MEETING DOCUMENT

**Task Group World Heritage (ad-hoc TG-WH)**

Virtual meeting

13-14 December 2021

Monday 13.12.2021: 9:00 – 12:30

Tuesday 14.12.2021: 9:00 – 12:30

<https://commonwaddenseasecretariat.my.webex.com/commonwaddenseasecretariat.my-en/j.php?MTID=ma7e6794c36a84b7dfd8ea9d624b90da1>

**Agenda Item: Single integrated management plan**

**Date:** 6 December 2021

**Submitted by: CWSS**

WSB 33 (27 August 2021) endorsed the [draft SIMP document version 0.6](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/system/files/WSB-33-5-1-1%20Progress%20report%20of%20the%20SIMP.pdf), as well as the proposed revised roadmap as the basis for the upcoming work for the further discussion and agreement of the activities in the five SIMP key topics to contribute to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the Wadden Sea World Heritage. The WSB 33 advised to define activities as concrete as possible seeking ambition and articulating policy and site management in the SIMP. Ambitious policy priorities should be taken up in the Ministerial Declaration.

In order to continue the discussions to define and agree on the activities for the SIMP key topics, the ad-hoc TG-WH meeting on September 13, agreed to use the ad-hoc SIMP Drafting subgroups established in TG-M for shipping and ports, energy, and fisheries. Tourism and coastal defence and protection ad-hoc groups were formed with TG-WH members and colleagues named by those members.

This document includes the proposed preliminary activities updated according to the discussions in the subgroups (p. 2-9), an updated proposed timeline (p. 10), the draft text on the relevant EU Directives (p. 11-12), the definition and composition of site managers in the three countries (p. 13) to be integrated in Section 3 of the SIMP and an updated graph of the TWSC structure for the SIMP (p. 14).

**Proposal:** The meeting is invited to:

1. **Review the updated activities and discuss major important suggestions** (and how to solve them). Minor editorial comments can be provided by 17 December.
2. **Reflect and discuss** what to say about the SIMP in the Ministerial Declaration to support its implementation.
3. **Review and agree** on the draft updated timeline.
4. **Discuss and agree** on the:
	1. Draft text on relevant EU Directives to be integrated in Section 3 of the SIMP
	2. Draft text to describe “site managers” in the three countries and in the context of the SIMP
	3. Draft update the TWSC structure graph for the SIMP
5. **Review the updated activities and discuss major important suggestions** (and how to solve them). Minor editorial comments can be provided by 17 December.

The following text presents for each SIMP key topic the objectives, main risks, enabling environment and updated activities based upon the site managers suggestions, a preliminary review and comments from TG-WH and the discussions of the ad-hoc SIMP drafting subgroups. Open discussion points that were not previously addressed in TG-WH were included to further add to the reflexion and discussions in the subgroups. The detailed input from the site managers was included as an Annex in the meeting documents for each subgroup as a reference and to review if the input from the site managers is well represented in the summarised version.

The subgroups discussions also brought suggestions of aspects to add in an appropriate place in the overall SIMP text to ensure that the sufficient context is given. The list of suggested aspects is included as a **[Note]** at the end of each key topic.

Please review the proposed activities updated according to the subgroups’ discussions and suggestions, identify if there are major issues that you would like to discuss in TG-WH 34. Send your written comments on minor aspects by 17 December 2021 to CWSS.

Key topic Fisheries

**Objective**

Advance towards the implementation of the Framework for Sustainable Fisheries through trilateral cooperation.

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|  **Main risks** Significant harm of habitats and species due to fishing and aquaculture activities including bycatch and overfishing, habitat destruction, negative effects of non-indigenous species, litter pollution, underwater noise and reduced recolonisation possibilities for reef-building and other species. Damage to vulnerable ecosystems, habitats and species due to fishing activities in no-take zones within the Wadden Sea World Heritage. Increase of fishing pressure in the Wadden Sea due to the expanding use of the EEZ (by for example offshore wind energy).   | **Enabling environment**Trilaterally agreed Framework for Sustainable Fisheries (Annex 3, Tønder Declaration 2014). Existing national effective good examples for fisheries and aquaculture management to learn from. Studies on ecological impacts and projects on best practices - transdisciplinary research and use of the results in management.  |

**Activities**

1. The TWSC to stimulate exchange of information, knowledge, best practices, management experiences about the topics especially important for their potential impact on the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site. The thematic exchange takes place at least twice per year and in the form of i.a. webinars, workshops, round tables inviting the groups of people related to the topic to come together. Depending on the topic treated, participants may include site managers, nature protection administrations, fishery administrations, aquaculture administrations, universities, fisheries, aquaculture sector, and civil society.  The outcome of such exchange may lead to identify and develop, where adequate, pilot studies while including the necessary stakeholders and site managers.

 List of topics of interest:

1. Fishery management measures including co-management of fishing activities, the effects of implementing management measures and regulations such as no take areas, spawning protection, and fish sanctuaries.
2. Scenarios and risk analysis of shifting fishing areas in the context of the current and future EEZ use expansion.
3. Sustainable fishing techniques (results of projects).
4. Benefits, risks, and rules for area co-use in wind farms.
5. Permitting procedures, control mechanisms and future developments in fisheries.
6. Handling and monitoring of bycatch.
7. Recreational fisheries (status and significance).
8. The TWSC to collect the national fisheries information gathered by the national competent authorities e.g. to report under the Common Fisheries Policy, geographic information of no take zones, national regulations, and to store and manage this information to be used as the basis for trilateral analysis and identification of relevant topics to exchange on a trilateral level (Activity 1).
9. The TWSC to install an instrument with steering and coordinating function within the remit of the cooperation to facilitate and organise the exchange and information management (Activity 1 and 2) considering the different fisheries, their management, and national policies in the Wadden Sea. This future coordinating body should keep an overview of other existing groups treating fisheries and aquaculture at the local, national, and regional levels (e.g. MSC, OSPAR) and feed the relevant info for the Wadden Sea World Heritage to the TWSC, as well as coordinate and regularly exchange with the trilateral body handling education for sustainable development.
10. The TWSC through visitor and information centres, the International Wadden Sea School (IWSS), and the fishing schools to continue to improve the awareness of the Wadden Sea World Heritage values and vulnerability, location of no-take zones, their need and potential benefits, sustainable fishing techniques and fishing gear, waste prevention and the problems associated with marine litter (e.g. ghost nets, dolly ropes).

**[NOTE] To mention in an appropriate place in the SIMP:**

* Fisheries, next to tourism are the most important economic activities in the WS
* FUTURE: Add a link to QSR and SIMP microsite, and the rapid assessment of impacts of fisheries.

Key topic Tourism

**Objective**

Maintain and increase the support of visitors and local entrepreneurs for nature conservation by continuing to advance the implementation of the Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan through trilateral cooperation.

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| **Main risks**Negative effects of existing touristic activities especially those of high intensity on the fauna, flora, and habitats of the Wadden Sea. Damages on the environment caused by infrastructure for tourism in the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site and adjacent region. Disturbances caused by future trend recreational activities and sports. Increased pressure on the system due to future growth of number of guests and the associated spatial demand. Possible increase of emissions and pollution in relation to tourism.  | **Enabling environment**Existing trilateral Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan developed by the TWSC together with Stakeholders and NGOs (Annex 1, Tønder Declaration 2014). The trilateral network group including stakeholders and NGOs collaborates on the implementation of the Strategy since several years and coordinates the regular update of the Action Plan.  Existing national experiences and best practices to share. Visitor centres and other information and education facilities, rangers and NGOs promoting nature friendly visitor behaviour  Existing projects that support international collaboration and exchange.  The existing Partnership Hub as a management structure to enhance networking, better achieving joint intersectoral agreements and seed funding for common projects and activities.   |

 **Activities:**

1. The TWSC to continue to improve the awareness of the Wadden Sea World Heritage environment, proper behaviour and behaviours of concern, and the motivations to maintain or improve the environmental quality by providing consistent information at the sites, through visitor centres and partnership programmes.
2. Site managers to participate as the spokespersons for nature conservation in the implementation of the Sustainable Tourism Strategy and in the periodic review of the action plan.
3. Site managers to advise the national/local policy level regarding the effectiveness of the current and proposed zoning schemes, and they meet once a year to exchange trilaterally their observations and acquired knowledge based on their experience in the field and their country specific role on monitoring, visitor management, surveillance, and enforcement.
4. The TWSC to strengthen and expand the communication and collaboration with the authorities, agencies, and SMEs responsible for touristic activities through the Trilateral Network Group Sustainable Tourism.
5. The TWSC, through the Trilateral Network Group Sustainable Tourism, to strengthen initiatives for cross-border cooperation for fostering the nature conservation aspect of sustainability in tourism by:
6. Addressing gaps of knowledge regarding the impacts of tourism on the OUV.
7. Analysing existing national monitoring data in terms of effects from tourism and considering cumulative effects (obligation in Habitats Directive);
8. Developing appropriate trilateral tools to nudge and educate visitors about how to connect with and how to behave in nature,
9. Improving the Wadden Sea World Heritage brand visibility emphasising that it promotes nature conservation via responsible tourism practices,
10. Enhance coordination of the various supra-regional and regional projects and activities.

**[NOTE] To mention in an appropriate place in the SIMP:**

* Sustainable tourism in the WSWH includes a range of aspects from services offered in the region (i.e. accommodation, traffic infrastructure), visitor attractions, activities offer, marketing and promotion, as well as management to avoid negative impacts and leverage conservation of the Wadden Sea ecosystem. In the SIMP, the agreed activities focus on the nature conservation aspect of the holistic view of sustainability.
* The UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Program represents a new approach based on dialogue and stakeholder cooperation where planning for tourism and heritage management is integrated at a destination level, the natural and cultural assets are valued and protected, and appropriate tourism developed. --> the programme has a holistic view, the SIMP supports sustainable tourism and the program from nature conservation aspect.
* Define visitor management in maximum two sentences and considering that it might be different in the countries.
* FUTURE: Add a link to QSR and SIMP microsite, and the rapid assessment of impacts of tourism.

Key topic Energy

**Objective**

Intensify the application of common best practices to protect the Wadden Sea, to support a nature friendly energy transition, and to foster a level playing field for all three countries.

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| **Main risks**Impairment of habitats (especially sea floor) and disturbance of natural processes within the Wadden Sea World Heritage due to cable and pipeline laying.Disturbances of the natural migratory lanes as well as mainland breeding and resting areas, as well as increased risk of collisions with animals due to energy plants construction near the Wadden Sea World Heritage and ongoing operations, including the risk of accidents causing oil spills, or the release of other harmful substances.Future steep increase in number and density of plants and transmission infrastructures including increased maintenance and supply traffic to meet the raising energy transition targets will exacerbate risks within the WSWH and in adjacent areas.Ground surface subsidence caused by gas exploitation and salt mining may affect habitats and species and in the future its effects can be exacerbated by sea level rise.Unknown effects of new types of energy production and transmission including hydrogen production, transport and storage and carbon capture and storage.  | **Enabling environment**Existing trilateral agreement (in the WSP 2010 and World Heritage Nomination Dossier) prohibiting the construction of wind turbines, exploration, and construction of new installations for oil and gas.  Existing trilateral agreement supporting global and national efforts to mitigate causes of climate change at the regional level and to work towards a Wadden Sea Region as CO2-neutral area by 2030 (Sylt Declaration 2010).  |
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**Activities**

1. Site managers to enhance and maintain dialogue and collaboration with the agencies and authorities responsible for spatial planning and technical design to:
2. Learn in time about future plans and projects related to energy transition near the Wadden Sea World Heritage and get involved early in the process of planning and design of projects.
3. Use the window of opportunity of planning and designing new projects to advocate for the application of best practices for the reduction of impacts from e.g. emissions of light and noise, implementation of buffer zones and functional safety distances.
4. Compile lessons learned from the most advanced projects and from pilot projects and share this knowledge trilaterally (Activity 2).
5. The TWSC to facilitate trilateral exchange in an annual event for site managers involving the experts and/or institutions working on e.g. the following points with direct impact on the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site and its key values. This trilateral exchange can result in the identification of priorities to discuss with the agencies and authorities responsible for spatial planning and technical design (Activity 1) or in technical papers providing advice to the Wadden Sea Board.
6. Cable and pipeline laying: optimisation of routing and laying techniques, research on cumulative effects, application of EIA Law and avoidance and mitigation of impacts of the upcoming planning and building of new subsea cables and pipelines. This exchange could lead to the development of a common Mitigation Toolbox and enhanced transboundary coordination of integrated grids and interconnectors.
7. Potential impacts of large-scale solar platforms, floating solar plants in the offshore area on the marine ecosystem and other renewable energy installations in the Wadden Sea World Heritage: influence on key values of the Site, especially bird migration.
8. Formulate relevant research questions to investigate nature-based solutions and adaptation measures to climate change while considering nature conservation management (and when possible, develop trilateral research projects).
9. The TWSC to extend the existing trilateral agreement (in the WSP 2010 and World Heritage Nomination Dossier) prohibiting the construction of wind turbines, exploration, and construction of new installations for oil and gas in the WSWH Site to other upcoming large-scale forms of energy capturing platforms like solar panels.

**[NOTE] To mention in an appropriate place in the SIMP:**

* Mention in the SIMP text other types of energy production and transmission including hydrogen production, transport and storage and carbon capture and storage.

Key topic Coastal Flood Defence and Protection

**Objective**

Enhance the use of nature friendly measures and maintenance practices considering the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy including Wadden Sea natural dynamic processes and the long-term effects from climate change.

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|  **Main risks** Alterations of the natural dynamic processes and the biodiversity of the Wadden Sea Cooperation Area due to the existing measures (for example fixation of the coastline due to i.a. dikes, loss of tidal flats and alteration of sediment supply (and salt) and erosion due to construction of groins, revetments and extraction of sand and clay, loss of connectivity due to existing structures and their maintenance).  Increase in number and size of coastal flood defence and coastal protection measures to adapt to sea level rise may cause habitat and species loss.  Sea level rise may cause difficulties with inland drainage i.e. tide gates are being converted into pumping stations that hinder connectivity between Wadden Sea and mainland.  |  **Enabling environment** Existing trilateral Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (CCAS) with guiding principles aiming to improve resilience of the Wadden Sea Region to climate change for the benefit of nature conservation the safety of the inhabitants and visitors (Annex 4, Tønder Declaration 2014). Existing permanent expert group which stimulates the implementation of the CCAS and updates the priorities, supports initiatives for knowledge exchange, studies to assess effects of climate change as well as adaptation measures.  Existing knowledge and experience that site managers have in combination with the existing good cooperation with the coastal flood defence and protection agencies. |

 **Activities**

1. Site managers to enhance and maintain communication and collaboration with the agencies and authorities responsible for coastal flood defence and protection to:
2. Use the window of opportunity to introduce, where adequate and feasible as no-regret measures, nature-based solutions when the obligatory repairing or maintaining costal flood defence and protection structures takes place.
3. Advocate for the application of environmental impact assessments and regulations by considering the World Heritage value.
4. Encourage cooperation of site managers and the agencies and authorities responsible for coastal flood defence and protection in pilot projects.
5. The TWSC, through the trilateral permanent expert group on climate change adaptation to facilitate stimulate/organise an annual event for site managers to:
6. Share best practices, experiences, and knowledge about specific topics of interest (e.g. nature-based possibilities for coastal flood protection and defence, good practice examples for coherence and compensation measures).
7. Formulate relevant research questions to investigate nature-based solutions and adaptation measures to climate change while considering nature conservation management (and when possible, develop trilateral research projects).
8. Support the agencies and authorities responsible for coastal flood defence and protection to identify sources to finance the additional costs of realigning costal flood defence and protection measures to include more environmentally friendly solutions contributing to the safeguarding of the OUV.
9. The TWSC through visitor centres, site managers and the nature conservation authorities to continue to improve the awareness of the Wadden Sea World Heritage natural geological dynamic processes (sediment dynamics), the role of natural factors in coastal protection (islands, dunes, saltmarshes), the significance of river and marsh water body connectivity for fish and ecological processes, the role of tidal processes for some coastal habitats, among the local population, authorities and agencies responsible for planning, construction and maintenance of coastal flood defence and protection measures.

Key topic Shipping and Ports

**Objective**

Maintain the current high status of emergency response and increase safety, nature friendly operations and awareness.

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|  **Main risks** Potential ship accidents resulting in the release of pollutants.   Pollution from ongoing shipping operations including discharges.  Disturbances due to underwater noise from ships.  Negative impacts on natural dynamic processes due to dredging and dumping of dredged material.  Potential increase in marine traffic including water sports.  |  **Enabling environment** The Wadden Sea is a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA). The TWSC Operational Plans aim to improve on prevention of accidents, operational pollution, awareness and education, preparedness and response and cooperation.  Existing OSPAR guidelines best environmental practice (BEP).     |
|

**Activities**

1. The TWSC to revise and reactivate the DenGerNeth MARAD[[1]](#footnote-1) group to discuss the implementation of the Operational Plans for the Wadden Sea PSSA (Annex 5, Tønder Declaration 2014), and including issues proposed by the nature conservation site managers and an assessment of the response capacity to shipping accidents in each country.

1. The TWSC to stimulate and facilitate trilateral exchange and dialogue among site managers and involving the experts and/or institutions working on e.g. the following points with direct impact on the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site and its key values and taking in consideration other ongoing initiatives and groups at the national regional and levels (such as e.g. MSFD groups dealing with underwater noise, speed limits, definition of Good Environmental Descriptors for under water noise, OSPAR groups handling sediment movements regulations). This trilateral exchange can result in the identification of priorities to discuss with all related sectors (Activity 3) or in technical papers providing advice to the Wadden Sea Board:
2. Reduction of speed limits authorised by the law in force on a trilateral level.
3. Improvements of ships to e.g. lower sound emissions, use electric motors (initiatives and rules at the EU and international levels).
4. Research about the impacts of noise on marine animals (especially species not investigated yet such as fish and invertebrates).
5. Coordinated Wadden Sea wide navigation guidelines to work toward a harmonized nature-friendly guideline of marine traffic in the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site considering the existing national and regional regulations.
6. Research and nature friendly practices for dredging and dumping in seaports (existing regulation, studies, good practices).
7. Effects of climate change and shipping.
8. The Wadden Sea PSSA in the framework of IMO including Associated Protective Measures and the Operational Plans.
9. Site managers to participate as nature conservation stakeholders in trilateral initiatives such as the Round Table Shipping and Ports including shipowners, seafarer associations, and harbour operators, the Wadden Sea Forum, and the Wadden Sea Team of environmental NGOs to discuss about specific priorities (e.g. identified in Activity 2) and explore ways to implement:
10. Best practices (showcase exemplary cases of environmentally friendly practices in ships and ports e.g. regarding the use of ship fouling for controlling the spread of introduced species -in recreational and commercial shipping-, nature inclusive harbours, harbour sediment management);
11. Effective monitoring and tracking systems
12. International standards regarding e.g. safety, speed limits, pollution.
13. The TWSC through coordination of the CWSS and WSB and in communication with DenGerNeth MARAD group, the site managers and the Round Table Shipping and Ports, to raise awareness and education among the public and shipping and ports stakeholders about e.g. the Wadden Sea World Heritage values and vulnerability, best practices, the existing regulations and standards regarding safety, speed limits/zoning, pollution, introduction of invasive species.
14. **Reflect and discuss what to say about the SIMP in the Ministerial Declaration to support its implementation.**

This strategic discussion is based on the discussion and agreement on activities for each key topic. What are the SIMP priorities that TG-WH could suggest including in the MD to assure the implementation of the SIMP?

1. **Timeline of activities and documents needed for WSB 35 and the Consultation Phase**

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| **Date** | **Milestone** |
| 13-14 December 2021 | **TG-WH 34** onlineAgree on the proposed key topics’ activities and discussion on priorities to suggest being taken up in the MD. |
| December 2021 – January 2022 | Update the draft SIMP. |
| 20 January 2022 | CWSS sends draft SIMP version 0.7, draft executive summary and draft letter to accompany the SIMP v0.7 for the Consultation Phase to TG-WH for review. |
| 3 (afternoon) and/or 4 February 2022 | **TG-WH 35** Final comments and agreements. |
| 17 February 2022 | Deadline to upload documents for WSB 35. Updated draft SIMP version 0.7 and draft executive summary to WSB with the request for advice on who should write the SIMP preface. |
| February - March 2022 | Translation of the SIMP document to the three languages and language check by TG-WH members in the three countries. |
| 10 March 2022 | **WSB 35** Release of the draft by the Wadden Sea Board for stakeholder participation in the Consultation phase. |
| March-June 2022 | **Consultation phase:** Substantive involvement of the Advisory Boards, Policy Board, WST and WSF, and site managers. |
| End of April 2022 (no date yet) | **WSB ad-hoc** meeting: main topic MD 2022 including SIMP executive summary.Decide on further SIMP aspects need to be treated. |
| June-July 2022 | Update the content of the draft SIMP, considering the comments received during the Consultation phase. Language checks, edit and layout of the SIMP document. |
| 26. August 2022 | **WSB 36** endorses the SIMP for adoption in the Ministerial Conference. |
| November 2022 | Adoption by the Governmental Council at the 14th Trilateral Governmental Conference in Wilhelmshaven. |

1. **Discuss and agree** on the:
	1. Draft text on relevant EU Directives to be integrated in Section 3 of the SIMP
	2. Draft text to describe “site managers” in the three countries and in the context of the SIMP
	3. Draft update the TWSC structure graph for the SIMP

**Section 3
Nature Conservation Management**

**a) The EU Directives**

At the beginning of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation in the late 70’s, nature conservation management was mainly a national matter. Since the nature protected areas are cornerstones in the European Union and therefore regulated within the TWSC, the present-day management system of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site is almost entirely legally based on European Union law and on international conventions. Obligations resulting from international conventions are being implemented through European Union regulations and/or directives. Additional national legal provisions are also in place (see Annex in the SIMP, p. 14 of this document).

Differences in political and administrative structures in the three Wadden Sea countries regarding the implementation of European Union law into national legislation, present challenges in complying with the expressed political intentions of managing the Wadden Sea as a common entity. The five most important European Union directives which the member states are obliged to implement through national legislation are described in Table 2.

**Table 2**. Overview of the “Big-5” most significant European Union legislation complexes and the steps followed in each Wadden Sea country in the process of review and implementation. [**Note to discuss in TG-WH:** considering that the life span of the SIMP is 10-12 years, what is the long-lasting useful information to include in this table? Focus on the national laws through which each Directive is implemented?]

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **EU-directive** | **Adop-tion** | **Status in The Netherlands** | **Status in Germany** | **Status in Denmark** |
| **Natura 2000 Directives** **(Birds Directive 2009/147/EC and Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC)** | Birds: 1979Habitats: 1992 | Current Natura 200 plan will be prolonged until 2023;Preparations are starting for the update. | Transposed in:Federal Nature Conservation Act (Bundesnaturschutzgesetz BNatSchG)State Nature Conservation Acts (SH, HH, LS) (Landesnaturschutzgesetz)National Park Acts (SH, HH, LS)Specific conservation objectives for each N2000 site (SAC and SPA) are covered by the National Park Acts in LS & HH, SH has a separate document published by the Ministry for the Environment of SH.Wadden Sea Plan (WSP 2010) functions as the Habitats & Birds Directive management plan for the German part of the Wadden Sea. | Public hearing, autumn 2021 (est.) Strategic impact assessment ongoingFinal plans ult. 2021 (est.) <https://mst.dk/natur-vand/natur/natura-2000/natura-2000-planer/natura-2000-planlaegning-2022-2027/>Transposed in the Marine Protection Act, the Environment Protection Act and the Nature Conservation Act other? |
| **Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC** | 2000 | Water ActNational water policy planRegional water policy plans of the provinces(tbc) | Federal Water Resources Act (Wasserhaushaltsgesetz)State water law (Landeswassergesetz)Management plan for the river basins | Hearing procedures endedFinal plan Dec. 22st 2021.<https://mst.dk/natur-vand/vandmiljoe/vandomraadeplaner/vandomraadeplaner-2021-2027/>Transposed in the Environment Protection Act |
| **Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC**  | 2008 | The Marine Strategy Framework Directive is not implemented in the Dutch Wadden Sea | Federal Water Resources Act (Wasserhaushaltsgesetz)State water law (Landeswassergesetz)Management plan is the Programme of measures 2016 (currently working on an update) | Preceding steps: all procedures finished, and GES, Baseline and targets published.Hearing of Program of Measures early autumn 2021 for 12 weeks (est.)Final plan complex December 2021.[https://mim.dk/natur/hav/#](https://mim.dk/natur/hav/) |
| **Marine Spatial Planning Directive 2014/89/EU** | 2014 | National water policy plan(tbc) | Spatial Planning Ordinance Raumordnungsverordnung (ROV).Lower Saxony Regional Planning Act (NROG)Schleswig-Holstein State Planning Act (Landesplanungsgesetz – LaplaG) | Public hearing took place between April and October 2021 Final plans December 2021<https://www.soefartsstyrelsen.dk/vaekst-and-rammevilkaar/havplan>Transposed in the Marine Spatial Planning Act (Bekendtgørelse af lov om maritim fysisk planlægning – 2020) |

The SIMP is thus an important step to support the integration of the Wadden Sea World Heritage goals into other environmental and spatial planning instruments for the marine environment further supporting the identification of fields where coordinated action can benefit the common entity approach and a step towards proposing specific measures.

In Denmark, the national implementation processes of European Union legislation into national law and subsequently into binding management plans for the public authorities, consider as well trilateral strategies and plans, such as the SIMP, which can be characterized as a meta-strategy and other specific strategies listed in Figure 7 (in the SIMP). An example is the inclusion of the SIMP in the MSFD action plan, along with more specific action areas (fish, alien species, marine mammals, and birds) building upon some of the TWSC strategies approved by the three countries. [**Note to discuss in TG-WH**: the situation in Germany and the Netherlands is very different. Should we eliminate this paragraph to keep the SIMP SIMPle?]

**b) Site managers**

In the SIMP, the definition of site manager is: **“The professionals with direct responsibilities for nature conservation and management of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site”**. Table 3 presents the composition of nature conservation site managers in the three countries.

[**Note to discuss in TG-WH**: (reflexion from a TG-WH member) could it be counterproductive to focus too much attention on nature conservation site management, since one of the main messages of the SIMP will be to demonstrate that it will take the support of all governmental agencies and authorities (i.a. marine transport, water management, coastal protection etc.) to protect the OUV effectively and permanently for future generations.]

**Table 3.** composition of site managers in the three Wadden Sea countries.

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| --- | --- |
| **Country** | **Composition** |
| **The Netherlands** | For the Wadden Sea:Wadden Sea Management Authority is working on integral site management of the Wadden Sea.Eleven site managers are active in the Wadden Sea (each with their own management plans for the areas that they support in the Wadden Sea): Rijkswaterstaat, Natuurmonumenten, Staatsbosbeheer, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the three provinces (Groningen, Friesland, and Nord Holland), Landschap Noord-Holland, Groninger Landschap, It Fryske Gea and private owners.The main tasks of the site managers concern: physical site management, nature recovery, permitting procedures, monitoring, surveillance and enforcement, hospitality, practical research and Wadden Sea World Heritage. For the surrounding land;Also municipalities have responsibilities. |
| **Germany** |  |
| **Hamburg** | Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Ministry of Environment, Climate, Energy and Agriculture Department of Nature Conservation, National-Park-AuthorityNaturschutzverein Jordsand |
| **Schleswig-Holstein** | National Park Authority\* Ministry for Energy, Agriculture, the Environment, Nature and Digitalisation (MELUND)Due to the existing support system (“Betreuungssystem”) in the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea National Park, six local NGOs have been contracted for wardening tasks (among them Schutzstation Wattenmeer, NABU, Naturschutzverein Jordsand)\* *part of the State Agency for Coastal Defense, National Park and Marine Conservation Schleswig-Holstein as a subordinate authority of the MELUND* |
| **Lower Saxony** | National Park AuthorityWardening NGOs contracted by the National Park Authority |
| **Denmark** | Municipalities (4: Esbjerg, Fanø, Varde, Tønder)Danish National Park Wadden SeaNature Agency\*Environmental Protection Agency\*(Coastal Authority)\*\**part of Ministry of Environment of Denmark* |

[**Note to discuss in TG-WH 34**: there was a suggestion to include the following table with national additional national provisions there were however different views on the relevance to include such information here. See the different comments in gray after the table. The suggestion is to include in the Annex after/together with the structures graphs where these national provisions are mentioned]

**Table 1.** Relevant regulation in the Wadden Sea countries not originating from EU law.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Country** | **Title(s)** | **Effective from year** | **Comprises** |
| The Netherlands | “Organizational Vision WaddenSea (‘Structuurvisie Waddenzee (SVW)’) | 2007; the third version of the SVW has been approved,2015; evaluation SVW finished2020; Area Agenda Wadden Sea 2050 published1st July 2022 (expected); Environment and Planning Act (will replace the SVW) | An overview on all activities in the Wadden Sea. Focused on the main goal of the Wadden Sea: “sustainable protection and development of the Wadden Sea as a nature area and maintaining the unique open landscape” |
| Germany | To be filled with info from the SIMP |  |  |
| Denmark | *“Statutory Order on the Wadden Sea Nature and Wildlife Reserve”* | 1985, with updates in 1998 and 2007. (Update ongoing in 2021) | * Traffic
* Hunting
* Uptake of organisms above and below the seabed
* Miscellaneous measures:
* construction works,
* coastal protection facilities,
* dredging material sites,
* excavation for raw materials, etc.,
* release of plants and animals,
* waste,
* power lines and wind turbines
 |

**c) Structure of the TWSC**



1. The DenGerNeth MARAD group consists of members from different maritime authorities in the three countries being in charge of safety of navigation and/or directly of prevention of accidents and preparedness and response to accidents. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)