



Wadden Sea Forum

14th Meeting

Harlingen, 16-17 June 2009

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

Agenda item 1. Opening and adoption of the Agenda

Document WSF-14-1. Draft Annotated Agenda

On behalf of the chairman, the secretary welcomed the participants to Liauckama State (Sexbierum), thanked the Dutch colleagues for the preparation and organisation of the whole course of the meeting and opened the plenary at 13:00 on 16 June 2009.

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

The meeting **adopted** the agenda without further amendments. The agenda is in **Annex 2**.

A list of agreements and decisions as summary of WSF-14 is in **Annex 3**.

Agenda item 2. Adoption final draft minutes WSF-13

Document: Final Draft Minutes WSF-13

The meeting **adopted** the final draft minutes of the WSF-13 meeting, Fanø, 18-19 November 2008.

Agenda item 3. Membership WSF

Document: WSF-14-3.1. Member List

The secretary referred to the WSF member list and informed the meeting about changes since the last meeting on Fanø:

DK Tourism:	new member Mr. Poul Therkelsen from the Danish Wadden Sea Tourism Board
DK Fisheries:	Mr. Henrik S. Lund from Denmark's fishery organisation as deputy
D Federal Government:	Ms. Stefanie Hedtkamp, Environmental Ministry as deputy for Ms. Paulus
D LS Tourism:	replacement of Mr. Doellinger (Spiekeroog) not realized yet
D LS Energy:	Mr. Gerd Töpken from Statkraft new member (former deputy), deputy now vacant
NL Fisheries:	Ms. Cora Seip-Markensteijn officially new member
NL Industry:	new member Mr. Rene Genee from Groningen Seaports
NL local government:	new member Mr. Albert de Hoop from Ameland

Agenda item 4. Announcements

Ms. Schokker, reported about the new findings of the Delta Commission, a Sustainable Coastal Development Committee, and the advice for the government. Climate change requested a new delta plan to adapt coastal protection measures, fresh water management and spatial planning. As an example, she mentioned the measure to fortify the Afsluitdijk combined with the use of blue energy. An English summary of the Delta Commission report can be found on the WSF website:

www.waddensea-forum.org/Specialissues/coastal_planning.html.

Mr. Rothkopf referred to the new water management and federal nature conservation acts and pointed at its importance for spatial planning also in the EEZ. If this would not pass the parliament, a disharmonism across the federal states would be the case. Also measures of CO₂ storage had been agreed in parliament. Besides two other locations, also in Wilhelmshaven a pilot project is planned to store CO₂, arising from the operation of a new coal power plant.

Mr. Verheij referred to the agreement between the NGOs and the mussel fisheries sector and underlined the importance of this agreement for a sustainable fishery for the coming decade. **A summary of this covenant will be made available by Mr. Baerends.**

Mr. Holst Christensen announced that the Danish Wadden Sea organization for Nature & Cultural Extension/Information "Vadehavets FormidlerForum", as part of its work to promote knowledge of natural and cultural values in the Wadden Sea area has developed an internet based educational platform (www.mitvadehav.dk), which has now been joined by more than 80 school classes from year 4 to 7. Very recently the Forum also published a school book on the subject which has been shown interest from the tourism business, since the tourism sector deals with "Play and Learn" as a theme. For this purpose translated versions in German and English will be considered. The "Vadehavets FormidlerForum" is the platform for the International Wadden Sea School in Denmark and through this shares its experiences with partners in the Netherlands and Germany.

Mr. Klimant informed the meeting that a political discussion about CO₂ storage has just started and he proposed to discuss this topic in more detail at the WSF-15 meeting. Besides the pilots in Germany, also a pilot project (Shell refinery) in the Netherlands, would be carried out next year.

Mr. Vollmer pointed at the wished distribution of the WSF newsletter and requested the delivery of relevant information of all members to make the newsletter a sound information recourse. The **deadline for the 2nd newsletter would be 29 June**.

Agenda item 5. Minutes 6th meeting Steering Committee

Document: WSF-14-5.1. Minutes SC-6

The meeting took note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting, SC-6, Hamburg, 24 April 2009. Mr. Christensen remarked that the announced Euregio meeting had been postponed to September this year.

Agenda item 6. Progress WSF activities

Document WSF-14-6.1. 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 stated the workshop as very successful and useful. He highlighted the presentations about ICZM on different levels as a basis for the following discussion and conclusions. The presentations were already placed on the WSF website. Finally, the workshop concluded two main recommendations, which aim at an ICZM approach also for the TWSC and the implementation of a staff position ICZM at the highest political level with sound political back up and power.
- WG EII: Mr. Rothkopf referred to the inventory of energy and harbour related activities, which is maintained by the secretariat. The results of the energy study had already been integrated. The inventory could be inspected on the WSF website. He asked the Forum members to actively contribute to the update and improvement of the inventory. He also informed the meeting that the study regarding the inventory and assessment of energy plants in the Wadden Sea Region would also be available on the WSF website.
- WG Shipping: Mr. Loos emphasised the work on shipping safety, including control systems and towing capacity. In this context, he expressed his displeasure that Groningen Seaports had withdrawn from their presentation about experiences in shipping safety in the Ems estuary. He further pointed at the insufficient towing capacity for bigger ships and in case of heavy weather. Regarding a further important topic he referred to the presentation by John Mouat about container shipping.
- WG Agriculture: Mr. Hinrichs reported about the 2nd meeting of the Goose Management Group as the only task of the working group agriculture for the time being (see agenda item 7).
- WG Tourism: It was stated that the tourism sector would be very important for the Wadden Sea Region. Therefore, a new attempt was made bringing together responsible group members to initiate and elaborate further actions. At the Euregio meeting in September, the new tourism group will discuss further steps. One project of the WSF tourism group would be the support of the International Gastronomy Award 2010 in Denmark. A first coordination meeting between WSF and the Dutch organisation "Stichting Waddengroup" took place in the afternoon of 16 June.

Agenda item 7. Goose management

Document WSF-14-7.1. Goose management

The secretary and Mr. Hinrichs briefly informed the meeting about the progress of the GMG work. A second meeting took place on 3 June in Hamburg and a draft structure for the recommendation and guidance document was elaborated. It was emphasized that the focus of the guidance document should be on the future management issues and the recommendations. The recommendations would play an important role, as these are directed to the higher political level who would decide about the application in the future schemes.

Furthermore, the GMG meeting analyzed the available compilation of compensation schemes. The compilation was a first draft which needed more balancing across the regions and a better focus on the defined tasks. An intensified dialogue between the secretariat and

the responsible bodies in the regions would amend and improve the existing management schemes, which would be very worthwhile for the elaboration of guidelines for a goose management plan and should be carefully carried out and compiled. In this context, it should be explained, how the schemes were applied, what they exactly were for and how it worked in reality. Also an important information would be, which of the schemes are in use and where are they used. The WSF will be informed about the progress in autumn this year.

Agenda item 8. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards

Document WSF-14-8.1. Report Dutch Wadden Sea Council

Ms. de Boer referred to the document and with regard to the WSP she underlined the necessity of a good cooperation and involvement of all parties. The different levels should work closer together to aim at a far reaching Wadden Sea Plan. Furthermore, she pointed at the importance of the IJsselmeer as freshwater reservoir and to show a better consideration to this fact when discussing adaptation measures to climate change. Finally, she requested a better balance between tourism needs/wishes and nature conservation on the islands.

Document WSF-14-8.2. Report Danish Wadden Sea Secretariat

Mr. Holst Christensen referred to the document and underlined the request for a better harmonization about areas like Natura 2000 sites. He also supported aiming at an ICZM approach for the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation and finally he made the meeting aware about the statements in the document regarding the implementation of the Wadden Sea National Park and the tourist development group elaborating a destination program.

Document WSF-14-8.3. Report German Advisory Boards

Mr. Klimant reportet about the project "Partner of the National Park", which integrates important local players in the philosophy and concept of the National Park Wadden Sea. Organizations and companies could become a partner and advertise with this support. On the other hand, the National Park would be broadly promoted.

Mr. Vollmer briefly informed the meeting about the main topics discussed in the Lower Saxonian Advisory Board. Additional to the topic of the document, the Advisory Board discussed the grid connection of off-shore wind parks to the shore via Norderney, where considerable damages occurred. The Advisory Board requested the correction of the damages and a new technique for further activities. Furthermore, there was a discussion about the invasion of alien species, particularly of pacific oysters. The Advisory Board requested a monitoring program to observe the development.

Agenda item 9. Study Energy

Document WSF-14-9.1. Results Study Impact Energy

The Wadden Sea Forum has initiated a study regarding an inventory of power plants in the Wadden Sea Region and its ecological and economical effects. The results were presented by Ms. Karin Jahn from the "Bremer Energie Institut".

The study is available on the WSF website:

http://www.waddensea-forum.org/Specialissues/inventory_ws_region.html

and the presentation on:

http://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum/forum-WSF14_Documents.html

The study was very much welcomed and led to an intensive discussion, further requests and recommendations, which are summarized in the following.

The WSF meeting concluded that the production of electricity had to be connected with political goals and broader economic development. For this, more information about CO₂ emission –also of construction, transportation, installation and maintenance of power plants and wind parks-, Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), effects of subsidized wind energy on national economy and possibilities of self-supporting communities should be made available and analyzed. The goals of the governments to reduce CO₂ emissions till 2020 were seen as contradiction to the recent development in energy production. An integrated plan was requested by coordinating production, needs and use, installation of power grids and export of energy in order to achieve a sustainable energy development. In this context it was questioned, whether the Wadden Sea Region should be developed to an energy exporter.

Finally, the meeting agreed to hold a symposium about energy in the Wadden Sea Region, taking all relevant issues on board to get better informed and to discuss an integrated far-reaching vision for the Wadden Sea Region. The WSF tasked the working group EII to elaborate a concept for the implementation of this event.

Agenda item 10. World Heritage Nomination

Mr. Enemark from the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat informed the meeting about the process and progress of World Heritage Nomination of the Wadden Sea and some future events. The decision about the inscription of the Dutch-German Wadden Sea on the Heritage List would be taken on 26 or 27 June in Sevilla. The presentation is available as pdf-file on the WSF website [http://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum/forum-WSF14 Documents.html](http://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum/forum-WSF14_Documents.html)

Agenda item 11. Shipping

John Mouat from the KIMO secretariat on the Shetland Islands gave a presentation about the organisation of KIMO International, work contents and projects with a special focus on container shipment and its dangers. The presentation is available as pdf-file on the WSF website [http://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum/forum-WSF14 Documents.html](http://www.waddensea-forum.org/forum/forum-WSF14_Documents.html).

The presentation was an eye-opener regarding the concerns, hazards and safety requirements in container shipping. The meeting agreed to further elaborate on save container shipping and a sound towing capacity in the Wadden Sea Region to avoid hazards. Furthermore, the meeting is going to support KIMO International in its work, to strive for a good cooperation and to forward the concerns to the political level.

Agenda item 12. Spatial Planning EEZ

Document: WSF 14-12.1 Spatial Plan German EEZ

At WSF-13, the meeting discussed spatial planning in the German EEZ and national planning activities in the coastal zone. The secretariat was asked to compile the national and regional spatial plans for the EEZs and 12sm zone to discuss the further involvement and actions of the Forum. Up to now, regional plans are available from SH and LS.

The secretary asked the partners in Denmark and the Netherlands again, to deliver the wished information. Regarding the German spatial plan for the EEZ, the secretary briefly informed the meeting that the responsible authority "Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency" has elaborated a second draft of the marine spatial plan which will be forwarded to the responsible ministry without a second public hearing.

The meeting was concerned about the procedure, not cooperating with the neighboring countries. The chair and the secretariat were asked to send the new spatial plan to the responsible ministries of Denmark and the Netherlands for their information and a letter to German ministry of transport to express the concerns of the WSF about the insufficient cooperation in marine planning.

Agenda item 13. Progress Trilateral Cooperation and Advice for WSP of the TWSC

Ms. Stefanie Hedtkamp informed the meeting about the time schedule of the WSP revision. An ultimate goal would be the provision of the final version at the Trilateral Governmental Conference in March 2010. The first full draft would be available in August this year and the consultation would start immediately. It would be intended to complete the consultation by end of October. It would be appreciated if the WSF could deliver comments, advice and recommendation during this phase.

Mr. Koßmagk-Stephan briefly summarized the new structure and amendments of the WSP:

Structure :

1. Introductory chapter
2. Chapter on integrated management, addressing
 - the relation between the targets, conservation objectives, favourable conservation status and good ecological status, national differences, as well as harmonisation needs
 - implications of World Heritage designation
 - overarching policy issues (climate change, shipping, alien species).
3. Target chapters (see further section 3 below)
4. Chapter on monitoring and assessment, particularly focusing on the harmonisation of assessment methodologies, highly relevant for the consistent trilateral implementation of the Habitats, Bird and Water Framework Directives
5. Chapter on communication, information and education
6. Chapter on structure of trilateral cooperation, as well as procedure for implementing and evaluating the WSP
7. Chapter or, alternatively, a separate document, containing projects and actions.

Amendments:

Irrespective of the outline, the following amendments would be necessary for each target chapter:

- Amendments to targets
- Inclusion of relevant N2000 Habitat/Species types and relevant WFD ecological status information
- Update status and assessment, policy and management, as well as projects and measures on the basis of developments since 1997

The chairman clearly stated that the procedure of the consultation had been unsatisfying. He would have appreciated a full draft of the WSP prior to the normal consultation phase.

As this could not be changed and due to the given time schedule, he announced the best cooperation of the WSF to contribute to the new WSP. In order to fulfill this, the WSF mandated the SC as a task force for the WSP contribution, to elaborate comments, recommendations and advice for the TWSC and the WSP.

Agenda item 14. Communication*Document WSF-14-14.1. Communication draft action plan*

On behalf of the Wadden Sea World Heritage Group (WSWHG), the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat had taken the initiative to develop a communication and marketing strategy for the Wadden Sea. Two workshops, in which the WSF secretariat was involved, have been held together with the relevant stakeholders. The elaborated draft action plan is to inform the WSF about ongoing and planned activities.

The WSF welcomed the likely inscription of the Dutch-German Wadden Sea on the World Heritage List and will contribute to the communication and marketing in this respect. The WSF secretariat was requested to represent the Forum in the established communication group and to report back to WSF.

In addition, Mr. Loos requested the Forum to improve the communication about the WSF and to more often inform the press.

Agenda item 15. Next Meeting

The meeting welcomed the invitation of Mr. Theuerkauf to hold the next meeting in Aurich and **agreed** on 24-25 November as the next meeting date.

Agenda item 16. Any Other Business

The province of Fryslân as host of the WSF-14 meeting handed out nice presents to every participant.

Agenda item 17. Closing

The chairman thanked the representatives of the province of Fryslân for hosting the meeting and the very remarkable organization. Furthermore, he thanked all participants for coming and their fruitful contributions and closed the meeting at 12:45 on 17 June 2009.

Addendum

On 16 June, an excursion through the harbour of Harlingen took place.

Mr. Paul H.M. Scheffer, the Mayor of Harlingen and Mr. Murk de Jong from the Harlingen Port Authority gave short presentations about Harlingen and its facilities in the harbour. At Frisia Salt, Ms. Heleen Sombekke guided the participants to "Blue Energy" and "Clean water Technology" facilities.

Later on, after dinner on the boat, Ms. Sonja Busch from the Provincie Fryslân gave a presentation about future developments and different plans regarding the closure dam (Afsluitdijk).

On 17 June in the morning, a guided walking tour through the historical town of Harlingen took place, which was very appreciated.

ANNEX 2

**Wadden Sea Forum
14th Meeting
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ANNEX 3

Wadden Sea Forum

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Decisions – Agreements

The WSF mandates the working group ICZM to elaborate on the ICZM workshop recommendations to be forwarded to the TC in March 2010. The recommendations will be finally agreed at WSF-15.

The WSF supports the work of the GMG and requested the group to work towards a sound management plan. The latter should be done in cooperation with the TWSC, who should take decisions at the TC in March.

The WSF welcomes the inscription of the Dutch-German Wadden Sea on the World Heritage List and will contribute to the communication and marketing in this respect. The WSF secretariat is requested to represent the Forum in the established communication group and to report back to WSF.

The WSF is concerned about the spatial planning developments in the EEZs, particularly about the planning processes in the German EEZ. The WSF requested the need for a better integration of the neighbouring countries. The Chair and the secretariat is asked to send the available information to the responsible ministries of Denmark and the Netherlands and a letter to German ministry of transport to express the concerns.

The WSF mandates the SC to elaborate comments, recommendations and advice for the TWSC and the WSP.

Results will be forwarded to the TWSC, if time schedule allows further discussion at WSF 15, this procedure will be done.

The WSF tasks the shipping group to elaborate on recommendations for a save container shipping in the Wadden Sea Region, for sound coordinated control mechanisms in the estuaries and to protect the Wadden Sea from increasing litter. When agreed by the plenary, the recommendations will be forwarded also to the TC in 2010.

The WSF welcomes the study on energy development in the Wadden Sea Region and tasks the working group EII to further work on important energy topics like energy saving and CO₂ storage.

Furthermore, the results of the study should be made public. The energy group is requested to elaborate a proposal of implementing an event regarding energy issues.