



Wadden Sea Forum
44th meeting
Jever, 7 - 8 September 2023

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

1 Opening

The chair, Mr Preben Friis-Hauge, welcomed all participants in the City of Jever, Friesland (D). He opened the WSF-44 in the Town Hall, Graf-Anton-Günther-Saal, on 7 September 2023 at 13:00. He thanked the City of Jever as well as Mr Tammen and the vice-mayor Ms Thomßen for their great support and hosting us for the next two days.

Unfortunately, the head of county of Friesland, Sven Ambrosy, had to cancel his participation for today's meeting. However, his deputy, Dr. Dehrendorf, held a welcoming speech, underlining the importance of trilateral networking.

Due to many new participants of WSF-44, a round of introduction took place. A list of today's participants is in **Annex 1**.

The meeting adopted the proposed WSF-44 agenda, which is in **Annex 2**.

Decisions and actions can be found in **Annex 3**.

2 Adoption of the Draft Minutes of WSF-43

Document: WSF-43 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting **adopted** the final draft minutes of the WSF-43 plenary meeting, Harlingen (NL), 28-29 March 2023 which were distributed by email on May 23, 2023. The final draft minutes are available on the WSF website: www.waddensea-forum.org.

3 Announcements

Mr Preben Friis-Hauge informed the meeting that after informing the members by email in August of the leave of the managing director, he now has to announce that the administrative assistant will also leave the Wadden Sea Forum by the end of this year. The Executive Committee already published a job offer for the managing director at its website, via the German Arbeitsagentur etc., which will close on September 15, 2023.

Mr Erich Hinrichs stated that due to sale of offshore wind power areas in the North Sea and Baltic Sea by the German federal government a sum of 670 million Euro would be available for the protection of the North and Baltic Sea in 2024. As there are no official plans yet for distributing the money, he was wondering whether the WSF with its financial difficulties could be supported. However, due to the statement of WSF's contact point, Thomas Borchers (National Ministry for Environment, Bonn) even a small share to the WSF is highly unlikely. Mr Hinrichs further stated that the city of Wilhelmshaven got an additional funding of 10 Million Euro for building the partnership centre in Wilhelmshaven, which will start probably next year.

Ms Soledad Luna informed the meeting that The SIMP Integrated Management Plan for ONE Wadden Sea World Heritage was adopted together with the signing of the Wilhelmshaven Declaration in May 2023.

She also informed that the World Heritage Centre emitted a technical report and draft decision expressing concerns about different human activities within, nearby or beneath the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site, including mineral extraction and infrastructure for renewable energy. Therefore, the State Parties of Denmark, Germany, and the Netherlands are requested to provide further and comprehensive information to get an overview on potential impacts on the whole of the transboundary World Heritage Site by February 1st, 2024.

4 Progress in High Priority Topics of WSF

"Sustainable Shipping and Ports Initiative (SustSPI)" - Workshop

The WSF secretary introduced the discussion on the roadmaps developed within the SustSPI. Due to low participation in June, the roadmaps should have been developed by circular procedure and finally discussed and adopted at the WSF-44. It was decided to discuss only the roadmap on "Sediment Management in Wadden Sea Ports".

Mr Wuczkowski, Nports, offered his support contacting the TU Delft for a compilation of a scientific data study of sediment management in Wadden Sea Ports. However, the TU Delft will only carry out the study if there are funding opportunities. For an active role of managing the future shipping and ports processes, he has no possibilities and cannot be "in the driver seat".

In the course of the discussion it became clear that only a hired person would be able to conduct the management and take care for the follow-up for this roadmap process.

Finally, it was concluded that a short notice should be prepared and submitted to the next WSB meeting in November 2023. The WSF secretariat will prepare this information and the participants of the WSF-44 are asked kindly to give feedback.

Project "Water as Leverage – Wadden"

The WSF secretary informed the participants that the project consortium of "Water as leverage – Wadden" has submitted the full application end of June 2023 to the EU Interreg North Sea Programme. The decision about the approval will be at the end of October 2023. The WSF is sub-partner in this project, the Ökowerk Emden is hosting the WSF as sub-partner.

"Brown Shrimp Fisheries Dialogue"

The WSF secretariat was invited to several meetings and conducted many interviews in order to properly prepare the dialogue on Brown Shrimp Fisheries until 2026. Due to the complexity and amount of different stakeholders and actors, the WSF secretary decided to postpone the official start of this dialogue to next year.

5 Progress report on medium priority and other topics of WSF*"Goose Management (AEWA)"*

At June 19, the EGMP Task Forces met in order to exchange and discuss the progress over the past year. Main part of the Task Force meeting was covered by the workshop on goose population and damages. Members of the Task Force Agriculture presented and published the final report on "Assessment of goose damage to agricultural crops – is there a relationship between goose abundance and yield loss"? From June 20 – 22, the European Goose Management Platform International Working Group Meeting No. 8 (EGMP IWG 8) took place. Important step in this meeting was the acknowledgment of the Task Force Agriculture report on the relationship between goose abundance and yield loss. The participants took positive note of the final report. Now the process starts to draw right conclusions and recommendations from the results of the compilation.

Further information on:

<https://www.waddensea-forum.org/en/topics/core-issues/goose-management>

<https://egmp.aewa.info/meetings/iwg/detail/8th-meeting-aewa-european-goose-management-international-working-group-egm-iwg8>

https://egmp.aewa.info/sites/default/files/meeting_files/information_documents/AEWA_EGMIWG_Inf_8.15_Goose_Damage_Impact_Assessment.pdf

Project "Biological Desalinisation"

At WSF-43, Dr Ende from Alfred-Wegener-Institute in Bremerhaven presented his idea of biological desalinisation by algae. The WSF secretary support Dr Ende in finding a funding mechanism. Finally, the Metropolitan Region Northwest has approved the pilot project. In 2024, the WSF would have the possibility to conduct a workshop on trilateral level in order to disseminate the results of this pilot project.

Project "Sediment in small harbours"

In July 2023, the pilot project "sedimentation in small harbours" was approved. The Lower Saxon Ministry for Environment grants the project and the Lower Saxon Sailing Association is the project lead. The WSF is project partner and responsible for stakeholder interviews and the participation process. The technical part of the project lies with the company Sell-Greiser. Mr Greiser presented a compilation of the technical process. His presentation is on the WSFs website.

Project "TrilaWatt"

Mr Mohamed, project officer for TrilaWatt, gave an update on the recent developments within the TrilaWatt project since WSF-43. His presentation is on the WSFs website. Further information on:

<https://www.waddensea-forum.org/en/topics/projects/trilawatt-2022-2024>
<https://app.trilawatt.eu/viewer/>

WSF Involvement in Trilateral Wadden Sea Research Call (TWSRC)

The WSF got the possibility to be involved in several research projects within the TWSRC. All contacts are coming from outside the WSF. External organisations or institutions invited the WSF and will lead all projects:

- WADWAD -> transition between sea and land
- Sedway -> sediment management in Wadden Sea area
- PaRCA -> sediment management in Wadden Sea area
- ONE Wadden Sea -> creating a vision for World Heritage site

The highlight of DAY 1 was the presentation by Mr Partzsch from the company TES (Tree Energy Solutions) on the planned renewable energy projects in Wilhelmshaven. His presentation is on the WSFs website.

6 Involvement in TWSC

Ms Luna, CWSS, presented the progress on the Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP). Her presentation is on the WSFs website.

7 WSF strategy process 2026

The meeting was informed that Ms Klar and Mr Ahlhorn are going to leave the WSF until the end of this year. Consequently, the WSF has to develop and discuss ideas on how to continue.

To inform the participants on the steps taken by the Executive Committee of the WSF e.V.:

- Informed the WSF membership
- Prepared and published a job advertisement
- Ask the membership of the WSF to give hints for potential candidates

At present, we received nine applications and four of them were full applications.

Unfortunately, none of the applicants seems to be well prepared for the position as Managing Director of the WSF. The deadline for applications is due Sept 15.

Concise summary of results

- No final agreement taken, thus, to be further discussed: What is the purpose of the WSF and how to achieve this?
- Proposal of the EC of the WSF e.V.:
 - o EC of the WSF is waiting until September 15, deadline of applications
 - o Next meeting of EC is at September 19, 2023
 - o Based on the existing information the EC will take a (final) decision on how to proceed with the WSF e.V.
 - Option 1: found a successor, business-as-usual
 - Option 2: dissolution of society
 - Option 3: handing over to Province of Friesland
 - Option 4: Merging with Partnership Hub (-> Ms Perrin, Mr Rösner)
 - o The EC will inform the membership immediately after the decision

8 Information about the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee met July 5 in Heide. The SC was informed by the WSF secretariat about the progress regarding the high and medium priority topics. These topics were identified at the WSF-43 in Harlingen as important to deal with until the next Ministers Conference in 2026. Moreover, the SC

- was informed that Mr Ahlhorn is going to leave the WSF
- discussed comprehensively about the future of the WSF
- and prepared the agenda for the WSF-44 plenary meeting

9 Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards, OBW and WSB

Mr Luna, CWSS, informed the participants that no new secretary has been found yet for the CWSS.

10 Next meeting

In case of continuation of the WSF, the next meeting is scheduled for May 28-29, 2024 in Heide (county of Dithmarschen).

11 Any other business

Mr Kaiser gave a short presentation on the Lower Saxon "Ecological Strategy for a Sediment Management". His presentation is on the WSFs website.

12 Closing

The chair, Mr Preben Friis-Hauge, thanked all participants for the vivid discussion and closed the meeting on September 8 at 13 hours.

ANNEX 2

**Wadden Sea Forum
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DRAFT AGENDA

- 1. Opening**
- 2. Adoption of the Draft Minutes of WSF-43**
- 3. Announcements**
- 4. Progress in high priority topics of WSF**
- 5. Progress reports on medium priority and other topics of WSF**
- 6. Involvement in TWSC**
- 7. WSF strategy process 2026**
- 8. Information about the Steering Committee**
- 9. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards, OBW and WSB**
- 10. Next meeting**
- 11. Any other business**
- 12. Closing**

ANNEX 3

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DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

1. WSF secretariat prepares a draft version of the roadmap "Sediment management in Wadden Sea Ports" in order to submit the roadmap to the next WSb-42 meeting November 23, 2023
2. The WSFs EC will meet at September 19, 2023, in order to take a final decision on how to continue with the WSF e.V.