

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 34)

18 November 2021
Cuxhaven, Germany



Agenda Item:	5.2
Subject:	Progress report TG-M
Document No.:	WSB 34/5.2
Date:	28 October 2021
Submitted by:	TG-M

This document contains a progress report of the Task Group Management (TG-M).

TG-M would like to draw attention to the issue of shipping safety and a respective proposal to ensure timely outputs to the single integrated management plan (SIMP) key topic and to the trilateral governmental conference in 2022 (see page 5).

Proposal: The WSB is invited to

- note the information;
- endorse a proposal on engaging the level of competent national shipping authorities regarding shipping safety under initiative of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Watermanagement.

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Task Group Management (TG-M) progress report to WSB 34

Since WSB 33, the TG-M has progressed on (3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11), respectively accompanied/supported (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 12) the following specific items:

1. Flyway & Breeding Birds

A revision of the preparation phase proposal of the Climate resilient East Atlantic Flyway project has been conducted in September, focusing specifically on how the project will contribute to the implementation of national and international agreements. A decision by the IKI secretariat regarding the preparation phase proposal is expected in November 2021.

The East Atlantic Flyway Youth Forum took place the last two weekends in September 2021. 79 enthusiastic young conservationists from 34 countries had signed up for the event to discuss the role and importance of youth engagement in flyway conservation. Through a post-forum action plan, currently being drafted by 10 chosen flyway youth ambassadors, young people shall be encouraged to actively take part in flyway conservation.

The new Flyway Assessment Report and the next progress report on 'Migratory Birds in the Wadden Sea' are still in preparation. Both reports are expected to be published after the official publication of the QSR chapters on the flyway, breeding and migratory birds.

A Quality Assessment Workshop on the correct identification of juvenile Arctic waders was held in September 2021. Comparative data on the percentage of juveniles in the population from successive years can provide useful information to assess changes in the breeding success of Arctic breeding migratory birds. The suitability of different methodologies for identifying juvenile waders was discussed, for example differences in migration patterns as well as plumage patterns of adult and juvenile birds.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

2. Fish targets / Swimway

The new trilateral Expert Group Swimway (EG-Swimway) has scheduled their first meeting to 21 November 2021. As announced by the Netherlands at WSB 32, the Dutch representation in this Expert Group and hence for fulfilling the tasks outlined in their Terms of Reference could not be specified before discussion of priorities at the next Ministerial Conference in 2022, and was limited to one person for two days a year (see WSB 33/5.2). With two additional Dutch members, the Netherlands are now well represented in EG-Swimway.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

3. Wardening & management

A wardening workshop is planned for April 2022 under lead of Dutch TG-M members. A preliminary programme is in email-consultation in TG-M.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

4. Seal Management 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 reproductive success of seals in the Rømø vicinity is carried out at the moment by the University of Aarhus. Sustainable tourism in relation to marine mammals might also be a possible future activity for the Partnership Hub, see WSB 34/6/1.

The regular report on harbour seal surveys in the Wadden Sea and Helgoland has been finalized and will be published beginning of November 2021, documenting a continuous increase in the number of harbour seal pups, with stabilizing moult counts.

A joint press release was published on 1 October 2021 in celebration of the 30-year anniversary of the implementation of the Wadden Sea Seal Agreement. CWSS, in agreement with the chair of the EG-MM, decided to refrain from organizing a large event, as originally planned, due to the difficulty of predicting the development of Corona infections in autumn

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

5. Harbour porpoises

An assessment of the harbour porpoise monitoring activities in Denmark, Schleswig Holstein, Hamburg, Lower Saxony and the Netherlands is currently taking place. Based on existing monitoring activities, it will be assessed whether and how the monitoring of harbour porpoises can be harmonized at the trilateral level. To discuss this in more detail, an online workshop with relevant experts is planned in the next months. The harbour porpoise workshop, planned as a site event at the International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS) in Büsum was postponed due to logistical reason (e.g., limited number of participants allowed, travel restriction of experts).

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

6. Alien Species

The Expert Group Alien Species (EG-AS) continues working towards development of operational assessment criteria/targets for non-indigenous species, which could be integrated into the future parameter set and programme array of the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP). Furthermore, a draft concept note on use of eDNA methods for non-indigenous species for administrative purposes, to guide evidence-based decision-making is worked on. It should also be highlight what eDNA can be used for. This technical advice and state of the art description for managers regarding the potential use of environmental DNA (eDNA) monitoring are currently elaborated.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

7. Sustainable Fisheries

As one key topic towards sustainable management in the Wadden Sea, fisheries is being tackled within the frame of the single integrated management plan (SIMP) and a QSR thematic report is being prepared. TG-M supports review and enrichment of expert assessment on the impact of key topics on key values of the OUV. For SIMP and QSR see WSB 34/5.1/1 and WSB 34/5.3.

TG-M continues preparing a document with status and recommendations/management advice for principles of the Framework for Sustainable Fisheries (Annex 3 Tønder Declaration).

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

8. Marine litter

Based on the trilateral overview on marine litter related policies and activities in the Trilateral Wadden Sea Region (see [WSB 32/5.2/5 TG-M Marine Litter inventory](#) and also the latest [TWSC QSR-Litter report](#)), TG-M and Task Group Monitoring and Assessment (TG-MA) chairs are in contact with the aim of both TG's presenting consolidated recommendations to the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) regarding this matter. One of the challenges for TWSC is the fact that both with regard to not least data-acquisition as well as also to concrete action there are numerous very active stakeholders operating already and activities by TWSC should fit in with the existing activities instead of creating parallel activities.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

9. Energy

As one key topic towards sustainable management in the Wadden Sea, energy is being tackled within the frame of the single integrated management plan (SIMP). TG-M is supporting review and enrichment of expert assessment on the impact of key topics on key values of the OUV.

These efforts are conducted in line with the development of the QSR thematic report energy. For SIMP and QSR see WSB 34/5.1/1 and WSB 34/5.3.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

10. Ports and shipping

As one key topic towards sustainable management in the Wadden Sea, shipping and ports is being tackled within the frame of the single integrated management plan (SIMP). TG-M is supporting review and enrichment of expert assessment on the impact of key topics on key values of the OUV.

On-going work on this topic is supported by a consultant, including Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) [Operational Plans](#) implementation assessment, potential conflicts of shipping with the 10 OUV key values and potential next activities. These efforts are conducted in line with the development of the QSR thematic report shipping. For SIMP and QSR see WSB 34/5.1/1 and WSB 34/5.3.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

The topic of shipping safety is manifested in the Leeuwarden Declaration (LD) 2018, signed at the 13th Trilateral Governmental Conference on the Protection of the Wadden Sea. The topic has been planned to be tackled in the round table shipping, under lead of the Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) with the support of the CWSS and in collaboration to TG-M. The round table was planned by WSF as online meeting for April 2021, but had to be postponed due to an unexpected low number of participants. The WSF informed the WSB on a new process in order to realise a WSF “Green Coastal Deal” for the Wadden Sea Region by means of Regional Round Tables (RRT) (WSB 33/7/1), which would also be instrumental with respect to a new approach for a Round Table Shipping. Completion of this new attempt to organise the Round Table Shipping was envisaged for spring/early summer 2022.

The delay of the round table shipping implies that the topic of shipping safety will not be brought forward in time for the next Trilateral Governmental Conference, planned for 2022 in Wilhelmshaven, Germany. To mitigate this risk and with the aim of submitting recommendations to WSB 35 to be discussed in time for the draft Ministerial Declaration Wilhelmshaven, in due consultation with the chair of the WSF, TG-M agreed in their TG-M 21-4 meeting on 14 October 2021 to bring the shipping safety issue (issues related to the IMO level) forward and to initiate it on level of competent authorities under initiative of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Watermanagement (IandW). 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 IandW.

Further potentially making use of the SIMP working structure, e.g., the ad hoc SIMP drafting subgroup shipping, to further and follow-up this discussion on trilateral level might be feasible following initiative by RWS as part of IandW and the competent authorities in Denmark and Germany.

With this approach, the Trilateral Governmental Conference in 2022 can be used to highlight the political relevance of working together.

Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the proposal on engaging the level of competent national authorities regarding shipping safety under initiative of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Watermanagement.

11. Natura 2000 roof report

TG-M has contributed towards finalizing a feasibility study regarding the implementation of the NATURA-2000 complex in the respective countries. The writing process will be finalised by the chair of TG-M. The final report and proposals by TG-M will be submitted to WSB 35 in order to decide on any further steps.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

12. Single integrated management plan (SIMP)

TG-M, through ad hoc SIMP drafting subgroups for the key topics, has supported and continues supporting review and enrichment of a rapid expert assessment of (potential) impacts of the key topics on the Outstanding Universal Value of the Wadden Sea. Furthermore, ad hoc SIMP drafting subgroups review and sharpen the proposed preliminary activities based upon the site managers' suggestions. Final results of these discussions will be submitted to WSB35. For SIMP see WSB 34/5.1/1. TG-M related key topics are shipping and ports, fisheries and energy.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

13. Quality Status Report (QSR)

Work on QSR thematic reports of TG-M relevant topics fisheries, shipping and energy is on-going. Reports on energy and shipping are in the first revision process and have been sent to two independent peer-reviewers, and to TG-M members for enrichment by means of an additional reviewer. For QSR see WSB 34/5.3.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.