

FINAL DRAFT SUMMARY RECORD

29th Meeting of the

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 29)

19 June 2019
Vlieland, Netherlands



1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Ms Karin Lochte, at 09:40 on 19 June 2019. She thanked the hosts, the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and Ms Tineke Schokker, Mayor of Vlieland.

After the meeting was opened, the WSB members continued with an internal meeting to decide on the new CWSS Executive Secretary. The WSB unanimously appointed Mr Bernard Baerends as the new CWSS Executive Secretary, starting on 15 September 2019. The WSB agreed on an Assignment Document for the new CWSS Executive Secretary which would be announced to the Secretariat staff members in due time. Mr Baerends will arrange a visit to CWSS before taking office.

The WSB appointed Mr Sascha Klöpfer as interim CWSS Secretary from 1 August to 15 September 2019.

Ms Ilka Wagner introduced herself as new representative of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany in the WSB, and therefore successor of Ms Christiane Paulus. She expressed her fondness to the sea and commitment to the TWSC, as well as to the collaboration with the trilateral partners. Ms Wagner welcomed Mr Baerends as new Executive Secretary of CWSS and committed her full support for Mr. Baerends in his new position.

Apologies were passed on from Ms Vera Knoke, Ms Janne Liburd, Ms Christina Egsvang Føns, Mr Manfred Vollmer, Mr Hans-Ulrich Rösner, Mr Marco Brode and Mr Rüdiger Stempel. Mr Klöpfer assumed Mr Stempel's role as Secretary for the meeting.

A list of participants is in Annex 1.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Document: [Draft Agenda](#)

The meeting adopted the draft agenda.

3. Record WSB 28

Document: [Summary Record WSB 28](#)

The summary record of the 28th meeting of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB 28) was adopted without changes.

4. Announcements

4.1 Announcements

Denmark

- General elections were held in Denmark on 5 June 2019. The majority of votes was secured by the social democratic parties and a smaller fraction by the left-wing. Negotiations are ongoing and a decision on the government will be clearer potentially by the end of June 2019. During the election campaigns, climate change turned out to be a major topic and dominated the discussion. Nature conservation was an unexpected major theme as well.
- Denmark appointed three persons to be part of TG-WH: Ms Bolette Petersen, Ms Anne Husum Marboe and Ms Heidi Nielsen.
- Results from the houting population monitoring indicated increasing numbers in the Ribe area. This suggests that the population is not in danger but could still be considered as rather small. Funding options for projects investigating the life cycle of the houting to be explored.
- Successful sharing of knowledge regarding exploration of environment DNA in the river pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) in collaboration with the Biotechnology Center of the TU Dresden (BIOTEC), Germany. The mussels were estimated to be present in at least one Danish stream, but this finding could have been the result of environmental DNA from shells. Test studies for clarification will be undertaken in Sweden.
- The National Park launched the world heritage partnership programme, which includes two mandatory courses in six years about salt marshes and dunes and high-level information on UNESCO World Heritage.
- WHC thanked the responsible local authorities in Esbjerg in a letter for the collaboration in the consultation process and the confirmation that the OUV will be fully covered in the Environmental Impact Assessment, including the integrity. The public hearing will take place in August 2019.

Germany

- The WHC requested information on the status of Environmental Impact Assessments for the deepening of the Elbe. The request followed a letter by four NGOs alerting for a potential impact on the WSWH. The German delegation will prepare a corresponding draft answer in consultation with the Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure for coordination with the partners Denmark and the Netherlands within TG-WH before sending it to UNESCO WHC.
- Lower Saxony: The Dutch-German INTERREG V A- project “Wadden-Agenda 2.0” (2019-2022; 1,7 Mio €) started with six partners (Merk Fryslân, Marketing Groningen, Internationale Dollard Route e. V., Nationalparkverwaltung Niedersächsisches Wattenmeer, Die Nordsee GmbH und Ostfriesland Tourismus GmbH (Lead-Partner)). Activities will focus i. a. on sustainable event management, dark sky and plastic free sea.
- In Hamburg, on occasion of the World Heritage Day, which takes place every first weekend of June around the world, a fair was organized in the Speicherstadt. The Hamburg Wadden Sea National Park Authority presented the Wadden Sea World Heritage with the support of Ms Anja Domnick/CWSS, the Verein Jordsand (NGO) and also exhibition material/items offered by the National Park Agency in Schleswig-Holstein.

- Schleswig-Holstein: Ms Dorit Kuhnt is the new State Secretary of the Ministry of Energy, Agriculture, the Environment, Nature and Digitalization in Schleswig-Holstein. The former State Secretary Anke Erdmann resigned.

Netherlands

- Steps forward have been taken towards a management plan on how to handle seal pups. The main challenge is to educate the public on pups as the discussion has a strong emotional aspect. The public awareness should also improve the interaction of rangers and the public. Videos and informational material are available and displayed in ferries and other key places. The plan had been expected to be finalized in March 2019.
- MSC Zoe lost in total 342 containers of which 295 and 85% of the content have been recovered. Tracking and removal of the remaining residue will continue. The claim handling is ongoing, and the incident and its consequences are discussed in parliament. Responding to the interest of EU, the Mayor of Terschelling will provide information in Brussels as the EU expressed interest on the overall procedures. Mr Hebbelmann added that some containers were found near the island of Borkum, Lower Saxony. The Central Command for Maritime Emergencies is taking care of any necessary action. Ms Slump underlined the good cooperation with Germany.
- Municipalities and NGOs sent a letter to the WHC expressing concern on the impact of fossil fuel mining to the WSWH. There is an investigation going on for exploiting smaller fields, with potentially less environmental impact. In due time, the WSB will be consulted on the response to this letter.
- The East Atlantic Flyway Assessment 2017 was published in May 2019. It emphasizes that the situation in the Wadden Sea is not as alarming as concluded earlier and it represents a fine example of the trilateral collaboration. However, breeding birds are still facing some important pressure. Mr Verhulst thanked Ms Lochte for writing the preface. Financial support from the Netherlands will stop (in 2021), therefore, a solution is needed to continue the flyway monitoring under the umbrella of the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative.
- The policy documents that describe the use of areas in the Wadden Sea, including how to design restricted areas, will enter in a review process. The WSB will be informed.
- The idea of storing CO₂ in caverns underground is still under discussion and will not affect the Wadden Sea area.

Wadden Sea Forum

- The 4th Meeting of the AEWIA European Goose Management International Working Group is currently taking place in Scotland (18-20 June 2019). Mr Manfred Vollmer takes part for WSF.
- The WSF societies whole executive committee will be present in the 10-year anniversary celebration on 30 June 2019.
- Information on the marine litter workshop planned for October in Oldenburg is pending.
- The Anniversary Bike Tour 2019 started the day before (18 June 2019) in Ho Bugt. WSF, represented by Mr Preben Friis-Hauge, was part of the opening together with Ms Annika Bostelmann (CWSS) and local school students.

5. Implementation Leeuwarden Declaration

5.1 Wadden Sea World Heritage

5.1.1 Development of the Single Integrated Management Plan

Document: [WSB 29/5.1/1 Status Report SIMP](#)

Ms Luna introduced the proposed process to select the key issues to be addressed in the SIMP and the methods that will be used at each step to involve the site managers and advisors of the WSB. This involves a workshop with the relevant site-managers, members of TG-WH and the advisors which is planned to take place in September in Schleswig-Holstein.

Ms Wagner reiterated the importance of the development of the SIMP for the German presidency. Germany considered the process as well designed and supported the approach. The Dutch delegation noted that sustainable fisheries is one of the key issues for the SIMP. The Netherlands stressed the importance of developing a set of structured questions for the site-managers, with a certain openness to comments beyond those questions. The Danish delegation supported the proposed process. The Chairperson raised the concern of looking for the smallest common denominator considering the differences among the three countries.

The WSB **endorsed** the approach on the process of involving site-managers and selecting key issues for the SIMP.

5.2 Nature conservation and integrated ecosystem management

Documents:

[WSB 29/5.2/1 TG-M Report](#)

[WSB 29/5.2/2 Harbour porpoise workshop](#)

[WSB 29/5.2/3 Note TG-MA](#)

TG-M Report

Mr Verhulst suggested to improve the structure of the agenda, as in the used structure the topics had been repeated several times. Ms Wagner echoed the concern and the suggestion. The Chairperson agreed and proposed focusing on the points for discussion during future meetings.

The Chairperson asked for clarification on the status of responsibilities of a number of topics, like marine litter, light emissions or energy, from the Leeuwarden Declaration between the TG-M and the OPteamPH. Mr Klöpffer explained that TG-M was responsible since no other group had been working on the content and the Partnership Hub was still under development. Mr Jørgensen, Chair of TG-M, agreed. Ms Sobottka referred to para 1.1 in doc. WSB 29/5.11/1 where the OPteamPH proposed, as an interim solution, to support upcoming initiatives dealing with these issues on a case-to-case basis within their means. This would be achieved by encouraging and supporting partners in project development and by taking up ideas within the concept for the Partnership Hub, aiming at the implementation of a MoU on the “Trilateral Partnership in support of the UNESCO Wadden Sea World Heritage”. The OPteamPH could support coordination but could not be held responsible for the fulfillment of the articles of the Leeuwarden Declaration. The Wadden Sea Board agreed on the proposal from OPteamPH. Mr Friis-Hauge mentioned that the WSF, as an independent stakeholder organization, felt very honored to be asked to become a partner, nevertheless financial matters were in the need to be solved.

Wardening workshop

Mr Klöpffer explained that the wardening workshop had to be postponed in order to allow support to the Anniversary Bike Tour 2019. Mr Verhulst emphasized the importance of accomplishing both the wardening and the managers workshop and suggested that the delegations could contact the operational level to encourage for participation. Ms Bauer and Ms Sobottka underlined the persistent interest by National Park staff to take part in such an important workshop where persons responsible for wardening in the Wadden Sea meet for an exchange. The Danish delegation noted the option of assigning participants when necessary. The meeting requested CWSS to enable the workshops in the course of the year and offered corresponding support.

Light emissions

The parties welcomed and endorsed the approach of the WSF on taking up the work on light emissions. Mr Friis-Hauge pointed out that consideration on finances are still pending.

Marine litter

The chairperson thanked the Netherlands for taking the initiative for an inventory on marine litter activities in the Wadden Sea region.

N2000 Roof Report

Mr Jørgensen informed that DCE in Aarhus will produce a feasibility study and recommendations regarding the N2000 Roof Report, which will be distributed after finalisation. The report would also contribute to the SIMP.

TG-M Workplan

Mr Verhulst mentioned that the draft TG-M Workplan 2019 presented in Annex 1 provided a clear overview on the work schedule but was missing deliverables. He therefore suggested adding more details on the expected products.

The WSB **endorsed** the updated proposals and asked TG-M to add detail on the deliverables.

Harbour porpoise workshop report

The Danish delegation agreed with the proposed approach and recommended to send a preliminary message to ASCOBANS as soon as possible to inform them that the Cooperation is undertaking a process and that they will receive a thorough response by the end of the year. CWSS was commissioned, in coordination with TG-M, to develop and send this communication.

The WSB **noted** the information and **endorsed** the proposed approach.

Note TG-MA

Mr Adi Kellermann, Chairperson of TG-MA, sent his apologies for not being able to participate in the meeting. He introduced himself in a short note to WSB.

The Chairperson noted that human resources will be needed to evaluate data. Mr Petersen agreed and emphasized the importance of harmonizing the data for producing the QSR.

Mr Verhulst commented that the note provides a good overview. He recommended to add the general aim of the group, as well as a short description of the final products and the current situation, including the basic conditions for data handling and the QSR. Ms Bauer pointed out that this was a new group and the first meeting was only shortly before WSB 29. Therefore, the focus of TG-MA was on self-organization and definition of its objectives in line with the group's ToR. Data harmonization would be the function of the group together with the WG-Data and CWSS. Germany supported the suggestion of defining the objectives of this TG. Mr Jørgensen commented that this suggestion was pertinent and that the members of the group acknowledged this issue in their first meeting. TG-MA will write a vision and mission to clarify the objectives.

The WSB **noted** the information and **advised** to further define the objectives of the group.

5.3 Maritime safety and pollution prevention of shipping

Document: [WSB 29/5.5/1 Shipping safety](#)

Ms Slump presented the proposal prepared by the Dutch delegation.

The Danish delegation endorsed the proposal. Mr Rieper expressed concern regarding the functioning of the MARAD-group. He suggested that TG-M should prioritize the issue in its workplan and offered corresponding advice.

The German delegation supports the proposal in general and agreed that shipping safety is a priority issue. Some steps need further attempts, incl. IMO and involvement of responsible colleagues at national level.

Mr van Bentum clarified that the MARAD-group had not been active and that they had been dealing with other issues. He offered that the Dutch delegation could bring the content of the presented paper into the MARAD-group to reactivate the discussion.

Mr Friis-Hauge expressed the interest of the WSF in supporting the work on this topic since they had gained experience and also had provided recommendations in the past. Any details on such involvement of WSF would need to be specified by WSB. He pointed out that financial matters were still to be solved.

Ms Slump and Mr van Bentum offered to work on a proposal to be presented on the next WSB meeting (WSB 30). Mr Friis-Hauge offered that the WSF could be part of the discussion after further definition of its role.

The WSB **noted** the information and **endorsed** the approach.

5.4 Wadden Sea Forum

The WSF was taking part in the 4th Meeting of the AEWA European Goose Management International Working Group. Mr Friis-Hauge noted the concern of not all AEWA members contributing in the same way. In this context, he inquired the German delegation on options for a similar contribution as from the Netherlands and Denmark. The German delegation answered that this was an issue to be further discussed with the responsible unit in the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. This issue had been discussed in the past and would be addressed again, however it was considered as a rather difficult one.

Mr Verhulst asked for an update on the demographic work. Mr Friis-Hauge noted that currently only the German situation had been reported. In Denmark, demographic changes and tendencies would need to be further explored.

The WSB **noted** the information.

5.9 International cooperation

5.9.1 Cooperation with Yellow Sea countries

Document: [WSB 29/5.9/1 Yellow Sea Cooperation](#)

The Dutch delegation proposed to not support the activities on the nomination of the Yellow and Bohai Sea in China. The German delegation stressed the importance of submitting the right message that the rejected support for the application was based on the missed integrity criteria. It was suggested to ask the German Federal Nature Agency (BfN) for advice since future applications might be considered.

Regarding the proposed visit of a delegation from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea), the Danish delegation expressed that quick common decisions would be needed according to the recommendations of their Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Dutch and the German Delegations were supportive and expressed a positive political attitude on the joint visit of delegations from the Republic of Korea (South Korea) and North Korea. However, UN/EU-sanctions and the general political framework would need to be sorted for each country.

WSB generally welcomed this study-visit. Considering the political sensitivity of such an event, the delegations had already contacted their ministries of foreign affairs to come forward with corresponding advice to be able to develop a common position.

Additionally, Ms Wagner pointed out the importance of naming correctly and separately North and South Korea in text or speech.

The meeting discussed the general importance of international cooperation and how much resources the CWSS and the TWSC should invest in the future. The Danish delegation pointed out that CWSS would need to direct resources to other priorities. It was proposed that CWSS would prepare a paper further detailing the importance and resources needed. The German delegation emphasized that international cooperation was important, and that the TWSC should agree on a concrete common view. Ms Wagner commented that a paper from CWSS was considered as not necessary at that time as such request would add on the already high workload. Ms Bauer suggested to analyse what could be done in the CWSS and to define alternative ways to foster international cooperation.

The Dutch delegation proposed to include the discussion on resources needed in the overall budget discussion in November 2019. Ms Wagner added that an in-depth discussion regarding international cooperation would be needed at the end of this year or next year taking into account the resources in the CWSS. The Netherlands stressed that it was important to keep in mind that on certain occasions it was possible that the Cooperation did not reach a trilateral common view and a bilateral approach was possible when desired.

WSB **agreed** to await a common advice from the delegations before deciding on next steps.

5.10 Communication and education

Documents:

[WSB 29/5.10/1 Proposal for IWSS continuation](#)

[WSB 29/5.10/2 Trilateral Education Work Programme](#)

Proposal for IWSS continuation

Ms Wagner underlined that education is a very important issue for Germany, while it was a task of the Federal States. Germany supports the proposal in general but also acknowledged that it is part of a broader picture and should be dealt within the supplementary budget.

The WSB would take this proposal in consideration during the budgetary meetings in November. Therefore, the final decision on funding would be taken at that time. The meeting generally recommended to be more specific on the activities and projects that need further funding.

Trilateral education work programme

The Dutch delegation suggested including a “deliveries on demand” approach in order to address emerging issues.

The WSB **agreed** to postpone the decision on the budget to the overall budget discussion later this year.

5.11 Status of discussion on Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Hub and Centre

Document: [WSB 29/5.11/1 OPTeam progress report](#)

The delegations thanked the OPTeamPH group for the progress. The WSF expressed agreement on the content on the MoU but indicated that financial implications for the WSF still needed to be solved.

The Chairperson added that the research sector was highly interested in cooperating and would sign the MoU. The delegate for the Netherlands would be Mr Jouke van Dijk and for Denmark Mr Jesper Bartholdy. On request by Ms Wagner, the chairperson stated that the nominee for Germany would be Mr Christian Buschbaum from the network of the German Marine Research Consortium, confirmation pending.

The MoU was adopted without amendments and would be signed by various sectors during the 10-year anniversary celebrations on the 30th of June in Wilhelmshaven.

Mr Hebbelmann informed that the Trilateral Research Agenda (TRA) Road Map Committee (in establishing) would present a proposal at the next meeting (WSB 30) on the installation of a Trilateral Programming Committee (LD § 36).

Ms Sobottka informed that the competition for a new name of the Trilateral Wadden Sea World Heritage Partnership Centre would be postponed to the first half of next year when it is expected that the building permission will be granted.

The WSB **noted** the information and **endorsed** the approach.

6. TWSC Review Process

The meeting had no further remarks. Updates of the documents would be expected on a regular base. The latest versions would be available in the login area of the new website, which's launch is pending final comments.

7. Any Other Business

The next WSB meeting will be on 20-21 November 2019 in Wilhelmshaven.

The chairperson asked if there was a need for three WSB meetings a year or if two meetings would be sufficient. Mr Borchers referred to the rules of procedure and stated that the WSB should meet at least twice a year. It was agreed to discuss the number of WSB meetings in 2020 during WSB 30 in November.

The meeting thanked Ms Tineke Schokker for great hospitality.

8. Closing

The Chairperson closed the meeting at 14:45 and thanked participants for fruitful discussions.

The WSB members were invited to take part in the launch ceremony of the Anniversary Bike Tour 2019, starting from another part of Vlieland in the afternoon.

ANNEX 1: List of participants

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 29)

19 June 2019
Vlieland, Netherlands



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Invited Guest

ANNEX 2: Agenda

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

**29th Meeting of the Wadden Sea Board
(WSB 29)**

19 June 2019
Vlieland, Netherlands



- 1. Opening of the Meeting**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 3. Summary Record WSB 28**
- 4. Announcements**
- 5. Implementation Leeuwarden Declaration**
- 6. TWSC Review Process**
- 7. Any Other Business**
- 8. Closing**

ANNEX 3: Action items arising from the 29th WSB

ACTION ITEMS

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 29)

19 June 2019
Vlieland, Netherlands



Action #	Agenda item	Actions agreed upon	Person responsible	Deadline
1	Agenda	Adjust and streamline the structure of the WSB-Agenda	CWSS / Chairperson	WSB30
2	5.2	Enhance efforts to conduct the wardening workshop in 2019	CWSS	2019
2	5.2	Add detail on the deliverables/products of the workplan	TG-M	Next TG-M meeting
3	5.2	Further define the objectives of TG-MA	TG-MA	Next TG-MA meeting
4	5.5	Further elaborate the proposal on the future handling of shipping and port activities	Dutch delegation, WSF, WST	WSB 30
5	5.11	Proposal to establish a trilateral programming committee	Roadmap Committee	WSB 30