



**Wadden Sea Forum
Steering Committee
5th Meeting
Hamburg, 29 October 2008**

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening

Document: SC-5 Draft Agenda

The meeting was opened by the chairman, Mr. Klimant, at 11:00 hours and the host of the meeting, Mr. Mattfeld, welcomed the participants to the RWE/DEA office.

The secretary informed that Mr. Holstein, Mr. Hinrichs and Ms. Kruisinga had apologised. Mr. Holst Christensen participates on behalf of Mr. Andresen. Mr. Rothkopf got stuck in a traffic jam and could not participate. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**.

Due to the poor participation, the chairman expressed his disappointment and was questioning the role and significance of the Steering Committee. Furthermore, the lacking participation was seen as a bit unfriendly against those who made any effort to join the meeting.

It was agreed that the chairman should write a letter to the SC members to express his concern about the seriousness of the SC meetings.

Continuing with the agenda, the agenda was **adopted** and is in **Annex 2**.

2. Minutes SC-4

Document: SC-4 Final Draft Minutes

The final draft minutes of the SC-4 meeting, Hamburg, 16 April 2008 were **adopted**.

3. Announcements

Thomas Christensen informed the meeting that the Danish Wadden Sea Secretariat will become also the secretariat for EUREGIO from 1 January 2009 on.

Secondly, he informed the meeting of a web-based educational programme called "My Wadden Sea" (www.mitvadehav.dk) which was launched by the Danish Forum for nature and cultural extension in the Wadden Sea (the Danish partners in the International Wadden Sea School, IWSS) in June. The programme provides teaching

material for classes 4-5 and 7-8 and is open for all schools in the four Danish Wadden Sea Municipalities (Toender, Esbjerg, Fanø and Varde). At present 81 classes have registered and are participating in the programme that provides ideas and materials for teachers and pupils making it possible to include Wadden Sea themes in all school subjects. The programme was inaugurated by the Ministers of Education and Environment and the Min. of Environment subsequently has announced that the programme will serve as a model for all the 5 new national parks in Denmark.

Thirdly, he explained the implementation process for the five Danish National Parks, of which National Park Thy in North Jutland was officially inaugurated on the 22nd of August. The others will be implemented step by step, and it is expected that the Wadden Sea National Park will become operational by early 2010, after a public hearing of the draft regulations in the second half of 2009.

Manfred Vollmer briefly reported about a visit to the oil platform Mittelplate during the IUCN field mission with regard to nomination of the Dutch-German Wadden Sea as World Heritage Site. Furthermore, he informed the meeting that the Wadden Sea Forum secretariat has taken on additional staff. Ms. Heike Klar supports the Forum secretariat in mainly administrative matters as well as in maintaining the web site.

4. Progress WGs and WSF activities

Due to the poor participation of the SC meeting, Manfred Vollmer reported about the status and activities of the WSF working groups on behalf of the WG chairs.

ICZM: Since the last SC meeting, no further activities by the working group have been taken up. It was foreseen, to embed the main activities in the proposed Interreg IV project "New Wave", which is about an assessment and further development of ICZM on a North Sea wide level. Also the developed sustainability indicator tool has not been tested yet and will be part of New Wave. The next call of the Interreg IV North Sea Program will be in March 2009.

The next meeting of ICZM group will take place on 16 December.

EII: Currently, two main tasks of the working group are carried out. The first one, the inventory energy and harbour related activities continues. The inventory is a simple Excel table, which provides information about running and planned projects in the Wadden Sea Region. The information is based on public available information. The Steering Committee **requested** that the inventory should be made available for public. The chairman stressed, that this would be in the philosophy of the Forum, to make all information and results of the Wadden Sea Forum activities open for public. With regard to the second task, an inventory and assessment of energy plants, the draft TOR have been elaborated. The meeting welcomed the proposal and made some comments for further improvement (see agenda item 5).

Thomas Christensen announced that the Danish oil and gas company would probably be interested to participate in the working group and that he would make the necessary contacts.

The next meeting of the work group EII is scheduled for 12 November 2008.

Shipping: The shipping group has met recently and discussed the following items:

- actions to be taken by the WG in order to secure the dealings with container shipment. The loss of containers with dangerous cargo is increasing and it was recommended to e.g. equip the containers with transponders for safety reasons;

- the evaluation of PSSA and the role of the working group in this process. The chair of the group was nominated as a member (observer) in the steering group to oversee and support the evaluation process;
- spatial planning in EEZ. The shipping group was concerned about the procedure in implementing the spatial plan in the German EEZ, because the cooperation with the neighbouring countries seemed to be insufficient. As other sectors of the WSF might be interested to discuss and react on the planning contents and procedure, the group agreed to forward this issue to the WSF-13 meeting to discuss further common actions;
- with regard to the project "fishing for litter", the WG shipping is going to compile more information and to present this to the WSF-13 meeting;
- Shipping Safety, which will also an important task in the future work, as well as the cooperation with related organizations like EMSA and KIMO.

The meeting regret that no Danish members were in the group, though they had many projects running with regard to shipping safety. This would be a general problem too. Almost all working groups are lacking in participants which is quite unsatisfying. Concrete projects would hopefully change the situation.

Agriculture: There was no further progress since the last SC meeting but the Trilateral Cooperation, in cooperation with the WSF, is going to implement a Goose workshop on 19-20 November in Ribe, which should be seen as stimulation for further work topics in the working group. As there have been several workshop and activities about goose management, Thomas Christensen informed the meeting about the background of this special workshop. As the agricultural damage by geese was an important issue on Mandø, Denmark together with The Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation will be hosting the initiative for the workshop to find solutions. The Steering Committee welcomed the initiative and recommended that the outcome of the workshop should go far beyond the results which are available yet.

Fisheries: The work program of the WSF entails a study about the perspectives for coastal fisheries. It was agreed, to initiate the study as soon as possible to provide a new basis for a collaboration within the working group fisheries. It was suggested to possibly take the WG Fisheries as a kind of steering committee for this study, which should consist of all sectors having a stake in fishery issues, thus including both fisheries and conservation.

Tourism: The WG tourism has not met since the last WSF-12 meeting, which was almost a brainstorming meeting. WG Tourism is difficult to sustain as local and regional tourism boards focus on more concrete issues on the local and regional level. The Steering Committee **proposed** to transfer the WG Tourism into a Steering Group for agreed projects, which are now "Gastronomy Award/Regional products" and "Tourism marketing strategy".

Some general matters were raised by [Hans-Ulrich Rösner](#). He proposed to distribute the invitations and the minutes of all working group meetings also to the Steering Committee. In order to get more attention and make meetings easier, he recommended to hold meetings also by telephone conferences, if the respective agenda would allow this. Finally, he suggested to settle dates for meetings or conference calls also by the internet platform "Doodle", to make the task a bit easier for everybody.

5. TOR Energy study

Document: SC-5-5-1 Terms of Reference Impact Energy

According to the decision of WSF 12, to commission an inventory and analysis of all existing and currently being planned power plants in the Wadden Sea Region and the EEZs of Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands, draft TOR have been elaborated to be further developed at the WG EII meeting on 12 November and finally agreed by WSF 13 on 18-19 November 2008. The Steering Committee welcomed the proposal and made some comments for further improvement. As an additional objective, an assessment of the proportion of installed renewable energy in the Wadden Sea Region, compared also with the energy use in the region, should be taken up. Furthermore, the area of concern as well as the size of power plants to be considered in the study should be further defined. With regard to the impacts, also shipping safety should be an issue and finally, the time frame of 2 month was stated as too short and the budget of estimated 10,000 Euro would be too low. 20,000 Euro were seen as more adequate.

Thomas Christensen recommended to amend the TOR with the advice that the information delivered should fit in the system of the indicator tools and of the QSR data collection. The draft TOR would be introduced for final decisions at WSF-13.

6. Update Work Programme WSF

Document: SC-5-6-1 WSF Updated Work Program

At WSF-12, the draft work program was discussed and partly amended. The Steering Committee stated that the WSF work program should be a living program, which could be modified due to the necessities of relevant actions agreed by the Wadden Sea Forum and thus being a regular task on the agenda of the plenary meetings. The work program should be continuously assessed with regard to relevance, progress and output. Modification and changes in common activities with the Trilateral Cooperation had to be agreed by all parties in the WSF meeting. This living program would allow an implementation of pro-active initiatives and aims at modern management and development.

The document depicts the changes due to the decisions taken at the WSF-12 meeting (marked in yellow) and the new proposals made by the Steering Committee at its meeting on 29 October in Hamburg (marked in green).

7. Spatial planning EEZ

Manfred Vollmer informed the meeting that Germany is going to pass a spatial plan for the EEZ in the North Sea and the Baltic. Recently, a hearing with administrative bodies and stakeholders took place. As other sectors of the WSF might be interested to discuss and react on the planning contents and procedure, the meeting agreed to forward this issue to the WSF-13 meeting to discuss further common actions. The secretariat will elaborate and distribute a document about this issue.

8. Draft agenda WSF-13

Document: SC-5-8-1 WSF-13 Draft Agenda

The meeting discussed the proposed draft agenda to finally agree on the draft . The order of items 6 and 7 were changed and the issue of spatial planning was amended. WSF-13 would have to decide upon a date and location for WSF-14.

9. Any other business

There was no any other business.

10. Next meeting

It was **agreed** to decide on a next meeting date when the WSF-13 has settled a new date and location for the WSF-14 meeting.

11. Closing

The meeting was closed at 15:30 hours . The chairman thanked Mr. Mattfeld for the excellent hospitality.

Annex 2

**Wadden Sea Forum
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AGENDA

- Agenda item 1. Opening**
- Agenda item 2. Minutes SC-4**
- Agenda item 3. Announcements**
- Agenda item 4. Progress WGs and WSF activities**
- Agenda item 5. TOR Energy study**
- Agenda item 6. Update Work Programme WSF**
- Agenda item 7. Spatial planning EEZ**
- Agenda item 8. Draft agenda WSF-13**
- Agenda item 9. Any other business**
- Agenda item 10. Next meeting**
- Agenda item 11. Closing**