FINAL SUMMARY RECORD

Expert Group Swimway (EG-Swimway 22-3)

5 July 2022

Online

**Final version (1.0) 10 November 2022**

# Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the Agenda

The meeting was opened by the chairperson, Mr Kellermann, at 10:00 on 5 July 2022. He thanked CWSS for hosting the online meeting by MS Teams. The chair passed apologies of Morten Frederiksen, Christian Abel and Niels Jepsen, who could not join the meeting. Ingrid Tulp and Martha Buitenkamp joined partially, until - and from 11:00 respectively). Henrik Jørgensen joined as guest. A list of participants is in Annex 1, the final agenda at Annex 2.

The group **noted** the information and **adopted** the agenda

# Adoption of the draft summary record

###### Document: EG-Swimway22-3-2 Summary record 21-2

Most action items were completed (5, 9, 10) or are on today´s agenda (2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8). Item 1: Discuss a follow-up of the SHIRE project will be tackled after finalizing the project report. The permanent action item to regularly update the living document online remains in the list of action items (Annex 2): [https://waddenseasecretariat-my.sharepoint.com/:x:/g/personal/busch\_waddensea-secretariat\_org/EUP1yhB-3FNMuQTZ3HmrrhIBfnpvTu0bCF09ytGIo8L0AA?e=2n9Dwf](https://waddenseasecretariat-my.sharepoint.com/%3Ax%3A/g/personal/busch_waddensea-secretariat_org/EUP1yhB-3FNMuQTZ3HmrrhIBfnpvTu0bCF09ytGIo8L0AA?e=2n9Dwf)

EG-Swimway **noted** the information and **adopted** the draft summary record of EG-Swimway 22-2.

# Announcements

**NABU**

The WATTRenature project is funded by BfN/BMUV and is running from June 2022 until May 2024.

**Denmark**

* The Nationalpark Wadden Sea are working on a potential project about eelgrass in the Danish part of the Wadden Sea. Currently it is in a preliminary faze with literature review;
* The Nationalpark is involved in a master plan for a future for River Konge Å and the surrounding areas;
* The Nationalpark is supporting the environmental DNA” project (<https://ednaexpeditions.org>) launched by the World Heritage Centre (see announcements CWSS);
* Three municipalities and many other stakeholders are involved. The proposal for a regulation – proposal for a Nature Restoration Law published in June 2022 includes the marine environment and may be a powerful tool for Swimway Wadden Sea <https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/nature-restoration-law_en>
* There is principle recognition for the necessity of financing regular fish monitoring stations in Denmark
* Discussions of the statutory order (protection act) to close the (theoretical) last potential for fisheries in the Eastern Danish Wadden Sea is on-going;
* A Danish Centre for Wadden Sea Research has been established in mid-June 2022 under the auspices of Aarhus University; responsible scientist is Thomas Bregnballe. This unit is open to all Danish universities and will primarily work with in-kind contributions (work hours) <https://ecos.au.dk/en/waddensea>

**Schleswig-Holstein**

iSeal (Trans- and interdisciplinary Social-ecological network analysis based on long-term monitoring, experimental data and stakeholders) first round of mesocosm experiments at Alfred Wegener Institut für Polar- und Meeresforschung (AWI) List, Sylt, Germany were completed. These included impact of climate change, simulated by different temperature levels on e.g., blue mussel beds and fish as integral part of the system. Now, stable isotope analysis will give insights on food web dynamics. Next year, a follow-up experiment will also include invasive species. <https://www.nationalpark-wattenmeer.de/news/neues-forschungsprojekt>, <https://www.sustainmare.de/104228/index.php.en>

The national park authority is supporting the environmental DNA project (<https://ednaexpeditions.org>) launched by the World Heritage Centre (see announcements CWSS).

**Lower-Saxony**

The Lower Saxon State Department for Waterway, Coastal and Nature Conservation conducted glass eel monitoring events at Harlesiel and Oldersum (Frisian Coast), on the World Fish Migration Day <https://worldfishmigrationday.com>, which was supported by volunteers of the local fishery community.

**Netherlands**

* Similar events for the World Fish Migration Day as in Lower Saxony were conducted by water authorities at Oostpolderdijk, Noorderdijk and Sint Jacobiparochie.
* Recent stakeholder meetings within the Wadden Tools – Swimway Wadden Sea/ waddenmozaiek and Wij and wadvogels projects conducted on 30 July in Harlingen, NL.

**CWSS**

* The 2022 Wadden Sea Day titled "Who eats whom? Trophic relationships and their implications for monitoring and management" on 5 August 2022, will focus on trophic relationships in the Wadden Sea and their implications for monitoring and management <https://waddensea-worldheritage.org/events/wadden-sea-day-2022>;
* The recently updated Quality Status Report (QSR) thematic reports (including fish) were finalized and uploaded to the online system, but are not yet openly accessible;
* CWSS is in the advisory board for the “environmental DNA” project (<https://ednaexpeditions.org>) launched by the World Heritage Centre. Sampling of pilot sites, including the Wadden Sea is planned for September;
* An additional Wadden Sea Board (WSB) meeting is planned on 6 October 2022 (deadline for documents 15 September 2022);
* Staff: Khouloud Belhadj is communication assistant at CWSS, Yara Hijazi completed a short-term contract for QSR support, and is expected to return in September 2022 for IKI support.

The group **noted** the information and **agreed** to consider joint planning of trilateral event(s) for the World Fish Migration Day 2024, including support in involvement of the general public.

The group further **agreed** to follow up to a discussion on the “extent” of restoration activities vs reducing pressure on the system vs. letting nature develop itself for fish in the Wadden Sea.

# SWIMWAY vision and action programme

## Projects

**General**

Henrik Jorgensen thanked the group for splendid work and suggested exploring the EU COST action for North Sea wide networking for Swimway. A great threat for fish on this level is fishery. Julia Busch responded that COST was considered as one source of funding by the subgroup trilateral Swimway project, but not followed up for several reasons.

Andreas Dänhardt added that the members of EG-Swimway are not in the position to apply for a larger scientific project, but to bring together results of projects and to channel these to knowledge for conservation and bringing it to the public. With this knowledge, the group can support a consortium. Its advantage is the joint membership with other actors/groups in the Wadden Sea scene, e.g., authors of the Wadden Sea Quality Status Report (QSR) and national projects. Adi Kellermann underlined the role of the group as think-tank to inspire the science-policy interface.

The group **noted** the information

**SWIMWAY historical reference (SHIRE):**

Andreas Dänhardt shared information on the status of the SWIMWAY historical reference (SHIRE) project. The trilateral students are completing their Niels Janssen submitted his Master thesis on this topic last week. Final report being drafted. Follow-up project planned to fill gaps.

The group **noted** the information

**Graduate school:**

Katja Heubel informed about on-going efforts in establishing a Wadden Sea Graduate school to finance PhDs on fish topics. A current call for doctoral networks in EU Marie Curie <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/doctoral-networks> allows applications for joint doctorates and industrial doctorates. The industrial doctorates may foster collaboration with the national park administrations for supervision. Requirement is to have three member states involved, with financing for at least one PhD student per partner (in total 10 PhD positions fulltime for three years, which may be splitted to part-time over a longer time period), research-, collaboration- and administration funding. As her own resources are limited in this year, she will not be able to prepare an application in this year November – if a proposal is not successful, it could not be re-submitted in the following year. She suggested using the Swimway network and strong connection between authorities, to build a doctorate network not just as accelerator for science, but also as a tool to educate future professionals in the Wadden Sea region. She suggested preparing a summer school for starting the collaboration and preparation of a proposal.

Julia Busch offered a meeting with CWSS to discuss collaboration with current efforts to establish a series of summer schools over the next years.

The group **thanked** Katja Heubel for the initiative and information and **agreed** that an application should be prepared, but submitted for the next call in 2023. The group further **agreed** that the consortium which gathered in the independent sub-group trilateral project proposal meetings would be a good start for the doctoral network, as well as the new Danish Wadden Sea research center.

## Mid-term review and trilateral update

Adi Kellermann introduced the Wadden Sea Swimway Vision and Action Programme mid-term review and invited feedback from EG-Swimway. He informed that the document is of importance for the future work of EG-Swimway, but also for the Task Groups Management (TG-M) and Monitoring and Assessment (TG-MA). Further, it is planned to inform the Wadden Sea Board about the final version. In addition, a midterm-review poster has been accepted as part of the EG-Swimway side event at the Trilateral Governmental Conference (TGC). He added (in response to agenda item 4, general) that funding and funding networking should be part of the mid-term review.

Marina Sanns referred to a decision by the Task Group Management (TG-M) at their TG-M 20-4 meeting on 11 December 2020 “*to use the main policy document as valuable background document for internal use only. The document should not be further elaborated.”* which was reaffirmed in TG-M 21-1. She asked therefore to delete the sentences “*The intention was to have the main document still under revision by the follow-up work from 2021. This task has been postponed so far but will have to be picked up again*.” related to the main policy document on page 6. Further, she asked to pay due attention to the sensitivity of the topic of fisheries.

Martha Buitenkamp asked to present more clearly actionable recommendations for the next period and to look back from the way we worked and that means for future work. She further informed that the Programme for a Rich Waddensea (PRW, NL) made an (English) overview report of the Swimway activities and projects, as well as gaps, in the Netherlands, which may be helpful for the mid-term review. The illustrations in the report are free to use.

The group **thanked** Adi Kellermann, **noted** the information and **agreed** to deliver written comments within two weeks (until 19 July 2022). Further, the group **agreed** to clearly outline recommendations, linked to findings and lessons learnt for the coming period. Adi Kellermann will draft a new version, which will be available for a second round of discussion within EG-Swimway. Aim is completion in time for sharing with relevant groups and for presentation of a poster at the Trilateral Governmental Conference.

# Roadmap

The group **agreed** that the roadmap (action item 6, EG-Swimway 22-2) should be prepared after a clear view and general agreement on the recommendations of the Swimway Vision and Action Programme midterm review (see Agenda item 4.2).

# Trilateral Governmental Conference 2022

Adi Kellermann listed the planned side events under the roof of Swimway, consisting of 1) a mid-term review poster (by EG-Swimway; see Agenda item 4.2) and 2) information interconnectivity with relation to the planned guidelines/position paper

Julia Busch informed that funding of Paddy Walker for supporting the side events is secured (see summary record of previous meeting 22-2, page 5, item 6).

The group **noted** the information and invitation to an afternoon meeting on 5 July on the second side event idea (action item to share an outline with EG-Swimway remains).

**Windows of opportunity – guidelines/position paper**

In relation to the second side event, Jeroen Huisman reported on progress with work on windows of opportunity for interconnectivity. The drafting group currently works on an inventory on tidal zones in rivers and estuaries, open or closed connections to the Wadden Sea, from different sources, official data, additional data e.g., from the AMBER project <https://worldfishmigrationfoundation.com/portfolio-item/amber>, as well as a google search as third level of data gathering. These data will be combined and sorted into 9 – 10 categories of tidal infrastructure. In average, we will come up with >600 tidal locations in the whole Wadden Sea area. Also, a proxy for connectivity was designed, to indicate the possibility for free discharge water (as opposed to pumping). Analysis of the data is on-going and it is planned to have these completed before summer, and to start writing after summer. The impact of sea level rise will be considered. Aline Kühl Stenzel has supported this work with a paragraph on policy. Andreas Dänhardt underlined that in particular the classification is an important exercise, as a joint trilateral understanding is missing.

The group **thanked** the drafting group for the impressive work and **noted** the information

# Swimway conference

Julia Busch reported that at their TG-M 22-3 meeting on 21 June 2022, the Task Group Management (TG-M) was informed about the planned Swimway conference. This information will also be passed to the WSB 37 in August 2022, in the TG-M progress report.

Jeroen Huisman confirmed joint efforts with the Dutch Waddentools Swimway project (as shared by Ingrid Tulp) and of the sister project on connectivity (Ruim Baan voor Vissen-project (Make way for Fish)) which includes a bit of funding for the event. Adi Kellermann informed that also Katja Philippart is interested to join with the Waddenacademie.

The group **noted** the information and **agreed** that Andreas Dänhardt will take the lead for the Swimway conference and to bring together a committee consisting of Ingrid Tulp/Wouter van der Heij, Katja Philippart/Klaas Deen, Jeroen Huisman, Katja Heubel, Morten Frederiksen/Xenia Salomonsen, Paddy Walker (if funded), Adi Kellermann if needed, and Marina Sanns if located in Büsum/Schleswig-Holstein, and CWSS.

# Any Other Business and next meeting

Andreas Dänhardt inquired on continuity of the chairperson of the group Adi Kellermann beyond 2022. Adi Kellermann informed that his contract is until the end of 2022. Julia Busch reported that in general the chairperson of a trilateral Expert Group is one of the regular group member (and that group members are financed from their respective countries, if necessary). For EG-Swimway, an external chairperson has been justified by the need to initiate and continue the Swimway Vision and Action Programme, and for 2022 to prepare the midterm review of the Action Programme. Aline Kühl Stenzel added that with Flyway as role model, increased effort is needed for Swimway.

The group **noted** the information

**Next meeting:**

Henrik Jorgensen refreshed the Danish invitation for EG-Swimway for an in-person meeting (e.g., on Rømø).

The group **noted** the information and **agreed** that CWSS will prepare a doodle for 29 August - 2 September 2022. It will be decided, if this will be in an in person or an online meeting.

# Closing

The meeting was closed by the chair Adi Kellermann at 12:15 on 5 July 2022. He thanked the participants for the good discussions and thanked CWSS for smooth organization.

**ANNEX 1: List of participants**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Expert Group Swimway (EG-Swimway 22-3)

5 July 2022

Online

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| **Denmark**  |
| **Mr Niels Jepsen**DTU AQUA/National Institute of Aquatic ResourcesSection for Freshwater Fisheries EcologyTechnical University of DenmarkVejlsøvej 39DK-8600 SilkeborgPhone: +45 35 88 31 31E-Mail: nj@aqua.dtu.dk | **Ms Xenia Salomonsen**Danish National Park Wadden SeaNationalpark VadehavetHavnebyvej 30DK-6792 RømøPhone: +45 72 54 36 52Mobil: +45 26 28 44 66 E-Mail: xemsa@danmarksnationalparker.dk |
| **Mr Henrik G. Pind Jørgensen** Environment Protection Agency Skovridervej 3, ArnumDK-6510 Gramphone: +45 (0) 72 54 34 44E-Mail: hepgj@mst.dk  |  |
| **Germany (Hamburg, Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein)** |
| **Ms Marina Sanns**Schleswig-Holstein Agency for Coastal Defense, National Park and Marine ConservationNational Park AuthoritySchloßgarten 1D-25832 Tönning Phone: +49 486161645 E-Mail: Marina.Sanns@lkn.landsh.de | **Mr Oliver-David Finch**, Lower Saxony Water Management, Coastal Protection and Nature Conservation Agency (NLWKN)Oldersumer Straße 48D-26603 Aurich Phone: +49 (0) 4941 176-155E-mail: Oliver-David.Finch@nlwkn.niedersachsen.de |
| **Netherlands** |
| **Ms Martha Buitenkamp**Programme towards a rich Wadden Sea (PRW)Brusselseweg 6NL - 9321 TN Peize Phone: +31 (0) 621578477E-Mail: m.buitenkamp@anantis.nl  | **Mr Jeroen Huisman**Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Science (VHL)PO box 1528NL-8901 BV LeeuwardenPhone: +31 58 - 2846245Mobile: +31 6- 22839827E-mail: jeroen.huisman@hvhl.nl |
| **Ms Ingrid Tulp**Wageningen, University & Research (WUR) Dept. Wageningen Marine ResearchPostbus 68NL-1970 AB IjmuidenPhone:+31 (317) 487112E-Mail: ingrid.tulp@wur.nl |  |
| **Participants from advisors to WSB and external experts** |
| **Ms Aline Kühl-Stenzel**NABU-Bundesverbandc/o Landesgeschäftsstelle HamburgKlaus-Groth-Str. 21D-20535 Hamburg Mobil: +49 (0)174 1818477Email: aline.kuehl-stenzel@NABU.de |  |
| **Chair and** **Secretary** |
| **Mr Adi Kellermann (Chair)**Kellermann-ConsultantsOstdeutsche Str. 28D-25840 FriedrichstadtPhone: +49 4881610E-Mail: akellerman@t-online.de | **Ms Julia A. Busch (Secretary)** Common Wadden Sea Secretariat |

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| --- |
| **Invited guests** |
| **Mr Andreas Dänhardt** (D)Phone: +49 179 5171539E-Mail: andreas@daenhardt.com  | **Ms Katja Heubel (D)**Kiel University, Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel -Research adn Technology Centre, West Coast (FTZ)Hafentörn 1D- 25761 BüsumPhone: +49 4834 604 203E-Mail: heubel@ftz-west.uni-kiel.de |

**ANNEX 2: Agenda**

FINAL AGENDA v1.0

**Expert Group Swimway**

**(EG-Swimway 22-3)**

5 July 2022

Online meeting

# Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the Agenda

The meeting will be opened by the Chairperson at 10:00 on 5 July 2022. Proposal: Adopt the draft agenda of the meeting.

# Adoption of the draft summary record and next meeting

###### Document: EG-Swimway22-3-2 Summary record 22-2

Proposal: Adopt draft summary record of previous meeting and determine next (in person) meeting date and agree, if this meeting should be under the headline of theme session (referring to previous action item: *Continue exchange in EG-Swimway, e.g., by theme sessions on fish targets or SWIMWAY pillars, or on topics, such as salt marsh management, underwater activities, nursery function of the Wadden Sea, migration, connectivity or sluices*)

# Announcements

###### Document: EG-Swimway22-3-3-Announcements

Meeting participants are invited to hand in their information to CWSS before the meeting. Individual general announcements will not be repeated in this online format, but time given for questions. Focus is on exchange of information on SWIMWAY related projects and proposal initiatives.

Proposal: Note the information.

# SWIMWAY vision and action programme

###### Document: EG-Swimway22-3-4-Draft-midterm-review

* 1. Projects

Information on graduate school and other progress in trilateral project development (Katja, all).

Proposal: Note the information

* 1. Mid term review

Discussion on first draft of Wadden Sea Swimway Action Programme mid-term review.

Proposal: Agree on general content of draft and two weeks for amendments

# Roadmap

Information on progress (Adi). Proposal: Note the information

# Trilateral Governmental Conference 2022

Information on progress of two side events: 1) Mid-term review of the Swimway Vision Action Programme (e.g., in form of a poster) (Adi, Andreas, CWSS); 2) Interconnectivity with relation to the planned policy paper (e.g., in form of a poster and Smartboard) (Jeroen, Paddy, Oliver, CWSS). Invitation for afternoon meeting for 2nd side event. Proposal: Note the information

# Swimway conference

Inform on next steps and current status of conference outline ([https://waddenseasecretariat-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/busch\_waddensea-secretariat\_org/EcGmpJgCtqtLj3XhsbzTxE0B3sVkZLvc30BBog9qfFhSVQ](https://waddenseasecretariat-my.sharepoint.com/%3Aw%3A/g/personal/busch_waddensea-secretariat_org/EcGmpJgCtqtLj3XhsbzTxE0B3sVkZLvc30BBog9qfFhSVQ)). Proposal: Note the information

1. **Any Other Business and next meeting**

Discuss any other business (AOB) and next meeting(s). Proposal: Note the information

1. **Closing**

The meeting will be closed no later than 13:00 on 5 July 2022.

**ANNEX 3: Action items**

ACTION ITEMS

Expert Group Swimway (EG-Swimway 22-3)

5 July 2022

Online

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Action #** | **Agenda item** | **Actions agreed upon** | **Person responsible** | **Deadline** |
| 1 | 3 | Consider joint planning of trilateral event(s) for the World Fish Migration Day 2024, including support in involvement of the general public |  |  |
| 2 | 3 | Take up a discussion on the “extend” of restoration activities vs reduce pressure on the system and let nature develop itself for fish in the Wadden Sea. |  |  |
| 3 | 4.1 | Take up application for Wadden Sea fish graduate school in 2023 | Katja, all | 2023 |
| 4 | 4.2 | Deliver written comments on midterm review to chair within two weeks | all | 2022-07-19 |
| 5 | 5 | Prepare roadmap (with timeline) | Chair with support CWSS | After midterm review |
| 6 | 6 | Share outline of interconnectivity side event | subgroup | Next meeting |
| 7 | 7 | Bring together conference committee | Andreas | September/October 2022 |
| 8 | 8 | Prepare doodle for next meeting | CWSS | ASAP |
| **Pending from previous meetings** |
|  | 21-1: | Regularly update the [living document](https://waddenseasecretariat-my.sharepoint.com/%3Ax%3A/g/personal/busch_waddensea-secretariat_org/EUP1yhB-3FNMuQTZ3HmrrhIBfnpvTu0bCF09ytGIo8L0AA?e=2n9Dwf) online | all | Permanent reminder |
|  | 22-2/4 | Discuss a follow-up of the SHIRE project | all | After final report |
|  | 5/6 | Take up communication plan in mid term review | all | TBD |
| 8 | 4.2 | Continue exchange in EG-Swimway, e.g., by theme sessions on fish targets or SWIMWAY pillars, or on topics, such as salt marsh management, underwater activities, nursery function of the Wadden Sea, migration, connectivity or sluices. | all | On-going |