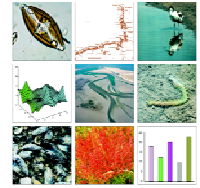




Workshop “Water Framework Directive and Wadden Sea”



Terms of Reference

(as endorsed by TWG 03/2, 8- 9 October 2003)

Introduction

The three Wadden Sea countries, the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark, agreed to coordinate their policy and management on the protection of the Wadden Sea (Joint Declaration 1982 This concerns also the implementation of a number of international legal instruments, amongst others, the EU Directives on Birds and on Habitats and, most recently, the Water Framework Directive (WFD) (Ministerial Declaration, Esbjerg 2001, §§ 48-49).

At a preparatory meeting in Hamburg on 8 May 2003, representatives from the three countries concerned with the WFD implementation and the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Program (TMAP) discussed the possibilities to coordinate to a certain extent the WFD implementation with the existing trilateral policy, management and monitoring agreements. The meeting identified several work topics which should be discussed in a broader framework at a workshop in December 2003.

Objective of the Workshop

The aim of the workshop is

- Bring together people involved in (1) the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive in the Wadden Sea and (2) the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation / TMAP to exchange information and experiences,
- to deal with the Wadden Sea as an ecological entity taking into account the Joint Declaration of the Wadden Sea states (1982), the Esbjerg Declaration (2001, §§ 48-49) and the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive,
- to establish an operational information exchange network for future activities.

Tasks

1. Presentation of an actual overview of the implementation status of the WFD and the agreements of the Trilateral Cooperation in the Wadden Sea (Wadden Sea Plan and TMAP).
2. Discussion of the common grounds and differences between WFD and Trilateral Cooperation (Wadden Sea Plan, TMAP) and how to deal with these in future in order to avoid double work and to support mutual benefit and synergism.
3. Proposals for a harmonized definition of the ecological status of the Wadden Sea in order to achieve that the WFD classification procedure and the Wadden Sea Plan target assessment will lead to comparable interpretations and messages to policy and management authorities.

Composition

The workshop will consist of key persons from the river basin districts WFD implementation structures (such as project leaders) from each country and members of the TMAG and TWG, to be nominated by the countries. A total number of participants of about 30 is envisaged.

The secretarial work will be carried out by the Common Wadden Sea secretariat.

Responsibility

The workshop is carried out under the responsibility of the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Group (TMAG) in cooperation with the Trilateral Working Group (TWG).

Time schedule

The workshop is scheduled for [week 50] December 2003, and will be held in Hamburg. The draft workshop report shall be finalized before the end of 2003.