

SUMMARY RECORD
24th Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board
(WSB 24)
20 April 2018
Groningen, Netherlands

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Mr. Jaap Verhulst, who assumed the chairpersonship in the absence of Mr. Co Verdaas, at 09:15 on 20 April 2018. He thanked the Dutch delegation for providing the meeting venue and particularly the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management for the organisation of the dinner the night before.

The chairperson announced an invited guest who would attend the meeting: Mr. Onno Poppinga would be available for advice on the draft statutes of the WSWHF that he had been commissioned to elaborate by the Wadden Sea Board Chair. He also welcomed Ms. Lies van Nieuwerburgh who is nominated as successor to Herman Verheij after his retirement.

Annex 1: List of participants

2. Adoption of the agenda

Document: [WSB 24/2 Draft annotated agenda WSB 23](#)

The meeting adopted the draft agenda with amendments: Agenda item 7 and 6 were discussed before 5.

Annex 2: Agenda

Annex 3: Action items

The latest draft of the Ministerial Council Declaration MCD (Agenda item 7) was discussed after the announcements.

3. Summary record WSB 23

Document: [WSB 24/3 Draft summary record WSB 23](#)

The meeting adopted the summary record of WSB 23 as submitted.

Germany requested that CWSS circulate a track change version of the draft summary record before WSB meetings.

4. Announcements

There were no announcements.

5. Implementation of the Tønder Declaration

Note: With the exception of the draft Seal Management Plan, all topics under agenda item 5 were discussed in the context of the discussions around the draft Ministerial conference Declaration. For ease of reference they are nevertheless reflected in this section.

5.1 Wadden Sea World Heritage

No document.

5.2 Nature conservation and integrated ecosystem management

5.2.1 TG-MM report

Document: [WSB 24/5.2/1 TG-MM Report](#)

Seal Agreement:

Mr. Klöpfer informed the meeting on the status of the current draft SMP 2017-2021. Ms. Knoke reiterated the need for formal consultation in Schleswig-Holstein and corresponding time limits already explained at WSB 22. The meeting **agreed** that the current draft would be sent to TG-MM with the request for comments by 27 April 2018. The final draft would then be sent to the regions for final consultation. The SMP was scheduled for adoption during WSB 25 in Leeuwarden.

Fish Targets:

Document: [WSB 23/5.2/2 Swimway](#)

Ms. Paulus commented that from the German perspective the Swimway Action Programme would need further discussion at a later stage. Financial implications were considered as problematic, but also some textual change requests by Germany had not been integrated into the revised version of the Action Programme drafted by the Swimway coordinator, Ms. Buitenkamp.

Mr. Baerends reported that the Netherlands would adopt the Swimway Action Programme as it is. He stressed that the Netherlands were in favour of adopting the document before the conference, also in light of the planned signing of the Swimway Vision during the event. He suggested that the WSB would need to agree on a minimum aspect of coordination effort for a successful Swimway Action Programme. The content of the document was considered as sufficiently discussed.

Ms. Liburd stated that Denmark would endorse the approach on the Fish Targets but that the financial aspects would have to be discussed at a later stage. The chairperson suggested postponing the issue of financial implications.

After a short break for consultation, Mr. Baerends summarised that it was decided that the Swimway Action Programme could not be finished before the conference due to content issues raised by Germany, as well as due to financial implications that would need to be solved on trilateral level. The Netherlands suggested that a default solution on resources could be found in the context of the projected discussion of CWSS tasks.

The WSB **agreed** to decide on the Swimway Action Programme, as well as on the Alien Species Management and Action Plan, as soon as possible following discussion in TG-MM. It was concluded to postpone any discussions on details, while there was general agreement on the main direction set out in both documents.

Alien Species:

Documents: [WSB 23/5.2/3 Alien Species MAPAS](#) and [Annex Alien Species Communication Plan](#)

See fish targets.

5.3 Energy

No document.

5.4 Climate

5.4.1 Task Group Climate Progress Report

Document: [WSB 24/5.4/1 TG-C Progress Report](#)

The document delivered by the Task Group Climate was not discussed.

5.5 Maritime safety and pollution prevention of shipping

No document.

5.6 Trilateral monitoring and assessment programme

5.6.1 QSR Synthesis Report

Document: [WSB 24/5.6/1 draft QSR Synthesis Report](#)

Mr. Klöpfer reported that the presented draft of the QSR Synthesis Report was currently been further elaborated by the QSR Editorial Board and TG-MM with the aim of presenting a printed brochure at the TGC in Leeuwarden. Mr. Baerends stated that this would not be possible as an intense review, by TG-MM in particular, would be necessary.

The WSB agreed on the proposed procedure.

5.7 Science cooperation

No document.

5.8 Wadden Sea Forum

5.8.1 WSF Report

Document: [WSB 24/5.8/1 WSF Report](#)

Mr. Vollmer briefly introduced the WSF Forum Report which is available [online](#) and in a printed version.

5.9 International cooperation

No document.

5.10 Communication and education

5.10.1 Education Strategy

Document: [WSB 24/5.10/1 Education Strategy](#)

Mr. Rösner shortly reported on the Education Strategy. Ms. Knoke requested minor adaptations and suggested that this be resolved bilaterally between WWF and Schleswig-Holstein. . It was decided that any other minor remarks should also be sent directly to WWF. WWF would provide translations in all three languages.

The WSB **agreed** on the document and noted the information.

6. Status of discussion on Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Center and Foundation

6.1 Draft statutes for WSWHF

Document: WSB 24/6.1/1 Draft Statutes for WSWHF - English Version

Mr. Poppinga, author of the draft statutes for the WSWHF, reported on progress and answered questions on the document which was available in an English version for the meeting.

The chairperson thanked the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety for providing an English version of the statutes as a basis for the discussions of the WSB. Denmark noted that due to political consultations, that would be required on the national level, it did not yet have a mandate to discuss the draft statutes. Germany echoed the Danish statement and moreover mentioned the necessary consultations on the national level also the Länder level.

7. Preparation 13th Trilateral Governmental Conference

Ministerial Conference Declaration (MCD):

The chairperson opened the page by page discussion of the current draft of the MCD.

Germany raised concerns regarding the letter of intent of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Ports Initiative stating that it was not possible to express appreciation of the content before it was actually made available to the parties after the Harlingen conference on 17 May 2018. The parties were requested to submit comments and suggestions regarding the wording of the letter of intent, the week after the meeting. Thereafter, the document would be opened for further comments from the advisors. Mr. Verheij noted his positive perception of the general involvement of the ports and first signs of interest in World Heritage issues.

Denmark lifted its reservation on paragraph 22.

Following a proposal by Germany, the meeting decided to include the words “for example” before “related common principles” in paragraph 36.

Germany stated that its reservation on the paraffin paragraph (35) were still valid but might be solved shortly depending on decisions from the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure. The parties agreed that the final wording of the paragraph was contingent on precise nature of the measures adopted by IMO, which the WSB still needed to investigate.

In the context of paragraph 37, Germany stated that it could not accept Annex 6 (Trilateral Research Agenda) as it was. Ms. Paulus generally raised concerns regarding the length of the text, inaccuracies in its content (e.g. insufficient reflection of the World Heritage status and the OUV) and the financial implications. Denmark echoed the latter issue and suggested that the TRA generally should focus on research instead of funding. Germany could support paragraph 37 if Annex 6 was be deleted. It was **agreed** that any comments on the Annex would be submitted the week after the meeting and on that base changes in the Annex should be proposed. Since concerns were raised regarding the reference to a concrete amount of funding, the Dutch delegation suggested asking the authors to remove the funding paragraph.

All parties lifted their reservations on Annex 4 (MAPAS). The reservations on the World Heritage Foundation (paragraph 3 and Annex 5) remained.

The chairman summarized that the reservations on paragraph 22 (on fisheries) and Annex 4 (2-page outline of Alien Species Management and Action Plan) had been lifted.

7.1 Agenda Ministerial Conference

Document: [WSB 24/7/1 Draft Agenda Ministerial Conference](#)

Mr. Baerends reported on the draft agenda and the programme (see 7.2) of the Ministerial Conference. Germany thanked Mr. Baerends for the preparation of the draft agenda.

7.2 Ministerial Conference Programme

Document: [WSB 24/7/2 13th Ministerial Conference Programme](#)

Germany welcomed the interesting and comprehensive programme. Ms. Paulus raised the question as to how the signatory list for the Swimway signing event would be compiled. Unlike for the Education strategy, it had not been determined who would sign the Swimway vision.

Mr. Baerends referred to the Swimway coordination group who was in charge of the organisation of the event and of inviting of the signatories. An invitation letter had been sent out today by Ms. Buitenkamp on behalf of Mr. Verdaas as chairperson WSB. It was envisaged that one representative per country would come to the stage for signing. Ideas for the ceremony were currently being further elaborated by the Swimway coordination group. Ms. Paulus reiterated that the signatories still needed to be identified.

Referring to the planned Ministerial Council meeting (Friday 18 May, 11:30h-12:30h), Ms. Paulus requested further guidance for the preparation of the statements to be delivered by the ministers and announced that as in former Ministerial Council meetings the political representatives from the Länder should also have the opportunity to take the stage.

Ms. Paulus suggested initiating a self-evaluation process for the Task Groups, e.g. on their mandates and future tasks. CWSS should prepare a paper for the start of the self-evaluation until WSB 26. This suggestion was supported by all delegations.

The WSB **instructed** CWSS to prepare, by WSB 26, proposals on how to proceed with the review process of the TWSC Working Groups and the evaluation of CWSS, followed by the establishment of a TWSC working programme for the upcoming period. Based on the outcome of these processes, documents comprising updated ToR as well as draft work plans for the Task Groups and CWSS, as well as a possible realignment of the tasks of CWSS, in the upcoming presidency should be developed.

8. Any other business

Mr. Rösner requested clarification on the WSB 25 meeting, as this was planned for the same time as the harbour conference in Harlingen. The chairperson expressed his regret at the fact that the WSB 25 and the harbour conference would need to take place in parallel, but noted that the WSB should be considered the priority event for WSB members and advisors.

The next meeting, WSB 25, was tentatively scheduled for 17 May 2018 from 14:00h to 16:00h in Leeuwarden, Netherlands.

The WSB **noted** the information.

9. Closure

The meeting was closed at 12:30h on 20 April 2018.

ANNEX 1: Participants Wadden Sea Board

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

24th Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board

(WSB 24)

20 April 2018

Groningen, Netherlands

Members

Mr. Jaap Verhulst

Ministry of Economic Affairs
Directorate-General for Enterprise and
Innovation
Regional Ambassador North
PO Box 20401
NL-2500 EK Den Haag
Mobile: +31 (0) 6 - 525 259 10
Email: j.verhulst2@minez.nl

Ms Janne J. Liburd

Chair, The Danish Wadden Sea National
Park
Professor, D.Phil., PhD
Havnebyvej 30
DK-6792 Rømø
Phone: +45 6550 1576
Mobile: +45 2813 9918
liburd@sdu.dk

Ms. Christina Egsvang Føns

Environmental Executive
Esbjerg Kommune
Torvegade 74
DK-6700 Esbjerg
Phone: +45 76161399
E-Mail: chfns@esbjergkommune.dk

Mr. Martin Petersen

Ministry of the Environment and Food
Environment Protection Agency
Skovridervej 3
DK-6510 Gram
Phone: +45 2078 2279
Mobile: +45
E-Mail: mpete@mst.dk

Ms Christiane Paulus

Deputy Director General responsible for
Nature Conservation,
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature
Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety,
Germany
Robert-Schuman-Platz 3
D-53175 Bonn

Mr. Hubertus Hebbelmann

Ministry for Environment, Energy and Climate
Protection of Lower Saxony
PO Box 4107
D-30041 Hannover
Phone: +49 511 120 3382
Mobile: +49 177 899 5055
E-Mail:

Phone: +49 228 99 305 2605 Christiane.paulus@bmub.bund.de	hubertus.hebbelmann@mu.niedersachsen.de
Mr Klaus Janke Ministry of Environment and Energy Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg Neuenfelder Str. 19 D-21109 Hamburg Phone: + 49 (0) 40428403392 Mobile: + 49 (0) 178 860 2827 Klaus.Janke@bue.hamburg.de	Ms. Vera Knoke Ministry of Energy, Agriculture, the Environment, Nature and Digitalization Schleswig-Holstein Mercatorstr. 3 D- 24106 Kiel Phone: +49 (0) 431-988 7288 E-Mail: vera.knoke@melund.landsh.de
Mr. Bernard Baerends Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Directorate-General Agro and Nature Department of Nature and Biodiversity Postbus 20401 NL-2500 EK The Hague Phone : +31 (0)64 85860 58 E-Mail: b.baerends@minez.nl	Ms. Erika Slump Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management Zuidersingel 3 8911 AV Leeuwarden The Netherlands Phone: +31(0)88 797 44 10 E-Mail: Erica.slump@rws.nl

Advisors

Mr. Hans-Ulrich Rösner WWF – Wadden Sea Office Hafenstraße 3 D - 25813 Husum Mobile: +49 (0) 151 122 90 848 E-Mail: roesner@wwf.de	Mr. Herman Verheij Wadden Sea Team Policy Officer Wadden Society PO Box 90 NL-8860 AB Harlingen Phone: +31 (0) 51 749 3640 Mobile: +31 (0) 6 13 54 9964 E-Mail: verheij@waddenvereniging.nl
Ms. van Nieuwerburgh Wadden Sea Team Policy Officer Wadden Society PO Box 90 NL-8860 AB Harlingen Phone: +31 (0) Mobile: +31 (0) E-Mail: vannieuwerburgh@waddenvereniging.nl	Mr. Manfred Vollmer Executive Secretary Wadden Sea Forum Virchowstr. 1 D-26382 Wilhelmshaven Phone: +49 (0) 4421 910818 Mobile: +49 (0) 151 12158443 E-Mail: vollmer@waddensea-forum.org

Secretariat

Mr. Rüdiger Stempel, Executive

Secretary

Mr. Sascha Klöpper

Ms. Anja Domnick

Ms. Annika Bostelmann

Ms. Julia Busch

Supporting Staff

Mr. Thomas Borchers

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature
Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany

Robert-Schuman-Platz 3

D-53175 Bonn

Phone: +49 228 99 305 2629

Mobile: +49 173 2843906

E-Mail: Thomas.Borchers@bmu.bund.de

Ms. Maren Bauer

Ministry of Energy, Agriculture, the
Environment, Nature and Digitalization

Schleswig-Holstein

Mercatorstr. 3

D - 24106 Kiel

Tel: ++49 431 988 7196

E-Mail: Maren.Bauer@melund.landsh.de

Ms. Margrita Sobottka

National Park Authority Lower Saxony

Virchowstr. 1

D-26382 Wilhelmshaven

Phone: +49 4421 911 277

E-Mail: Margrita.Sobottka@nlpv-wattenmeer.niedersachsen.de

Mr. Henrik G. Pind Jørgensen

Environment Protection Agency

Skovridervej 3, Arnum

DK-6510 Gram

phone: +45 72 54 34 44

E-Mail: hepgj@mst.dk

Ms. Heidi Nielsen

Environment Protection Agency

Skovridervej 3

DK-6510 Gram

Phone: +45 22 19 42 14

E-Mail: heidn@mst.dk

Mr. Floris van Bentum

Directorate-General for Public Works and
Water Management

Directorate Noord-Nederland

PO Box 2301

NL-8901 JH Leeuwarden

E-Mail: floris.van.bentum@rws.nl

Invited guests

Mr. Onno Poppinga

Mühle Westeraccum

D-26553 Dornum

Phone: +49 4933 9911 11

E-Mail: poppinga@muehlenkontor.de

ANNEX 2: Agenda of the 24th WSB

AGENDA

24th Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board

(WSB 24)

20 April 2018

Groningen, Netherlands

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting will be opened by the Chairman at 09:00h on 20 April 2018.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting will be invited to adopt the draft agenda of the meeting.

3. Record WSB 23

The meeting will be invited to adopt the final draft Summary Record WSB 23 and to check progress in the implementation of the Action List.

4. Announcements

Delegates and observers will be invited to make announcements relevant to the cooperation.

5. Implementation Tønder Declaration

The meeting will be invited to discuss progress in the implementation of the Tønder Declaration. In conjunction with the sub-items below, the meeting will be invited to take note of and discuss progress of the respective Task Groups.

5.1 Wadden Sea World Heritage

5.2 Nature conservation and integrated ecosystem management

5.3 Energy

5.4 Climate

5.5. Maritime safety and pollution prevention of shipping

5.6 Trilateral monitoring and assessment programme

5.7 Science cooperation

5.8 Wadden Sea Forum

5.9 International cooperation

5.10 Communication and education.

6. Status of discussion on Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Center and Foundation

The meeting will be invited to discuss the status of preparation of the WH Partnership Center and the World Heritage Foundation.

7. Preparation 13th Trilateral Governmental Conference

The meeting will be invited to discuss progress in working towards the 13th Wadden Sea Conference, including the preparation of the draft Council Declaration.

8. Any Other Business

The meeting will be invited to discuss any other business.

9. Closing

The meeting will be closed no later than 16:00h on 20 April 2018.

ANNEX 3: Action items arising from the 24th WSB

ACTION ITEMS

24th Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 24)

Action #	Agenda item	Actions agreed upon	Person responsible	Deadline
1	7	Preparation of revised draft MCD with changes and Annexes	CWSS/ MCD DG	a.s.a.p.
2	7	Submit proposals for changes on the letter announced by the Trilateral Wadden Sea Ports initiative	Germany / All	27/04/18
3	7	Submit proposals for changes on potential Annex 6 (TRA) and/or corresponding paragraph (37)	Germany / All	27/04/18
4	7	Provide guidance to delegations on the preparation of statements of Parties for the Ministerial Council meeting	Netherlands	a.s.a.p
5	7	Preparation of document containing timelines for the self-evaluation process of the Task Groups and the evaluation of CWSS	CWSS	WSB 25