MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 46)

20 November 2025
Hamburg, Germany

Common Wadden Sea Secretariat

Agenda Item:	**5.1 Protect and strengthen the Outstanding Universal Value (paras 1-16)**
Subject:	**TG-WH progress report**
Document No.:	WSB 47/5.1
Date:	6 November 2025
Submitted by:	**TG-WH and CWSS**

This progress report from the TG-WH contains 1) an update on the preliminary timeline for the State of Conservation Report 2026 and gives 2) an update on the progress of developing the SEA for the Wadden Sea and an updated preliminary timeline.

Proposal: The meeting is invited to:

1) **adopt** the timeline.
2) **note** the information.

TG-WH progress report

1) Update Preliminary Timeline for the State of Conservation Report 2026

This is a brief update to the WSB on the preliminary timeline for submitting the SOC 2026 to the WHC and IUCN. The draft SOC 2026 is currently undergoing stakeholder consultation.

Date	Activity
21 Oct. - 8 Dec. 2025	Ongoing trilateral and national consultation of the final draft SOC 2026
Dec. 2025 - Jan. 2026	Processing of input from consultation phase and review by TG-WH before submitting to WSB
21 Jan. 2026	Review and approval of the updated draft SOC 2026 by WSB via written procedure before submission to WHC and IUCN
12 Feb. 2026	Discussion of the draft SOC 2026 in parliament in the Netherlands
By 15 Feb. 2026	Submission of SOC 2026 to WHC and IUCN

Proposal: The meeting is invited to **adopt** the timeline.

2) Progress on SEA for the Wadden Sea

Work on the national SEA components is progressing in all three countries, with terms of reference under development and arrangements for implementation being clarified. Each country is determining the appropriate approach and identifying the necessary expertise, either internally or through external procurement, to initiate the studies.

Next Steps and Updated Preliminary Timeline

A strong trilateral framework shall ensure coherence among national components. The national SEA components are expected to run through 2026 and part of 2027, with some variation in national timelines. WHC and IUCN have expressed concerns about delays on the joint SEA. Therefore, the goal of submitting the joint SEA by autumn 2027 remains unchanged. Below, a detailed updated preliminary timeline is presented.

Date	Activity
Nov. 2025	Informal meeting to exchange and coordinate the ToR and key methodological aspects (e.g., cumulative impacts, PPPs, use of GIS, and level of detail).
Nov. 2025	Technical meeting to conduct in-depth expert discussions.
Nov. 2025 - Jan. 2026	Expert review of the draft Scoping Report for the joint SEA by the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA).
Nov. 2025 - March 2026	Procurement process for expert(s) to conduct SEA study (national components and integration into joint SEA).
2026 - part of 2027	Development of national SEA components including three trilateral meetings to align scope and trilateral integration.
Dec. 2025 - May 2027	Accompanying national components and trilateral meetings. Integration into draft joint SEA
Jun. - Aug. 2027	Review of the draft joint SEA (including stakeholder engagement with WHC and IUCN).
Summer/Autumn 2027	Integration of feedback from stakeholder engagement, WHC and IUCN review, and NCEA advice, leading to the final joint SEA.
Autumn 2027	**Submission to UNESCO WHC and IUCN to be considered in the World Heritage Committee meeting 2028.**

Proposal: The meeting is invited to **note** the information.