

Preface

Dear Reader,

A special topic in this Wadden Sea Newsletter (WSNL) issue is tidal flats outside of Europe. The Korean tidal flats have the same general appearance as the Wadden Sea and also represent an important footstone for migratory birds, the Korea - East Asian-Australasian Migratory Bird Flyway. The Korean tidal flats are still threatened by land reclamation, which endangers the high ecological value of that area.

The tidal flats of the Persian Gulf were in focus during the Gulf War but there are still areas, e.g., at the Iranian coast, which are one of the most unknown coastal stretches of the world.

The discussion about consequences of the Pallas Accident in November 1998 still goes on. Expert commissions and an investigating committee have been established by the German Federal Government and the State Government of Schleswig-Holstein. The WSNL article focuses on the ecological consequences of the accident.

Again, Blue Mussel fishery is a hot issue in the Wadden Sea. Short overviews of new developments in the Netherlands, Lower Saxony, and in Schleswig-Holstein have been compiled. The WSNL will pick up the recent discussions in the future issues.

And last but not least, a calendar of events can be found in the new WSNL. Two Wadden Sea events are to be mentioned here: the Workshop about Public Participation in Wadden Sea Issues (Nieuweschans, October 12 - 14, 1999) and the

symposium of the Interregional Cooperation "Sustainable Tourism in the Wadden Sea" (Stade, November 23-24, 1999).

Since 1997, you can also read the WSNL on the Website of the CWSS (<http://cwss.www.de>) where you will find further information about the Wadden Sea Cooperation.

After 10 years, the WSNL has now got a new layout and a new organizational structure. The former Editorial Board has been enlarged and has now been changed to an Advisory Board. The intention is to involve more people in the preparation of the Wadden Sea Newsletter with expertise from different fields of science, management and politics. Many thanks to the "old" Editorial Board and its great commitment and efficient cooperation over the past 10 years, which resulted in 18 WSNL issues.

Many special thanks to Bettina Reineking as editor of the WSNL since the very beginning in 1989. Due to her hard work and dedication over these 10 years, the WSNL developed into an international platform for exchanging views and knowledge. She transferred this job to me because the working fields in the secretariat have been reorganized. I will try to keep, and further develop, the standard of the WSNL and hope that she will also support the WSNL in the future.

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