

9th WSF Newsletter, 5 December 2011

A. WSF Meetings and Working Groups

1. WSF 19 Meeting on 15-16 November 2011 in Norden



The 19th meeting of the Wadden Sea Forum took place on 15-16 November in Norden, D. The emphasis of the meeting was laid on the implementation of the Wadden Sea Region Planning Portal, the exploration drillings for oil in the German Wadden Sea (see topical issues further down in this newsletter) and reduction of light emission in offshore areas by RWE Dea AG. Other topics were the electric grid-offshore-onshore connection and the communication and marketing of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site.

The Planning Portal covers information of economic uses, nature conservation and planning decisions on 69 different layers, which could be combined due to requested information. The Planning Portal can be experienced on www.waddensea-forum.org/Specialissues/wsr-gis.html. A feedback and proposals for improvement are very much welcomed and should be sent to the WSF secretariat.

Challenges of the offshore grid and methods for cable laying as well as obstacles in implementing a quality offshore grid were introduced by TenneT. It was emphasized that only little experience had been made so far with AC cables and the construction of converter stations. The technical facilitation would be insufficient for reaching the aim to install the planned capacity of wind power. The available vessels were too small, bigger ships must be built first to facilitate the construction of converters. Further obstacles concerned the cable market, which is working to capacity, and the designation of cable corridors through the Wadden Sea. The presentation with more information is available as pdf on the WSF website http://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum-wsf_plenary.html.



A very much welcomed and interesting issue in the field of Cultural Landscape and Heritage was the presentation about organ culture in the Wadden Sea Region (WSR). The WSR is equipped with a tremendous number of organs, even small churches call famous organs their own. Nowhere else in the world, such a density of organs can be found, which makes it unique. In 2012, several events about organ culture will take place in the WSR.

This topic was the reason for an excursion to the Ludgeri Church in Norden with its famous Arp Schnitger organ. An organ concert was given especially for the WSF plenary (more information about Organ Culture see under topical issues).

All presentations of the WSF-19 meeting are available on the WSF website.

2. Steering Committee-12 Meeting

The 12th meeting of the WSF Steering committee took place on 12 October in Bremen. Main topics were the preparation of the WSF-19 meeting, CO₂ reduction, Goose Management, the North Sea Maritime Forum (NSMF) and Cultural landscape and heritage. (see more information also further down in the newsletter under topical issues).

3. ICZM

The working group ICZM met on 26 September in Hamburg and discussed progress, improvement and further development of the WSR Planning Portal. It was common sense that a further extension with information about fishing grounds, marine archaeology and CO₂ storage areas would be of great value. Also the integration of the data of the sustainability indicator tool was seen as very valuable. For implementation of the additional information, financial support has to be found.



Furthermore, data for the sustainability indicator tool were discussed and analyzed in order to be finally integrated in the tool for 2010 with a special focus on new ecological data. Further information under <http://www.waddensea-forum.org/Specialissues/Indicator-tool1.html> or contact the secretariat.

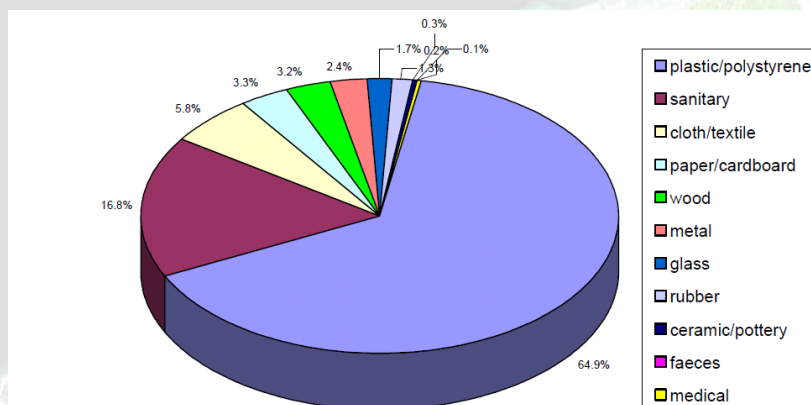
4. Energy, Industry and Infrastructure (EII)

On 30 November the working group held its 12th meeting in Wilhelmshaven. CO₂ reduction was a main discussion point as well as the development of the renewables and its connection to the electric grid. The working group took up the request of the plenary meeting to broaden the discussion of a holistic energy concept, considering the issue of "limits of growth", according to the growing number of installations in the wider region. The working group will strive for a closer cooperation with other expert groups in the North Sea Region for information and knowledge exchange.

The meeting was combined with an excursion to the new coal fired power plant of GDF Suez next to the new Jade-Weser-Port in Wilhelmshaven.

5. Shipping & Harbour

The working group dealt with the latest developments of measures to reduce marine litter. Many organisations like KIMO, OSPAR and also the WSF do have the issue on their agenda, and recently the EU has launched a program to support projects working towards minimizing the amount of marine litter. An example was the project MARLISCO (Marine litter in European Seas: social awareness and co-responsibility) under the FP7 program as well as a project plastic litter in the North Sea of the Waddenvereniging.



The meeting continued elaborating on shipping control mechanisms like AIS (Automatic Identification System), and radar as well as traffic management systems (VTM).

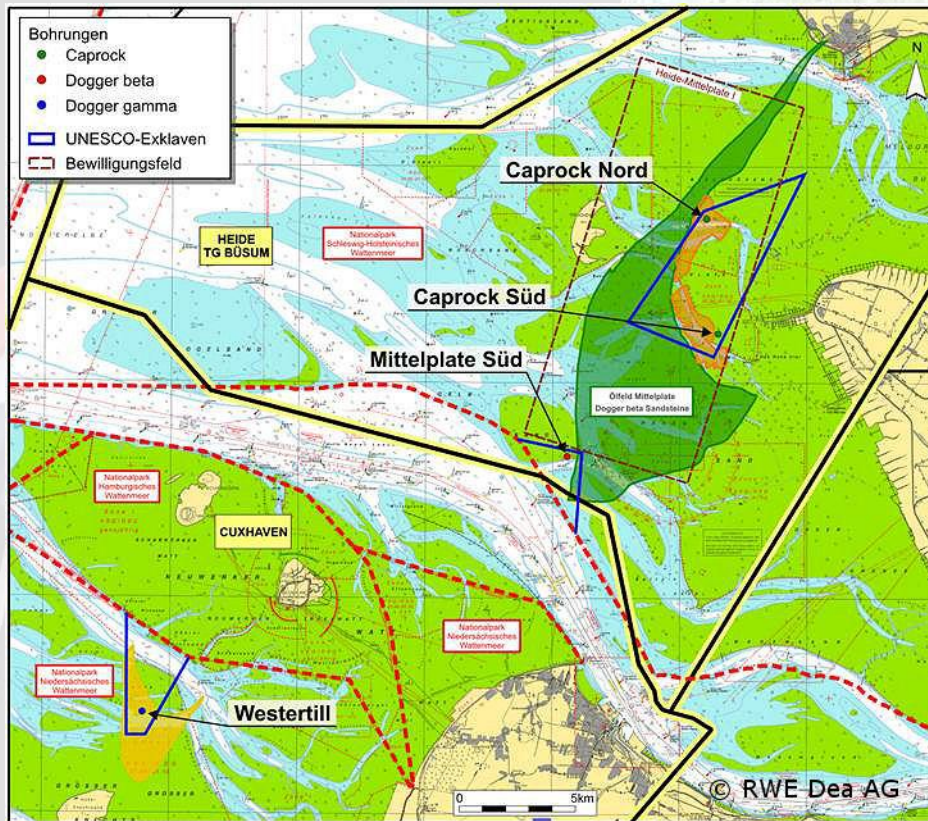
Another item was again developments in safe container shipping and handling. This will get even more important as the European Commission is working on a directive for container handling.

With regard to harbour business, the developments and future plans of Rømø harbour were introduced by the harbour master (presentation available on WSF website).

B. Topical Issues

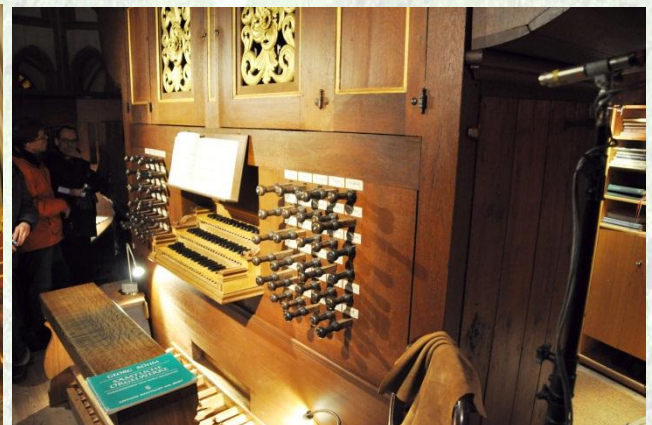
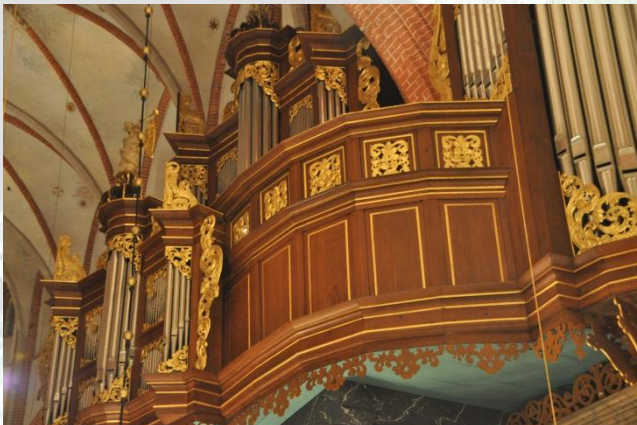
1. Oil Exploration Drillings in the Wadden Sea

The energy company RWE Dea AG has submitted an application to the responsible authorities for permission of exploratory drillings in the Warden Sea of Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony. The current project covers the drillings of four wells in the Warden Sea National Parks. The plans for this project, which date back from many years, were taken into account when Germany and The Netherlands elaborated an application to inscribe the Dutch-German Wadden Sea on the World Heritage list. But now the plans become concrete; the company expects to start with the exploration early 2015.



2. Organ Culture

The WSR is going to put more emphasis on the cultural history and identity of the WSR. Cooperation is envisaged with the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) to elaborate on monument protection and archaeological heritage, following the LancewadPlan recommendations. Besides this topic, the WSR will address the organ culture in the marsh area. Organ culture in the WSR has a common history and identity and the exceptional density of organs is unique around the world. News about this topic will be continuously placed on the WSR website.



3. Irish Sea Forum, Event in Dublin (June 2011)

On the 23rd and 24th June 2011, a Stakeholder Workshop on 'Marine spatial planning in the Irish Sea: towards improved transnational partnership working' took place in Dublin.

This event brought together key stakeholders to reflect on the findings of the Liverpool previous workshop, identify key areas for joint action and recommend next steps. The session included contributions related to existing transnational partnership initiatives such as the OSPAR Commission, Wadden Sea Forum, the British Irish Council, Solway Firth Partnership and the Irish Sea Conservation Zones and presentations on future developments in the Irish Sea from the Crown Estates and Centrica. Round table discussions focused on identifying objectives for partnership working as well as key areas for action and steps that could be taken to facilitate further partnership working.

The WSF was invited to contribute with advice and experiences made in the Wadden Sea Region. A report of the progress made in the Irish Sea is available on the WSF website under <http://www.waddensea-forum.org/Specialissues/Cooperation.html>.

4. NSMF Edinburgh (August 2011)

The North Sea Commission and the Scottish Government are working together to develop a proposal to Interreg IVB programme seeking funding to create a North Sea Maritime Forum. The aim of the event, hosted by the Scottish Government, was to engage further with potential partners and allow stakeholders to contribute to the development of the Forum.

The workshop focussed on political support, an action-oriented approach and fostering transnational solutions, information exchange among the potential partners and support from potential stakeholders. The WSF participated in the event as a potential partner in the project. An application for financial support under the Interreg IV program to establish a North Sea wide stakeholder forum unfortunately failed.

5. Cooperation Wadden Academy Eemshaven

On 17 October, the socio-economic think tank of the Dutch Wadden Academy held its meeting in Eemshaven. The WSF was invited to introduce the organization and tasks of the WSF to the Wadden Academy. At that meeting it was agreed to continue cooperation, particularly with regard to socio-economy and sustainability indicators.

Prior to the meeting and on invitation of Groningen Seaports, the participants were invited to visit the port Eemshaven by speed boats. The excursion explored the various sectors and main facilities of the harbour, which is a fast growing business at the mouth of the Ems estuary.

6. Excursion coal fired power plant of GDF Suez

On 30 November the WSF working group Energy, Industry & Infrastructure as well as interested colleagues were invited to visit the coal fired power plant of GDF Suez in Wilhelmshaven. The power plant, which is still under construction, will have an output of 800 MW and will produce some 5,5 billion kwh electricity per year. The efficiency is announced with 46%, which is much higher than the average with 38%.

The working group visited the construction site with its tremendous number of facilities as well as the combuster, turbine and converter installations.



7. Farewell of Walter Theuerkauf and Jens Andresen

At the WSF 19 meeting in Norden, Walter Theuerkauf and Jens Andresen were bid farewell. Both were members of the Forum from the very beginning and have actively supported the WSF.

Jens Andresen was vice-chair from 2002 till 2005 and he was a strong advocate for the establishment of an WSF secretariat. Walter Theuerkauf supported the establishment of the WSF society to become a legal entity, and he achieved a county council decision that his county could become an official member of the WSF e.V.



Both were backbones of the Forum, we will miss them. Thank you very much Walter and Jens for your work, company and friendship!

8. Greetings 2012



C. WSF Meetings

18 April 2012	WSF Executive Meeting 2012/1, Hamburg, D
18 April 2012	SC 13, Hamburg, D
15 February 2012	WG Shipping & Harbour 11, Wilhelmshaven, D
26 January 2012	WG ICZM 15, Hamburg, D

D. Symposia & Events

20 – 24 August 2012, Leeuwarden & Terschelling, NL
Reflection on landscape change: the European perspective
<http://www.pecsrl2012.com/>

21 – 22 May 2012, Gothenburg, Sweden
European Maritime Day 2012
<http://www.emd2012.se/>

25 - 28 April 2012, Tirana, ALBANIA
International Conference on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems (MarCoastEcos 2012)
<http://marcoastecos2012.al/>

8 - 9 December 2011, Leeuwarden, NL
7th Wadden Academy Symposium
<http://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/news/events/otherconf.html>

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