

Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 14
11 June 2015
Copenhagen**



Agenda Item:	5.2
Subject:	Report TG-MM
Document No.	WSB 14/5.2/1
Date:	12 May 2015
Submitted by:	Chair TG-MM

Attached is the report of the Task Group Management and Monitoring (TG-MM)

Proposal: **The meeting is invited to discuss the report and to decide upon the proposals by TG-MM**

TASK GROUP MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING (TG-MM)

REPORT TO WSB-14

The TG-MM, chaired by Ms Stefanie Hedtkamp, has held one meeting (TG-MM 12) on 25-26 March 2015.

TG-MM 12 has discussed

- A. The implementation of the Tønder Declaration
- B. Fisheries in the intertidal
- C. Dutch presidency paper

Below the outcome of the discussion, including proposals to the WSB, is given.

A. IMPLEMENTATION TØNDER DECLARATION

Flyway cooperation

TD §16. Agree to continue and where necessary expand the cooperation on management and research along the entire East Atlantic Flyway, as outlined in the vision in Annex 2, shared by relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations.

An application for prolongation of German 'Capacity Building' project (end of 2015) is on the way.

The WSFI work meeting in Mauritania, originally scheduled for the end of March, has been cancelled. A meeting is now planned at AEWA MOP in Bonn, November 2015.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

Management and wardening

TD §18. Therefore also strive for intensifying the cooperation at the operational management level.

TD §19. Ensure that there is adequate wardening over the whole Wadden Sea.

With regard to possible themes for a meeting of managers, TG-MM proposes

- To organise a trilateral workshop on wardening with the main aim to exchange experiences;
- To request the Netherlands to organise a workshop with managers on the theme nature restoration.

Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach

Tidal basin approach

TD §20. Explore the potential of applying a tidal basin approach in Wadden Sea policy and management, and support its further elaboration.

TG-M discussed some options for implementing TD §20 and concluded that due to insufficient resources, there were no feasible options for becoming active here. It was suggested that the Tidal Basin approach be applied in research activities.

Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach

N2000 roof report

TD §23 Agree therefore to cooperate in evaluating the assessments under the Habitats Directive, also with the aim to prepare a common Natura 2000 roof report for the Wadden Sea.

A workshop was held 24-25 March 2015 in Bonn to discuss options for producing a Wadden Sea roof report. The workshop participants agreed to aim for a separate chapter in the upcoming QSR in which an assessment of Wadden Sea habitat and species types from the HD would be presented. At the national level, first an assessment of the respective habitat and species types will be done, after which the results will be compared and analysed in a trilateral meeting. TG-MM proposes to install an ad-hoc group to coordinate this process. The group will consist of the national N2000 experts at the responsible administrations.

The full workshop report is in **Annex 1**.

Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach

Breeding bird Action Plan

TD §25. Instruct the WSB to develop and implement a trilateral Action Plan on improving conditions for breeding birds.

The Breeding Bird Action Plan is still under preparation and will be ready in June 2015 and discussed by TG-MM at its meeting of 26 August.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

Seal Agreement

TD §27. Therefore continue the cooperation in the context of the Seal Agreement, including the Seal Management Plan, which will be updated in 2016, reconfirming the guidelines on taking and releasing of seals.

WSB will be informed about the outcome of the TSEG meeting of 19-20 May.

Fish targets

TD §28. Acknowledge the importance of fish for the Wadden Sea ecosystem and therefore instruct the WSB to work on the further implementation of the trilateral fish targets of the Wadden Sea Plan.

Upon request of WSB 13 an outline for a project for elaborating a trilateral swimway vision has been elaborated and discussed by TG-MM. The proposal is in **Annex 2**. TG-MM proposes to elaborate the outline in more detail, including finding financial means for implementing the project. The Dutch PRW programme has possibilities to support the elaboration of the project proposal.

Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach

Alien species

§35. Instruct the WSB to further develop the trilateral strategic framework for dealing with alien species in the Wadden Sea and to coordinate the further development of an alien species management and action plan, taking into account existing and upcoming legislation and projects.

Preliminary versions of two studies (Dutch, German) into the current situation with regard to national and international initiatives and activities related to aliens species and the relevance for a trilateral management and action plan, were discussed and commented by TG-MM. Final drafts of these reports will be discussed by the trilateral Working Group Alien Species (WG-AS) on 13 May. The WSB will be informed about the outcome of this meeting.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP)

TD §60. Adopt the long-term common TMAP strategy as in Annex 6 as the basis for the further development of the TMAP, in close connection with the scientific community, with the aim to further increase its value in implementing EU Directives, and providing information for a wider range of stakeholders, also through the further development of the information system to allow for a better access of the data.

TG-MM discussed the practical implications of the decision by WSB 13 to dismiss the TMAG and agreed to nominate national monitoring experts to support the work of TG-MM.

A final version of the evaluation report on the monitoring of breeding success will be discussed by TG-MM 13 (26 August). On the basis of this discussion a proposal for WSB 15 will be prepared whether or not to include this parameter in the TMAP.

Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach

Quality Status Report

TD §61. Instruct the WSB to elaborate the next Wadden Sea Quality Status (Outlook) Report for 2016 in time for the 2018 Conference, in order also to be in line with the reporting cycles of the N2000 Directives and Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

The candidate members of the QSR Editorial Board are listed in **Annex 3**. A joint meeting of the QSR Editorial Board, TG-MM and TG-WH is scheduled for 4 June. The meeting will discuss how best to deal with the joint preparation of the QSR 2016 and the WH SoC report. WSB will be informed about the outcome of the meeting.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

Trilateral research agenda

TD §63. Encourage discussions by the scientific community and policy makers on the major policy issues and related knowledge as a basis for further developing a trilateral research agenda and a trilateral research platform.

Following the Dutch proposal made at WSB-13, three scientists have been found prepared to coordinate the invitation to selected researchers to come up with proposals for priority research questions. The scientists are Jouke van Dijk (NL), Karsten Reise (DE) and Mette Guldborg (DK). This coordination group will meet 18 May to discuss a work plan. WSB will be informed about the outcome of the meeting.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

Trans boundary Ramsar site

TD §73. Intend to list the Wadden Sea Ramsar sites as trans-boundary Ramsar site "Wadden Sea" on the Ramsar List of international importance and thus contribute to the ongoing efforts of the Ramsar Convention to promote the trans-boundary aspect of the protection and the management of wetlands e.g. through enhanced flyway cooperation as mentioned above.

From the Danish and German side confirmation has been given that the letter to the Ramsar secretariat can be sent out by the Dutch presidency. The Netherlands prefer to wait until there is clarity about the delimitation of Dutch N2000 sites, which are connected with the Ramsar delimitation.

Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach

B. FISHERIES IN THE INTERTIDAL

TG-MM discussed the current situation with regard to fishing activities in the intertidal. TG-MM generally acknowledged that fisheries activities in the intertidal have increased, concerning in particular cockle raking and pacific oyster picking and that this finding is not in agreement with trilateral policies.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information and to decide upon the way forward

C. DUTCH PRESIDENCY PAPER

Following the discussion in WSB-13 about available resources for implementing priorities from the Dutch presidency paper, TG-MM discussed Annex 4 of this paper from the perspective of TG-MMs work programme. TG-MM generally felt that work on the QSR should have priority and that most national expertise is blocked for this purpose.

Regarding the proposed bird activities it was agreed to submit these to the JMMB for consideration.

In the view of TG-MM fish issues are sufficiently covered by the Swimway initiative, a proposal for which is in Annex 2.

With regard to new monitoring techniques reference was made to the trilateral remote sensing workshop, held 24-25 March 2015. The possibilities for doing a monitoring pilot project will depend on available resources.

Research issues are sufficiently covered by an external group (see TD §63 above).

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information

ANNEX 1

Report trilateral Workshop N2000 Roof Report, Bonn, 24-25 March 2015

Background

In the ministerial declaration of the 11th Trilateral Governmental Conference on the Protection of the Wadden Sea (Sylt Declaration) in 2010 it was agreed by the ministers:

10. Support the further development of integrated assessments and reporting in the framework of these Directives, including investigating the option of preparing a common integrated Natura 2000 Wadden Sea report.

In discussing the possibilities for preparing a trilateral roof report there was support for evaluating the way in which at the national level the assessment of habitat types and species is carried out. It was agreed to start work on comparing the assessment methodologies, as soon as the national reports have been finalized and submitted to the EU (end of 2013), with the possible aim of developing a roof report.

This resulted in § 22 and § 23 of the Tønder Declaration 2014:

22. Acknowledge the activities of the member states in designating and enhancing coherence, as well as the efficiency of the Natura 2000 Network within the Wadden Sea Area.

23. Agree therefore to cooperate in evaluating the assessments under the Habitats Directive, also with the aim to prepare a common Natura 2000 roof report for the Wadden Sea.

A trilateral Workshop on comparative analysis of national Natura 2000 reports with responsible authorities and to discuss the possibilities for preparing a trilateral roof report was organized by Germany on 24-25 March 2015 in Bonn. The workshop was attended by civil servants responsible for national N2000 reporting or the TWSC (List of participants see Appendix 1).

Outcome of the Workshop

The Workshop discussed the challenges and opportunities of a Natura 2000 roof report for the Wadden Sea. Amongst others there was the common understanding that the area considered should be the Wadden Sea Cooperation Area and the focus should be on the habitats and species of the Habitats Directive as within the thematic chapters of the QSR a much better and more comprehensive compilation and assessment of the Birds is done that it would be possible with the data for the Birds Directive.

Possible target groups and aims:

- QSR audience

- Can be used as information paper for Natura 2000 groups in each country as well on EU level and within the OSPAR network to raise the profile of the TWSC in these groups
- IUCN and World Heritage Committee – the outcome can be used as input for State of Conservation Report as well as for the Integrated Management Plan for the World Heritage Property

Proposed Format:

- Additional chapter in the QSR on the basis of the TMAP data and further national data.

Proposed next steps:

1. Update 2008 paper of the 2nd Trilateral Workshop “Species and Habitats”
2. Compare spatial overlap of Wadden Sea Cooperation Area and area covered by national management plans
3. NL and DK Check differences between national reporting and Natura 2000 management plans and subsequently propose which to utilize
4. DE check possibility of extraction of data from national reporting and SDF-data
5. Three states report on assessment of habitat types and species relevant to Wadden Sea only
(Habitat Types relevant for Wadden Sea: 1110, 1130, 1140, 1150, 1160, 1170, 1210, 1220, 1310, 1320, 1330, 2110, 2120, 2130, 2140, 2150, 2160, 2170, 2180, 2190; Species relevant for Wadden Sea: 1364, 1365, 1351)
6. Comparative analysis of these national results and discuss differences
7. Explanation of differences (different assessment methods / different status / etc.)
8. Potentially suggest overall assessment for these species and habitats (potentially in a combined matrix)
9. Identification of knowledge gaps (e.g. reefs, monitoring, management measures)
10. Comparison of these results with QSR results □ analyse similarities and differences between these
11. Aim timeframe: within 1 year (i.e. spring 2016)
[steps 6 – 10 to be done by trilateral N2000 expert group]

Summary:

- Agreed not to include BD within the roof report, because undertaken within thematic reports under QSR
- Choose species and habitats under HD;
- Area: Wadden Sea Cooperation Area
- Installation of trilateral N2000 expert group
- Develop method for combined assessment of shallow water habitats (1110/1160/1170)
- Determine how to deal with 1320
- Based on actions 1-11 agree on necessity of roof report
- Proposal regarding content and format: additional chapter for the QSR
- Next steps: TG-MM discussion; report to Wadden Sea Board

Appendix 1. Participants N2000 workshop

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ANNEX 2

SWIMWAY PROJECT

The swimway concept is based on a life-cycle analysis per fish species in which the importance of the Wadden Sea to the status of the population can be quantified. This will support the development of management measures needed to achieve the trilateral fish Targets.

In order to further develop the Swimway concept a project with the following contents is proposed:

A. Objectives

1. Elaboration of draft Swimway Strategy, to be submitted to TGC 2018.
Contents:
 - Overall aim: implementation trilateral Fish Targets
 - Indicators for the Targets
 - Measures to improve fish stocks in the Wadden Sea
 - Measures to improve habitat quality
 - Compilation of existing measures
 - Monitoring to support measures
 - Communication between member states, stakeholder, experts and the public in the Wadden Sea region
 - Research to fill in knowledge gaps
 - Action Plan for the period 2018-2023

2. Elaboration of 2 trilateral showcases
One diadromous fish species. Idea: Sea trout (to be detailed)
One non-diadromous fish species. Idea: Herring (to be detailed)

The aim of the showcases is to demonstrate the Swimway approach. First ideas for actions and deliverables of the showcases are the production of swimway maps, including migration routes and essential habitats (very relevant for communication), and a life-cycle analysis to demonstrate the importance of the Wadden Sea for the relevant species. Species factsheets will be developed in which the relevant information on biology, life-history, etc, will be summarised, based upon most recent research, including management requirements.

The deliverables of the showcases will be presented at the 2018 TGC and will also feed into the draft Strategy.

3. Communication and networking
Informing and engaging relevant stakeholders, in particular the fisheries sector, water authorities and nature NGOs, culminating in the joint signing of the Swimway Strategy at TGC-2018. The showcases will be an important vehicle in this process.

4. Elaboration of indicators for the trilateral Fish Targets
In order to implement the targets and to identify progress made towards reaching them, it is important to develop measurable indicators for each (sub)target.
5. Identification of gaps in knowledge and research needs
The Hamburg workshop revealed that basic research and monitoring is needed in order to advance the implementation of the targets. Identifying this is relevant for *inter alia* initiating possible research project under the Dutch Waddenfonds or the follow-up of the Biorisk-Georisk call.
6. Contribution to the 2016 Quality Status Report
The material collected through the above actions will feed into the 2016 QSR and SOC Report.

B. Procedure and time frame

1. After approval by TG-MM and WSB, the above project outline will be further specified in a detailed project plan by a trilateral working group, consisting of
Paddy Walker (PRW)
Herman Wanningen (PRW)
Sascha Klöpper (CWSS)
Holger Haslob (TI)
Niels Jepsen (DTU)
Wouter van der Heij (Waddenvereniging).
[latter three to be asked].

The practical project plan will describe background, ambitions, activities, planning organisation, communication and finance needed to develop the Swimway Strategy.

The project group will be supported by an advisory board (former fish expert group)

2. The working group will also investigate sources for financial support of the project, i.e. national programs, Interreg and LIFE programs
3. The detailed project proposal will be submitted to the WSB (through TG-MM)
4. It is the intention to start the first step of the project late 2015, early 2016. During the period 2016-2017 the activities from the project plan will be executed, leading to the finalisation of the Swimway Strategy in the autumn of 2017.

ANNEX 3. Members QSR Editorial Board

last name	first name	region	organization
Baptist	Martin	NL	NIOZ
Buschbaum	Christian	D	AWI
Fogh Vinter	Hanne	DK	Naturstyrelsen
Gutow	Lars	D	AWI Bremerhaven
Janssen (RWS)	Gerard	NL	RWS
Jensen	Kai	D	University Hamburg
Jepsen	Niels	DK	DTU Aqua
Laursen	Karsten	DK	University Aarhus
Schwarzer	Klaus	D	Uni Kiel
Thieltges	David	D/NL	NIOZ