

## DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD

### 35<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 35)

10 March 2022  
Online Meeting



#### 1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened by the chair, Karin Lochte, at 09:00 on 10 March 2022. Due to Covid-19, the planned meeting in Leeuwarden was cancelled and transferred to an online meeting.

The chair welcomed the new Dutch Representative, Ms Nanou Beekman, replacing Donné Slangen, of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.

The chair welcomed the new Dutch member, representing the Dutch Wadden Provinces, Mr Johan Hamster. He is the successor of Henk Staghouwer, who was appointed Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.

The chair also welcomed Mr Bernd-Ulrich Netz, representing the Freie und Hansestadt Hamburg, from the Senate for Environment, Climate, Energy and Agricultural Economy (BUKEA, Behörde für Umwelt, Klima, Energie und Agrarwirtschaft), successor of Hans Gabanyi.

Ms Ilka Wagner welcomed Ms Janne Lieven as the new head of the Hamburg National Park Authority, successor of Klaus Janke.

A list of participants is in Annex 1.

#### 2. Adoption of the Agenda

*Document:* [WSB 35/2 WSB 35 Draft Annotated Agenda](#)

The agenda prioritised the list of the key topics to be discussed, to be decided upon or to give guidance on the further process. An outline of the agenda can be found in Annex 2.

The meeting agreed to address the Wadden Sea Team's Call for Action in agenda item 6. Trilateral Governmental Conference 2022 for its relevance to the Ministerial Declaration discussion. The letter from the TPC-WSR chair addressed to the chair of the WSB and the CWSS and sent to WSB per email, was agreed to be considered also under the discussion in agenda point 6.

The WSB **adopted** the agenda with the agreed changes.

#### 3. Record WSB 34

*Document:* [WSB 35/3 WSB 34 Draft Summary Record](#)

Comments on the first draft have been received and taken-up. The Final Draft was sent around by e-mail on 23rd of December 2021. No further comments were received.

The WSB **adopted** the summary record of WSB 34.

## 4. Announcements

### Denmark

- Anne Marie Rasmussen reported on the start of the public hearing for the third generation of Natura 2000 plans for more than 250 Danish sites on 22 February 2022. The international partners will be informed in the framework of the Espoo Convention.
- Christina Egsvang Føns informed the meeting that the four Danish municipalities adopted a strategy for the Danish part of the Wadden Sea World Heritage. The five main themes include nature protection and use of nature, visibility of the site, cultural heritage, local, regional and international cooperation, and education and research.

### Germany

- Bernd-Ulrich Netz reported that the City of Hamburg has planned to dump sediments from the Hamburg port near the Island of Scharhörn. Statements from the NGOs, which are strongly opposing this plan, have been received. Statements from Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein are also in preparation. Hamburg will inform the TG World Heritage on the plans before informing the World Heritage Centre.
- Volker Brengelmann reported on the Mumbai Maersk container ship that run aground about 6.5 Km off the Island of Wangerooge in the core zone of the Lower Saxon National Park while approaching Bremerhaven in the late evening of 2 February 2022. After 24 hours of hope and trepidation, the vessel was towed free again. It was only thanks to the expertise and readiness of the Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (Havariekommando) together with the affiliated organizations that worse was prevented; see also (in German language): <https://www.umwelt.niedersachsen.de/startseite/aktuelles/pressemitteilungen/havarie-mumbai-maersk-208291.html>.  
In the light of this event, Mr Brengelmann very much welcomed that the agenda of WSB 35 included discussions on the pressing issues of shipping safety.
- Mr Brengelmann informed the meeting that in December last year, the Ministry for Environment, Energy, Building and Climate Protection of Lower Saxony drew up a new Landscape Programme (LP). More than 150 authorities and NGOs were involved in its preparation. The LP is the strategic planning instrument anchored in nature conservation law which systematically covers the topics of nature conservation and landscape management and serves as a guideline for the work of the nature conservation administration in Lower Saxony.  
The LP also specifies special objectives for the protection of the Wadden Sea and interlinks with the trilateral and international level. For further information see (in German language): [https://www.umwelt.niedersachsen.de/startseite/themen/natur\\_amp\\_landschaft/landschaftsplanung/landschaftsprogramm-147308.html](https://www.umwelt.niedersachsen.de/startseite/themen/natur_amp_landschaft/landschaftsplanung/landschaftsprogramm-147308.html)
- Mr Brengelmann in the light of the current geopolitical situation, drew the attention to the EUROPARC federation invitation to join the initiative of the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) to support the protected areas in Ukraine located in the Carpathians and Polesia. More information can be found at: [Support for the Protected Areas in Ukraine - EUROPARC Federation](#).
- Vera Knoke highlighted the importance of sharing information among the countries and regions as we are ONE World Heritage property and issues concerning information according to UNESCO OP 172 seem to be increasing. She informed the meeting that SH is preparing a statement on the dumping of sediments planned by Hamburg near the Island of Scharhörn as this would impact the World Heritage Site and the National Parks.
- Referring to the WSB 34 summary record and the Dutch announcements about the buy-out of shrimp vessels Ms Knoke asked for information on the status of shrimp fisheries and the new regulations in the Netherlands. Nanou Beekman replied that this concerned closed areas for shrimp fisheries and compensation for the fishermen by the Waddenfond. She will prepare written information to be distributed with the minutes.

Information received from the Netherlands: The VisWad covenant (2014) about sustainable shrimp fishery and nature recovery of the WaddenSea, contains several agreements to close off areas in the Wadden Sea. At the start of the covenant, around 5000ha sublitoral was closed (6.5%). In addition, on the 1st of January this year, another 3400ha was closed. An area of around 3400 ha was closed in the western part of the Wadden Sea (Eierlandse Gat), and 1400ha in the eastern part, next to the reference area. In total, around 8400 ha (11.3%) of the sublitoral is closed for shrimp fishery now in the Netherlands. To enforce these closings for all shrimpfishery, necessary stipulations according to the Law on Fisheries will be developed by the ministry

- The 15th ISWSS was successfully conducted as an online meeting on 30.11.-02.12.2021 with a good participation from the three countries which was also well received by the public and media. Ms Knoke thanked the National Park Authority and CWSS for the good job.

## Netherlands

- Nanou Beekman informed that after the establishment of the new Dutch government, two new ministers are now in charge of aspects that are particularly relevant for the Wadden Sea Region: Henk Staghouwer as the Minister for Agriculture, Nature and Food quality, and Christianne van der Wal as the Minister of Nature and Nitrogen who will be in charge of the TWSC aspects. The two ministers announced further reaching ambitions in relation to nature conservation, especially on nitrogen reduction and the plan to prohibit any further drilling activity in the Dutch Wadden Sea. There will also be a new policy on nature where the importance to prioritize nature conservation against the ever-increasing impact of economic pressure will be further underlined.
- She informed that a response on a World Heritage Centre's request was submitted on 20 January 2022 to answer questions regarding a new permit for gas drilling in the Ternaard gas field outside the property. The World Heritage Centre was asked for the review of the impact of the permit with support by IUCN.
- Ms Beekman also informed about the investigation on the over 200 stranded Harbour porpoises mainly on Dutch Wadden islands the last week of August 2021. The investigations' results suggested that their death was most probably caused by an infection from the rare, but potentially lethal zoonotic pathogen *Erysipelothrix Rhusiopathiae*. Other possible causes such as other viruses, plastic, fisheries bycatch, noise impact can be most likely excluded while additional research on other viruses, potential vectors for *E. Rhusiopathie* etc. is still needed.
- Joost de Rujg informed the meeting that also the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management has a new Minister: Mr Mark Harbers.
- Mr de Ruig, informed the meeting that the report on the Vessel Traffic Separation (VTS) (triggered by the MSC Zoe incident) was concluded in October 2021. The report provided clear advice on measures but also showed that there is no possibility to adopt any mandatory regulations outside the territorial waters and that the only possibility is to provide information and advice. From five recommended options, one will be put forward in 2022: to recommend an alternative route in the VTS in case of heavy weather. At the moment, about 80% of the vessels have already taken account of this advice.
- The cooperation between the German and Dutch authorities concerning the advice during heavy weather conditions has now been aligned. An agreement was reached with the MS ZOE shipping company on a claim settlement to financially contribute to the "Fishing for litter" initiative, in which fishermen collect marine litter. Mr de Ruig also informed about a successful cooperation with the Waddenvereniging on a preparation of a project on removal of litter from the seabed. At the TGC, a joint workshop on the lessons learnt from MSC Zoe by Min I&W and the Waddenvereniging is planned.
- Nanou Beekman suggested the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the IPCC report as well as shipping as themes for the next WSB meetings.

## Nature NGOs

- Hans-Ulrich Rösner announced that the nature NGOs have filed a written objection regarding the planned dumping of harbour mud near Scharhörn. He suggested that the TG-WH includes this issue in its agenda, to report on its position on the issue and offered to take part in the discussion within TG-WH.

## Wadden Sea Forum

- The WSF announced that the Trilawatt project started, and contact was established with the focal points as well as with the CWSS coordinator for TMAP.

## CWSS

*Document:* [WSB 35/4/1 Announcements by CWSS](#)

- The current geopolitical situation has put all our collaborations with our partners in the Russian Arctic on hold. We are unable to deliver the Arctic report which has been finalized last month. Even greater impact will have the decision of the IKI secretariat not to fund new projects in Russia. The Arctic component will therefore have to be dropped from the IKI project and alternative ideas need to be explored for the development of a true flyway-scale project.
- In January 2022, the preparation to establish a World Coastal Forum has started (see WSB 35/4/1 Announcement). CWSS could offer to share experiences from the Wadden Sea and provide advice and support to other organisations who also regard the WCF as an opportunity to engage additional stakeholders and improve coastal wetland protection. Due to limited resources, CWSS would confine its contribution to the WCF at a modest level, focusing on what has been done so far (MoU, Yellow Sea, Flyway, World Heritage). This will be done in closed cooperation with the international treaty organizations which are involved.
- Online media remains on steady increase, the cooperation with Oris has already shown some increase of visibility.

The chair concluded that some of the announcements will need a follow-up in the next meetings of the WSB: dumping of dredged material, drilling, shipping, IPCC report and the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

The WSB **noted** the information.

## 5. Implementation Leeuwarden Declaration

### 5.1 Wadden Sea World Heritage

#### 5.1.1 Progress report of the Task Group World Heritage

*Document:* [WSB 35 /5.1/1 TG-WH Progress report](#)

The meeting was invited to provide advice on the procedure to respond to the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting that will commence in the Europe and North American region in autumn 2022 (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/prcycle3/>).

The meeting was informed that the World Heritage Marine Site managers conference will take place in Esbjerg in September 2023. A small coordination team was established and a first online meeting with the WH Centre took place on 25 February to start with the preparation. The Conference is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to host a UNESCO WH Conference in the Wadden Sea and to support UNESCO's global mission.

The WSB **noted** the report.

The WSB **agreed** that the CWSS acts as World Heritage site manager to coordinate the Periodic Reporting and to designate the respective TWSC-Presidency as National Focal Point to submit the final Periodic Report.

The WSB **agreed** that the discussion on content or position of the Wadden Sea World Heritage strategy should be postponed to after the Trilateral Governmental Conference.

#### 5.1.2 Progress report of the Single Integrated Management Plan

*Document:* [WSB 35 /5.1/5 SIMP Progress report](#)

Soledad Luna on behalf of Barbara Engels presented the aim, content, and ambition of the SIMP.

All parties thanked for the presentation and the good work to achieve the version 0.8 for consultation. Nanou Beekman emphasized that the SIMP is a comprehensive document and will serve to put the suggestions from the site managers in practice. Anne-Marie Rasmussen reminded the importance of aligning the SIMP and the Ministerial Declaration, as well as reflecting the ongoing discussions at EU and national levels regarding the interpretation and implementation of strict protected areas under the framework of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030. Ilka Wagner highlighted that the final SIMP will be a compromise regarding the ambition level and that it is a chance to operationalise the key topics and give a good signal to the site managers and the people working and living in the Wadden Sea Region.

The WSB **endorsed** the draft SIMP version 0.8 for the Consultation Phase including the clarification regarding the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

The WSB **endorsed** the proposal for the SIMP Consultation Phase.

#### 5.1.3 Oral report from the Ad-hoc Working Group Wadden Sea World Heritage Foundation (WG-WHF)

Thomas Borchers presented the progress regarding the national consultations of the draft foundation statutes and the endowment transaction.

In the national consultations the advisory boards in Germany welcomed the initiative and gave their support. They provided comments that were discussed within the WG-. Evaluations from Dutch and Danish lawyers lead to questions regarding the management costs as well as the public benefit purpose and tax exemption. Under German Foundation law, foundations are established for perpetuity making it difficult -but not impossible- to dissolve it in case not enough funds are raised. The Public benefit purpose and tax exemption must be formulated in a way that fulfils the requirements under German Law and also the Dutch and Danish obligations are ensured.

The WG-WHF expect to solve the remaining legal and financial issues with the support of the legal experts and plan to have a final draft of the statutes by the end of April 2022.

In the Supplementary Budget 2022 a half time position at the CWSS will be funded from July 2022 onwards to support the administrative challenges to set up the foundation formally. Additionally, there is seed money for some smaller projects.

The chair recognised that this lengthy process is on the way to solve the legal, financial and management aspects of the Foundation. She emphasised that once the final draft of the statutes is available and the above aspects are solved the three countries must stand behind this joint enterprise of the founders.

The WSB **noted** and thanked the oral progress report.

## 5.2 Nature conservation and integrated ecosystem management

*Document:* [WSB 35 /5.2 Progress report of the Task Group Management](#)

The WSB **noted** the progress report.

## 5.3 Trilateral monitoring and assessment programme

*Document:* [WSB 35 /5.3 Progress report of the Task Group Monitoring and Assessment](#)

The progress report included the status in developing the Quality Status Report of the Wadden Sea. The chair mentioned the important workshop on data handling that TG-MA held on 26 January 2022 and emphasised that it is key to make further progress and to present recommendations in the next WSB meeting.

The WSB **noted** the progress report.

## 6. Trilateral Governmental Conference 2022

*Document:* WSB 35/6, sent separately by e-mail

The Call for Action from the Wadden Sea Team (<https://www.wwf.de/fileadmin/fm-wwf/Publikationen-PDF/Deutschland/Call-for-Action-Wadden-Sea-2022.pdf>) was presented by Hans Ulrich Rösner under this agenda item for the influence it may have in the Ministerial Conference.

The three delegations thanked for the identification of challenging aspects as well as the ones where there has been positive progress. Furthermore, all delegations recognised and thanked the great work that the nature NGOs are doing.

Ilka Wagner offered a word of caution regarding removal of military ammunition since the Baltic has priority in this aspect.

Nanou Beekman appreciated the follow up in the topics presented in the call for action in 2020 and welcomed the one from 2022. She also underlined the importance of aligning the call with our priorities and suggested to make it slightly more focused.

Regarding the letter submitted by the TPC-WSR chair, Bernd Scherer, requesting support from WSB to call upon the funding organisations in Germany and Denmark to complement the Dutch commitment, the chair explained that in both countries, possibilities will be known only until later in the year. She announced that the representatives agreed to inform the TPC about the gesture to make parts of the reserve fund and the surplus of the core budget 2021 of the CWSS available for this purpose.

Thomas Borchers presented the progress report of the Drafting Group Ministerial Declaration, including the 1st outline of the Wilhelmshaven Declaration, Mr Borchers also introduced the aspects and respective questions for discussion and asked for guidance from the WSB.

The meeting thanked for the good structure and the first draft of the Ministerial Declaration. It was also highlighted that all countries and federal states are part of the drafting group.

Ilka Wagner welcomed the structure, the presentation of vision and principles and its operationalisation.

Nanou Beekman reminded that the Dutch Delegation submitted in August 2021 their priorities for the next four-year period. It contained the operationalisation of the existing strategies and objectives, the SIMP as an opportunity to put into practice and to harmonise actions related to the key topics, climate change measures, the Sustainable Tourism Strategy, monitoring, among other.

Preben Friis-Hauge requested a meeting between the DG-MCD and the WSF for detailed input. Hans Ulrich-Rösner offered that the WST could provide concrete written comments to the draft. Both interventions were welcomed by the chair of the DG-MCD.

The chair asked about the possibility of including in the Ministerial Declaration a section highlighting the achievements of the last 4 years. Thomas Borchers replied that these would be included in the Section 2. Preamble. The outstanding results from QSR still need to be included. Henrik added that the PAR produced by the CWSS could be used as base to include the achievements in the Ministerial Declaration. Any further input is welcomed in written form by 18 March 2022. A word document of the draft Ministerial Declaration to facilitate comments was sent by CWSS on 15 February.

Finally, it is fundamental that the SIMP and the declaration are aligned.

#### Rights for Nature

The proposal to prepare a meeting document on this topic for discussion in the next WSB 36 was accepted by the meeting as well as a presentation by an expert. For the presentation, Ilka Wagner suggested to address what does it mean in practical terms to include this in the Ministerial Declaration and in legal terms for the implementation. Anne-Marie Rasmussen supported the suggestions and added the request to include in the preparatory paper a specific description of the significance for management and implementation in the WS. Nanou Beekmann also proposed to include examples from other countries implementing the *Rights for Nature* to learn from their experiences.

#### EU Biodiversity Strategy

Nanou Beekman recognised that in the Netherlands, the target of 10% of strictly protected areas has not yet been reached. She proposed to investigate how to contribute to the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy in the Wadden Sea. She also announced that PRW would produce a study to learn the percentage of areas covering the different zones in the Wadden Sea by summer 2022.

Ilka Wagner mentioned that the BMUV is involved in the discussions for the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy at national level. The discussions are regarding the interpretation of the 10% of strict protection and which activities should be excluded from these areas. The ambition in the Wadden Sea World Heritage should be the highest possible protection. However, the question is what level of ambition to express in the Ministerial Declaration so that it contributes to the EU targets. For the time being, in the Ministerial Declaration we should reflect a significant contribution. The text should be adapted at a later stage according to the outcome of the discussions at EU level and within the countries.

Anne-Marie Rasmussen expresses the Danish support to the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy and points out the ongoing discussions at the national and EU level. She suggests that for the Ministerial Declaration a preliminary solution could be to for now express that the TWSC contributes and at a later stage, when the interpretation is clearer, we can set the target.

Hans-Ulrich Rösner suggests that when establishing strictly protected areas these should be selected from an ecosystem point of view: select intertidal and subtidal associated areas. Mr Rösner suggests being cautious when deciding how to achieve the percentage of strict protected area so that achievements in one country are not used to present as achievements of other countries and thus decreasing necessary improvements in all countries.

Vera Knoke emphasised that we have a special responsibility in the Wadden Sea as World Heritage Site going beyond the general ambitions for the seas as such. In Germany the Länder have to implement it within the Wadden Sea, and the Schleswig-Holstein Biodiversity Strategy aims for 50% of the National Park area free of resource uses by 2030. It would be important to have an ambitious plan but give ourselves time to reach the goals by 2030, not in the next 4 years. Furthermore, all stakeholders must be involved and on board.

Thomas Borchers pointed out that discussions will continue during the consultation period and thereafter and the outcomes would need to be considered and adapted as appropriate until TGC 14. Ms Knoke suggested including alternative formulations in the draft Declaration to show that a decision is pending.

The chair concluded it would be helpful to draft a paper for the next WSB 36 aiming for a common understanding of 'strict protection', to be able to discuss how this can be implemented in the Wadden Sea, and how this process can be structured.

### Fisheries

Nanou Beekman proposed that we should aim for an ecological level playing field. She proposed three focus aspects to make progress on: 1) develop a trilateral vision on shrimp fisheries together with the stakeholders, 2) gather knowledge on closed areas and 3) encourage dialogue with MSC and fishers to improve sustainability.

Henrik Pind Jorgensen emphasised that when talking about a level playing field it is important to maintain existing high nature conservation standards, and by no way to lower them.

Vera Knoke pointed out that at the moment, the TWSC doesn't have a working group on fisheries with the competencies and knowledge to make progress in this topic. Starting point should be the trilateral Framework for Sustainable Fisheries adopted as Annex of the Tønder Declaration 2014.

Ilka Wagner noted that there shouldn't be any concerns that existing good standards will be lowered. She reflected that TWSC can exchange knowledge and experiences and, therefore, we need to look for the right people to participate in those meetings.

Frank Ahlhorn suggested also taking into account and establishing a link to socio-economic studies and including stakeholders and actors.

### Shipping

This topic will be treated in agenda item 7.

### Mining

Johan Hamster reiterated that the Dutch Minister for Nature and Nitrogen supports stopping drilling activities and had planned closing drilling activities in Groningen by 2024. However, due to the current situation he has not confirmed an exact date. Nanou Beekman added that decision in this regard would depend on the political situation, and would be hard at this moment to set an end date.

The same applies for Schleswig-Holstein explained Vera Knoke. Anne-Marie Rasmussen said that although in Denmark there is no gas and oil related drilling near the Wadden Sea, the current geopolitical situation might change things. Ms Rasmussen suggested to add a remark in the Draft Ministerial Declaration referring to the potential consequences due to the political situation.

Concerning the draft Ministerial Declaration, Ilka Wagner suggested maintaining the high level of ambition, keeping the ambitious target in the text while observing the development of the political situation and if necessary, adapting the target at a later stage.

The Lower Saxon Minister stands behind the agreement of no drilling in the World Heritage property, however currently there is a strong debate around energy supply since the current situation toughens the process of phasing out exploitation of fossils in Lower Saxony, explained Volker Brengelmann.

The chair concluded from the interventions that it is a difficult issue to define an end date due to the ongoing situation, yet the ambition should not be deleted from the draft Ministerial Declaration.

### **Trilateral Dark Sky Initiative**

Sonja van der Graaf from the Dutch Programme towards a Rich Wadden Sea (PRW) which, together with the Partnership Hub (PH), supports and coordinates the Dark Sky initiative, presented the progress done so far. A set-up for a monitoring system for the Wadden Sea region, a side event at the Trilateral Governmental Conference, and the development of a joint Dark Sky Vision are some of the products in progress.

Theo Meskers highlighted the importance of the topic of light pollution / Dark Sky in the Netherlands also recalling the many initiatives that have taken place in the Netherlands since 2016. He stressed that protecting nocturnal darkness means supporting nature conservation, promoting energy efficiency and sustainable tourism. Many actors are already involved in these activities, including the ports. He recognized the fundamental role of PRW and the PH in supporting these actions and gave support to the idea of developing a common vision to be signed at the 14th TGC as a start for future actions. In this framework, the WSB should be in the position of tasking the PH with the right priorities, supporting the joint vision and the work on monitoring the different sources of light pollution.

Christina Egsvang Føns expressed support from the Danish municipalities that are also already involved in the process. She suggested to investigate the opportunity of a strategy for the whole Wadden Sea area and of including this in the related paragraph in the next Ministerial Declaration.

Sonja van der Graaff further explained that light emissions can have an impact up to 40 or 50 km from the light sources and effects also the countryside. Theo Meskers emphasised the importance of involving municipalities along the coastline and on the islands and of developing common criteria for upcoming monitoring activities.

## **7. Wadden Sea Board Advisors: Wadden Sea Forum; Wadden Sea Team**

*Documents:* [WSB 35/7/1 Advice Dutch NGOs and harbours on shipping and PSSA](#)

[WSB 35/7/2 Call for Action WST](#)

[WSB 35/7/3 WSF on shipping projects](#)

Henk de Vries introduced the advice from the Dutch NGOs and harbours which is backed by the 'Omgevingsberaad Waddengebied' (OBW), the advisory council on Wadden Sea issues who reports to the Ministerial Wadden Sea Council in the Netherlands. In the advice it is proposed that the WSF organises a trilateral meeting to further the shipping safety issue with the relevant stakeholder parties.

Anne-Marie Rasmussen thanked for Mr de Vries' presentation and signalled that in Denmark it would be essential to include the countries' shipping authorities, but this needs to be further explored. Ilka Wagner underlined the importance of the topic and also the importance of involving the competent authorities to get them on board.

To the request from Frank Ahlhorn to update on the initiative proposed by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water management to involve the authorities, Joost de Ruig informed that it has not yet been possible to contact them. He plans to contact the national authorities in the framework of the SIMP. Mr de Ruig will provide a presentation of the progress by August 2022 in WSB 37.

Bernard Baerends welcomed the initiative by the Dutch stakeholders of green NGO's and harbours and their proposal of a trilateral meeting organised by the WSF. He emphasised that the resulting recommendations from the meeting could enrich discussion at the 14<sup>th</sup> TGC. He therefore suggested WST and WSF to present the results of their cooperation before August and align their activities with the SIMP and the Round Table Shipping.

Vera Knoke added that the National Park Advisory Boards are very interested in the topic and have adopted decisions by consensus on the issue and she suggested to think about the potential involvement of the Advisory Boards through the WSF in the initiative.

As requested by the WSB 34, CWSS (Soledad Luna), WSF (Frank Ahlhorn) and WST (Hans-Ulrich Rösner) gave a joint presentation about the ongoing trilateral initiatives on shipping and harbours. In the presentation they provided an overview of the content of shipping and ports in the SIMP, the two WST-WSF projects (DBU and PH), and in the Call for Action from the WST. The presentation reflected how these initiatives complement each other.

The Chair noted that the projects concentrate on stakeholders and NGOs, but not much is said about the aims of the projects. She also suggested that this issue could be included in the Ministerial Declaration. Frank Ahlhorn replied that creating and maintaining dialogue is the aim of the projects. The chair noted that a strong position from the stakeholders could positively influence the opinion of the authorities.

Joost de Ruijg welcomed the direction of the presentation with the special focus on using the PSSA status of the Wadden Sea to what is possible to do in collaboration with the authorised maritime authorities.

Hans-Ulrich Rösner suggested some caution: Building dialogue needs time, it is a process that should not have fixed time framework and should continue after the 14<sup>th</sup> TGC. The draft Ministerial Declaration proposes interesting aspects to build up and maintain dialogue, to achieve these proposed goals would be already a step forward, said Vera Knoke.

Furthermore, as the projects suffered from some delays, Hans-Ulrich Rösner mentioned that the expectations of what can be achieved should not be too high. Frank Ahlhorn asked the WSB to make the starting of the second phase of the PH project as fast as possible, as any further delays might have negative consequences also on the DBU project and that partners might be lost.

Bernard Baerends stated that the project applicants can rely on the trilateral cooperation but that administrative and contractual procedures are to be followed. In the meanwhile, he suggested the applicants start with the internal discussions on the projects content.

The WSB **noted** the information.

## **8. Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **9. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be kindly hosted by the Danish colleagues. It will be a live meeting from noon-to-noon 28-29 April 2022 in Varde, near Esbjerg.

## **10. Closing**

The chair closed the meeting at 13:30 on 10 March 2022 and thanked participants for their engagement.

**ANNEX 1: List of participants**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**35<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Wadden Sea Board  
(WSB 35)**

10 March 2022



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<b>Invited Guest</b>	
<p><b>Sonja van der Graaf</b></p>	<p><b>Lea (intern)</b></p>

**ANNEX 2: Agenda**

**FINAL AGENDA**

**35<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Wadden Sea Board  
(WSB 35)**

10 March 2022



- 1. Opening of the Meeting**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 3. Summary Record WSB 34**
- 4. Announcements**
- 5. Implementation Leeuwarden Declaration**
- 6. Trilateral Governmental Conference 2022**
- 7. Wadden Sea Board Advisors: Wadden Sea Forum; Wadden Sea Team**
- 8. Any Other Business**
- 9. Next meeting**
- 10. Closing**

**ANNEX 3: Action items arising from the 35<sup>th</sup> WSB****ACTION ITEMS****35<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Wadden Sea Board  
(WSB 35)**

10 March 2022



Action #	Agenda item	Actions agreed upon	Person responsible	Deadline
1	5.1.2	Add a clarification regarding the ongoing EU Biodiversity Strategy	CWSS	As soon as possible in order to start the Consultation Phase March-mid-June 2022
2	6	Invite a guest speaker and prepare an information paper about the Rights for Nature	CWSS	Upload for WSB 36 on 7 April 2022
3	6	Prepare an information paper about the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030	CWSS	Upload for WSB 36 on 7 April 2022
4	6	Send written comments to the draft Ministerial Declaration to the DG-MCD.	everyone	18 March 2022
5	6	Engage the level of competent national shipping authorities regarding shipping safety under initiative of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management and to potentially use SIMP structure to further and follow-up this discussion on trilateral level	Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management	Presentation on progress in WSB 37 (26 August 2022)
6	6	Prepare an updated draft of the Ministerial Conference Declaration	MCD drafting group	WSB 36
7	7	Organise and carry out a trilateral meeting to further the shipping safety issue with the relevant stakeholder parties – request Dutch NGOs and harbours	WSF	Before August 2022