FINAL SUMMARY RECORD v1.0

Meeting of the

**Task Group Management (TG-M 21-4)**

14 October 2021

Online meeting

1. **Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the Agenda**

The meeting was opened by the chair, Henrik Jørgensen at 12:00 on 14 October 2021. He passed apologies from Angelique Nielen and Klaus Janke. A list of attendees is at Annex 1.

Henrik Jørgensen announced Soledad Luna and Bernard Baerends as guests for discussion of agenda item 5 shipping, and Soledad Luna also for agenda item 6 fisheries.

The Chair promised his best to end the meeting earlier to accommodate the availability of the participants.

TG-M **adopted** the agenda of the meeting (Annex 2).

1. **Adoption of the draft summary record**

*Document: TG-M21-4-2\_SR21-3*

Julia Busch reported that all action items resulting from TG-M 21-3 were fully completed and that remaining items of previous meetings were either fulfilled or part of this meeting. See also agenda item 7 Work plan.

TG-M **adopted** the draft summary record of TG-M21-3.

1. **Announcements**

*Documents: TG-M21-4-3-Announcements*

**Germany, Schleswig Holstein**

No announcements

**Denmark**

* In connection with fire extinguish drills, a certain chemical agent/fluor connection for foaming was used, This has been found in fish, with a possible connection to discharges from a drill place in Esbjerg. There is a potential relation to the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC), in particular the Swimway Vision and Action Plan;
* The Danish Seal Management Plan has been updated and contains among others an action to elaborate ethical guidelines for sustainable seal tourism. Further a research project analysing the impact of human disturbances on the breeding success of seals in the Rømø vicinity is carried out at the moment by The University of Aarhus.

**Netherlands**

* The programme of a Rich Waddensea (PRW) has organised an excursion to sites in Germany and the Netherlands from 7-9 October 2021 within the Wadden Sea ‘Sediment solutions‘ Community of Understanding (CoU). About 30 participants visited sites at the rivers Elbe, Weser and Ems, as well as at the Jade bay. The purpose of the excursion was twofold: Firstly, meeting each other, building a stronger network around the Community of Understanding, better understanding who knows what and exchange of ideas, knowhow and knowledge. And secondly; we have to deal with one Wadden Sea, one trilateral World Heritage Site and its Outstanding Universal Values. Sediment is important for the functioning of the Wadden Sea. The Wadden Sea is important for nature (biodiversity) and for humans. Everywhere in the Wadden Sea region we struggle with sediment management, for nature management and improvement, and for managing human functions. In the community we raise awareness on this aspect, consciously learn from each other, using participants views, knowhow and knowledge.
* Two parts of the Wadden Sea will be closed to shrimp fishermen before the end of the year. This concerns a total of more than 8,500 hectares near the Eierlandse Gat, between Vlieland and Texel, and around Rottumerplaat and Rottummeroog. This has been agreed by nature organisations, the Minister of LNV and the Wadden Fund.
* Agreement was reached in cooperation in the Ems Dollart estuary, starting with a sediment strategy, to fulfil regulations of a permit for dredging in the shipping lane.
* The public hearing process on the Wadden programme is now closed. A pilot on deepening of one shipping lane, contrary to the natural dynamics of the system, is now running.

**Lower Saxony**

* Kick-off of the LIFE IP project "GrassBirdHabitats" (LIFE19 IPE/EN/000004). The protection of grassland birds such as black-tailed godwit, lapwing and curlew and their habitats are the focus of this project funded by the European Union under the LIFE programme. The aim is to create and connect optimal breeding areas. To this end, land use must be extensified and water levels optimised. A strategic conservation concept for meadow bird breeding habitats in Western Europe is being. Meadow bird-friendly measures are being implemented in 27 project areas in Lower Saxony, the Wadden Sea National Park among them. The total budget of the project, which will run for ten years, is around 27 million euros, including a 12 million share from the state of Lower Saxony. The Lower Saxony Ministry of the Environment, as the project executing agency, has commissioned the Lower Saxony State Agency for Water Management, Coastal Protection and Nature Conservation (NLWKN) to implement the project. Partners in Lower Saxony are the Lower Saxony Wadden Sea National Park Authority and the BioConsultOS office. Project partners in the Netherlands are the Province of Friesland, the University of Groningen as well as the agricultural cooperative Collectief Súdwestkust (SWK) and the nature conservation association BondFrieseVogelWachten (BFVW). Further Information: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=7885>
* A rare sight: Visit of a female walrus during September 2021. Since 7 September, a walrus has been observed in the Lower Saxony Wadden Sea National Park, heading for various islands as resting places. It is presumably the same walrus that appeared on the Danish North Sea coast during the local cold spell in mid-February. It is usually sighted at dawn and goes on the hunt again with the next tide. By the end of September it left the Lower Saxon Wadden Sea for the Netherlands. In January 1998, a walrus was last seen in the Wadden Sea, first on Ameland, then on Juist and finally on Sylt.
* Dark Sky Association designated Pellworm and Spiekeroog as ‘Star Islands’. In August 2021, the islands of Pellworm and Spiekeroog in the UNESCO World Heritage Wadden Sea were recognised as Star Islands by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) from Tucson, USA. The two islands, Pellworm in the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea and Spiekeroog in the Lower Saxony Wadden Sea, still offer a relatively little influenced and natural night landscape with a dark, starry night sky. In order to preserve this, the two islands want to be prime examples for the protection of the night through appropriate lighting. For more information see: <https://www.darksky.org/our-work/conservation/idsp/communities/spiekeroog-star-island-germany> and: <https://www.darksky.org/our-work/conservation/idsp/communities/pellworm-star-island-germany>

**CWSS**

* The position of CWSS Partnership Hub officer Cristina Nazzari has been prolonged until 31 December 2022 thanks to the extension of the Interreg Prowad Link project and the contribution of the Netherlands;
* Ms Amelie Banke is supporting CWSS from August 2021- August 2022 within her Freies Ökologisches Jahr (FÖJ);
* Germany plans to initiate a ’Youth Conference’ as part of its presidency of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation. BfN/ BMU approached the CWSS to organise this conference in September 2022, as lead project coordinator, due to its key position in the trilateral network. A project application is under preparation which enables the CWSS to approach young people in all three Wadden Sea countries in a targeted and timely manner, and to align the project on a trilateral and cross-border basis. The aim of the project is to develop a format that has the potential to initiate a voluntary service on a trilateral level;
* At the 44th World Heritage Committee meeting hosted by China, the South Korean tidal flats and archipelago (Getbol) were inscribed on the World Heritage List. On behalf of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation and referring to our long-lasting cooperation, the CWSS has congratulated our Korean partners with this milestone.

The group **noted** the information.

1. **Implementation of the Leeuwarden Declaration**

*Document: TG-M21-4-4\_Marine-litter.docx*

The chair introduced the document which consists of the WSB 32 document *Marine Litter in the Wadden Sea, background, legal framework and inventory of activities in the three TWSC countries* ([WSB 32/5.2/5 TG-M Marine Litter inventory](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/system/files/WSB-32-5-2-5-tg%20m%20marine%20litter.pdf)) and recommendations based on this document.

He remarked that the recommendations should contain a clear reference to the recommendations by Fleet et al 2017 <https://qsr.waddensea-worldheritage.org/reports/marine-litter>

Margrita Sobottka requested to change recommendation number six by inserting “transboundary”, and exchange “supported” by “facilitated” to read: “*Encourage strategic partners within the Trilateral Partnership in support of the Wadden Sea World Heritage to initiate common transboundary projects, f. e. on a plastic –free Wadden Sea Region, facilitated by the Partnership Hub.”*

Floris van Bentum suggested adding concrete action for TG-M by planning a trilateral seminar or symposium after the Governmentalal Conference end 2022, with the aim to fulfil the items listed in the recommendations, as new item 4 under *Collaborate within existing structures.* This may include knowledge exchange

TG-M **noted** the information and **agreed** that CWSS will integrate comments as in the document and discussed above and to share the recommendations with the chair and secretary of the Task Group Monitoring and Assessment (TG-MA) with the request to review parts of relevance for monitoring, with the aim to submit the recommendations to WSB 34 (deadline documents: 28 October 2021). The updated recommendations are at Annex 4.

1. **Shipping**

*Document: TG-M21-4-5\_Shipping-safety.docx*

The chair introduced the topic and proposed isolating the shipping safety issue (including connection to IMO) from other trilateral activities, such as the round table approach and to find a way forward in very close collaboration with relevant competent authorities, under lead of RWS.

Soledad Luna reminded that in the frame of the single integrated management plan (SIMP), an ad hoc SIMP drafting subgroup shipping will review and sharpen the proposed preliminary activities, of which shipping safety should be a part. Input to the subgroup are the site managers’ suggestions and the rapid assessment of the impact of shipping on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage. Additionally, the assessment of the status of implementation of the PSSA could be useful to promote discussion and involve the shipping sector to go a step further. The integration of competent authorities is very welcome in this process and here is an overlap with the proposal by the chair.

TG-M **agreed** with the chair´s proposal to actively take up the shipping safety issue (issues related to the IMO level) and to initiate it on level of competent authorities under initiative of Rijkswaterstaat. This process may support and not interfere/limit the round table. A key factor within this approach is that at this initial phase the national authorities are solely approached by or under the lead of Rijkswaterstaat.

As a second step, discussion may be followed-up on trilateral level in a trustful environment, for which the SIMP organizational approach can be offered, possibly the core group of the ad hoc SIMP drafting subgroup shipping and ports.

With this approach, the trilateral governmental conference in 2022 can be used to highlight the political relevance of working together.

The previous agreement implies that the pending action item will be cancelled: *21-3/5 Prepare a statement regarding the MSC Zoe accident and to bring possible actions towards IMO, as note for WSB 33 by: Netherlands*

TG-M further **agreed** that the chair of TG-M and executive secretary of CWSS will inform WSF

Regarding a pending response to the Lower Saxon national park´s advisory board concern on shipping safety to the TWSC, Bernard Baerends commented that this is on the level of the TWSC chair Karin Lochte. He recommended to wait with the response with first results when clarified.

TG-M **agreed** that a response to the letter of the advisory board will be decided by Karin Lochte.

1. **Working approach sustainable fisheries**

TG-M discussed their ambition and how to proceed with the topic of sustainable fisheries, in particular in light of the upcoming Ministerial Declaration and Conference in 2022.

Margrita Sobottka reminded that two kinds of fishery are of main importance in the Wadden Sea, shrimps and mussels, of which both have undergone a Marine Stewardship Council assessment. There are closed areas for fishery in the national park. Mussel protection has progressed in Lower Saxony. For shrimps, the CRANIMPACT project is on-going.

Henrik Jorgensen asked to consider a restriction for certain places or times of the year as e.g., for Eider ducks. Marina Sanns added that voluntary agreements are in place with fisherfolk in Schleswig-Holstein, to avoid areas when diving ducks are in the area. Karst Jaarsma suggested adding such voluntary agreements on temporary area closures in the Ministerial Declaration. The biodiversity strategy may offer an additional strategic way: if a closure of 10% would be requested, the trilateral ambition -being World Heritage- may be higher. Margrita Sobottka reminded that some of the mentioned possibilities would require a professional legal investigation.

Karst Jaarsma further suggested to increase knowledge and scientific insight to substantiate the benefit of nature by possible measures. Henrik Jorgensen added that this may include activities in a broader context, e.g., the importance of the Wadden Sea as spawning ground or nursery area for commercially interesting fish.

Thomas Borchers commented that an exchange of best practices on how to make fisheries more nature friendly would be helpful on trilateral level. He added that also an exchange on increasing pressure to the Wadden Sea due to the planned increase of wind energy offshore and the necessity for its maintenance and connection to land may be fostered.

Karst Jaarsma suggested developing an implementation strategy on how to achieve a level playing field in the three countries (go up from the lowest one), which is part of the Leeuwarden Declaration article 21.

Soledad Luna added the value of the discussion for SIMP activities – as it was also agreed to promote the implementation of the Framework Sustainable fisheries. The SIMP can be used for first steps.

The group **agreed** 1) to complete the status and recommendations/advice to management based on the Framework Sustainable Fisheries for internal use and 2) to continue the discussion on above listed points and beyond, with the aim to formulate related articles for the Ministerial Declaration.

1. **Work plan TG-M 2021/22**

## *Document: TG-M21-4-7-TG-M-work-plan-2021-22*

Leeuwarden Declaration (LD) article 13, Swimway: On the pending action item 21-3/4.3 *Inform the group on outcomes of the German discussion on the Swimway main policy document* of the (formerly) ad hoc Working Group Swimway, Marina Sanns informed: “*Intensive discussions regarding the check of whether and how to take up the comprehensive main policy document again led to the result that there is still a lot to be done on the much detailed main document (e.g. work on the imbalance in the level of detail between the states). Unfortunately and much to our regret, there are no resources or capacities available in Schleswig-Holstein and Lower-Saxony to revise and enrich this document at present and in the near future. We propose to stay with the TG-M agreement of TG-M 20-4 “to use the main policy document as valuable background document for internal use only. The document should not be further elaborated”.*

TG-M **noted** the information on the Swimway document and **agreed** that CWSS will inform the chair of the Expert Group Swimway (EG-Swimway).

LD 14 Wardening: Karst Jaarsma informed on an update of the programme, which will be shared with TG-M.

TG-M **noted** the information and will correspond in the on-going email consultation.

TG-M discussed the work plan and meeting schedule for 2021/22.

LD 21: The level playing field for fisheries will be included to the work plan.

The work plan was amended as in the corresponding Excel file.

The group **noted** the information and **agreed** with changes applied during the meeting on shared screen (see annex 5).

1. **Any Other Business**

Hearing process: Henrik Jorgensen inquired TG-M on the possibility of hearing, ESPOO or otherwise, in a TWSC-context regarding the Danish Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) action plans and the specific Danish N2000 plan for the Wadden Sea. Denmark will take up the subject again in TG-M at an appropriate time.

The group **noted** the information.

1. **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be on 17 December from 10:00- 13:00 online.

The group noted the information and agreed that CWSS will prepare a doodle to determine meeting dates for TG-M meetings 2022, with the aim to have bi-monthly meetings until the governmental conference. Meetings should end no later than 15:00, to comply with working times of all group members.

1. **Closing**

Henrik Jørgensen thanked participants for a fruitful discussion and closed the meeting at 15:30 on 14 October 2021.

**ANNEX 1: List of participants**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**Task Group Management (TG-M 21-4)**

14 October 2021

Online meeting

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| **Denmark** |
| **Mr Henrik G. Pind Jørgensen (chair)**Environment Protection Agency Skovridervej 3, ArnumDK-6510 Gramphone: +45 (0) 72 54 34 44E-Mail: hepgj@mst.dk |  |
| **Germany** |
| **Mr Thomas Borchers** Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, GermanyRobert-Schuman-Platz 3D-53175 BonnPhone: +49 (0) 228 99 305 2629Mobile: +49 (0) 173 2843906E-Mail: Thomas.Borchers@bmu.bund.de  | **Ms Nina Schröder**Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)Außenstelle Insel VilmD-18581 PutbusPhone: +49 (0) 38301 86 161E-mail: nina.schroeder@bfn.de |
| **Ms Margrita Sobottka**National Park Authority Lower SaxonyVirchowstr. 1D-26382 WilhelmshavenPhone: +49 (0) 4421 911 277E-Mail: Margrita.Sobottka@nlpv-wattenmeer.niedersachsen.de | **Ms Marina Sanns**National Park Authority Schleswig-HolsteinSchloßgarten 1D 25832 Tönning Phone: +49 (0) 486161645 E-Mail: Marina.Sanns@lkn.landsh.de |
| **Netherlands** |
| **Mr Karst Jaarsma**Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food QualityDirectorate-General Nature, Fisheries and Rural AreaPostbus 20401 NL-2500 EK The Hague Phone : +31 (0) 64 858E-Mail: k.c.a.jaarsma@minlnv.nl  | **Mr Floris van Bentum**Directorate-General for Public Works and Water ManagementDirectorate Noord-NederlandPO Box 2301 NL-8901 JH LeeuwardenE-Mail: floris.van.bentum@rws.nl |
| **Secretary** |
| **Ms Julia Busch**Common Wadden Sea Secretariat |  |

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| **Invited guests** |
| **Ms Soledad Luna (SIMP officer), Mr Bernard Baerends (executive officer)**Common Wadden Sea Secretariat |  |

**ANNEX 2:** **Final agenda**

FINAL AGENDA v1.0

**Task Group Management (TG-M 21-4)**

14 October 2021

Online meeting

# Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the Agenda

The meeting will be opened by the chairperson at **12:00** on **14 October 2021**. Participants will be invited to adopt the draft agenda of the meeting.

1. **Summary record**

*Documents: TG-M21-4-2\_SR21-3*

Proposal: Adopt the draft Summary Record of TG-M 21-3.

1. **Announcements**

*Document: TG-M21-4-3-Announcements*

To account for the shortened time for this virtual meeting, meeting participants are invited to hand in their information to the CWSS until **12 October 2021**. Individual announcements will not be repeated during the meeting, but time given for questions. Proposal: Note the information

1. **Implementation of the Leeuwarden Declaration**

*Documents: TG-M21-4-4\_Marine-litter.docx*

Discuss recommendations based upon “*Marine Litter in the Wadden Sea, background, legal framework and inventory of activities in the three TWSC countries* ([WSB 32/5.2/5 TG-M Marine Litter inventory](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/system/files/WSB-32-5-2-5-tg%20m%20marine%20litter.pdf)). Proposal: Agree on the recommendations and to share these with relevant trilateral groups before submission to WSB.

1. **Shipping**

*Document: TG-M21-4-5\_Shipping-safety.docx*

Discuss progress in the topic of shipping safety. Proposal: Note the information and agree on next steps.

1. **Working approach sustainable fisheries**

Information on status of the working approach on sustainable fisheries. Proposal: Agree on a procedure for completion of product 2“Document with status and recommendations for principles of the Framework for Sustainable Fisheries (Annex 3 Tønder Declaration)”

1. **Work plan TG-M 2021/22**

*Document: TG-M21-4-7-TG-M-work-plan-2021-22*

Discuss work plan and meeting schedule. Proposal: Agree on work plan and meeting dates for 2021 – 22

1. **Any Other Business**

The group will be invited to discuss any other business

1. **Next meeting**

Integrated in Agenda item 7

1. **Closing**

The meeting will be closed no later than **16:00** on **14 October 2021.**

**ANNEX 3: Action items arising from TG-M 21-4**

ACTION ITEMS

**Task Group Management (TG-M 21-4)**

14 October 2021

Online meeting

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Action #** | **Agenda item** | **Actions agreed upon** | **Person responsible** | **Deadline** |
| 1 | 4 | Integrate comments on the marine litter recommendations and share with chair and secretary of TG-MA. Aim to submit to WSB 34 | CWSS | 2021-10-18 |
| 2 | 5 | Follow two-step approach on shipping, step 1 under initiative of RWS | RWS | TBD |
| 3 | 5 | Inform WSF on outcome of the meeting | Chair/CWSS |  |
| 4 | 6 | Continue discussion also in light of Governmental Conference | all |  |
| 5 | 7 | Inform chair of (previous) ad hoc WG-Swimway (now EG-Swimway) on main policy document | CWSS |  |
| 6 | 7 | Share updated programme for wardening workshopContinue email consultation | Karstall |  |
| 7 | 6/7 | Discuss level playing field for fisheries | all |  |
| 8 | 9 | Prepare doodle for meetings in 2022 | CWSS | ASAP |
| **Pending from previous meetings** |
|  | 21-3/4.4 | Proceed with N2000 feasibility study (aim: WSB 33 paper) | Denmark | ASAP |
|  | 21-3/6 | Provide missing input to status of Framework Sustainable Fisheries principles | all | 2021-03-31 |
|  | 20-4/4 | Consider taking up the implementation of the EU single-use plastics directive | TG-M |  |
|  | 20-2/6 | Share N2000 feasibility study with TG-MA | CWSS | Upon finalisation |

**ANNEX 4: Marine litter recommendations**

# Recommendations for activities of the TWSC

There are two main aims litter-associated types of activities:

1. Reduction of litter pollution in the marine environment
2. Prevention of marine litter by working towards a plastic-free Wadden Sea region

The recommendations as laid down in the following, should be orientated on these two aims.

The basis is the monitoring and assessment of litter in the Wadden Sea environment including the identification of the main sources and pathways of litter pollution in the Wadden Sea. This includes the identification of Wadden–Sea-specific problems, see QSR chapter Marine Litter (last updated 2019-07-24).

The following list of possible activities as laid down in TG-M 21-2-4-2-Marine litter has been updated and restructured to follow the above-mentioned proposal by the German delegation.

**Monitoring, research and assessment**

1. Maintain present ambitions regarding marine litter monitoring and QSR-reporting, based on existing work done on MSFD and OSPAR level (as described in the QSR-chapter Marine litter, last updated 2019-07-24);

**Collaborate within existing structures**

1. Closely follow and contribute to, as appropriate via the national representations, the work at EU and OSPAR level. Information could be provided directly by the national representations, as invited guests (the representative of one of the Wadden Sea states could inform TG-M, CWSS and other relevant groups);
2. Support the implementation of existing strategies and action plans especially the [OSPAR regional action plan;](https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/eiha/marine-litter/regional-action-plan)
3. Organisation of a trilateral seminar/workshop to support implementation of recommendations for activities;

**Reduction of litter pollution in the marine environment**

1. Identification and mitigation of Wadden –Sea-specific problems using the results of existing monitoring and research activities. A possible action could be for example communicating a list of litter items commonly found in the Wadden Sea environment (see also monitoring), the use of which can be avoided;
2. Awareness raising and education for sustainable development are the activities in which the TWSC can be most effective. Awareness raising via communication and dissemination of information within the framework of the trilateral communication strategy;

**Prevention of marine litter by working towards a plastic-free Wadden Sea region**

1. Encourage strategic partners within the Trilateral Partnership in support of the Wadden Sea World Heritage to initiate common transboundary projects, f. e. on a plastic –free Wadden Sea Region, facilitated by the Partnership Hub;
2. Supplement and actively participate in strategies/initiatives from other stakeholders, based on existing work done on MSFD and OSPAR level or on regional/local level as described in the inventory e.g., participate in existing activities regarding alternatives for dolly ropes.

**ANNEX 5: Workplan TG-M 2021/22 and timeline**

