

## **Conservation and Management Plan for the Wadden Sea Seal Population 2002 – 2006**

## CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE WADDEN SEA SEAL POPULATION 2002 – 2006

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.

### 1. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

"The Parties shall cooperate closely with a view to achieving and maintaining a favorable conservation status for the seal population." Seal Agreement Art. III

To achieve these general objectives it will be necessary

- to achieve and maintain a comprehensive conservation and management of the seal population of 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 population as an entity and as an integrated part of the ecosystem.

**1.1 Agreement Area:** The Agreement Area is the Wadden Sea Area (Trilateral Cooperation Area).

**Explanatory note:** The measures of the conservation and management plan are outlined according to the following scheme

Seal Agreement	Required effort and objectives	Action in 2002 - 2006
The objectives and obligations of the Agreement itself.	The objectives and the individual activities and measures that need to be undertaken to achieve the objectives.	The activities and measures which trilaterally and / or each country / state shall implement in addition to the (seal) protection measures which already exist in the given state, in order to fulfill the prescriptions.

Seal Agreement	Required effort and objectives	Action in 2002 - 2006
<b>2. CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES</b>		
<b>Habitats</b>		
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	It will be necessary to identify, maintain, extend and create seal interest zones / reserves of an appropriate size in the trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation Area and in adjacent areas and	<b>THE NETHERLANDS AND GERMANY</b> Evaluate the necessity to establish and manage seal reserves in the Eems-Dollard region, similar to seal reserves established and managed in other areas of the Wadden Sea.

<b>Seal Agreement</b>	<b>Required effort and objectives</b>	<b>Action in 2002 - 2006</b>
preservation of areas which are essential to the maintenance of the vital biological functions of seals.	to take appropriate measures, i.e.:	
	- 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;	<b>TRILATERALLY</b> Evaluate the existing network of seal reserves in the countries as to whether they comply with the EC Habitat Directive. In case the assessment indicates that more seal reserves are needed, the installation of further seal reserves should be considered in cooperation with relevant stakeholders.
	- to ensure that at present and in the future, in view of expected increases in populations, assignments of seal reserves are based on well defined criteria of critical habitats;	<b>TRILATERALLY</b> Referred to RESEARCH AND MONITORING "investigations of habitat requirements of seals in relation to recreational demands"
	- to identify and if necessary maintain, extend and create a seal protection zone of an appropriate size outside the Trilateral Wadden Sea Conservation Area related to appropriate measures and ensure that this zone covers the foraging area offshore particularly during winter.	<b>TRILATERALLY</b> The TSEG should assess whether the implemented measures meet the habitat requirements of seals in the offshore area connected with the Wadden Sea and report the results to the TWG and inform the TMAG.
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;	<b>TRILATERALLY</b> Develop a trilateral framework for guidelines to regulate excursions by boats to seal haul-outs. These guidelines should be based on a precautionary principle. National guidelines should be based on the trilateral framework and could – if needed - consider a specification for certain haul-outs, e.g. colonies where pups are born should preferably not be visited during the whelping and lactation period. The guidelines should, e.g., include distances to seal colonies, speed of boats and provide for possibilities to assess and evaluate the impact of seal excursions on vigilance and other behavior of the seals.
	- to reduce the disturbance by air traffic;	Referred to: Necessary measures outlined in the Wadden Sea Plan
	- to prohibit disturbing activities in seal reserves at least in the time between 15.05. to 01.09;	Referred to: Necessary measures outlined in the Wadden Sea Plan

<b>Seal Agreement</b>	<b>Required effort and objectives</b>	<b>Action in 2002 - 2006</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to reduce the number of seals caught as by-catch and ensure that seals do not drown in fyke nets;</li> </ul>	<p><b>THE NETHERLANDS AND LOWER SAXONY</b> Investigate experimentally, preferably in consultation with the fishermen, which mesh size used in seal guards is necessary to prevent drowning of, particularly, young seals in this type of fishery and make such seal guards obligatory for fishing with fyke nets in all sub-regions in the Wadden Sea where this type of fishery is carried out.</p>
<p>3. The Parties shall have regard to the protection of habitats from adverse effects resulting from activities carried out outside the Agreement Area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to avoid and determine the number of seal-by-catches in fishery activities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>TRILATERALLY</b> Improve the central collection of information on drowning/entanglement of seals in fisheries in the Wadden Sea and adjacent waters, either via existing stranding networks or through establishing such a system.</p>
<p>4. The Parties shall explore the possibility of restoring degraded habitats and of creating new ones.</p> <p>Seal Agreement, Art. VI</p>		
<b>Pollution</b>		
<p>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.</p> <p>To this end they shall:</p> <p>a. endeavor to identify the sources of such pollution;</p> <p>Seal Agreement, Art. VIII a</p>	<p>It will be necessary</p> <p>a. to reduce the pollution from whatever source, i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to continue to commonly implement the decisions of the North Sea Conferences;</li> <li>- to continue to coordinate efforts in the framework of the North Sea Conferences to further reduce the pollution of the Wadden Sea and North Sea.</li> </ul> <p>b. if possible to use seals as an indicator of the condition of the environment.</p>	<p><b>TRILATERALLY</b> Referred to: The necessary measures are and / or will be outlined in the Wadden Sea Plan, the decisions of the North Sea Conferences and other relevant international fora.</p>
	<p>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 resp. seal banks.</p>	<p><b>TRILATERALLY</b> Exchange information on precautionary measures for seals in the practice of dumping of dredged material or taking of mud or sand in or near the Wadden Sea.</p>

Seal Agreement	Required effort and objectives	Action in 2002 - 2006
<b>Wardening</b>		
<p>4. The Parties shall take appropriate action to suppress illegal hunting and taking of seals.</p> <p>Seal Agreement, Art. VI, 4</p>	<p>It will be necessary 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to ensure that the seal reserves are, as parts of the nature reserves and the national parks, adequately warded;</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>	<p><b>TRILATERALLY</b></p> <p>Evaluate the existing wardening systems, as whether they meet the common standards according to Annex I of the Esbjerg Declaration (1991), and improve the wardening system, if needed.</p>
<b>3. RESEARCH AND MONITORING</b>		
<b>Research and Monitoring</b>		
<p>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.</p>	<p><u>Research</u></p> <p>It will be necessary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to establish an overview of recent and ongoing research projects on seals to ensure information exchange;</li> </ul>	<p><b>TRILATERALLY</b></p> <p>Report all research projects on seals or related to seals in the Wadden Sea to the coordinating institution, and to the TSEG. After completion of a project, a report on the results should be made available to the coordinating institution for further evaluation by the TSEG.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to consider a trilateral project on feeding ecology of seals;</li> </ul>	<p><b>TRILATERALLY</b></p> <p>Complete the ongoing drafting of the joint trilateral project on "Feeding Ecology of Common seals", including prey preference, food quality and foraging areas. The information will not only be used to understand and follow whether changes in feeding patterns and food availability may occur in the future, but most importantly does provide the necessary information to identify, in an early stage,</p>

Seal Agreement	Required effort and objectives	Action in 2002 - 2006
		<p>whether seals – fishery inter-actions become evident, and facilitate the assessment of the extent of such a conflict, and recommend appropriate management solutions. The partners in the Seal Agreement in close connection with the responsible administrative agencies in the area are invited to facilitate funding for this project.</p> <p>The research project "feeding ecology of common seals" has the first priority relative to "investigations of habitat requirements of seals in relation to recreational demands".</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to consider a trilateral project on habitat requirements of seals in relation to recreational demands.</li> </ul>	<p><b>TRILATERALLY</b> Redraft the joint proposal regarding "habitat use with regard to human activities in the Wadden Sea and adjacent areas" and submit it - in consultations with responsible state administrative agencies for nature conservation – to organizations (e.g. EC or others) for funding. The partners in the Seal Agreement, in close connection with the responsible administrative agencies in the area, are invited to facilitate funding for this project.</p> <p>The research project "investigations of habitat requirements of seals in relation to recreational demands" has second priority in relation to "feeding ecology of common seals".</p>
<p>2. They shall, in particular, monitor and coordinate their research on,</p>	<p><u>Monitoring</u> It will be necessary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to designate institutions responsible for the monitoring;</li> <li>- 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;</li> <li>- 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;</li> </ul>	<p><u>Designated monitoring institutions:</u> <b>DENMARK:</b> Fiskeri-og Søfartsmuseet, Esbjerg</p> <p><b>SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN:</b> Nationalparkamt Tönning / FTZ Büsum der Univ. Kiel</p> <p><b>NIEDERSACHSEN:</b> Bezirksreg. Weser-Ems, Dez. 04: NP Verw., Dez. 607: Verw. Forst und Jagdhoheit / Univ. Oldenburg / Staatl. Veterinäruntersuchungsamt f. Fische u. Fischwaren, Cuxhaven</p> <p><b>THE NETHERLANDS:</b> Alterra, Texel</p>

<b>Seal Agreement</b>	<b>Required effort and objectives</b>	<b>Action in 2002 - 2006</b>
<p>a. population trends e.g. through periodic aerial surveys and counts;</p> <p>b. seal migration;</p>	<p>- 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):</p> <p>- 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;</p>	<p><b>TRILATERALLY</b> Carry out five flights per year in a trilaterally coordinated way (three during the pupping and two during the moulting period) as a minimum program according to the given arguments in the TSEG-document.</p> <p>More flights in one year (a few more flights in the pupping season) should only be carried out in a trilaterally coordinated way in case of emergency or because of special local/regional reasons on the basis of agreed scientific requirements.</p>
<p>c. seal population parameters, e.g. diseases, survival, age structure, sex ratio.</p> <p>Seal Agreement, Art. V</p>		
<b>Monitoring of Pollution</b>		
<p>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;</p>		
<p>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.</p> <p>Seals Agreement, Art. VIII, b-c</p>	<p>- to monitor seal tissue concerning selected contaminants with coordinated and standardized methods within the framework of TMAP</p> <p>- to consider the establishment of a tissue bank according to common guidelines.</p>	<p><b>TRILATERALLY</b> The status of the common seal population and changes thereof, can be described in quantitative terms (population demographics) as well as in qualitative terms (reproductive capacity, survival and health status). Such a multiple index should be used to describe the status of a population. To be able to do so, it is necessary to establish a trilaterally agreed monitoring program that includes as first priorities the research disciplines population dynamic and pathobiology. The basic program may be completed by a less intensive program of selected parameters of immunological, endocrinological, toxicological, parasitological, bacteriological, and virological investigations. The TSEG should draft such a first-priority and second-priority monitoring program including ways to obtain the</p>

Seal Agreement	Required effort and objectives	Action in 2002 - 2006
		necessary data and/or required samples and report the results to the TMAG.
<b>4. TAKING AND EXEMPTIONS FOR TAKING</b>		
<b>Taking</b>		
<p>1. The Parties shall prohibit the taking of seals from the Wadden Sea</p> <p>Seal Agreement, Art. VI, 1</p>	<p>The taking of seals from the Wadden Sea shall be prohibited by the parties.</p>	<p><b>NATIONAL LEVEL</b> Implement provisions in appropriate from in national legislation.</p>
<b>Exemptions for Taking</b>		
<p>2. The competent authorities may grant exemptions from the prohibition referred to in the first paragraph authorizing persons to take seals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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</li> </ul>	<p>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:</p> <p>§ 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.</p>	<p><b>NATIONAL LEVEL</b> Given the prosperous development of the seal population in the Wadden Sea, both in terms of growth as well as in fitness, §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.</p>
	<p>The guidelines shall be based upon the following principles:</p> <p>§ 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;</p>	<p><u>Designated national authorities responsible for granting of exemptions from taking and releasing:</u></p> <p>DENMARK Skov- og Naturstyrelsen, Reservatsektionen</p> <p>NIEDERSACHSEN Bezirksreg. Weser-Ems, Dez. 04: NP Verw., Dez. 607: Verw. Forst und Jagdhoheit</p>

Seal Agreement	Required effort and objectives	Action in 2002 - 2006
	<p>§ 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:</p>	<p>SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN Nationalparkamt, Tönning</p> <p>THE NETHERLANDS Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, Directie Noord, Groningen</p> <p><u>Designated scientific institutions (1) and nursery stations (2):</u></p> <p>DENMARK Fiskeri-og Søfartsmuseet, Esbjerg (1,2)</p> <p>NIEDERSACHSEN Staatliches Veterinäruntersuchungsamt Cuxhaven (1); Aufzuchtstation Norden / Norddeich (2)</p> <p>SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN FTZ Büsum, Univ. Kiel (1); Seehundaufzuchtstation Friedrichskoog (2)</p> <p>THE NETHERLANDS Alterra, Texel (1); Zeehondencrèche, Pieterburen; Ecomare, Texel (2)</p>
	<p>(i) the seal has not been treated with specific groups of medicine to be further specified.</p>	<p><b>TRILATERALLY</b> A detailed expert discussion on medical treatment of taken seals should take place resulting in an advice on the use of specific groups of medicines in seal centers, where seals are rehabilitated and released, taking into account that ethical considerations, legislation, as well as management practices differ in the three countries.</p>
	<p>(ii) the seal does not carry pathogens alien to the wild population; (Definition alien: Pathogens which are normally not found in the Wadden Sea are alien.)</p> <p>(iii) the seal is released as soon as possible but not later than half a year after it has been brought in for rehabilitation;</p>	
	<p>(iv) the seal has not been kept in a center where species of animals alien to the Wadden Sea, or</p>	<p><b>NATIONAL LEVEL</b> Prohibit the keeping of seal species, other than common</p>

Seal Agreement	Required effort and objectives	Action in 2002 - 2006
	<p>marine mammals not resident in the Wadden Sea, are held;</p> <p>(Definition: Every area which does not belong to the Wadden Sea should be considered alien in this context.)</p>	<p>and grey seals, in Wadden Sea seal centers. Avoid the taking of common 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.</p>
	<p>§ 60.3 seals should only be released in the areas where they were found;</p> <p>§ 60.4 seals shall not be transported between subregions of the Wadden Sea;</p> <p>§ 60.5 seals held in captivity shall, in principle, not be released into the wild;</p> <p>§ 60.6 seals born in captivity shall not be released into the wild; exemptions can only be allowed after the approval of the competent authorities.</p>	
<p>- 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.</p> <p>Seals which are clearly suffering and cannot survive may be killed by the persons referred to in this paragraph.</p>	<p>It will be necessary to ensure at each seal station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- specialized veterinarian monitoring of the animals;</li> <li>- writing of a station diary on each individual animal;</li> <li>- full time specialized supervision of the station;</li> <li>- standards for the supervision have to be developed.</li> </ul>	<p><b>TRILATERALLY AND NATIONAL LEVEL</b></p> <p>Enable an independent check of the station records at a national/trilateral level by responsible state agencies.</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>Seal Agreement Art. VI, 2 – 3</p>	<p>It will be necessary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to report annually exemptions and the number of taken and released seals to the coordinating institution (CWSS).</li> </ul>	<p><b>TRILATERALLY</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>In the beginning of the year, each country provides the coordinating institution with a complete list of the above-</p>

Seal Agreement	Required effort and objectives	Action in 2002 - 2006
		<p>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 results should be reported to the TWG and TMAG.</p> <p>The TSEG should advice 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.</p>
<b>5. PUBLIC INFORMATION</b>		
<p>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.</p> <p>Seal Agreement, Art. X</p>	<p>It will be necessary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to inform the public on a common basis to contribute to the continuous implementation of the conservation and management plan;</li> <li>- 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;</li> <li>- to ensure that in each seal station a qualified full time public awareness officer takes care of the public information;</li> <li>- to ensure, that information, that could enhance the taking of seals, will be avoided;</li> <li>- to ensure, that the public knows, when they disturb seals and how they can avoid it;</li> <li>- to ensure, that the public knows, what to do in case they find a live or dead seal on the beach.</li> </ul>	<p><b>TRILATERALLY / NATIONAL LEVEL</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The state agencies responsible for seal management should bring this message to the public.</p>
<b>6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>		
<p><b>a. national:</b> The implementation of the common Conservation and Management Plan in national measures including monitoring to be financed by the contracting parties.</p>		
<p><b>b. common:</b> Possibly joint brochure</p>		

## 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.

Further activities regarding additional measures to be taken for the protection of the grey seal in the Wadden Sea are being addressed here:

It will be necessary:

### Habitats:

- to 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;
- to 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;
- to restrict disturbances near pupping grounds (such as fishery);

#### **ACTION IN 2002 - 2006**

The Dutch responsible agencies should seek advice from the TSEG on the necessary measures to provide grey seals in the Dutch Wadden Sea with a similar level of protection as provided to the common seal.

### Research and Monitoring:

- to consider a research project on habitat use and demands, behavior and health status of grey seals in the Wadden Sea and to invite institutions in Schleswig-Holstein and The Netherlands to draft such a project;
- to improve the monitoring of breeding colonies during breeding season by regular ship and / or aerial surveys;

#### **ACTION IN 2002 - 2006**

Raise funding for the trilateral project "Habitat use and demands, behavior and health status of grey seals in the Wadden Sea" in order to provide the basic data to monitor the status of the different colonies of grey seals and formulate an adequate conservation policy and management for this species.

### Wardening:

- to promote a warden system for installing "flexible protection zones", that is active during breeding season in regions, where grey seal pups regularly are;

### Public information:

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

## **8. RESPONSIBLE BODIES**

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

### **Responsible national authorities:**

DENMARK:

Responsible for the Seal Agreement:

Ministry of the Environment and Energy  
The National Forest and Nature Agency  
Haraldsgade 53  
DK - 2100 Copenhagen Ø  
phone: + 45 39 47 22 50  
fax: + 45 39 27 23 04

Responsible for the management of seals and wildlife:

Ministry of the Environment and Energy  
The National Forest and Nature Agency  
Nature and Wildlife Section  
Åholtvej 1  
DK 6840 Oksbøl  
phone: +45 76 54 10 40  
fax: +45 76 54 10 46  
e-mail: puj@sns.dk

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY:

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

in cooperation with the Federal States

THE NETHERLANDS:

Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries  
Directie Noord  
Postbus 30032  
NL – 9700 RM Groningen  
phone: + 31 (0)50 – 50 599 2320  
fax: + 31 (0) 50 – 50 599 2399

COORDINATING INSTITUTION:

Common Wadden Sea Secretariat  
Virchowstr. 1  
D - 26382 Wilhelmshaven  
phone: + 49 (0)44 21 – 91 08 11  
fax: + 49 (0)44 21 – 91 08 30  
E-mail: reineking@cwss.whv.net

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):**

DK: Svend Tougaard, Fiskeri-og Søfartsmuseet, Esbjerg  
SH: Ursula Siebert, FTZ Büsum der Univ. Kiel  
Nds: Ekkehard Vareschi, Universität Oldenburg  
NL: Peter H. Reijnders, Alterra, Texel

The Trilateral Seal Expert Group has the task to coordinate and supervise the implementation of monitoring activities and the assessment of the results, assess relevant research results and, as appropriate, give advice regarding management on request of the trilateral cooperation. TSEG should continuously be a group which can

act independently.

**Tasks of TSEG:**

- analyze (chronic and sudden) developments in the common and grey seal populations (e.g. oil pollution, higher mortality) and accordingly provide through the CWSS management advise to the responsible authorities;
- coordinate, supervise and execute monitoring activities as identified in the SMP and assess the results;
- formulate, in cooperation with the CWSS, concrete plans to achieve the objectives of the SMP (work plan), in particular the identified required efforts and objectives;
- coordinate and supervise, in consultation with the CWSS, the implementation of the SMP;
- evaluate progress in the implementation of the SMP and advise on interim management measures to enhance execution of the planned actions;
- elaborate and submit proposals to the responsible authorities to initiate and implement research activities as identified in the SMP and assess relevant research results;
- evaluate the current SMP and formulate, in cooperation with the CWSS and further experts, an outline for the new SMP;
- Report to TWG and TMAG.