50th meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 50)

Adopted Summary Record

18 May 2026

Online

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was **opened** by the Chairperson, Anne-Marie Rasmussen, at 10:15 hours on 18 May 2026. The Chairperson informed that no new Danish government had been formed yet.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Document: WSB 50/2 WSB 50 draft annotated agenda

No discussion.

The WSB **adopted** the agenda as submitted.

3. Summary Record WSB 49

Document: WSB 50/3 Final Draft Summary Record WSB 49 (sent via e-mail on 11 May 2026)

The WSB **adopted** the final draft summary record of WSB 49 as submitted.

4. Announcements

No announcements.

5. Trilateral Governance

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

The Chairperson informed that, due to the ongoing government formation process in Denmark, the work on the draft Esbjerg Declaration had been put on hold and would be continued as soon as a new government was formed. Thus, no declaration would be signed during the 15th Trilateral Governmental Conference (TGC).

Peter-Paul Mertens informed that further remarks by the Dutch delegation on parts of texts were submitted and would remain and that discussions would continue with the future Danish government.

JOINT STATEMENT

Anders Jacobsen from the Danish Ministry of Green Transition informed on the preparations of a Joint Statement and expected the document to be signed at the TGC. The statement was intended to consist of listing the formal steps in the of the procedure but was also envisioned to act as commitment to the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation. Denmark was working closely with German and the Netherlands on finalising the statement.

Hans-Ulrich Rösner asked when the text would become available. Jacobsen responded that the aim was to finalise the text before the start of the conference. Mertens and Thomas Borchers agreed with that estimation and confirmed that the text was well underway to receive full agreement by the Netherland and Germany, respectively.

TRILATERAL GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE

Heidi Nielsen shared that the ministerial programme would begin on Thursday, 28 May, at 16.00 hours and would continue for the remainder of the day. For Friday, 29 May, an excursion was currently in planning. Currently, more than 200 participants had registered for the event. Executive Secretary Sascha Klöpper added that the main change to the programme was that the ministerial programme was shifted entirely to Thursday afternoon. More details had yet to be confirmed.

Mertens announced that due to the change of programme and shortened attendance of the Danish minister, the Dutch minister had also reduced his attendance to Thursday. Borchers reported that the Parliamentary State Secretary Bettina Hagedorn, stepping in for the German minister, would also only attend Thursday.

Mertens and Vera Knoke informed that both the Dutch and the German delegation would send in remarks and questions on programme as soon as possible.

Mertens and Borchers thanked Denmark for ensuring that the event would take place and CWSS for all the related work.

Rösner expressed hope that the spirit of the TWSC, fundamental to its success would be kept by all involved and would be felt at the TGC. Borchers confirmed the commitment to the TWSC spirit of the Wadden Sea. The Chairperson wished everyone a successful TGC.

*The WSB **noted** the information.*

6. Any Other Business

Martin Cnossen introduced himself and informed that he and Heleen van Dijk would share seat of Dutch stakeholders.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting (WSB 51) will be held on **28 May** in Esbjerg. The exact time may be subject to change.

8. Closing

The meeting was **closed** at 10:45 on 18 May 2026.

Annex 1: List of participants of the 50th WSB

CHAIRPERSON

Anne-Marie Vægter Rasmussen, Chief Advisor, Agency for Green Transition and Aquatic Environment, Ministry of Green Transition

DANISH DELEGATION

Christina Korsgaard Andersen Dissing, Head of Danish Delegation, Agency for Green Transition and Aquatic Environment, Ministry of Green Transition

Klaus Bertram Fries, Esbjerg Municipality

Carlo Sass Sørensen, Danish Ministry of Environment and Gender Equality, Danish Environmental Protection Agency and Coastal Authority

GERMAN DELEGATION

Thomas Borchers, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, *on behalf of Ilka Wagner as Head of Delegation*

Vera Knoke, Head of Division Marine Protection and National Park, Schleswig-Holstein Ministry of Energy Transition, Climate Protection, Environment and Nature

Janne Lieven, Director, Hamburg Wadden Sea National Park Authority, Hamburg Agency for Environment, Climate, Energy and Agriculture (BUKEA)

Alexandra Stück, Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate Protection of Lower Saxony

DUTCH DELEGATION

Peter Paul Mertens, Head of Delegation, Acting Director of Fisheries and Large Waters, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature

Anco Hoogerwerf, Provincie Groningen, *on behalf of Leo Wenneger*

Stefan van Keijzerswaard, Chair Vereniging van Waddenzeegemeenten (Gemeente Het Hogeland)

Mieke Langedijk, Rijkswaterstaat Noord Nederland

ADVISORS

Mikkel Ammitzbøll Jensen, Medlem af Kommunalbestyrelsen - Esbjerg

Marco Brodde, Wadden Sea Team, Danish Ornithological Society

Martin Cnossen, Merk Fryslân

Hans-Ulrich Rösner, Wadden Sea Team, Wadden Sea Office, WWF Germany

COMMON WADDEN SEA SECRETARIAT

Sascha Klöpper, Executive Secretary

Annika Bostelmann

SUPPORTING STAFF

Carolin Galler, Lower Saxon Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Protection

Kasper Knak Sørensen, Danish Ministry of Environment and Gender Equality, Danish Environmental Protection Agency and Coastal Authority

Heidi Nielsen, Agency for Green Transition and Aquatic Environment, Ministry of Green Transition

Margrita Sobottka, Lower Saxon Wadden Sea National Park Authority

Marina Sanns, Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park Authority

Stefanie Sudhaus, Marine Protection and National Park, Schleswig-Holstein Ministry of Energy Transition, Climate Protection, Environment and Nature

Alex van Westerlaak, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature

Roeland Bakker, Rijkswaterstaat Noord-Nederland

GUEST

Anders Jacobsen, Ministry of Green Transition

Annex 2: Adopted agenda of the 50th WSB

1. **Opening of the Meeting**
2. **Adoption of the Agenda**
3. **Summary Record WSB 49**
4. **Announcements**
5. **Trilateral Governance**
6. **Wadden Sea Board Advisors**
7. **Any Other Business**
8. **Closing**