

Preface

Dear Reader,

The count-down for the next Trilateral Governmental Wadden Sea Conference, which will be held in Esbjerg, Denmark, on October 31, 2001 (see announcement on page 39) traditionally starts one year before with the International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium. The 10th Symposium in Groningen (October 30 – November 2, 2000) will discuss future challenges to the Wadden Sea Area with the aim to develop concrete recommendations for future management and research activities to be forwarded to the Ministers Conference in 2001.

This Wadden Sea Newsletter contributes to the discussion at the Symposium with several articles. Suggestions for a new structure of the Wadden Sea Cooperation are made, the interactions between policy and scientific knowledge are analyzed, recommendations of a sustainable tourism development in the Wadden Sea are presented, and an example is given on how salt water gradients could be restored.

The topic sea level rise is also addressed in this issue. The authors describe the fluctuations of sea

level during the past 2000 years and the consequences and possible future threats for the cultural heritage in the Wadden Sea region. You will also find a short information about the trilateral working group on coastal protection and sea level rise, which has been installed to develop proposals for a future coastal defense and for nature management options.

Other articles address fishery management, beached bird surveys and the latest counting results of common seals in the Wadden Sea. Again, in this Newsletter, a glimpse over the garden fence to the fascinating intertidal areas of the Persian Gulf is presented.

Last but not least, you will find information about some recently held conferences and meetings and a list of forthcoming events.

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