

## Salmonoids and Fishing in the Danish Wadden Sea

Ejbye-Ernst, M. & Nielsen, H.T. (Eds.), 1997. The salmonoid populations and fishing in the Danish Wadden Sea area. Ribe Amt, Sønderjyllands Amt, Danmarks Fiskeriundersøgelser.

From 1994 until 1997, the Danish Institute for Fisheries Research carried out a study of the population of salmonoids in the Wadden Sea area in collaboration with the Counties of Ribe and Southern Jutland. The most significant findings are described in an article in the Wadden Sea Newsletter No. 1, 1998. A summary of the most significant results and conclusions of the study has been published and translated into English in 1999. An online-version (pdf format) of the report is available on the homepage of the Inter-regional Wadden Sea Cooperation ([cwss.www.de/Interregional](http://cwss.www.de/Interregional)).

## Wadden Sea Stability Properties

Dittmann, S. (Ed.) 1999. The Wadden Sea Ecosystem – Stability Properties and Mechanisms. Springer Verlag Berlin Heidelberg, pp. 307.

Sabine Dittmann presents the synthesis of a German interdisciplinary research project ELAWAT on stability properties and mechanisms in the Wadden Sea ecosystem. The book describes distribution patterns of abiotic and biotic components over space and time and their regeneration following experimentally induced and natural disturbances, e.g. the effects of the ice winter 1995/96 on the pelagic and benthic system. Changes in patterns over time were analyzed with multivariate statistics and ecological models, e.g. grid-based modeling of macrozoobenthos. Stability properties of the Wadden Sea are analyzed and critically reviewed and recommendations are given for further sustained ecological research. The ELAWAT project gives also arguments for the protection of processes and how to consider stability mechanism for the management of dynamic systems.

## Seashore for All!

Lebenshilfe Wittmund e.V., 1999. Naturerlebnis "Küste" für alle! Barrierefreier und umweltverträglicher Tourismus im Wattenmeergebiet. Schriftenreihe Nationalpark Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer, Band 4, pp. 112.

An EU pilot project "Encounter Nature: Seashore for All" was carried out by the "Lebenshilfe Wittmund" together with the handicap organizations "Onderling sterk" of The Netherlands and the "Danish Women with Disabilities" with the aim to improve the situation of disabled visitors

in the Wadden Sea Area. Concrete examples, suggestions and assistance for administrations, tourism institutions, NGOs and handicap organizations were elaborated. They are presented in a brochure which entails a lot of illustrations and simple but impressive examples on how to reduce the existing barriers for disabled people. This concerns access to bird observation stops, and beaches, e.g. by using special removable boardwalks or providing special wheelchairs for the beach, as well as excursions on mud flats or access to ships by special lifts or guide rails.

The brochure has been published in German and English and can be obtained from the "Nationalparkverwaltung Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer", Virchowstr. 1, D-26382 Wilhelmshaven.

## Common Seals in the Wadden Sea

Heers, K.-E., 1999. Seehunde. Verlag Boyens & Co., Heide, pp. 88, ISBN 3-8042-0846-0. DM 19,80.

The knowledge about the fascinating seals in the Wadden Sea, which are excellent swimmers and divers, are often limited. The author would like to change this and he compiled a well-informed and very fine readable German paperback with a lot of excellent photos. The reader gets all information and facts concerning seals, threats and disturbances to seals as well as seal rehabilitation and conservation of seal. Furthermore, he learns how to deal with seals in nature. A very nice booklet is now available for tourists and inhabitants as well as for all, who are curious about nature on the North Sea coast.

The publication was supported by the "Umweltstiftung WWF-Deutschland", the Seal Station Friedrichskoog in Schleswig-Holstein and the Seehundaufzucht- und Forschungsstation Norden-Nordeich in Niedersachsen.

## Ecological Atlas of the Dutch Waders

Van de Kam, J., B. Ens, T. Piersma & L. Zwarts 1999. Ecologische Atlas van de Nederlands Wadvogels. Schyt & Co., Haarlem, pp. 368, ISBN 90 6097 509 x. HFL 98,-.

The four authors already promise a well-founded and extraordinary book about waders. And really, a comprehensive scientific text, which has also been popularized, is combined with magnificent photos from all over the world. The result is a great book with a lot of illustrative figures and drawings, which should not be missed by any ornithologically interested person. The main focus of the book is the birds themselves, migration roots, food supply, reproduction and population

numbers, and the aspects regarding threats, conservation and management are only mentioned briefly.

In the same series, books about meadow birds and birds of prey have already been published. The introduced publication was compiled in cooperation with Vogelbescherming Nederland.

## Wadden Sea Impressions

Augst, H.-J. & M. Stock, 1999. *Augenblicke im (Nationalpark) Wattenmeer*. Verlag Boyens & Co., Heide. 107 pp. ISBN 3-8042-0845-2. DM 39,80.

This book is something special. It provides the reader with a very unique approach to the habitat Wadden Sea other than books usually covering this area.

Not the, of course, given explanations on the origin, development and interrelationships are to help the reader to appreciate the habitat but the excursion of seeing this area molded by very personal experiences with and sensations in this unique habitat. In the sensitively written short texts, not only the view but also the thoughts wander through the openness of the landscape.

Impressive large-format photographs of the Wadden Sea landscape with a special element of light and shadow alternate with such with a love for specific unmistakable details.

Everybody who picks up this book and has never been in the Wadden Sea area yet will for sure go there soon. For the Wadden Sea connoisseurs, the book will refresh a lot of memories and nature experiences: sensing the power of the sea, losing oneself in the openness, catching the peace and quiet, get to know the special culture of the people and not being able to take ones eyes off the unmistakable smaller and larger forms.

Klaus Janke

## Dithmarschen

Pump, G. & F. Trende, 1999. *Schönes, altes Dithmarschen*. Verlag Boyens & Co., Heide.

Dithmarschen. The former farmer republic and the cabbage chamber of Germany. This is how the Wadden Sea marsh county, north of the mouth of the river Elbe in the south and the Eider in the north, is known to outsiders. In the Middle Ages, Dithmarschen developed into a self governing land of free farmers. A tempting prey for the surrounding powers of Denmark and Hamburg because of its strategic position and its enormous wealth. We

should not forget that Dithmarschen as a part of the marsh area belonged to the most densely populated and most wealthy areas of Europe in late medieval times.

In the attempt to conquer Dithmarschen, in February 1500, the Danish king and his modern and strong army of mercenaries suffered a devastating and humiliating defeat against the army of free farmers. Although the Danish king succeeded in conquering Dithmarschen in a second attempt in 1559, it managed to maintain a state of self-governance until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century when it was incorporate into Prussia.

"Schönes, altes Dithmarschen" tells the story of the land of Dithmarschen on the occasion of the event of the battle 500 years ago, which constituted the peak of independence. It succeeds in combining history and modern times and takes you on a journey through this beautiful landscape abundantly illustrated with attractive photos. Meldorf, Hemmingstedt, Heide - the current "capital" of Dithmarschen and location of the county council - Wesselburen, a village on a huge dwelling mound. The old and modern Dithmarschen is told in brief texts. But also, the contemporary Dithmarschen, like Brunsbüttel and the North Sea-Baltic canal built at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century which changed the area, has a place in the book. It demonstrates that Dithmarschen is more than just cabbage, although it does encompass the most comprehensive cabbage growing area of Europe.

It illustrates why we should be concerned with the marshes as an old irreplaceable cultural landscape whilst we are developing it to create new opportunities. But first and foremost, the book is a good companion for those who live here and for frequent visitors who would like to know more about the landscape through which they travel.

Jens Enemark