MEETING DOCUMENT

**Task Group Management (TG-M 20-1)**

17 - 18 April 2020

Bremen, Germany

**Agenda Item: 9. Ports and shipping**

**Subject: Round table shipping safety**

**Document No.:** TG-M 20-1/9

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**Submitted by: WSF/CWSS**

At the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) meeting 30 held on 21 November 2019 in Wilhelmshaven, Germany, the establishment of a round table for shipping led by the WSF with the support of the CWSS and in collaboration to TG-M was approved. Furthermore, the work of the round table would contribute to the content of the SIMP regarding the key topic shipping.

This document contains information on progress towards a kick-off round table scheduled to the second half of April 2020/first half of May 2020. It also contains an indicative list of participants and a preliminary draft agenda.

**Proposal:** TG-M is invited to note the information and to comment as appropriate.

Furthermore, TG-M is invited to actively support the preparation with its network to raise awareness about the issue and to contact further representatives of shipping organisations, authorities and governments.

# Round table for Shipping Safety

## Background

Shipping and harbour developments are important businesses along the Wadden Sea coast and contribute to socio-economic welfare in the Wadden Sea Region. For a healthy future, these sectors should face necessary sustainable improvements, also to reach wide acceptance as growing economic branch.

Despite considerable progress made in the improvement of shipping safety, as well as environmental protection measures to minimize maritime pollution, shipping is a potential source of risk for the Wadden Sea and adjacent coastline. Recent incidents like accidents and near collisions and the loss of cargo as well as offshore developments, increasing ship traffic but also the responsibility for the Wadden Sea World Heritage property demand posing attention and awareness to the topic of shipping safety.

National and regional governments as well as the Wadden Sea Forum with its stakeholders were made aware of increasing concerns of the society of the Wadden Sea Region about negative impacts of shipping. In addition, members of the Wadden Sea Advisory Board in Lower Saxony (Beirat für den Nationalpark Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer) experienced such increasing concern in their sectors and municipalities and requested to take initiatives to improving the shipping business. Likewise, Wadden Sea managers from the three countries and the TG-WH identified shipping as one of the key topics for the SIMP.

## Round Table

Recognizing the increasing ship traffic with a recent number of accidents and the concerns of the society, the Wadden Sea Forum was instructed bythe Wadden Sea Board (WSB) as political body of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation, with the support of the CWSS and in collaboration to TG-M, to establish a round table shipping, elaborating on advice how shipping safety in the southern North Sea can be improved, considering the vulnerability of the Wadden Sea ecosystem, distinguished as World Heritage Site.

The round table will be invited to discuss how to meet the concerns of the society and to exchange views and perceptions about possible future measures or actions. New ways of cooperation may also be considered. The first round table meeting should provide a forum for getting known to each other, listening and understanding to different opinions and motivations, and a start of trust building. At the end, agreements on how to continue should be concluded. Ideally, further round table meetings could be implemented to elaborate on concrete questions.

The overall goal of the round table approach is to aim at joint solutions of the three Wadden Sea countries with regards to shipping safety. A reflection of how the designation of the Wadden Sea as Particularly Sensitive Area (PSSA) in 2002 has contributed to safeguard the Wadden Sea should be taken into account. Agreements by the three countries may lead to proposals and advice on a voluntary level, national responsibilities but also to to jointly raise important issues onIMO level.

## Progress in implementation

The preparations of implementing a round table shipping have been started by the WSF with support of CWSS by outlining background, objectives and contents of a first round table.

Some organizations, relevant for making the round table to a success, have been approached (see Annex 2) and most of them expressed their interest to participating, including environmental NGOs. To seize this momentum, facilitation of the first round table in May 2020 is envisaged. Some of the listed organisations, mainly from Denmark and the Netherlands have not yet responded.

## Next steps

Discuss in TG-M about the support of the WSF to implement the round table shipping safety;

* Approaching further organisations in Denmark and the Netherlands in order to participate;
* Search for an independent and professional chair;
* Determine date and venue (proposals are for 5, 13 or 14 May 2020);
* Making available a small budget for venue and catering;
* Finalise invitation and draft agenda;
* Distribute invitation and draft agenda;
* Implement the round table shipping in May 2020;
* Elaborate outcomes and next steps in a report to WSB, including the contribution to the SIMP.

# ANNEX 1 Draft agenda of round table

## Shipping Safety Round Table

## xx May 2020

## Hamburg

## Draft Agenda

## 1. Opening

The meeting will be opened by the chair, Ms/Mr. xxxx, at 11:00 hours and an introduction about background and aim of the meeting will be given. Participants are invited to adopt the draft agenda.

## 2. Round of introduction

A round of introduction will take place to get known to each other.

## 3. Introductory presentations

In the first half of the round table meeting, presentations will be given to provide information, valuable for the objectives of the round table and to be taken into account in the debate following the presentations.

a) The Wadden Sea World Heritage Site and resulting responsibilities of the society

The task of implementing the SIMP with its key issue shipping

b) Overview about how shipping businesses and issues are organized in the three Wadden Sea countries, including contingency planning

(three statements from the shipping authorities)

c) Update of the MS Zoe accident and lessons learnt

(NL inspection council, [Onderzoeksraad voor Veiligheid](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Onderzoeksraad_voor_Veiligheid))

## 4. Exchange of views

The participants are invited to contribute to an exchange of views how to meet the concerns of the society along the coast as well as views on possible measures to increase shipping safety.

## 5. Future steps

The meeting is invited to agree on further steps and actions to reach common sense about possible measures for a safe and sustainable shipping business in the southern North Sea.

## 6. Closing

The round table will be closed around 16:00 at the latest.

# ANNEX 2 Indicative list of participants/organisations for round table

## Germany

Positive response:

* Verband Deutscher Reeder (German Shipowners Association)
* Bundesverband der See- und Hafenlotsen (Federal Association of Sea and Harbor Pilots)
* Bundesministerium für Verkehr (Federal Ministry of Transport)
* Wasser- und Schifffahrtsdirektion Nord (Water and s Shipping Authority)
* Havariekommando Cuxhaven (Central Command for Maritime Emergencies)
* Jade Weser Port
* Bremen Ports
* Green NGOs, (WWF, BUND)
* Representative of Wadden Sea Islands

## Denmark:

Response pending:

* Danish Maritime Authority
* Representative of Wadden Sea Islands
* ??

## Netherlands

Positive response:

* Rijkswaterstaat
* Waddenvereiniging

Response pending:

* Groningen Seaports
* Representative of Wadden Sea Islands
* ??