

# WADDEN SEA FORUM

## THEMATIC GROUP FISHERIES

### Meeting TG-F-1

Wilhelmshaven, 4-5 March 2003

#### Final Minutes

#### 1. OPENING

*Documents:* TG-F-1-1-1 Draft Agenda  
TG-F-1-1-2: Composition of all Thematic Groups

The meeting was opened by the chairperson Mr. Jaap Holstein. He invited the participants to a round of introduction. The agenda was adopted and is in **Annex 1**. A list of participants is in **Annex 2**. The documents for the meeting are in **Annex 3**.

An updated schedule with members of all Thematic Groups was handed out.

#### 2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

#### 3. REPORT TEAM MEETING

The secretary informed the meeting about the preparatory meeting of chairpersons and secretaries of the Thematic groups (Team meeting) of 9 January 2003. All issues discussed at this meeting are also covered in the agenda of TG-F-1.

#### 4. DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

*Documents:* Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) of the TG-Fisheries (TG-F1-4.1)  
Terms of Reference WSF (TG F 1-4.2)  
Rules of Procedure WSF (TG F 1-4.3)

The secretary informed that the draft Terms of Reference (TORs) were based upon the general text as adopted at the first Wadden Sea Forum meeting. To this general text a draft list of issues to be addressed by the fisheries group had been added.

Mr. Revier asked the meeting whether any formal agreements for deputy members had been made. This being not the case he proposed Ms. Heike Vesper as deputy for both him and Mr. Tougaard which was **accepted** by the meeting.

The meeting **adopted** the draft ToRs for submission to and endorsement by the WSF-2 meeting. The draft Terms of Reference are in **Annex 4**.

For the information of the TG the Terms of Reference of the Wadden Sea Forum and the Rules of Procedure of the Wadden Sea Forum had been provided.

#### 5. DISCUSSION ON EXPECTATIONS: WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*Document:* What is sustainable development (TG F 1-5)

The first WSF meeting had decided to discuss sustainable development at the second meeting (24-25 April 2003) and to invite the Thematic Groups to provide input to this discussion.

To initiate this discussion, a document with basic questions had been sent to the members of the TGs. The chairman invited the participants to present their position regarding these questions.

Mr. de Leeuw stated that fisheries in the Wadden Sea had been sustainable for more than 100 years. His definition of sustainable development was "Stay profitable and save the planet."

He described the situation in Schleswig-Holstein where a 20-year contract had been agreed upon by the Schleswig-Holstein Ministry of the Environment, Nature and Forests and the mussel fisheries sector. The aim of the contract was to achieve sustainable development in accordance with the agreements of the Rio Conference, i.e. that natural resources be used in such a way that their potential for future generations does not get lost. This contract illustrated the three aspects of sustainability: it provided a long-term economic perspective, it had an important social element in that local jobs in the mussel processing industry had been created and it had an ecological component according to which mussel seed fishing is only allowed in the sublittoral.

Mr. Krog underlined that if fishing would be unsustainable the fishermen would be the first to feel the damage. He stressed the importance of the Wadden Sea as a nursery area for North Sea fish stocks.

Mr. Loos informed the meeting about the case of shrimp fishing and the Dutch cartel authority (NMA). In the international Wadden Sea there are some 600 shrimp vessels and the catches are sold to two customers. In the past years the shrimp fishermen have been co-operating in a system in which average prices and catches have been fixed. This system is, according to Mr. Loos, a sustainable system because it guarantees fishermen a good economic situation, while catches are 20 to 40% lower than in an unregulated system. Recently the Dutch NMA has imposed a fine of EURO13,8 million upon the shrimp fishermen because of forbidden price agreements.

Mr. Loos severely criticised the lack of co-ordination between authorities: on the one hand limiting fishing pressure and, generally, sustainable development was encouraged, on the other hand a good system was heavily punished.

He finally pointed to the importance of fishing for the recreation in the area: for most people fishing belongs to the Wadden Sea.

Mr. Revier stated that originally the definition of sustainability focused on third world problems (Brundland Report). He pointed to the Common Objectives for the trilateral Wadden Sea which had already been adopted in 1991, in particular the objective that natural processes should proceed in an undisturbed way. In fisheries these objectives should be taken into account. According to Mr. Revier sustainable fishing in the Wadden Sea was possible and the conditions should be based upon a weighing of the effects of different types of fishing on natural processes.

According to Mr. Tougaard sustainability means leaving sufficient resources for future generations. Fishing in the Wadden Sea should be no problem as long as stocks of species (fish, shellfish, birds etc.) stay in balance in the long term.

The chairman underlined the importance of stock management for sustainable fishing.

According to Mr. Revier stock management is not possible for shellfish fishing. Instead, significant impacts on the ecosystem should be the starting point for management. This was also in line with the Habitat and Bird Directive. Mr. Revier informed the meeting about developments in the Dutch shellfish policies in the past 10 years (see also trilateral Report "Shellfish fishing in the Wadden Sea") and about the EVA-II research project. The results of this project in which several impacts of shellfish fishing on the ecosystem have been investigated (amongst others food situation for birds and sediment composition) will be presented this summer and serve as a basis for discussions about future policies in The Netherlands.

Ms. Geldorp stated that local governments are well aware of the importance of the Wadden Sea. She was of the opinion that sustainable development is an opportunity to survive and that a balance between living conditions and earning money should be found. The concept should, however, first be discussed in a broader perspective.

Mr. Borchardt considered mussel fishing not a big problem in Schleswig-Holstein where there are 8 vessels and 2200 ha of mussel culture lots. He pointed to the problem of overfishing in the North Sea which may affect the Wadden Sea. He mentioned in this respect the bycatch of shrimp fishing.

Mr. Loos replied that techniques to reduce bycatch are available. These are applied in Dutch shrimp nets and have resulted in an 80% reduction of bycatch.

Mr. Werwath informed about the fish processing industry in Cuxhaven which provides 5000 jobs. In the 1970s there had been 80 fishing vessels in Cuxhaven, now there are 2. Fish is imported from Norway, Poland and other countries. There is 20% unemployment in Cuxhaven and Mr. Werwath's only aim is to keep the fish processing industry in the region.

According to Mr. Borchardt overfishing had been responsible for the disappearance of employment. To this Mr. Loos responded that governments had first stimulated bigger fleets but were giving no support for problems this had caused.

Mr. Revier suggested to analyse why in Schleswig-Holstein there are only 8 vessels operative whereas in the Netherlands there are 80 vessels. The landings of mussels are in the same order of magnitude. He considered the efficient catch of seed mussels an important sustainability issue. He furthermore suggested to investigate the possibilities for raising seed mussels in the North Sea.

The chairman stated that the possibilities to exchange seed mussels within the international Wadden Sea should be improved. He illustrated this by the fact that if there is a surplus of seed mussels in Schleswig-Holstein, it is not allowed to sell this surplus to the Netherlands.

Mr. Loos raised the issue of a possible future for fisheries. He pointed in this respect to the problem of getting sufficient crews.

Mr. Krog was worried about the general decline of catches in Danish coastal waters. He was of the opinion that this was not only a management problem and wondered whether pollution could be a cause.

Mr. Werwath mentioned in this respect offshore activities in the North Sea and their possible impact on fishing grounds.

Ms. Mack raised the issue of processing of fish and shellfish because this was important for employment in the region.

Mr. Revier pointed to the fact that most mussels from the Dutch Wadden Sea are not processed in the Dutch Wadden Sea region but in the province of Zeeland.

Mr. Loos stated that in the other TGs socio-economic developments had been addressed.

Mr. Beninga had been in contact with the fisheries industry in Lower Saxony. He informed that 10 years ago there were 260 family firms, whereas now there were 160. Each of these firms provided 20 to 50 jobs in the region. His main goal was to maintain the fisheries firms in their present number. He considered price agreements good for the fisheries industry and regretted that such was not allowed.

Mr. Beninga stated that industrial fishing in the North Sea is a problem, mainly with regard to bycatch. The latter was confirmed by Mr. Loos.

Mr. Krog responded that documentation is needed showing the harm of industrial fisheries.

Finally the chairman, Mr. Holstein presented his view on sustainable fisheries, which could be briefly summarised as "profit-planet-people." He informed that the Dutch shellfish sector had produced a concept for sustainable fishing and handed out a document in which this concept was described.

He furthermore stated that, in his view, producers' organisations could play an important role in sustainable fisheries by regulating fishing methods for all fishermen involved. This was, according to Mr. Holstein, not only the case for shrimp fishing, as described above, but also for mussel fishing.

## 6. WORKING METHOD

### 6.1 Scenario approach

A presentation about the advantages of scenario development for the work of the TGs, including the basic requirements for building scenarios was given by Mr. Ben Römgens, expert in scenario methodology. The sheets presented by Mr. Römgens were handed out at the meeting.

Following this presentation the participants discussed the relevance of a number of general trends for the building of scenarios. In addition an inventory was made of oracle questions, trends and decisions related to fisheries. The results of this inventory are in **Annex 5**.

### 6.2 Work schedule

*Document: Draft work schedule (TG F-1-6-1)*

A draft working schedule for the TGs, based upon the scenario methodology was presented by the secretary. The meeting **adopted** the working schedule which would be submitted to the WSF2 meeting for endorsement. The draft Work Schedule is in **Annex 6**.

According to the Work Schedule generic trends report will be elaborated by the secretariat and presented for discussion at the joint workshop of 23-24 June 2004. All participants were requested to provide the secretary with relevant information. In the same period the secretariat will also make an inventory of trends which are relevant for fisheries, amongst others on the basis of Annex 4. For this inventory also input by the members of TG Fisheries is essential.

According to the Working Schedule the next TG meeting will be a joint workshop on 23-24 June 2003. The 3rd meeting was fixed at 8-9 September 2003 in Cuxhaven and will be hosted by Mr. Werwath. The 4th meeting was scheduled for 9 and 10 December 2003 and the 5th and last meeting of the TG Fisheries was scheduled for 2 and 3 March 2004.

## 7. ROLE OF EXPERT STUDIES AND EXPERT CONSULTANTS.

*Document: Draft ToR expert (TG F 1-7)*

The meeting was informed about progress in the initiation of general studies on policy and management and socio-economic aspects of the Wadden Sea region. For the latter the Terms of Reference were handed out with the request for comments. The secretary informed the meeting that the general studies should be finished by the end of May 2003 and should provide important background information for the generic trends.

The meeting discussed the draft Terms of Reference (TORs) for specific expertise. Comments made were that the list was too broad for specific studies and that ecological aspects were missing. It was **agreed** to postpone the adoption of expert ToRs until it is clear which specific issues should be investigated.

The meeting also discussed inviting experts to TG meetings. It was **agreed** to discuss this at the coming meetings.

## 8. INFORMATION STRATEGY

With regard to the distribution of background documents the secretariat proposed that for the TG meetings in principle only documents directly related to the meeting would be distributed.

If members would like to provide the TG members with background documents, the secretariat would be informed and announce such documents in a list which would sent out together with the meeting documents. On the basis of this list individual members can request documents from the secretariat, download them from the WSF site or pick them up during the meetings.

The meeting **endorsed** this proposal.

## 9. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The secretary informed that in the coming months a draft communication strategy will be elaborated by Mr. Römgen, together with the secretariat. This strategy will address:

- Communication within the project, i.e. between TGs and between TGs and WSF;
- Communication between WSF members and their respective sectors;
- Communication with the outside world, i.e. the general public in the region.

The meeting **agreed** that the communication of TG members with the outside world should be restricted to what was written down in the TG documents. The main responsibility for communication was with the WSF members. Reference was in this respect made to the Rules of Procedure of the WSF.

With regard to the communication strategy it was stressed that the process should be transparent, i.e. that the strategy should be clear about what would be communicated to whom at what time.

## 10. FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The secretary informed that the WSF project is financed through the EU Interreg IIIB program and contributions of participants. The latter are mainly in the form of working hours invested in the project and costs for travel and accommodation. Both working hours and travel costs must be administered for all participants.

The meeting was informed about the requirements of Interreg IIIB with regard to time writing and travel costs and the filling in of relevant forms.

The forms (Excel files and explanatory note) would be sent to the participants after the meeting.

#### **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no any other business

#### **12. CLOSING**

The chairman thanked the participants for their co-operation and closed the meeting at 12:00 hours.

**Wadden Sea Forum  
Thematic Group Fisheries**

**1st meeting**

**Agenda**

- 1. Opening**
- 2. Announcements**
- 3. Report Team Meeting**
- 4. Draft Terms of Reference**
- 5. Discussion on expectations, what is sustainable development**
- 6. Working Method**
  - 6.1 Scenario approach**
  - 6.2 Time schedule**
- 7. Role of expert studies and expert consultants.  
Draft ToRs experts**
- 8. Information strategy**
- 9. Communication strategy**
- 10. Financial and administrative matters**
- 11. Any other business**

## Annex 3

## LIST OF DOCUMENTS TG FI-1

Doc. no.	Contents	Delivered		
		by	date	how
<b>Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda</b>				
1-1-1	Draft agenda	Secretariat	17. Feb.	e-mail
1-1-2	Composition of all Thematic Groups (TGs)	Secretariat	17. Feb	e-mail
1-1-2rev	Composition Thematic Groups	Secretariat	4 March	Handed out
<b>Agenda item 2: Announcements</b>				
<b>Agenda item 3: Report Team meeting</b>				
<b>Agenda item 4: Draft Terms of Reference</b>				
1-4-1	Draft Terms of Reference of the TG Fisheries	Secretariat	17. Feb	e-mail
1-4-2	Terms of Reference Wadden Sea Forum	Secretariat	17. Feb	e-mail
1-4-3	Rules of Procedure Wadden Sea Forum	Secretariat	17. Feb	e-mail
<b>Agenda item 5: Discussion on expectations, what is sustainable development</b>				
1-5	What is sustainable development?	Secretariat	17. Feb	e-mail
<b>Agenda item 6: Working scheme</b>				
<b>Agenda item 6.1: Scenario approach</b>				
<b>Agenda item 6.2: Time schedule</b>				
1.6.2	Draft work schedule	Secretariat	17. Feb	e-mail
<b>Agenda item 7: Role of expert studies and expert consultants. Draft ToR agriculture expert</b>				
1-7	Draft ToR fisheries expert	Secretariat	17. Feb.	e-mail
	Draft ToR general study socio-economy	Secretariat	5 March	Handed out
<b>Agenda item 8: Information strategy</b>				
<b>Agenda item 9: Communication strategy</b>				
<b>Agenda item 10: Financial and administrative matters</b>				
1-10	Administrative matters	Secretariat		sent out after meeting
<b>Agenda item 11: Any other business</b>				

## DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) THEMATIC GROUP FISHERIES

### 1. Overall objective

Thematic Groups are installed by the Trilateral Wadden Sea Forum (WSF) with the aim of preparing background material for consideration and further elaboration of the plenary meetings of the WSF.

### 2. Tasks

The thematic groups have the following overall tasks

- To collect relevant information in the thematic fields and to analyze and assess this information with a view to elaborate various sustainable development scenarios based on the information collected and analyzed, and on different forecasts, expectations and visions;
- To develop, on the basis of an assessment of the various scenarios, proposals for the most appropriate scenarios;
- To elaborate recommendations and proposals for strategies for the implementation of selected scenarios, as well as general recommendations for visions and strategies on sustainable development in the Wadden Sea region;
- To commission, if necessary, studies and analyses for the work of the groups and invite, if necessary, experts to support its work;
- To ensure the necessary dialogue with the organizations not represented in the WSF, both nationally and locally, regarding analyses, proposals and recommendations in the work field of those organizations;
- To deliver, upon request of the WSF, further input to the work of the WSF.

#### More in particular the Thematic Group on Fisheries will address:

1. Sectors (i.e. blue mussel, cockle, shrimp, fish)
2. Products/Production volume per sector
3. Turnover per sector
4. Area covered per sector
5. Employment per sector
6. Marketing aspects
7. Local and regional processing
8. Sustainability aspects of fisheries
9. National policies
10. The Common Fisheries Policy and its impacts
11. National and international environmental regulations and their impacts (a.o. Habitat, Bird, WFD Directives)
12. Developments in past 10 years with regard to above parameters
13. Expected development for above parameters
14. Perspectives

### 3. Composition

Chairperson:	Mr. Holstein (NL)
Representatives of the sectors:	
Fisheries:	Mr. de Leeuw (SH) Mr. Krogt (DK) Mr. Breckling (NdS)
Tourism:	Mr. Loos (NL)
Nature:	Mr. Revier (NL) Mr. Tougaard (DK)
Harbor/Industry:	Mr. Bisgaard (DK) Mr. Werwath (NdS)
Local Government:	Ms Geldorp-Pantekoek (NL)
Regional Government:	Mr. Rasmus-Tamsen (SH) Mr. Beninga (NdS)
Secretaries:	Mr. de Jong, Ms Reineking (CWSS)



#### **4. Time schedule**

Each Thematic Group will deliver its final report, including proposals for recommendations, by March 2004 ultimately.

The meetings of the Thematic Groups will be prepared by the chairperson of the thematic group and the secretariat. The first meeting will be held as soon as possible taking account of the available secretarial resources.

#### **5. Reporting**

The Thematic Groups will deliver to the WSF2 meeting a work plan for its work including a specification of its tasks and deliveries, to be approved by the WSF.

The Thematic Groups report to the WSF-meetings.

#### **6. Facilitation**

The Thematic Groups are facilitated by the WSF secretariat.

## QUESTIONS, TRENDS AND DECISIONS

**QUESTIONS:** What questions would you ask an Oracle about the situation of fisheries in 2020?

### Technology

1. What new fishery techniques can be expected and what will be the effect of these techniques?
2. Will there be better detection techniques for shellfish poisoning?
3. Are artificial mussel culture plots outside the area possible?
4. Do we have alternative for fish breeding?
5. Will it be possible to change from cultivation to mussel fishery to natural beds in the Wadden Sea?

### Economy

6. What will be the impact of nurseries of oysters and new species from other continents on our production and profitability?
7. How will the world economics develop and how will this affect our sector?
8. How want people earn a living in 2020?
9. How will globalisation develop and what will be the impact on our fishery sector?
10. Will we able to dominant the distribution, production and trading in the future mussel market? Will the Irish mussel be marketed as a “zeeuwse” mussel?
11. Where will we catch our fresh mussels?
12. How will the sector react to the growing demand for fresh shellfish from for example eastern Europe?
13. Will the Dutch still dominate fishery in the Wadden Sea Area?
14. How can traditional small scale fishery survive?
15. *What are the characteristics of the future consumer?*<sup>1</sup>
16. Can eco labelling increase the profits of Wadden Sea fisheries?
17. *Will fishery be an international sector?*
18. *What will be the structure of the sector (which group is driving)?*
19. *What will be the future of aquaculture and how will it influence the fishery sector?*
20. What % of capital would an oracle invest in Wadden Sea fishery?

### Ecology

21. What will be the pollution problems of the future and how will they influence the stock of fishery?
22. What kind of nature disasters can we expect? How can we prepare ourselves?
23. What will be the impact of off shore windmill parks on fishery?
24. What new possibilities did the sector create/get to develop in a sustainable way?
25. What will be the effect of oil accidents of spills?
26. Will the nature in het WS still be protected (why, by whom and how)?
27. What will be the impact of fishery on the eco system?
28. What will be the impact of climate change and seal level rise on the fishery sector?
29. How we succeed to change (improve the stocks)?
30. *Can we expect ‘cleaner’ water or will new technologies (like gen-manipulated food) lead to new kinds of pollution? How will this influence the eco system?*

### Politics

31. What will be the consequences of war or geo political tension?
32. Will there be room for self regulation?
33. Is there a situation after 20 years without quota?
34. Will the way of policy making of the EU change, will they for example succeed in integrating the western democratic way of policy making with the good aspects of policy making in former Eastern Europe. How will possible changes affect our region/sector?
35. Will EU fishery policy bring back fish and end over fishing?
36. Will fishery be accepted again in Germany?

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<sup>1</sup> All questions in italics:

*Oracle questions scenario study National Council of Agricultural Research (NRL0)*

Annex 6

Draft work scheme

	2003												2004											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Wadden Sea Forum Meeting</b>				II 24-25						III 30-31						IV 15-16				V 16-17		VI 4-5		
<b>Thematic Group Meeting</b>		TG 1				TG 2 23-24			TG 3			TG 4			TG 5									
<b>Regional Conferences</b>																	*							
<b>Final Conference</b>																						*		
<b>Thematic Group Work Schedule</b>																								
<b>TG1. TORs/Working method/Planning</b>		X																						
Consultants: External studies																								
Secretariat: write generic trend reports																								
TG members: provide sector-specific information.																								
<b>TG2. Joint workshop.</b> Discussion Generic trend report; Specific trends. Scenario Skeleton						X																		
Secretariat: write specific trend report																								
Consultants: specific studies (if necessary)																								
Secretariat: build 1st draft scenarios																								
<b>TG3. Discuss 1st draft scenarios.</b> First ideas for strategies									X															
Secretariat: build 2nd draft scenarios																								
TG members: proposals for sector-specific strategies																								
<b>TG 4. Discuss 2nd draft scenarios.</b> Test strategies												X												
Secretariat: finalize trend reports and scenarios																								
<b>TG 5. Finalize and integrate strategies.</b> Recommendations to WSF.																X								