



Wadden Sea Forum

13th Meeting

Fanø, 18-19 November 2008

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

Agenda item 1. Opening and adoption of the Agenda

Document WSF-13-1. Draft Annotated Agenda V2

The meeting met first in the City Hall Fanø and was welcomed by the mayor Mr Noreby. The chairman, Mr Klimant, opened the meeting, which started with an excursion to Sønderho, at 13:00 hours. The meeting continued at Fanø Efterskole at 16:00 hours. The chairman welcomed the new members Ms Margreeth de Boer, (chairperson of the Dutch Wadden Sea Advisory Council) and Ms Cora Seip-Markensteijn (representing Fisheries NL) and Ms Heike Klar from the Wadden Sea Forum secretariat.

A list of participants is in **Annex 1**.

The meeting **adopted** the agenda. The agenda is in **Annex 2**. A List of agreed actions is in **Annex 3**.

Agenda item 2. Adoption final draft minutes WSF-12

Document: Final Draft Minutes WSF-12

The meeting **adopted** the final draft minutes of the WSF-12 meeting, Husum, 5 – 6 June 2008.

Agenda item 3. Membership WSF

Document: WSF-13-3.1. Member List

The secretary referred to the WSF member list, introduced the new members and informed the meeting about further changes. In Denmark, Mr Svend Ole Gammelgaard had resigned his membership, a substitute for Tourism and Recreation would be vacant for the time being. In Lower Saxony, three changes in membership were reported. In the tourism sector, Mr Doellinger would be replaced by a new substitute in 2009, Ms Julia Oberdörfer would be no longer available for the energy sector, a substitute was not available yet, and Mr Theo Schröder would be the representative for the advisory board, instead of Mr Südbeck. In the Netherlands, also some changes had been noted. Ms Cora Seip-Markensteijn would replace Mr Anton Verbree, Mr Hans Haerkens would be substituted from 2009 on and Ms Tineke Schokker would replace Ms Rinske Kruisinga, also in the Steering Committee.

Agenda item 4. Announcements

Mr Christensen informed the meeting that the Danish Wadden Sea Secretariat would become also the secretariat for EUREGIO as of 1 January 2009.

Ms Seip-Markensteijn informed the meeting about an agreement between the NGOs and the mussel fisheries sector to lead from bottom fishery to a more sustainable fishery. Results about effects of this transition were not available yet.

Mr Baerends referred to the agreement of sustainable fisheries and reported that the ministry supported the transition. Furthermore, he informed that the Dutch Wadden Academy was launched in summer this year. The academy would be responsible for coordinating the research activities in the Dutch Wadden Sea but that also a trilateral collaboration would be considered.

Mr de Jong added that, at the scientific symposium in spring 2009, a key note about the new Wadden Academy would be presented.

Agenda item 5. Minutes 5th meeting Steering Committee

Document: WSF-13-5.1. Minutes SC-5

The meeting took note of the minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee, SC-5, Hamburg, 29 October 2008.

Agenda item 6. Progress WSF activities

Document WSF-13-6.1. Progress Report

Additionally to the information given in the progress report, the meeting was informed about further progress of several WSF activities.

WG ICZM: Mr Verheij recalled the testing of the ICZM indicators, which was still a task but postponed to the first half of 2009. The ICZM cases were now in the process of synthesizing by a consultant and would be subject to a planned workshop in spring/summer next year. Furthermore, he informed about the cooperation within the Interreg IVB ICZM project "New Wave", for which the application had been postponed to the 4th call in March 2009. The next meeting of the working group would take place on 16 December 2008.

WG EII: Mr Rothkopf reported about the last EII meeting on 12 November, which was held by a phone conference and experienced very positive. With regard to the participation of the group, Mr Rothkopf requested also input and contributions from Schleswig-Holstein and Denmark, as the development of the energy and industry sector would also very much concern those areas. The Danish delegates and the WSF chair promised to appoint new members for the working group. Furthermore, the meeting was informed about the continuation of the inventory of energy and harbour related activities. The working group would be responsible for the contents of the inventory, which would be maintained in the secretariat and finally placed on the web site.

WG Shipping: Mr Loos informed about the last WG shipping meeting and the main issues discussed. A new topic were the dealings with container shipment. The loss of containers with dangerous cargo was increasing and it was recommended to e.g. equip the containers with transponders for safety reasons. KIMO already had presented a resolution regarding this problem and Mr Loos requested the WSF for supporting actions to safeguard container shipment, which was

agreed. With regard to the evaluation process of PSSA, he informed that the steering group had been completed with a Danish representative and that the WG shipping would actively contribute. Additionally, Mr Loss briefly referred to the project fishing for litter and announced more information in one of the next meetings, to be presented by the mayor of Ameland. Finally, the issue of spatial planning in the EEZs was raised. 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. The group wanted to forward this issue to the WSF-13 meeting to discuss further common actions (see agenda item 11).

WG Agriculture: As stated in the document, there was no further progress in the working group since it had been reported in the last SC meeting. But Mr Fromsejer informed the meeting about a Goose workshop 19-20 November, in Ribe, which should be seen as stimulation for further work topics in the working group. An issue would be compensation measures, as this was handled very differently in the countries. Mr Sinnema reported about compensation for geese damage in the Netherlands, paid by national funds but officially regulated by EU-regulations. The document of the EU, which concerns the financial support for Dutch farmers, would be made available for the WSF in English. Recalling the letter of the WSF to the EU Committee of the Regions earlier this year, the meeting was informed that no response had been received so far. Further action would be taken on the basis of the outcome of the workshop.

WG Fisheries: Mr Holstein stated that the fishery sector had been too busy with solving severe problems and was therefore not able to actively participate in the working group. Furthermore, he pointed at the lacking participation from Denmark. The meeting agreed that the planned study about new perspectives for the fishery in the Wadden Sea could serve as a new basis for further actions. Before initiating the study, results from a running Dutch project should be awaited. Also the mussel workshop in Kiel on 14 January 2009 could provide material for the further work. Regarding the New Wave project, Mr de Jong briefly explained the role of sustainable fisheries within the work package ICZM and its use as pilot example.

WG Tourism: As written in the document, the Steering Committee proposed to transfer the WG Tourism into a Steering Group for agreed and concrete projects, which would be now "Gastronomy Award/Regional products" and "Tourism marketing strategy". These projects would be implemented under a wider umbrella. Mr Frederiksen informed the meeting that the report about sustainable tourism in the Wadden Sea Region of the NetForum would be still valid and could be used for further actions. This led to the general statement that the Forum should aim more at implementing taken decisions, e.g. NetForum, Schiermonnikoog Declaration).

Agenda item 7. WSF Work Program

Document WSF-13-7.1. Updated Work Program of the MoU

The work program had been updated according to the comments made at WSF 12 in Husum. Furthermore, the Steering Committee proposed additional changes in the work program, which were separately marked in a different colour.

The meeting went through the document and discussed the SC proposals and further options. The results are documented in the updated work program. General statements as well as agreements are given in the following.

It was **agreed** that the work program should be taken as a living program, which should be updated regularly with regard to the progress, new actions and decisions.

Specific topics:

WG Agriculture: The situation with meadow birds and nature management schemes were seen as relevant themes for the further work.

WG Fisheries: In the Netherlands and Germany, the MSC certification for Brown Shrimps was still in progress and expected to be finalized in March 2009. A certification for the fishery sector in the entire Wadden Sea would be a challenge and a chance for the future market. For sustainable solutions, all relevant sectors should be involved in the process.

WG Tourism: The meeting agreed to the proposal of the Steering Committee to focus on some concrete projects and to collaborate with other organisations working towards the same objectives. The WSF secretariat would take the initiative to establish a responsible group, representing all regions. For higher education purposes, also universities dealing with tourism could be involved.

Public relation: The meeting agreed to the proposal of the SC.

Sustainable indicators: The activities were accepted as described in the document. The fishery sector requested an involvement in the topic of indicators. Mr de Jong and Mr Verheij explained that several indicators had been developed and that the focus would be on those indicators which fit best in policies. Furthermore, the fishery sector was foreseen for the testing phase of the indicators.

Rules and regulations: Several attempts were made to elaborate on harmonisation, simplification and reduction of rules and regulations within the Wadden Sea region but all had failed. Finally, the meeting agreed to deliver input to a study initiated by the TWSC (focus on differences in the implementation of EU regulations and its consequences). The outcome of the study would also be used in the work of the WSF. Furthermore, concrete issues with differences of implementation or dealings, which raise problems in the sector, would still be a matter of the Forum. Due to the complexity of the issue, such cases would have to be introduced at the meetings and the different arguments being well prepared to be able to strive for common solutions.

Perspectives Fisheries: The meeting agreed to initiate the study about perspectives of fisheries after the results of the MSC certification were available in order to concentrate on the missing issues. Objectives of the perspectives should be made more precise.

Data Base: This activity was skipped as it was seen as not feasible to implement and maintain a data base. The Forum and the working groups would deliver information for the planned information systems within the Interreg project New Wave.

Gastronomy Award: Several initiatives in Denmark for marketing regional products would be used to establish a platform to implement the "Gastronomy Award" in 2009/2010. The WSF secretariat would organize the contacts to Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony.

Advice to TWSC: The chairman referred to the proposal of the SC and asked for a more concrete time schedule to deliver the advice of the WSF in time. Mr de Jong explained briefly the process of the WSP revision. In February 2009, the changes of the WSP would be discussed internally within the 3 countries. In April/May 2009 the advice of the Forum would be requested to have a first draft of the new WSP ready before summer 2009. The meeting

agreed that the SC as a task force should be responsible to deliver the necessary input. The chairman would call in a meeting after the official request by the TWSC.

Agenda item 8. TOR Study Energy

Document WSF-13-8.1. TOR Impact Energy

The meeting agreed to the Terms of Reference of the study and asked the working group to take the necessary actions for implementation. It was amended that beside this study it would also be of interest to get more information about the possibilities and effects of energy saving.

Agenda item 9. Marketing Wadden Sea Region

In light of the WSF's intention to strengthen marketing and tourism issues within the WSF, Mr Henrik Lund from South Danish Tourism gave a presentation about "Marketing and Tourism in the Wadden Sea". The presentation initiated a fruitful discussion with further advices. Particularly, concerning the decreasing tourism market in the Danish Wadden Sea region, it was requested to investigate the issue in a market analysis, as well as the requirements and perceptions of the target groups. In general, the label National Park should be better considered. Also the cultural heritage would be an asset to be integrated in the tourism market.

The meeting **agreed** that the further way of proceeding would also be to initiate transnational and cross-border activities and to cooperate with organizations in the other countries. Also the universities should be involved with their expertise. The secretariat together with interested Forum members would take the initiative to proceed with a common marketing strategy. Related to this, the international Gastronomy Award would be implemented as one concrete project.

Agenda item 10. The North Sea Region as Energy-hub

The developments and plans for the Wadden Sea Region in the energy sector are under rapid expansion. Particularly off-shore wind parks require further necessary facilities, such as transformer and converter stations, electric power cables and new grid systems.

Mr Scharfe from EON-Net gave a presentation about the developments and the technical and economic requirements due to off-shore wind parks, particularly with a view on the cabling and the connection to the grid. The presentation is available on the WSF web site. As also the cable installations are large scale construction with impacts on the environment, an associated monitoring program under the supervision of the National Park Authority Lower Saxony is carried out for the cable tray to the wind parks north of the East Frisian islands. To minimize the impacts, it was requested to concentrate on a minimum of cable trays. The National Parks in Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony should not be crossed by more than one tray and also cable trays along shipping routes in the estuaries should be considered.

Agenda item 11. Spatial Planning EEZ

Document WSF-13-11.1. Information spatial plan German EEZ

The secretary introduced Germany's official activities 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. The meeting was informed about the contents and the process of planning in the German EEZ. Besides many issues to be criticized, Mr Rösner pointed also at the potential benefits of the plan which was needed to coordinate many different uses, to construct the

increasing number of wind parks only in priority areas and hopefully, taking steps for a traffic separation scheme west of Schleswig-Holstein. The meeting further stated that many more activities would take place than outlined in the spatial plan and these activities had to be coordinated and considered in planning. Also the coordination with the neighbouring countries had to be improved. Furthermore, it was emphasized that more attention should be given to shipping safety (increasing traffic), the interests of the fishery sector and environmental issues, since not even the Natura 2000 sites became priority areas. Also the designation of the PSSA Wadden Sea, requiring also more care while shipping in the EEZ, was not reflected in the plan.

With regard to EEZ planning in the Netherlands and Denmark, Ms de Boer informed the attendants that also in NL a spatial plan about all existing and planned projects would be available. For Denmark, Mr Frederiksen stated that with regard to a different approach, all projects were subject to environmental concerns and well balanced.

The chairman summarized that for actions of the Forum, first all information about spatial planning and activities in the EEZ's (southern North Sea) and 12sm-zone should be made available and compiled by the secretariat. For this, the responsible delegates would take care and deliver the data. Secondly, the Forum would discuss its stake in the planning process as well as action to be taken.

Agenda item 12. Interreg IVB

Mr de Jong briefly informed the meeting about the status and progress of the trilateral initiative for an Interreg IVB project. The project would cover several work packages, particularly on ICZM cases and evaluation, participation, information and sustainability indicators as well as on marine planning. Partner organizations would be governments, universities, CoastNet, research centres and the coastal centre Belgium. The implementation of the work packages would focus on 4 test areas around the North Sea.

The application under the 3rd call in September 2008 failed as not all necessary Letters of Intent were in place and one of the two Belgian partners had withdrawn from the project. The aim would be to send a project application under the 4th call in March 2009 and then involve the WG ICZM in elaborating a contribution of the Forum.

Agenda item 13. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards

Document WSF-13-13.1. Report Dutch Wadden Sea Council

Document WSF-13-13.2. Report Danish Advisory Board

For the Dutch Advisory Board, Ms de Boer informed the meeting that two advices have been elaborated as there were the WFD advice (see document) and an advice for the use of biomass in the Wadden Sea Region. At this moment the Board is preparing an advice for recreation and tourism and advice for the Trilateral Cooperation. The information about the latter three would be sent to the secretariat.

The Danish advisory board announced a new meeting for 21 November, of which the relevant information would also be sent to the WSF secretariat.

For the German Advisory Boards, Mr Theuerkauf and Mr Klimant promised to deliver their reports soon.

Agenda item 14. Progress Trilateral Cooperation

Mr de Jong briefly informed about the progress of the TWSC activities.

WSP revision: In February 2009, the main amendments to the WSP will be discussed internally by the 3 countries. In April/May 2009 the advice of the Forum will be requested. It is intended to have a first draft of the new WSP ready before the summer 2009. The public consultation will be held as of July 2009.

Scientific Symposium: The CWSS, the three German National Park Offices and BMU are currently preparing the 12th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium 2009, Wilhelmshaven, 30 March – 3 April 2009. The conference will focus on how research and monitoring can provide input to the implementation of relevant EU Directives, including the development of new methods and assessment tools. In addition, limitations or gaps in knowledge will be identified. Recommendations will be given on how EU Directives should be applied in future to ensure a harmonized management of the Wadden Sea, based upon an ecosystem approach.

EU-Directives: The TWSC will commission a study about differences in the implementation of EU regulations and its consequences. Further information would be available on the CWSS web site.

World Heritage News: The IUCN field mission of September 2008 was a success. Following, further information was required regarding the justification for the outstanding universal value (geomorphology), the integrity with regard to oil and gas mining in the nominated property and the protection and management scheme in the Netherlands (PKB). The supplementary information had to be delivered by 26 November for a first review. The final deadline would be 28 February 2009. In May next year, recommendations from the IUCN would be forwarded to the World Heritage Panel for the final decision.

Agenda item 15. Next Meeting

The meeting agreed to hold the next meeting in Fryslân. Location and exact date will be announced at a later stage, depending on the process of the WSP revision.

Agenda item 16. Any Other Business

The issue of energy saving as future task with the concrete proposal to highlight positive examples of sustainable activities in the region as a possible future WSF action was recalled (see agenda item 8) and would be an item at the next SC and following meetings. Secondly, the meeting agreed to aim at a better publicity of existing highlights and best practise examples in the WSF. Proposals by the Forum members will be discussed at the next meeting. Thirdly, it was **agreed** to hold a Steering Committee meeting on 22 April 2009, in Hamburg, as task force for the contribution to the WSP revision.

Agenda item 17. Closing

The chairman thanked all participants and closed the meeting on 19 November 2008 at 12:30.

ANNEX 2

**Wadden Sea Forum
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AGENDA

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ANNEX 3**Action List**

- (1) The Danish delegates and the WSF chair will take care about new members from their region in the working groups EII and Shipping.
- (2) The WSF will support actions to safeguard container shipment. Proposals will be elaborated by the working group shipping.
- (3) The document of the EU, which concerns the financial support for Dutch farmers with regard to goose damage will be made available for the WSF in English.
- (4) The WSF will initiate a study about perspectives for costal fisheries after having received results from a running Dutch project.
- (5) The WSF secretariat will take the initiative to establish a steering group, representing all regions, for concrete projects about tourism in the Wadden Sea Region.
- (6) The WSF will deliver input in a study about rules and regulations of the TWSC.
- (7) The WSF secretariat will organize the contacts in Schleswig-Holstein and Niedersachsen for the implementation of the Gastronomy Award.
- (8) The Steering Committee as a task force will be responsible to deliver the necessary input for the revision of the Wadden Sea Plan in April/May 2009.
- (9) The WG EII is asked to implement the energy study.
- (10) The secretariat together with interested Forum members will take the initiative to proceed with a common marketing strategy.
- (11) The responsible delegates of the regions will deliver spatial planning and project data with regard to the EEZ's and 12sm zones to the secretariat.
- (12) The Dutch advisory board will deliver information about advice for the use of biomass in the Wadden Sea Region, advice for recreation and tourism and advice for the Trilateral Cooperation to the secretariat.
- (13) The Danish advisory board announced will deliver new information resulting from the meeting on 21 November.
- (14) Mr Theuerkauf will send the report of the Wadden Sea advisory board Lower Saxony to the secretariat.
- (15) Mr Klimant will send the report of the Wadden Sea advisory board Schleswig-Holstein to the secretariat.