

Preface

Dear Reader,

The seal epidemic 2002 is the focal point of this newsletter. Since a final assessment of the course of the epidemic is not possible yet, we will keep you informed about the developments and the results of the forthcoming seal workshop on Texel on 29-30 November 2002 (see calendar of events) via our homepage (www.waddensea-secretariat.org).

In this newsletter, you will find articles about important issues as a follow up of the agreements of the Esbjerg Conference last year: namely the designation of the Wadden Sea as a PSSA by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the first meeting of the trilateral Wadden Sea Forum.

The article on the status of geese management in the Wadden Sea region was written as part of the Wadden Sea Plan project, § 9.2.3. It gives, for the first time, a trilateral overview of the situation in the different regions and will be the foundation for future work on this issue.

Further articles address heavy metal budgets in the Danish tidal area and the first results of a project to reintroduce eelgrass in the Dutch Wadden Sea.

The newsletters concludes, as always, with a list of new publications, some of them also addressing geese and seals, and a calendar of events.

Finally I would like to ask for your support to keep our mailing list up-to-date. Please inform us about any changes in your address, preferably by sending us the address label indicating the changes.

Thanks to everybody who contributed to the Newsletter this year. I again received a lot of support from colleagues by submitting or reviewing articles or giving advice on the contents. Special thanks to Marijke Polanski who provided the languages support – mostly under deadline pressure but always in time.

Harald Marencic
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