

Preface

Dear Reader,

The celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Wadden Sea Cooperation on 22 October 2003 was an excellent opportunity to get an outside look at the cooperation. Peter Bridgewater, the Ramsar secretary, did this in an admirable way in his keynote address which we included in this newsletter. Another highlight of the celebration was the launch of the International Wadden Sea School, a trilateral project to initiate and support the exchange of school classes in the Wadden Sea region.

Under the section monitoring and research, you will find recent results of harbour seal counts and breeding bird monitoring, as well as information on a new fish species in the Wadden Sea. Research projects are indispensable to complement ongoing monitoring programs by working on specific questions, explaining the causes of the observed changes or giving recommendations to optimize

the monitoring. In two articles, short presentations of research projects in Lower Saxony and Denmark are given. An overview of further projects relevant for the TMAP, the Wadden Sea monitoring program, can be found on the Secretariat's homepage. The newsletter concludes, as always, with a list of new publications and a calendar of events.

Do you have any comments, amendments or critics? What do you think about an e-mail version of the Wadden Sea Newsletter? We are keen to get your opinion. Please send an e-mail to: marencic@waddensea-secretariat.org

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