



Wadden Sea Forum
WG Shipping, 1st Meeting
Wilhelmshaven, 28 September 2006
FINAL MINUTES

1. Opening

The draft agenda was adopted. The agenda is in **Annex 1**. A list of participants is in **Annex 2**.

2. Election of a chairperson

The meeting elected Mr. Martin Loos as chairperson for this meeting.

3. Announcements

Later note by CWSS: the WSF website had been renewed and asked for feedback.

4./5. Work contents and work program

Documents:

- WSF Recommendations in "Breaking the Ice" 2005
- WSF Action Plan 2005
- WSF 8 Final Draft Minutes 3/2006
- Schiermonnikoog Declaration 11/2005 §§ 14-17 and Annex 1
- Declaration North Sea Ministerial Meeting on the Environmental Impact of Shipping and Fisheries, 5/2005

According to the WSF Action Plan (WSF-7) the aim regarding shipping was defined as:

"to closely monitor relevant shipping safety developments in particular the priority issues from the WSF final report".

WSF-8 formulated the task of WSF-WG-Shipping:

"Checking of implementation trilateral shipping decisions".

After an information exchange on the activities and decisions in the past the WSF-WG-Shipping discussed these actions formulated by WSF-7 and WSF-8 and defined the following more detailed tasks of the WG:

1. to support the implementation of the Schiermonnikoog Declaration on shipping, in particular § 17 a-f;

2. to further propose additional issues (to be listed) as written in the WSF recommendations (see WSF final report);
3. to comment on the EC Maritime Green Paper with the view on shipping issues for the Wadden Sea.
[The Green Paper can be downloaded from http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy_en.html
This website also provides background information about the Green Paper, as well as a questionnaire which may help studying the document.]

Regarding 1)

As a first step it was agreed by the meeting to formulate a letter by the WSF chairman to TWG to request the status of the implementation of the decisions regarding shipping of the Schiermonnikoog Declaration in the three countries.

In the same letter the three Wadden Sea states should be invited to send governmental observers to the WSF-WG-Shipping meetings.

A draft letter (see Annex 3, compiled after the WSF-WP-Shipping meeting) should be discussed by the WSF-Steering Committee (SC) on 4.10.2006, with the aim to send it out as soon as possible.

Regarding 2)

This task will be started after getting the response of the three countries on the status of the implementation (see under 1).

If necessary experts on special subjects will be invited agenda related to the meetings of the WSF-WG-Shipping.

Regarding 3)

To be able to give a WSF-feedback to the EC Maritime Green Paper until the deadline June 2007, as a first step an EC representative should be invited to introduce and discuss the EC Marine Strategy at least with the WSF-WG-Shipping (respectively with the WSF-9) at the end of 2006/beginning of 2007.

The WSF-SC should discuss whether the presentation of the EC Maritime Green Paper/EC Marine Strategy should be given at WSF-9 or at a meeting of the WSF-WG-Shipping, which will be open to interested WSF-members.

Agreements regarding additional members / experts for the WSF-WG-Shipping:

Additional members of WSF-WG-Shipping:

- Mr. Rynck van der Woude, who will be retired as Director Netherlands Coastguard, Den Helder (Mr. Loos will contact Mr. van der Woude)

Depending on the issues on the agenda following expertise could be necessary in future:

- international legal expertises (e.g. Prof. Lagoni, Hamburg)
- representative from a pilot organization, nautical organization
- representative from KIMO
- representative who is practically involved in the field of towing capacity
- representative from GAUSS mbh (consultant for WSF study in 2004)

Regular governmental observer such as (see also request in the draft letter to TWG in **Annex 3**):

- Mr. Arjen L. Bosch, Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat, Rijkswaterstaat directie Noord-Nederland (RWS), Leeuwarden (former TWG representative)
- representatie from the German Waters and Shipping Direction, Kiel and Aurich
- DK ?

6. Any other business

A map on the amount of ship traffic (see at Mr. van der Woude's place) would be helpful as basis for the compilation of a trilateral map on density of ship traffic.

The secretariat offered to take care for the information exchange on relevant documents etc. between the members of the group (e.g. information of KIMO).

Hans von Wecheln informed the meeting about the following documents:

- Interreg Demonstration Project D: Safety at Sea 2004-2007 (further partners are welcome; documents will be distributed by e-mail to the members of the group).
- Communication from the Commission - Third package of legislative measures on maritime safety in the European Union {SEC(2005) 1496}, /* COM/2005/0585 final */
- Proposal for a DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL amending Directive 2002/59/EC establishing a Community vessel traffic monitoring and information system, COM(2005) 589 final
(EC documents can be found and downloaded from <http://ec.europa.eu/>)

7. Next meeting

The meeting schedule of WSF-WG-Shipping should be about twice a year. The meeting location should be Wilhelmshaven, Hamburg or Bremen.

A next meeting of WSF-WG-Shipping was not fixed, because the date is depending firstly on the outcome of the decision of the WSF Steering Committee regarding the invitation of an EC representative concerning the Greenbook, and secondly on the availability of the response of the Wadden Sea governments on the state of the art regarding the Schiermonnikoog decisions on shipping.

8. Closing

Mr. Loos closed the meeting at 13:45 hours.

Annex 1: Agenda



**Wadden Sea Forum
WG Shipping, 1st Meeting
Wilhelmshaven, 28.09.2006**

AGENDA

1. Opening
2. Election of a chairperson
3. Announcements
4. Work content
5. Work Program
6. Any other business
7. Next Meeting
8. Closing

Annex 3:

Draft Letter

To: Trilateral Working Group / The Heads of Delegations

WSF Request to TWG regarding the Schiermonnikoog Declaration “Shipping Safety”

Related to the Schiermonnikoog decisions on shipping safety (§§14 - 17 and Annex 1) there had been discussions in the Wadden Sea Forum which resulted in the establishment respectively the continuation of the WSF Working Group Shipping Safety and some relevant requests.

In general it can be stated that important parts - though by far not all - of our WSF recommendations on shipping safety of the Breaking-the-Ice report were included in the Schiermonnikoog Declaration. In our opinion in particular §17 a - f prioritizes and gives focus and guidance for the actions which have to be undertaken as follow-up to the Schiermonnikoog Conference.

It is therefore of great interest for WSF to know what has been achieved regarding §17 and Annex 1 in the three Wadden Sea countries since November 2005. Therefore we kindly request information to which extent activities especially concerning §17, both on the national and trilateral level had been undertaken during the first year after the Schiermonnikoog Conference. It would be very helpful to receive these information for the next plenary meeting of WSF, which will take place on 30 Nov/1 Dec 2006.

Furthermore, I would like to inform you that the WSF Working Group Shipping Safety both offers and requests participation from the Trilateral Cooperation and relevant national administrations responsible for shipping safety, both in an observing and advising role and with the particular focus on how the implementation of §17 a - f could be supported and, if necessary, enhanced.