

MEETING DOCUMENT
Wadden Sea Board (WSB 37)

25 August 2022
Wilhelmshaven, Germany



Agenda Item: 5.2
Subject: Progress report TG-M
Document No.: WSB 37/5.2
Date: 22 July 2022
Submitted by: TG-M

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

Proposal: The WSB is invited to note the information

Task Group Management (TG-M) progress report to WSB 37

Since WSB 36, the TG-M has progressed on (3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11), respectively accompanied/supported (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13 and 14) the following specific items:

1. Flyway & Breeding Birds

The East Atlantic Flyway (EAF) assessment report was published at the end of April. An infographic was produced in English and French summarizing the key outcomes of the report.

The EAF Youth Forum was held on 9-10 July 2022 with participants from the Netherlands and Germany.

Data entry is still ongoing in Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein. The aim is for all data to become available by the end of the summer, so trend analysis can be conducted.

The bird flu has caused devastating losses among sandwich terns in the Wadden Sea. Breeding colonies in the Dutch part lost nearly 80% of the adults and in Lower Saxony losses of 20-30% were reported. Common terns were also affected, while other species are under surveillance. Taking together with data from other areas in the North Sea, it seems this summer's outbreak affects in particular colony breeding, fish-eating species. An online workshop to exchange information and results on specific management practices is currently planned for autumn, and a larger North-Sea wider workshop is under consideration for next year.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

2. Fish targets / Swimway

The chair of the Expert Group Swimway (EG-Swimway) has prepared a first draft of a midterm review of the Swimway Vision Action Programme. This was discussed at the EG-Swimway 22-2 meeting on 5 July 2022.

EG-Swimway plans following-up on the successful Swimway conference 2019, by organising a second conference in the year 2024. A conference committee is seeking collaboration with fish related activities and projects, e.g., combined with the final event of the Dutch Swimway Waddentools project. This will allow shared effort and costs.

The Swimway historical reference (SHIRE) project is on-going and trilateral students are completing gathering of historical data on fish in the Wadden Sea. These will be integrated into a final report. The students are considering a (video) contribution to the [Trilateral Youth Conference](#) scheduled for 1-4 September 2022.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

3. Wardening & management

The wardening workshop envisaged for April 2022 under lead of Dutch TG-M members will be postponed to fall 2022.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

4. Seal Management Plan

The Expert Group Marine Mammals is preparing a new Seal Management Plan under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Wadden Sea Seals Agreement, aiming for close cooperation amongst the parties in order to achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for the harbour seal population in the Wadden Sea.

The new grey seal report has been finalized and was published on 1 July 2022. Pup numbers continue to increase, adult numbers have stabilized in the last years.

For stranding workshop see next item 5. *Harbour porpoises*.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

5. Harbour porpoises

A marine mammal stranding workshop with experts and managers from the three Wadden Sea countries is planned in October 2022.

The main objective is to discuss the state of the stranding networks in the different Wadden Sea regions and to agree as far as possible on a comparable monitoring and research approach to facilitate the trilateral reporting on the development of the three marine mammal populations (harbour seal, grey seal, and harbour porpoise) in the Wadden Sea.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

6. Alien Species

The Expert Group Alien Species held a meeting on 15 June 2022 to proceed with the TMAP monitoring proposal and the concept note on the potential use of environmental DNA (eDNA) methods for non-indigenous species for administrative purposes. The group also discussed the draft workplan for 2022/23 on basis of already agreed activities and also under consideration of the recommendations of the 15th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS).

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

7. Sustainable Fisheries

A topical meeting sustainable fisheries with TG-M and fisheries experts is planned in fall 2022, to proceed with the Assessment of the Framework Sustainable fisheries.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

8. Marine litter

At the Wadden Sea Board 36 meeting, TG-M had submitted the document [Marine Litter in the Wadden Sea - background, legal framework and inventory of activities in the three TWSC countries and recommendations](#). The Board supported the recommendations therein as guidelines on how to take up the topic of marine litter in the next presidency, and instructed TG-M to develop a roadmap for their implementation. TG-M applied updates on new developments on OSPAR level to the document. The updated version will be available at <https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/resources>.

TG-M will prepare a roadmap for implementation of the recommendations of the trilateral inventory on marine litter related policies and activities in the Trilateral Wadden Sea Region and recommendations.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

9. Energy

In view of the recent developments to substantially increase the amount of renewable energy to be produced offshore in the North Sea, the ad-hoc Working Group Cables and Pipelines (WG CP) discussed to intensify the work on a trilateral approach for a common understanding on impacts and procedures on grid connection of offshore wind farms by developing a joint project. This should comprise of involving parties from the Wadden Sea, but also partners from other North Sea countries that face similar challenges. Aspects to be covered will be the impacts on the ecosystem, mitigation measures, efficient procedures such as lean and accelerated planning/ governance and stakeholder involvement, whilst meeting conservation goals.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

10. Ports and shipping

At this WSB 37 meeting, Joris Brouwers (Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, NL) will give a presentation on shipping, which will include implementation of measures before and after the MSC Zoe accident and relate to the [Particularly Sensitive Sea Area \(PSSA\) Wadden Sea Operational Plans](#), annexed to the 2014 Tønder Declaration.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

11. Natura 2000 roof report

In their TG-M 22-3 meeting on 21 June 2022, TG-M discussed recommendations regarding a Natura 2000 roof report. The WSB will be duly informed at WSB 38.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

12. Single integrated management plan (SIMP)

No recent activities by TG-M.

13. Quality Status Report (QSR)

The QSR thematic reports energy and shipping are being prepared for uploading. The thematic report on fisheries is in first revision by the authors.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.