
Preface

Dear Reader,

The new Quality Status Report of the Wadden Sea has currently been published. After 1991 and 1995, it is the third time that a comprehensive, integrated assessment of the Wadden Sea ecosystem and the impact of human activities is presented in the framework of the trilateral Wadden Sea cooperation. This book provides insiders as well as readers from outside the Wadden Sea area with all important facts and aspects of this area and gives a number of recommendations for management, monitoring and research. A short summary of the report is presented in this Newsletter.

In addition, results from projects and monitoring activities are presented in several articles concerning eutrophication criteria, benthos recruitment, dune slacks, breeding birds and seals, and monitoring of socio-economic aspects.

The policy and management section entails reports about new developments concerning gas drilling in the Netherlands (see also last issue) and the new National Park Law in Schleswig-Holstein, which came into effect in December 1999. You will also find several short reports on conferences and meet-

ings. Two conferences were held on environmental aspects of shipping, which has become a more and more important issue since the accident of the cargo ship "Pallas" in Schleswig-Holstein in October 1998 (see last issue) and the oil-tanker "Erika" in Brittany in November 1999.

The Newsletter entails again a list of forthcoming events. You will also find the first announcement and call for papers for the 10th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium "Challenges to the Wadden Sea Area" in Groningen on 31 October – 3 November 2000.

I was met with a good response on the new structure and layout of the Newsletter together with very helpful suggestions for further improvement. This has been a great confirmation and an incentive to our work. Furthermore, I would like to thank all of you who contributed to the Wadden Sea Newsletter and helped to produce this issue.

Harald Marencic
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