

# Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 24  
20 April 2018  
Groningen, Netherlands**



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**Agenda Item:** 5.2  
**Subject:** Report TG-MM  
**Document No.** WSB 24/5.2/1  
**Date:** 17 April 2018  
**Submitted by:** TG-MM

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Attached is a progress report on themes open from WSB 23 for which the Task Group Management and Monitoring (TG-MM) is responsible.

TG-MM has not had a formal meeting since WSB 23, but has, together with CWSS, prepared/finalized some open items via exchange within the group as well as with TG-WH and with partners in the administrations of the federal state/government levels.

**Proposal:** The meeting is invited to endorse the updated proposals.

## **TASK GROUP MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING (TG-MM)**

### **PROGRESS REPORT SINCE WSB-23**

Since WSB-23 the TG-MM has progressed on the following specific items, which were left open at the WSB-meeting:

#### **N2000 roof report**

TD §23 Agree therefore to cooperate in evaluating the assessments under the Habitats Directive, also with the aim to prepare a common Natura 2000 roof report for the Wadden Sea.

CWSS was instructed to follow the updated proposal to assign a consultant for analysing the regional reporting information with regard to its comparability. If the data sets/methodologies are considered comparable, or could be processed to reach this status, the consultant should deliver an assessment report by July 2018. The coverage of costs will be considered by both CWSS and the regions. To enable the analysis by the consultant CWSS, together with Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein, are currently exploring the existing data set on comparability in more detail.

**Proposal:**        **WSB is note to the information.**

#### **Seal Agreement**

TD §27. Therefore continue the cooperation in the context of the Seal Agreement, including the Seal Management Plan, which will be updated in 2016, reconfirming the guidelines on taking and releasing of seals.

A new version of the SMP has been in consultation in TSEGplus and by the authorities until 12 March 2018. Information from the Netherlands, pending the results of the scientific advisory committee, has been submitted very recently, not leading to further amendments in the SMP. The final report of the scientific advisory committee merits a discussion in the TSEG at an appropriate time. The policy reaction of the Ministry of LNV on the report is expected to arrive around summer. Depending on the extent of any proposed changes, an additional consultation in the regions might be necessary. To date it is still envisaged to adopt the plan during the TGC in 2018.

**Proposal:**        **WSB is requested to note the approach.**

#### **Harbour porpoises**

A workshop on Harbour porpoises is planned for autumn 2018. TG-MM had only minor comments on the details of the corresponding proposal. CWSS, with support from Schleswig-Holstein, will explore options to host the workshop on the island of Sylt. The overall aim will be to collect information on the ecological role of the population in the Wadden Sea and adjacent North Sea waters. The information should exceed the basic discussion displayed within the corresponding QSR Thematic Report on marine mammals. Furthermore, the relation of any activities to ASCOBANS and OSPAR would need further clarification.

**Proposal:**        **WSB is requested to endorse the approach.**

**Fish targets**

TD §28. Acknowledge the importance of fish for the Wadden Sea ecosystem and therefore instruct the WSB to work on the further implementation of the trilateral fish targets of the Wadden Sea Plan.

The Swimway draft action programme has been finalized by the writer's group in mid-January, following the endorsement of WSB-21, and incorporating additional comments from the regions and was reviewed by TG-MM. In this context minor editorial changes have been made to the two-pager as annex for the MCD. The meeting generally adopted the programme but raised concern on the future financing of the programme. Although the post of the Swimway coordinator is funded through 2018, the further development of the six years programme is unclear from 2019 due to the unresolved overall financing. The major financial burden is expected to be covered by external sources but coordination and application processes would require some seed funding.

The meeting proposed the establishment of a trilateral Working Group Fish to accompany the Swimway programme and to consider the appointment of a person responsible for project applications.

TG-MM proposed to sign a vision during the conference rather than an action programme, which was considered as more appropriate during such an event. Proposals for changes to the signing text were sent to the author. The document was available for and endorsed at WSB 23.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to endorse the approach.**

**Alien species**

§35. Instruct the WSB to further develop the trilateral strategic framework for dealing with alien species in the Wadden Sea and to coordinate the further development of an alien species management and action plan, taking into account existing and upcoming legislation and projects.

An updated version of the MAPAS was delivered by the Working Group Alien Species. The meeting considered the document generally ready for adoption and welcomed the good progress over the last couple of months. Nevertheless, Germany considered that the adoption of the plan at TGC will prove difficulties as it was not part of the regional and national consultations and thus could not be discussed in the advisory boards. There were specific concerns and reservations regarding the communication plan, which still needs some revisions. During WSB 23, it was decided to hand the communication plan back to the respective trilateral groups for further consideration and to postpone the discussion around the main document, as Germany and the federal states could not adopt it without further consultation. The two pager Annex was amended as discussed during WSB 23 though. TG-MM agreed that a future Working Group Alien Species would need further elaborated ToR.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information and is requested to decide how to proceed.**

**Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP)**

TD §60. Adopt the long-term common TMAP strategy as in Annex 6 as the basis for the further development of the TMAP, in close connection with the scientific community, with the aim to further increase its value in implementing EU Directives, and providing information for a wider range of stakeholders, also through the further development of the information system to allow for a better access of the data.

TG-MM welcomed the approach by Germany to focus on TMAP during the next presidency. The TMAP inventory initiated by TG-MM will be continued and used as basis for future activities to review and amend the programme. The meeting agreed to continue with the activities stipulated during the next TG-MM meeting.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to note the approach.**

#### **Quality Status Report**

TD §61. Instruct the WSB to elaborate the next Wadden Sea Quality Status (Outlook) Report for 2016 in time for the 2018 Conference, in order also to be in line with the reporting cycles of the N2000 Directives and Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

A draft of the QSR Synthesis Report, which was elaborated by CWSS in cooperation with the QSR Editorial Board (as main authors) has been submitted to TG-MM for consultation, and could probably lead to recommendations or to consultations with the QSR Editorial Board. Due to time pressure the draft report is in parallel also be submitted to the WSB, as WSB members asked for final approval by the WSB.

The final version of the report is expected to be presented as a printed brochure at the Ministerial Conference and to be accessible via the CWSS homepage end of May.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information and decide how to proceed.**

#### **Trilateral Research Agenda**

TD §63. Encourage discussions by the scientific community and policy makers on the major policy issues and related knowledge as a basis for further developing a trilateral research agenda and a trilateral research platform.

As requested by WSB 21, TG-WH and TG-MM have elaborated on a joint document containing prioritization considerations based on the proposed four thematic lines of the TRA.

**Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.**