

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 30)

21 November 2019
Wilhelmshaven, Germany



Agenda Item:	5.2 Nature conservation and integrated ecosystem management
Subject:	Report TG-M
Document No.:	WSB 30/5.2/1
Date:	08 November 19
Submitted by:	TG-M

Attached is a progress report of the second meeting of the Task Group Management (TG-M). TG-M 19-2 was held on 08 – 09 October 2019 in Rømø, Denmark.

Proposal: The WSB is invited to **note** the information in items 1-4, 7-16 and is further invited to **endorse** the TG-M recommendations concerning items 5, 6.

Task Group Management (TG-M) progress report to WSB 30

Since WSB-29 the TG-M has progressed on the following specific items:

1. Flyway & Breeding Birds

See separate document (WSB 30/5.2/2) on the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative's Arctic Workshop and on their initiative to submitting a proposal under a call within the International Climate Initiative (IKI) funding instrument of the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

2. Fish targets / Swimway

Initiation of the SWIMWAY Vision and Action Programme proceeded as planned with an International conference SWIMWAYS: "[Understanding connectivity within the life cycles of coastal fish](#)", which took place from 24 -26 September in Hamburg. A comprehensive [programme](#) included the four theme sessions "Monitoring and data", "Fish habitats", "Life cycles (Swimways), connectivity and bottlenecks", and "Marine policy". In addition, a workshop on education, communication and ocean literacy was held by Ms Szczesinski to align SWIMWAY education activities with the trilateral education programme. Four breakout sessions with workshop character provided room to discuss monitoring of bottlenecks, creating a knowledge community for future collaboration, organising trilateral stakeholder engagement in the Swimway process and initiating a trilateral projects. A special issue in the scientific journal Estuarine Coastal and Shelf Science will provide room for publication of conference contributions.

Results from the conference feed directly into project development, formulation of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of a possible expert group fish and to identification of members. The SWIMWAY group also received great input to trilateral fish targets and trilateral fish monitoring through this conference, as well as for the development of a number of research projects.

A policy/management investigation has been presented on the conference and will be finalised this year. Smaller projects may still be tackled in 2019 include an interactive map of bottlenecks in the Wadden Sea and upstream (and seawards).

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

3. Wardening & management

The wardening workshop needed to be postponed due to the limited availability of the involved local work boat. TG-M agreed that a workshop should be organised with the Netherlands in charge, preferably early 2020, if necessary coordinated with the activities regarding the SIMP.

In that connection, a workshop for site managers was held under the framework of the SIMP development on 17-19 September 2019 in Tönning, Germany, and was referred to preparatory or pilot workshop for similar future activities (see document [WSB 30/5.1/2](#)).

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

4. Seal Management Plan

Denmark informed that Danish Seal Management Plan (SMP) will be updated and that the TWSC-SMP is intended to be annexed to the national Danish Plan in full content.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

5. Harbour porpoises

At their EG-Seals 19-2 meeting on 28 – 29 October 2019 in Büsum, Germany, EG-Seals discussed on how to proceed with addressing harbour porpoises *Phocoena phocoena* in the Wadden Sea on basis of the outcome of the harbour porpoise workshop (workshop report see [WSB 29/5.2/2](#)), which build upon a request of ASCOBANS that harbour porpoises should have more attention in the trilateral agreement.

EG-Seals agreed, based on the workshop outcomes and scientific findings over the recent years that harbour porpoises are an integral part of the Wadden Sea ecosystem. EG-Seals further underlined that the Wadden Sea Area is an important habitat for harbour porpoises. This led to the protection of this species and its environment by regional and national legislation including the Wadden Sea, based on European law, e.g., Flora Fauna Habitat (FFH) Directive. Therefore, the group recommends to TG-M that harbour porpoises should be included as part of the work in EG-Seals.

In the current EG-Seals group composition, expertise on harbour porpoises is already represented by some members. The group recommends that all countries should provide at least one member with expertise on harbour porpoises to EG-Seals. A lot of activities and knowledge are already available (compare [WSB 29/5.2/2](#)). But there is a lack of information exchange (e.g., on management measures) and focus on the Wadden Sea. Against this background and of current threats, EG-Seals stress the need for the TWSC to devote a higher level of attention to harbour porpoises in the Wadden Sea. The group requests to be instructed to discuss details on the integration at their next meeting in spring 2020.

Proposal: On this background, TG-M recognizes the advantages of harbour porpoises to be included into the responsibilities of EG- Seals. TG-M thus proposes the WSB to endorse that TG-M, in consultation with EG-Seals, and until WSB 31 elaborates on a proposal for revised Terms of Reference (ToR), inclusive concrete proposals of tasks and deliverables, incl. objectives and purpose for the EG-Seals on how to deal with the increasing relevance of harbour porpoises in the Wadden Sea, taking into account the specificities (role and benefits) of the TWSC.

6. Alien Species

On basis of the ToR and the proposed actions and recommendations of the MAPAS, WG-AS assorted the most important and priority tasks for the implementation of MAPAS to be included into the EG AS workplan 2020-2022, which are the development and implementation of the categories a) Alien Species network platform, b) the integration into TMAP and c) information, communication and education.

From 2020 WG-AS will be prepared to implement and coordinate as Expert Group the alien species network platform including a trilateral alert system as microsite of the WH website. Needed resources are listed in the draft supplementary budget 2020. It is necessary that for specific tasks in the implementation process scientists have to be consulted.

Proposal: WSB is requested to install the work group alien species as expert group with the main task to implement the MAPAS, starting with the Alien Species network platform.

7. Salt Marshes

The Expert Group Salt Marshes and Dunes held a trilateral workshop on the island of Borkum on 22-24 October 2019. Six presentations from all countries allowed an intensive information exchange about monitoring, management, salt marsh development and alien species.

The group discussed the programme of the up-coming joint workshop '*Declining breeding bird numbers in the Wadden Sea in view of management and restoration of salt marshes*' with the Joint Monitoring Breeding Bird group (JMBB) in Hamburg on 19-20 November 2019.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

8. Sustainable Fisheries

(see item Single Integrated Management Plan)

9. Marine litter

The group agreed to proceed with an inventory on activities based on a Danish initiative/template introduced to TG-M during the meeting and to include corresponding information on UN, EU and OSPAR level. This information will be processed in a summarizing document for WSB 31.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

10. Light Emissions

Wadden Sea Forum offered taking up the issue of light emissions and the OpTeamPH will inquire on how to tackle this subject with further partners in the future.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

11. Ports and shipping

TG-M discussed 1) a Dutch note "Implementation of the TWSC "Operational Plan" on shipping; Elaborating on four proposals endorsed by WSB-29 and 2) the WSF proposal on a future shipping group ([WSB30/5.8/2 WSF Shipping Group](#))

Both items are covered in separate notes to WSB 30 ([WSB 30/5.6 TG-M on Dutch proposal](#) and [WSB 30/5.8/3 TG-M on WSF Shipping Group](#)).

Proposal: WSB is referred to agenda items WSB 30/5.6 and WSB 30/5.8/3 regarding the recommendations from TG-M concerning both issues.

Furthermore, regulations on water sports and shipping in the Wadden Sea were addressed based on an initiative from Schleswig-Holstein. Any changes of protected areas due to the national Natura 2000 management plans in the three countries will be combined in one map by the National Park Authority of Schleswig-Holstein. The final GIS based information would be stored at CWSS.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

12. Trilateral Research Agenda

The TRA Roadmap Committee held its first meeting in early October in Hamburg under direction of Ms Lochte. The group agreed to ToR and produced a list of specific projects with relevance for the TRA within the three countries. CWSS submitted a separate report of this meeting ([WSB 30/5.7](#)).

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

13. Natura 2000 roof report

The Danish consultant who was contacted to contract the N2000 roof report feasibility study recommended not to proceed in the proposed way. Denmark would request a paper from the consultant with the underlying argumentation. The group further agreed that on basis of this paper, Germany would reconsider its interest in the roof report until the next TG-M meeting and TG-M would discuss their position on the need and value of the N2000 roof report. A corresponding update on the situation is foreseen for WSB 31.

Proposal: The WSB is invited to note the information.

14. Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP)

The SIMP will be discussed in a separate WSB agenda item ([WSB30.5.1/2](#)).

Furthermore, TG-M decided to contribute to the foreseen fisheries chapter by collecting up-to-date information on fishery activities from all three countries based on an former inventory and to generally allocate some time for planning activities around the SIMP during the next meeting.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

15. QSR

The chairperson of the TG Monitoring and Assessment joint the meeting for introducing the activities of the newly installed task group on TMAP and QSR. Further information would be distributed by TG-MA during the process.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

16. TG-M Work plan 2020

Main function of TG-M is supervision and coordination, as outlined in their ToR. Therefore, the group does not have many deliverables.

At the request of WSB-29, TG-M has specified deliverables/products, beginning with the groups “own” tasks, but with the intention of doing so for all tasks in 2020. This will be done in close cooperation with the prime responsible for each task re. Annex 1 for those.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

ANNEX 1: Work Plan 2020 Task Group Management (TG-M)

Table: Work plan 2020 of the Task Group Management (TG-M) with deliverables/products of the group's responsibility in black, and supervision and coordination activities in grey to be updated.

Leeuwarden Declaration	Products 2020	TG-M role	Responsible group
WSB / TG-M scheduled			
3. Single integrated management plan (SIMP)	Selection key priority issues	Support and contribute	TG-WH
5. Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative (WSFI)	Arctic Cooperation	Observe	WSFI SG
	Monitoring of key sites along Flyway	Observe	
	Capacity Building	Observe	
12. Breeding Birds Action Plan	Guidelines on predation management (EG-MB/BB)	Oversee ¹	(EG-MB/BB)
	Breeding bird trend report	Oversee	
	Work programme 2019-22	Oversee	
	Joint workshop EG BB and EG SMD on natural habitat restoration	Oversee	
13. SWIMWAY	Implementation SWIMWAY Vison	Observe/ support	ad hoc WG SWIMWAY
	ToR and work programme for EG Fish	Observe/ support	
14. Management & Wardening	(Site) Managers Workshop	Responsible	TG-M
	Wardening Workshop	Responsible	
15. Seal Management Plan 2018-2022	SMP and Annual Reporting (extra line)	Evaluate and support	EG-Seals
	Annual Reporting on harbour seal and grey seal population	Oversee	
16. Harbour porpoises	New activites TBD	Observe and evaluate	[TG-M]

¹ Oversee: Processes and products are followed and aligned to trilateral policy and coordinated where necessary

Leeuwarden Declaration	Products 2020	TG-M role	Responsible group
17. Alien Species (MAPAS)	Implementation MAPAS	Observe and evaluate	ad hoc WG AS
	ToR and Workplan for EG Alien Species	Observe and evaluate	
	Contribution to trilateral communication strategy	Observe and evaluate	
20. Quality Status Report	QSR Synthesis (2018) ²	Support	TG-MA
	Draft Proposal for next QSR	Responsible	TG-M/TG-MA
[21. Sustainable fisheries]	Update of existing trilateral documents	Responsible	TG-M
[22.-23 Marine litter]	Inventory on activities	Support if needed/ Ignition phase	[TG-M]
[24. Light emissions]	Inventory on activities	Observe/ support	[TG-M]
[29. Renewable energy and its transportation]	(Inventory study 2020)	Responsible	TG-M
[31. Sustainable modes of transport - Shipping]	WSF Report	Observe	[TG-M]
[36. Trilateral Research Agenda (TRA)]	Installation of TRA Programme Committee	Support	TRA-RMC
42. Review progress made on LD	n/a 2019		TG-M
44. 15th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium	n/a 2019		TG-M
Wadden Sea Plan (WSP)	Implementation of WSP	Supervise	[TG-M]

² Item transferred to TG-MA during WSB 28