-reports-on-mount-nimba-iron-mine-projects-published/.
- Independent advisory report: Review ESIA - Bagan River Multipurpose Beautification Project, Myanmar (2016). See attached advisory report. (PDF not public but in shared folder)
- Independent advisory report (in Dutch): Review scoping report SEA 'Program connection offshore wind': a3660rd and review scoping report SEA 'Exploration landfall offshore wind': a3818rd.
- Independent advisory report (in English): Review scoping report SEA 'Lifetime extension of the Borssele nuclear power plant': Advisory report on scoping guidelines.