

## Preface

### Dear Reader,

One of the most challenging outcomes of the Ministerial Conference in Esbjerg in October 2001 was the installation of a trilateral Wadden Sea Forum. All interested parties – so-called “stakeholders” – can participate on an equal basis in management of the Wadden Sea. There are some examples of stakeholder participation in larger areas, like the 25-Year Strategic Plan for the Great Barrier Reef, which was presented in 1997 (Wadden Sea Newsletter 1997 No. 1). In this issue, you are introduced to the experiences at the Severn Estuary in the UK, from which the trilateral Forum will probably gain a lot.

The Forum will probably also address the cultural dimension of planning and managing sustainable development. The relationship between “culture” and “nature” is highlighted in an article by Werner Krauss and gives an impressive insight of anthropological research as part of conflict management in the Wadden Sea.

Mussel fisheries will be a further key topic of the Forum. The article about subtidal mussel beds

as a “threatened oases of biodiversity” highlights the often-neglected ecological importance of subtidal mussel beds and discusses the implication for fishery management.

Two contributions keep you up-to-date on the situation of birds in Guinea Bissau, as one of the most important areas of the East Atlantic Flyway, and the recent status of breeding birds in the Wadden Sea based on the 2001-survey conducted in the framework of the trilateral Joint Monitoring Program of Breeding Birds.

Furthermore, you find a list of forthcoming events and the Annual Report of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat of 2001.

Information about dead seals in the Kattegat is given on the last page under “Latest News”. A regular update can be found in the Internet under [www.waddensea-secretariat.org](http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org)

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