



Wadden Sea Forum

13th Meeting

Fanø, 18-19 November 2008

Agenda Item: 13
Subject: Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards
Document No. WSF 13-13-2
Date: 17 November 2008
Submitted by: Danish Wadden Sea Advisory Board

Attached is a report of the Danish Wadden Sea Advisory Board

PROPOSAL: The meeting is invited to take note of the information

Report from the Danish Wadden Sea Advisory Board to the Wadden Sea Forum

November 2008.

Since the last meeting of the Wadden Sea Forum in June 2008 the Danish advisory Council for the Wadden Sea has met only once. The main topics discussed were:

Discussion of the new draft Wadden Sea Declaration and revised Common Wadden Sea Cooperation organisational structure

The Danish Wadden Sea Advisory Board has started its discussion of the new draft framework for the future of the Wadden Sea Cooperation. As a whole the Danish Advisory Board welcome the added emphasis on landscape and cultural heritage as well as an integrated approach to planning as future topics for the Cooperation and the Wadden Sea plan.

The preliminary discussions show a concern from the representatives from harbours and agriculture that the present draft should have more emphasis on the Wadden Sea area as a place where people live and work and where the conditions for doing so should continue to be present reflecting new developments within the various economic sectors as mentioned in "Breaking the Ice".

Local authorities have expressed a desire to see Natura 2000 sites on the landward side of the dikes included in the cooperation in all three countries in the future.

Nature Conservation interest in the Advisory Board commended the new draft and find that provides a good starting point for the future cooperation.

The topic is tabled for further discussion in the next meeting of the Board on 21st of November, where it will be linked with a request from the Dutch "Raad voor de Wadden" to provide comments on the future role of the Wadden Sea Plan vis a vis the new Natura 2000 Management Plans.

Status for geese – with a special focus on problems arising from increasing numbers of Barnacle Geese feeding on grazing areas on the island of Mandø

The Danish Advisory Board has previously had a debate of the problems with increasing numbers of Barnacle Geese feeding on grazing areas on the island of Mandø making it very difficult for local farmers to produce sufficient grass for their sheep. The Ministers of agriculture and environment have pledged to find a solution to the problem and have announced that they look to the upcoming Trilateral Seminar on Geese in Ribe 19th to 20th of November.

In the mean time members of the Advisory Board were concerned by news from the Netherlands where geese were allegedly being caught in nets and subsequently destroyed. The board will be looking for confirmation of the news and subsequently discuss the ethics involved in destroying the birds rather than using them for food.

The Danish Wadden Sea National Park

In January 2008 the Danish Parliament approved the establishment of five new National Parks in Denmark. The parks are to be established over a three year period and the first park - 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. In the mean time the Forest and Nature Agency in cooperation with the Environmental Centre in Ribe and the 4 Wadden Sea Municipalities have hosted a series of five thematic workshops providing ideas and inspiration on how the new Wadden Sea National Park can contribute to highlighting cultural heritage, tourism and business development, nature conservation and information/education.

The next step in the formation of the Wadden Sea National Park in Denmark will be the release of draft regulations for the park by the middle of 2009 as mentioned above.

“My Wadden Sea” – a new webbased educational programme

The Danish Advisory Board was given a presentation of a new 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, Fanoe 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.