# **Conservation and Management Plan for the Wadden Sea Seal Population 2012-16**

# CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE WADDEN SEA SEAL POPULATION 2012 - 2016

According to Art. IV. of the Agreement on the Conservation of Seals in the Wadden Sea, which has entered into force on October 1, 1991.

**Explanatory note:** 

The conservation and management plan is divided into three columns according to the following scheme:

**Seal Agreement:** The objectives and obligations of the Agreement.

Required effort and objectives: The objectives and activities required to achieve the objectives.

Action in 2012 – 2016: The actions which trilaterally or each nation shall implement in addition to the current protection measures which already exist.

	Seal Agreement	Required effort and objectives	Action 2012-16
	1. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE		
1	Seal Agreement Art. III		
	The Parties shall cooperate closely with a view to achieving and maintaining a favorable conservation status for the seal population."	To achieve these general objectives it will be necessary  - to achieve and maintain a comprehensive conservation and management of both harbour and grey seal populations in the Wadden Sea through common, coordinated measures of the responsible authorities; and  - to achieve and maintain a public understanding and awareness of the Wadden Sea seal populations as an entity and as an integrated part of the ecosystem.	
	Definition: Agreement Area		
2	Seal Agreement Art. II, b) and d)		
	b) The "Agreement Area" means the area of water known as the Wadden Sea, including all sandbanks therein as well as all shore areas of the North Sea coasts of Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands between Blaavandshuk to the north and Den Helder to the west. The main ranges and the main migration routes are located in the	The Agreement Area is the Wadden Sea Area (Trilateral Cooperation Area) as attached in <b>Annex 1</b> .	TRILATERALLY Management of the Wadden Sea seal population will include developments outside the Agreement Area to the extent relevant. TSEG will in the coming period provide a specific advice on implications for the management of the population in the Agreement Area.

	Seal Agreement	Required effort and objectives	Action 2012-16
	Wadden Sea.  d) "habitat" means any part of the Agreement Area which is essential to the maintenance of the vital biological functions of seals, including but not limited to breeding, whelping, nursing, feeding or resting;		
	2. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES		
3	Habitats  Seal Agreement, Art. VII, 1  1. The Parties shall take appropriate measures for the protection of habitats. They shall pay due regard to the necessity of creating and maintaining a network of protected areas also in the migration areas of the seals in the Agreement Area and of ensuring the preservation of areas which are essential to the maintenance of the vital biological functions of seals.	Efforts should be made - to identify, maintain, extend and create protected areas for seals of an appropriate size in the trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation Area and in adjacent areas and to take appropriate measures; - to ensure that the existing seal reserves cover the main birth, nursery and resting areas of seals and ensure that there is an adequate number of seal reserves; - in order to provide adequate management advice regarding designating seal interest zones / reserves, at sea, including areas outside the trilateral conservation area, more information is still needed about aquatic habitats (e.g. mating and feeding areas); - to ensure that assignments of seal reserves are based on well-defined criteria essential to the maintenance of the vital biological functions of seals, especially in the view of expected increases in human activities.	THE NETHERLANDS AND GERMANY Conclude discussion and designation of seal interest zones / reserves in the Eems-Dollart region.  THE NETHERLANDS Evaluate current status of haul outs, make sure protection of the seals is still adequate despite changes in management.  TRILATERALLY Continue to evaluate the protection status of the haulout sites; TSEG to combine information on protected haul-out sites for seals in the Wadden Sea and offshore area, in order to verify if appropriate habitats are designated.  TRILATERALLY Define criteria for maintaining a favourable conservation status. Investigation of habitat requirements of seals in relation to human activities.
4	Seal Agreement, Art. VII, 2		
	2. The Parties shall preserve habitats and seals present from undue disturbances or changes resulting, directly or indirectly, from human activities.	- to ensure that the seal reserves are created in such a way that disturbance is limited to a minimum;	TRILATERALLY Development of a trilateral framework for guidelines to regulate excursions by boats.

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	Seal Agreement	Required effort and objectives	Action 2012-16
5		- to avoid increase in the disturbance by air traffic;	TRILATERALLY Current regulations seem adequate.
6		- to prohibit disturbing activities in harbour seal reserves at least during breeding and moulting from 15 May to 01 September;	TRILATERALLY Evaluate the disturbances by larger vessels and activities outside the seal reserves in the time from 15 May to 01 September for harbour seals.
7		to determine and reduce the number of seals caught as by-catch in fishing activities and ensure that seals do not drown in fyke nets;	TRILATERALLY Improve the collection of information on drowning/entanglement of seals in fisheries in the Wadden Sea and adjacent waters. Develop standardized autopsies and evaluation of strandings.
8	Seal Agreement, Art. VII, 3		
	3. The Parties shall have regard to the protection of habitats from adverse effects resulting from activities carried out outside the Agreement Area.	This could include prey depletion, oil spills and water pollution (including impact of dredging)	
9	Seal Agreement, Art. VII, 4		
	4. The Parties shall explore the possibility of restoring degraded habitats and of creating new ones.		TRILATERALLY The TSEG should continue to promote research on habitat requirements, and the effects and "safe" distances. Especially in the light of the current population size and the growing interest in human use of the marine area, conflicts in the near future should be anticipated.
- 10	Pollution		
10	Seal Agreement, Art. VIII, a		
	The Wadden Sea States are determined to do their utmost to further reduce pollution of the North Sea from whatever source with the aim of conserving and protecting the Agreement Area.	It will be necessary a. to reduce the pollution from whatever source, i.e. to continue to coordinate efforts to further reduce the pollution of the Wadden Sea and North Sea.	TRILATERALLY Objectives have to be brought in line with WFD, MSFD, and OSPAR EcoQO's; actions have to be taken in accordance with the assessment results for the pollution levels.
	To this end they shall:	b. to use seals as top predators as bioindicator of the	politicon revers.

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	Seal Agreement	Required effort and objectives	Action 2012-16
	a) endeavour to identify the sources of such pollution; see also Seal Agreement, Art. VIII, b and c under 3. RESEARCH AND MONITORING: Monitoring of Pollution	condition of the environment.  c. to ensure that dumping of dredged material, or taking of mud and sand in or near the Wadden Sea will have no negative effects on seals and their haulout sites.	TRILATERALLY An overview of possible effects of dredging material on the environment should be promoted by the TSEG.
	Wardening		
11	Seal Agreement, Art. VI, 4		
	4. The Parties shall take appropriate action to suppress illegal hunting and taking of seals.	<ul> <li>It will be necessary</li> <li>to ensure the enforcement of the provisions of the agreement by an adequate management and wardening system, which should - concerning all seal matters - be coordinated at state administrative agencies.</li> <li>to ensure that the seal reserves are, as parts of the nature reserves and the national parks, adequately wardened.</li> <li>to designate administrative agencies responsible for seal wardening.</li> <li>to ensure a coordination of the state and voluntary wardens.</li> <li>to ensure that the seal reserves are clearly marked and indicated on sea charts.</li> </ul>	TRILATERALLY TSEG will evaluate the current wardening systems.
	3. RESEARCH AND MONITORING		
	Research and Monitoring		
12	Seal Agreement, Art. V, 1		
	1. The Parties shall coordinate their research programs and projects and their monitoring of the seal population to increase their knowledge of the biology and the habitat including harmful effects of human activities on the seal population to provide a basis for measures to improve its conservation status.	Research It will be necessary  - to establish an overview/database of recent and ongoing research projects and scientific articles on seals to ensure information exchange;	TRILATERALLY Continuation of the provision of an overview on ongoing and planned research projects, reporting of achieved results derived from these projects, and assessment of relevance for the trilateral management and research on seals.  Report all research projects on seals or related to seals in the Wadden Sea to the TSEG and to the

	Seal Agreement	Required effort and objectives	Action 2012-16
			coordinating institution (CWSS). Efforts should be given to provide access to all data relevant for the management of seals collected by public or private companies.
13		- to consider a trilateral project on feeding ecology of seals;	TRILATERALLY Initiate a trilateral joint project addressing feeding ecology. A workshop should be organized to start this project.
14		- to consider a trilateral project on habitat requirements of seals.	TRILATERALLY Initiate a joint trilateral project addressing habitat requirements of seals.
15	Seal Agreement, Art. V. 2 a and b	It will be necessary  - to designate institutions responsible for the monitoring.  - in order to guarantee continuity in reliability and comparability of data obtained by the monitoring scheme, the monitoring should be carried out by institutions on a long-term basis.  - in order to obtain more comparable results, to be used for the assessment of population sizes and other demographic parameters, to promote the harmonization of the surveys in the different countries.	Designated monitoring institutions:  DENMARK: Fishery and Maritime Museum, Esbjerg; University of Aarhus, Department of Biosciences, Roskilde  SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN: Landesbetrieb für Küstenschutz, Nationalpark und Meeresschutz Schleswig-Holstein, Nationalparkverwaltung (LKN-SH); Institute for Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Research, University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover (ITAW), Foundation  HAMBURG: Behörde für Stadtentwicklung und Umwelt / Nationalpark-Verwaltung Hamburgisches Wattenmeer (BSU)  NIEDERSACHSEN: Nationalparkverwaltung Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer (NLPV); Niedersächsisches Landesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit (LAVES)  THE NETHERLANDS: Wageningen UR IMARES, Texel
16	Seal Agreement, Art. V, 2 a and b		

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	Seal Agreement	Required effort and objectives	Action 2012-16
	a) population trends e.g. through periodic aerial surveys and counts;  b) seal migration;	to closely follow the population development according to a coordinated scheme specified basically in the report by the Trilateral Seal Expert Group-plus (TSEG-plus, 2000).     in order to assess trends in population size, to carry out at minimum 5 aerial surveys each year, 3 during the pupping and 2 during the moulting period.	TRILATERALLY Continuation of the seal counts by a) planning of the coordinated dates for the five coordinated flights (TMAP-parameter), and b) assessment of the aerial survey results (in terms of numbers and distribution) and reporting to TG-M and WSB. Based on a scientific assessment TSEG will provide a proposal for 3 extra coordinated countings every fifth year (2 during pupping season, 1 during moult) for consideration by the management authorities.  THE NETHERLANDS AND GERMANY According monitoring in the Eems-Dollart, determine whether past counts might include overlaps in this area.  GERMANY Helgoland should be included in the seal monitoring.
17	Seal Agreement, Art. V, 2 c		
	c) seal population parameters, e.g. diseases, survival, age structure, sex ratio.		TRILATERALLY Continuation of the involvement of TSEG in the discussions (within OSPAR, ICES, HELCOM, BDC, EC Habitat Dir.) on the definition of appropriate ranges for change in population size as an alerting signal to take additional management actions, and propose these for adoption to TG-M / WSB.
	Monitoring of Pollution		
18	Seals Agreement, Art. VIII, b and c		
	b) coordinate their research projects regarding seal diseases and the effects on the seal population of such substances, e.g. organochlorine compounds, heavy metals and oil, and agree on methods which permit a comparison of research results;	<ul> <li>TSEG should support research projects related to diseases and effects of pollutants/contaminants and should ensure that the relevant results are reported back to TSEG.</li> <li>to monitor seal tissue concerning selected</li> </ul>	TRILATERALLY Efforts are needed to ensure the possibility to analyse samples in hindsight. Therefore a tissue bank should be maintained with samples to trace developments in diseases and pollution levels.

	Seal Agreement	Required effort and objectives	Action 2012-16
	c) monitor in the Agreement Area, in particular in seal tissue and organisms which are preyed upon by seals, the levels of those substances which in the light of the results of research appear to play a major role in the conservation status of the seal population.  see also Seal Agreement, Art. VIII, a under 2. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES: Pollution	contaminants with coordinated and standardized methods within the framework of TMAP.  - to consider the establishment of a tissue bank according to common guidelines.	The development and effects of new pollutants with physiological impacts should be monitored. A framework should be developed to find pathobiological parameters and secondary monitoring parameters (e.g. immunological, endocrinological, toxicological, parasitological, bacteriological, and virological aspects).
	4. TAKING AND EXEMPTIONS FOR TAKING		
4-	Taking		
19	Seal Agreement, Art. VI, 1  1. The Parties shall prohibit the taking of seals from the Wadden Sea.	The taking of seals from the Wadden Sea shall be prohibited by the parties.	NATIONAL LEVEL Implement provisions in appropriate form in national legislation. Continuing acting according to national law.
	Exemptions for Taking		
20	2. The competent authorities may grant exemptions from the prohibition referred to in the first paragraph authorizing persons to take seals:  - for institutions to be designated performing scientific research into the conservation of the seal population in the Wadden Sea or the conservation of the Wadden Sea ecosystem, insofar as the information required for such research cannot be obtained in any other way; or	It will be necessary to ensure §§ 56 - 61 of the Leeuwarden Declaration (LD), which are based on the "Statement on Seal Rehabilitation and Release, based on scientific experience and knowledge" elaborated by seal experts in 1994:  § 60 to reduce the current number of seals taken from and released to the Wadden Sea to the lowest level possible, by applying guidelines for handling diseased or weakened seals or evidently abandoned pups, and to release seals based on the precautionary approach, referred to in the "Statement on Seal Rehabilitation and Release, based on scientific experience and knowledge" as elaborated by seal experts.	NATIONAL LEVEL Given the prosperous development of the seal population in the Wadden Sea, suggesting vitality in terms of both health and reproduction, §56 - §61 of the Leeuwarden Declaration (LD) are strongly reconfirmed, especially §60, taking into account that ethical considerations, legislation, as well as management practices differ in the three countries.  TSEG to advise reducing the numbers of seals taken. Make sure there is no confusion about the newly weaned seal pups that could seem abandoned.  Annual reporting of this item according to the agreed format no.1 "Found dead seals - Taken seals" to the coordinating institution.  Analyses of the annual reported data by TSEG and reporting to TG-M.

	Seal Agreement	Required effort and objectives	Action 2012-16
21		The guidelines shall be based upon the following principles:  § 60.1 only a very limited number of persons in each country shall be authorized to decide on the handling of diseased or weakened seals or abandoned pups, including taking and releasing of the animals, and only such animals may be taken which have a chance to survive;  § 60.2 seals rehabilitated shall only be released into the wild on a permit granted by the national authority responsible for nature conservation and management if the following criteria are met:	Designated national authorities responsible for granting exemptions from taking and releasing:  DENMARK Danish Nature Agency  SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN Landesbetrieb für Küstenschutz, Nationalpark und Meeresschutz Schleswig-Holstein, Nationalparkverwaltung (LKN-SH)  HAMBURG Behörde für Stadtentwicklung und Umwelt / Nationalpark-Verwaltung Hamburgisches Wattenmeer (BSU)  NIEDERSACHSEN Counties of Aurich and Cuxhaven, further agencies may be involved by the counties  THE NETHERLANDS Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation,  Designated scientific institutions (1) and seal rehabilitation stations (2):  DENMARK Fishery and Maritime Museum, Esbjerg (1,2); Aarhus University (1)  NIEDERSACHSEN Niedersächsisches Landesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit (LAVES) (1); Seehundstation Norden / Norddeich (2)  SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN Seehundstation Friedrichskoog (2)  THE NETHERLANDS Wageningen UR IMARES, Texel (1); Zeehondencreche, Pieterburen (2); Ecomare, Texel (2)
22		(i) the seal has not been treated with specific groups of medicine to be further specified.	TRILATERALLY Out of concern for the wild population, TSEG support

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	Seal Agreement	(ii) the seal does not carry pathogens alien to the wild population;  (Definition of alien: Pathogens which are normally not found in the Wadden Sea area.)  (iii) the seal is released as soon as possible but not later than half a year after it has been brought in for rehabilitation;	efforts and discussion on the treatment and use of medicine in seal rehabilitation. To avoid the introduction of alien and resistant pathogens.
23		<ul> <li>(iv) the seal has not been kept in a center where species of animals alien to the Wadden Sea, or marine mammals not resident in the Wadden Sea, are held;</li> <li>(Definition: Each area which does not belong to the Wadden Sea should be considered alien in this context.)</li> </ul>	NATIONAL LEVEL Prohibit the keeping of seal species, other than harbour and grey seals, in Wadden Sea seal centers. Avoid the taking of harbour and grey seals from areas outside the Wadden Sea and keeping them in Wadden Sea seal centers. Prohibit the release of seals, having been kept in other than the Wadden Sea seal centers, into the Wadden Sea, taking into account that ethical considerations, legislation, as well as management practices differ in the three countries.  Annual reporting of this items according to the agreed format no.2 "Keeping of seal species in the Wadden Sea seal stations" to the coordinating institution. Analyses of the annual reported data by TSEG and reporting to TG-M.
24		<ul> <li>§ 60.3 seals should only be released in the areas where they were found;</li> <li>§ 60.4 seals shall not be transported between subregions of the Wadden Sea;</li> <li>§ 60.5 seals held in captivity shall, in principle, not be released into the wild;</li> <li>§ 60.6 seals born in captivity shall not be released into</li> </ul>	

	Seal Agreement	Required effort and objectives	Action 2012-16
		the wild; exemptions can only be allowed after the approval of the competent authorities.	
25	Seal Agreement, Art. VI, 2, second part  (1) for institutions to be designated nursing seals in order to release them after recovery, insofar as these are diseased or weakened seals or evidently abandoned suckling seals.  Seals which are clearly suffering and cannot survive may be killed by the persons referred to in this paragraph.	It will be necessary  - to ensure at each seal rehabilitation center:     - specialized veterinarian monitoring of the animals;     - writing of a station diary on each individual animal;     - full time specialized supervision of the station;     - standards for the supervision have to be developed.	TRILATERALLY AND NATIONAL LEVEL Enable an independent check of the station records at a national/trilateral level by responsible state agencies.  The TSEG should advise on a revision of the presently used, standardized annual reporting formats, as well as on possible other relevant data to be collected from seals taken.  Annual reporting of this item according to the agreed format no.4 "Check of Station Records" to the coordinating institution. National authorities should report details on rehabilitated and released seals to facilitate analysis by the TSEG. Analyses will be reported by TSEG annually.
26	Seal Agreement Art. VI, 3  3. Any Party having granted exemptions as mentioned above shall notify the other Parties as soon as possible and provide them an opportunity for review and comment.	It will be necessary by each Party  - to report annually exemptions and the number of taken and released seals to the coordinating institution (CWSS).	Trilaterally From all animals taken, either euthanized, otherwise killed, or rehabilitated and released, at least the following information has to be collected: Number of seals, age (length), sex, time and location found at, and time and location of release of rehabilitated seals.  In the beginning of the year, each country provides the coordinating institution with a complete list of the above-mentioned data collected in the past year. The data will be provided to the TSEG in order to evaluate the data for their significance in relation to monitoring possible changes in the population.  The TSEG should advice on a revision of the presently used, standardized annual reporting formats, as well as

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27	5. PUBLIC INFORMATION		on possible other relevant data to be collected from seals taken.  Annual reporting of this item according to the agreed format no.5 "Detailed data of taken seals" to the coordinating institution. Analyses will be reported by TSEG annually.
	Seal Agreement, Art. X  The Parties shall take such measures as may be required to make the general public aware of the conservation status of the seal population, of the content and aims of this Agreement, and of the measures they have taken pursuant to this Agreement, including the Conservation and Management Plan, to improve this conservation status.	It will be necessary  - to inform the public on a common basis to contribute to the continuous implementation of the conservation and management plan; - to recognize the fact that the seals of the Wadden Sea belong to one population and are an integrated part of the Wadden Sea ecosystem; - to ensure that in each seal station a qualified public awareness officer takes care of the public information; - to ensure, that information, that could enhance the taking of seals, will be avoided; - to ensure, that the public knows, when they disturb seals and how they can avoid it; - to ensure, that the public knows, what to do in case they find a live or dead seal on the beach.	TRILATERALLY / NATIONAL LEVEL Publish a brochure including, e.g., information on the status of the seal population, the aims of the Seal Agreement and the Seal Management Plan, the views on rehabilitation, the need to guarantee the primary objective to achieve managing the Wadden Sea as a nature area with the least human interference possible.  The state agencies responsible for seal management should bring this message to the public.  Each Party can report on their local counts as soon as they are assessed. TSEG to publish a trilateral assessment report by 1 November each year. CWSS will ensure informing public media.
	6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS		
28	a. national: The implementation of the common Conservation and Management Plan in national measures including monitoring to be financed by the contracting parties.		
29	b. common: Possibly joint brochure.		See action under 5. Public Information

#### 7. ADDITIONAL MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE GREY SEAL IN THE WADDEN SEA

According to the Conservation and Management Plan for the Wadden Sea Seal Population 1991 - 1995 (Seal Management Plan), which was elaborated in accordance with art. 4 of the Agreement on the Conservation of Seals in the Wadden Sea, the only concerned species has been the common seal (*Phoca vitulina*). Since the Seal Management 1996-2000 additional measures for the protection of the grey seal (*Halichoerus grypus*) in the Wadden Sea are also included, according to §61 of the Leeuwarden Declaration 1994(LD). Due to §61 LD, the principles and guidelines concerning taking of seals, rehabilitation and releasing of seals, which are given under §60 LD, should also apply to the grey seal in the Wadden Sea.

# Taking and exemptions for Taking

§ 60 of the Leeuwarden Declaration and the concerned chapter of the Seal Management Plan 2002 - 2006 for the common seal is also valid for the grey seal in the Wadden Sea.

LD § 60 to reduce the current number of seals taken from and released to the Wadden Sea to the lowest level possible by applying guidelines for handling diseased or weakened seals or evidently abandoned pups, and to release seals based on the precautionary approach.

#### **Additional Measures**

Additional measures and activities to be taken for the protection of the grey seal in the Wadden Sea include:

#### **Habitats**

- (1) Ensure that the grey seal colonies are protected as reserves which are maintained, extended and created in such a way that disturbance is limited to a minimum.
- (2) Install seal sanctuaries on beaches including a wardening system, where possible and acceptable and to install a flexible protection scheme of "contemporary undisturbed areas" in regions where grey seal pups rest regularly.

#### **ACTION 2007 -2010**

- 1. Haul-out sites from grey seals should be protected in line with the protection of harbour seals; ensure by special measures protection of grey seals during whelping, breeding and moulting in NL.
- 2. Promote timely implementation of NATURA 2000 Network (Marine Ecosystem).

#### **Research and Monitoring**

Grey seals are now a permanent and important part of the fauna of the Wadden Sea. The supporting of efforts nationally and trilaterally to study grey seals should be continued. However, part of the encountered animals may not belong to local breeding stocks. Grey seals are known as being very mobile, and there will be significant migration into and out of the area. It is considered essential for a proper management to acquire knowledge on developments in distribution and abundance of animals in the Wadden Sea and on Helgoland. These actions on population biology of grey seals need to be trilaterally coordinated.

- (1) Consider a research project on habitat use and demands, behaviour and health status of grey seals in the Wadden Sea.
- (2) Understanding population developments and structure by usage of photo-identification, telemetry and genetic techniques as well as health status.
- (3) Improve the monitoring of breeding colonies during breeding season by regular ship and / or aerial surveys.

# **ACTION 2012 - 2016**

- Implementation of coordinated grey seal surveys and yearly reporting of trilateral grey seal counts will be continued.
- 2. Assessment of developments: For the time being, seasonal peak numbers counted at haulouts in the different survey areas, and distribution in the Wadden Sea can be given, as well as a joint total number synchronously observed in the entire Wadden Sea. Assessment of the results in terms of trends in numbers and distribution will be done by TSEG and reported. Major elements of these actions are:
  - Synchronous counts (at least twice) during the moulting period (March April) preferably by aerial survey
  - At least three counts of pups born in December and January (1 December to 15 January), either from plane of from land
  - Helgoland should be included in the grey seal monitoring.
- 3. Evaluate the disturbances by larger vessels and activities outside the seal reserves in the time between 01 December to 15 January (breeding) and 01 March to 01 May (moult) for the grey seals; or as appropriate for the whole year.

# Wardening

#### **ACTION 2007 -2010**

TSEG will evaluate the current wardening systems and further promote a wardening system consisting of "flexible protection zones" which are active during breeding season in regions where grey seal pups are regularly born.

# **Public information**

#### **ACTION 2007 -2010**

- 1. Inform the public on a common basis on grey seals as an indigenous resident species of the Wadden Sea which is resettling the area.
- 2. Inform the public, how to deal with stranded (dead / live) grey seals.

#### 8. RESPONSIBLE BODIES

(according to Art. IX of the Agreement on the Conservation of Seals in the Wadden Sea)

#### **RESPONSIBLE NATIONAL AUTHORITIES:**

**DENMARK:** 

Ministry of the Environment The Danish Nature Agency Haraldsgade 53 DK - 2100 Copenhagen Ø T + 45 72 54 30 00

# FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY:

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety Arbeitsgruppe - NI2-Postfach 12 06 29 D - 53048 Bonn T +49 (0)228 - 305 2621 F +49 (0)228 - 305 2697

Federal Agriculture Minister in cooperation with the Federal States.

THE NETHERLANDS:

Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation Bezuidenhoutseweg 30 NL - 2594 AV Den Haag T + 31 70 3798911

#### **COORDINATING INSTITUTION:**

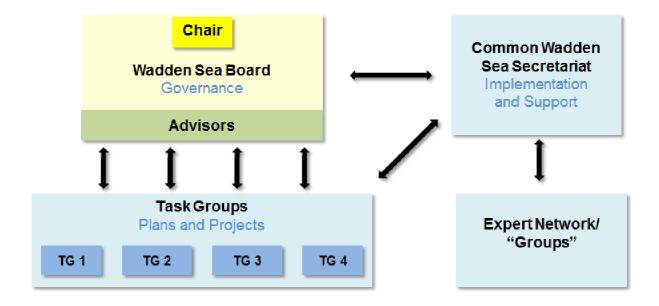
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E-mail: info@waddensea-secretariat.org

The coordinating institution shall be informed on all developments and activities which concern the Conservation and Management of the Wadden Sea Seal Population and an annual report shall be made on the implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan, to be sent also to the Bonn Convention Secretariat.

# **Trilateral Seal Expert Group (TSEG)**

The Wadden Sea Board has adopted an overall structure for the Task Groups (TG) and the Expert Network/Groups:



The TGs are generally policy task groups with a limited timeframe, number of members, and defined tasks, for which the WSB may allow exceptions. In general WSB-members should not be members of TGs. TGs

- a. report directly to the WSB
- b. are chaired by experienced administrative/ministerial representatives
- c. have a maximum lifespan of one presidency (Reinstallation under new presidency is possible, but requires specific new Board decision)

Expert Network "Groups" are generally long-term or permanent groups – exceptions are allowed. They have operational and advising tasks and

- a. report to the CWSS WSB may allow exceptions
- b. are chaired by CWSS staff or others
- c. are (in principle, but not necessarily) permanent

The CWSS shall briefly report to the WSB on a yearly basis about the outcome and the further necessity of the groups.

Terms of Reference for the expert network groups operating in the framework of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation which are also valid for the Trilateral Seal Expert Group are to

- (1) ensure the exchange of information and experience between the various regions in the context of the WSP Targets and policies.
- (2) coordinate monitoring within the TMAP, assess the results of the monitoring and suggest any necessary amendments to the TMAP.
- (3) provide advice on the scientific basis for management in a trilateral context.
- (4) provide an annual progress report on the above points.

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