

# MEETING DOCUMENT

## Wadden Sea Board (WSB 43)

16 May 2024  
Ameland, Netherlands



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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>5.2 Enhance Sustainability of Human Uses and foster Transformative Change (paras 17-37)</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>TG-CM progress report</b>
<b>Document No.:</b>	WSB 43/5.2/1
<b>Date:</b>	24 April 2024
<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>TG-CM/CWSS</b>

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Since the last WSB 42 meeting, the TG-CM held two meetings (TG-CM 24-1 on 22 February 2024 and TG-CM 24-2 on 16 April 2024). The group intends to highlight one subject of their working agenda.

This progress report of the Task Group Coordination and Management (TG-CM) contains information on the EU Blue Parks Community (BPC) and a short elaboration and recommendation for the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation to join this Europe-wide community, in particular to support Wilhelmshaven Declaration (WD) articles:

*“7. facilitate exchange of national experiences and best practices in a joint process involving relevant parties by organising e.g. thematic workshops, in regard to the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 focussing on the trilateral Wadden Sea Conservation Area” and to*

*“10. develop projects reversing the negative trends respecting the Guiding Principle and the Outstanding Universal Value, thus contributing to the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030”.*

**Proposal:** The meeting is invited to note the information and to endorse the proposal.

## Proposal to join the EU Blue Parks Community (BPC)

### The EU Blue Parks Community (BPC)

As part of the EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030", the [EU Blue Parks Community](#) is a platform for EU Member State authorities, practitioners, researchers and other stakeholders to collaborate on marine protection. It aims to **bring together European networks, national and regional authorities and agencies, projects and initiatives in the EU** to identify challenges, share tools, solutions and good practices, promote innovative approaches and push forward progress in marine protection in the EU sea-basins.

The BPC targets actors working on the protection of marine biodiversity and ecological processes, in particular from marine protected areas designated by EU Member States, Natura 2000 marine and coastal sites and areas designated for marine protection by a Regional Sea Convention or multilateral agreements. It is open to **national and regional agencies for marine and environmental matters, including Natura 2000 marine and coastal sites, researchers in the field of marine conservation, sea basin organisations, NGOs, international organisations, donors and sustainable investors.**

### How could the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) profit?

By joining the EU BPC, members will have the opportunity to **exchange knowledge and good practices with other members, enhance governance and stakeholder involvement, explore funding opportunities, get in contact with future EU-project initiatives and improve ongoing management of marine protected areas.**

Members of the BPC will be invited to participate in dedicated **workshops** and can actively contribute to workshop discussions and results. They will also have access to technical assistance on specific topics on marine protection via the **Community helpdesk**, share news of their own activities regarding marine protected areas in the Mission Ocean & Water **newsletter**, and **gain visibility** as Member on the BPC webpage.

Membership of the TWSC to the EU BPC offers the opportunity to support implementation of the Wilhelmshaven Declaration (WD), in particular §§ 7, 10, and the corresponding TWSC business plan.

### Implications of involvement for the TWSC

Membership to the EU BPC and technical assistance of the Community helpdesk is free of charge (given the information available on the website). Travel costs may apply for participation in live events, such as workshops.

Additional resources, such as working time, will depend on the level of engagement. For networking and participation in workshops, few hours per year are estimated.

The aim of the EU BPC is primarily on networking and providing a platform for exchange. Therefore, no additional obligations resulting from the membership are expected.

### Proposal:

The Task Group Coordination and Management recommends the WSB to **agree** CWSS to apply for membership of the TWSC to the EU BPC, for information and networking purposes and initiation of future EU-funded project initiatives, with the aim to address WD § 7 and 10.