

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 30)

21 November 2019
Wilhelmshaven, Germany



Agenda Item:	5.8 Wadden Sea Forum
Subject:	TG-M proposal on WSF proposal on joint shipping group (WSB30/5.8/2)
Document No.:	WSB 30/5.8/3
Date:	07 November 19
Submitted by:	TG-M

This note considers the proposal from Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) of a joint TWSC/WSF shipping group ([WSB30/5.8/2](#)).

The WSF proposal is based on the fact that shipping in the southern North Sea, an area directly adjacent to the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site, is an important and increasing business, which demands better attention to minimize risks and to safeguard the environment. According to the proposal, improving shipping safety needs a coalition of actors from various fields to elaborate on successful, feasible and acceptable measures. The WSF thus proposes a joint shipping group without a binding status and with participants from competent authorities, local and regional governments, relevant economic sectors and green NGOs to elaborate on initiatives and recommendations for a sustainable and safe shipping business in the southern North Sea.

Several recent shipping incidents, as outlined in the WSF proposal, raised the issue of shipping safety on the public and political agenda, especially around the Wadden Sea World Heritage property. The most prominent and quite recent one was the container loss of the MSC Zoe which caused high media attention and had a noticeable impact on the region, especially in the Netherlands and Lower Saxony. Shipping safety was extensively addressed in the [Tønder Declaration \(2014\) incl. Annex 5](#), as well as in the [Leeuwarden Declaration from 2018](#).

After a former TWSC decision not to continue the Working Group Shipping WSB 18 requested the DenGerNeth-MARAD group (the function of which is/was partly covered by the meetings of the Bonn Agreement) for advice on shipping issues (i.a. overview of the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Tønder Declaration incl. Annex 5 and to foster the transboundary dialogue between the competent shipping authorities. For around the last 18 months the DenGerNeth-MARAD has not met, and has now de-facto ceased to exist, thus leaving no designated trilateral body commissioned to shipping issues.

At its October 8th & 9th, 2019 meeting, TG-M considered the WSF proposal on installing a joint trilateral shipping group. TG-M recognized a need for further elaboration of the proposal in cooperation with WSF, in particular with respect to organizational scenarios and their resource implications.

Proposal: The WSB is invited to adopt the following way forward with the aim of submitting proposals for decision to WSB 31/32:

1. Acknowledge the proposal from the Wadden Sea Forum;
2. Instruct the TG-M, in cooperation with WSF, to further elaborate on feasible organisational scenarios such as a round table approach, for the most feasible realisation of the proposal.