



Wadden Sea Forum
23rd Meeting
Aurich, 31 October - 01 November 2013

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening

Document: WSF-23-1 Draft Agenda

The chair of the meeting, Preben Friis-Hauge, welcomed the participants in Aurich and opened the plenary meeting at 13:00 on 31 October 2013. He thanked the county of Aurich for hosting the meeting. A list of participants is in **Annex 1**.

The meeting **adopted** the agenda without amendments and is in **Annex 2**. A list of agreements and decisions as summary of WSF-23 is in **Annex 3**.

The meeting was briefly informed about the program of the WSF-23 meeting, which included the excursion to the "Ostfriesische Landschaft" in the afternoon of the first day.

2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF 22

Document: WSF-22 Final Draft Minutes

The meeting **adopted** the final draft minutes of the WSF-22 meeting, Eemshaven, 23-24 May 2013. The secretary briefly recalled the agreements of the WSF-22 meeting. All decisions were implemented, respectively were on-going due to the agreed tasks.

3. Membership WSF

Document: WSF 23-3.1 Membership list

The secretary referred to the distributed WSF member list and informed the meeting that there was no change since the last meeting in Eemshaven.

4. Announcements

Preben Friis-Hauge informed the meeting that he had to fulfill obligations as member of the Danish army in the period from 4 December 2013 to 13 March 2014 and that he would not be available for the WSF in that period. Furthermore, he could not represent the WSF at the WSB-10 meeting on 11-12 December and the Wadden Sea conference in February 2014.

Albert de Hoop informed that in his function he would represent the Dutch Wadden Sea islands including Texel (Texel from 2014 on). He further mentioned that Ameland had received subsidies from the Wadden Fund to install solar panels on the island for electricity production. Finally he announced his early leave to welcome the former Queen on Ameland.

Holger Wesemüller made several statements as representative of green German NGOs.

a) He proposed to invite a representative of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation or of EUROPARC (coordinator of the evaluations of all German national parks, whose reports have been available now) to inform about the status of and recommendations for all conservation areas in the German Wadden Sea Region.

- b) The European Maritime Day 2014 would take place from 19-20 May 2014 in Bremen. A contribution from the TWSC and WSF should be considered.
- c) Cockle fishery in the Netherlands would be done on a grand scale by a large number of individuals. This excessive kind of "hand cockle fishery" would be very unsustainable and not in line with the protection scheme. He proposed to abandon cockle fishery in the Dutch Wadden Sea, too.
- d) The German green NGOs BUND, NABU, NHB and WWF would criticise the MSC-certification process of the blue mussel fishery in Lower Saxony, as seed mussels would further on be taken out of the National Park. This causes a serious impact on nature and could not be accepted by the NGOs.
- e) The import of mussels and other species into the protected area of the Wadden Sea should be omitted.
- f) The permit for a company to take Pacific Oysters out of the National Park Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea represents a new use and should be withdrawn, as this would not be in line with recent protection aims.

5. Minutes Steering Committee

Document: WSF 23-5.1 Minutes SC-16

The meeting took note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting, SC-16, Hamburg, 15 October 2013.

6. Election of Vice-chair

The Steering Committee proposed to elect Mr Henk Staghouwer from the province of Groningen as new vice-chair. Henk Staghouwer is representative of the province of Groningen and responsible for agriculture, fisheries, nature conservation and rural development. In his introductory speech he highlighted the work of the Forum and made clear that he would represent the WSF with his power and that he would support and promote the Forum in its activities as well as in his dealings as politician.

Following, the meeting **elected** Henk Staghouwer without any dissenting vote as new vice-chair of the WSF.

7. Climate Change in the North Sea Region

Presentation Prof. Markus Quante, Helmholtz Zentrum Geesthacht (HZG)

Mr Quante gave a presentation about a North Sea Region Climate Change Assessment (NOSCCA), which documents the scientifically legitimate knowledge about past and possible future climate change in the North Sea and adjacent areas for a wide range of themes. The assessment took into account the IPCC report on climate change and also regional developments within the North Sea basin. The assessment will be available as printed report in the Springer series "Regional Climate Studies" by spring 2015. With regard to contents, Mr Quante introduced changes in surface temperatures, sea level rise, storm surges, erosion and biosphere. The presentation is available as pdf on the WSF website under plenary meetings.

8. Progress WSF Activities

Document: WSF 23-8.1 Summary progress report

WSF 23-8.2 Indicator tool

Additionally to the information given in the progress report, the meeting was informed by the chairs and secretary of the working groups about further progress of the WSF activities. The main results of the working groups are included in the ICZM strategy for the Wadden Sea Region and do amend the integrated objectives by detailed recommendations.

WG ICZM: The secretary emphasized the elaboration of the ICZM strategy, which would be discussed in detail on the following day. Also the contents and further developments of the Wadden Sea Region (WSR) Planning Portal would be introduced separately. The chair of the ICZM working group introduced the sustainability indicator tool with the distributed document. Besides the integration of new data, the instrument had to be

continuously adapted to changes of the statistics. The lack of information with regard to the ecological development was due to the time consuming assessment of bird data, which would need around two years. The WaLTER project had started with a first evaluation of the indicators on demography, particularly of the Wadden Sea municipalities. A first report about the analysis would be expected within the coming months.

WG Shipping & Harbor: The WSF shipping group finalized the resolution on shipping safety with an outlook on VTM in sensitive marine areas. A set of recommendations on shipping safety and policies were defined. The main part of the resolution is in an annex of the ICZM strategy.

WG EII: The working group implemented an energy symposium on 3 June 2013 which aimed at a holistic energy concept for the WSR taking into consideration production, supply and storage as well as distribution and consumption. Also strengths and obstacles of a promoted energy transition were analyzed and measures of working towards a climate friendly WSR were identified. Defined recommendations are part of the ICZM strategy and will be forwarded to the governmental conference in February 2014.

WG Agriculture: The Goose Management Group (GMG) has elaborated a goose management framework scheme for the Wadden Sea Region. On the basis of the regional management issues and environmental schemes, the GMG agreed to focus on the migratory species White-fronted geese, Barnacle geese, Brent geese and Greylag geese. Details are given under agenda item 9.

WG Cultural Identity: The results of the survey on cultural identity in the WSR (see agenda item 10) will be published within the coming weeks.

A further issue of the WSF culture group was to elaborate contributions to the Wadden Sea Conference in Tønder next year. Two posters about cultural identity will be presented as well as the organ exhibition of the Protestant-Lutheran church in North Germany.

9. Goose Report

Document: WSF 23-9.1 Draft goose management scheme

The Goose Management Group has developed a draft goose management framework scheme to accommodate geese in the Wadden Sea Region. This framework scheme was presented and introduced to the WSF members, who very much welcomed the work of the GMG and the available report. The representatives of the farmer organizations underlined the importance of a trilaterally coordinated goose management as an umbrella for regional management schemes. Following a discussion with a focus on the recommendations the meeting finally **adopted** the report, which will be forwarded (including the detailed description of regional management schemes in the annex) to the WSB-10 meeting in December and following to the Wadden Sea Conference in February 2014.

10. Results Cultural Identity Survey

Presentation Prof. Beate Ratter, Helmholtz Zentrum Geesthacht (HZG)

Beate Ratter from the HZG gave a presentation about the results of a survey on cultural identity in the WSR, which was carried out in the second half of 2012. The survey addressed sense of place, qualities of the region, nature, resources and threats. Even though the survey could not function as a representative study, the results gave an excellent insight about the perception of the people living in the area. The results will be available in a booklet format by the end of the year.

11. Spatial Planning in the Southern North Sea

Presentation Holger Janßen, EUCC-D

The extended version of the WSR Planning Portal was introduced to the WSF members. The Portal encompasses more than 140 different layers, which depict uses and

conservation regimes in the Region. Also socio-economic data of the indicator tool was integrated and depicted on maps. Further new data layers show conventional power plants, tourism data, archaeological sites, changes in administrative borders and others more. On international level, the Planning Portal is highly recognized as the cross border depiction of many data sets is unique. The plenary agreed to use the planning portal as WSF product and contribution in co-financed projects. The meeting requested to take every possible effort to keep the WSR Planning Portal up to date. The Portal is available on the WSF website <http://www.waddensea-forum.org/index.php/wsr-planning-portal.html> and the presentation is available as pdf on the WSF website under plenary meetings.

12. Opportunities and Challenges of Fracking in Gas Production

Presentation Dr. Michael Zettlitzer, RWE Dea AG

The issue of fracking requires more and more information. Conventional fracking has been used in gas exploitation for many decades. But now, the exploration and exploitation of shale gas is under discussion, which could cause more impacts on the environment. Mr Zettlitzer from RWE Dea AG in Hamburg informed about the significance of natural gas as energy sources, the experiences of fracking in geological layers and risk assessments. The presentation gave also an insight in protest activities against fracking and political driven consequences. For better understanding, the used additives in fracking were explained in detail. The meeting welcomed the presented information and the clarification between conventional and unconventional fracking.

13. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards

Representatives of the advisory boards informed about topical issues and latest developments within their boards.

Denmark: Erling Krog briefly informed about the main themes discussed in the Danish advisory board. Important topics were on a sluice project, adequate goose management, the process of the nomination of the Danish Wadden Sea as World Heritage Site, the Trilateral Governmental Conference 2014 in Tønder and the future of the Wadden Sea Advisory Board. The meeting noted the information.

14. ICZM Strategy for the Wadden Sea Region

Document: WSF 23-14.1 Draft ICZM strategy

The WSF working group ICZM has elaborated an ICZM strategy for the Wadden Sea Region (WSR), which will also function as a strategic report for the future work of the WSF. Herman Verheij introduced the report and emphasized the vision, objectives and recommendations. The strategy had assessed the work of the WSF and would provide guidance for the future work also to consolidate the role of the WSF as information platform for the WSR. Many still valid objectives of "Breaking the Ice" have been taken up and adjusted to recent developments. Therefore, the new ICZM strategy builds on and replaces "Breaking the Ice" and will be the new WSF ICZM strategy for the Wadden Sea Region. The meeting was also informed that representatives of the EU Commission, DG Environment, have already appreciated the draft document as ICZM best practise example on transnational level.

The meeting acknowledged the ICZM strategy and the elaborated recommendations. In the following discussion it was proposed to use the WSF as stakeholder board for the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site and the implementation of the sustainable tourism strategy of the TWSC.

There were concerns with regard to the formulation of the vision that the economic pillar would now be the essential driver in the strategy and that this would not constitute a balance of the economic, ecological and social dimensions.

It was made clear that the strategy aimed at a sustainable society with healthy ecosystems and that all economic activities should contribute to this aim, which means, economy respects the need for nature protection and integrates the philosophy of sustainability in its dealings. The vision and objectives aim at a realistic time horizon of

15-20 years, but for the WSF work plan with its topical issues a time frame of 2-3 years will be taken as a basis.

The meeting finally **adopted** the strategy with the request to clarify possible misunderstandings due to wording and raised concerns. Further, it was **agreed** to forward the strategy to the Wadden Sea Conference in February 2014.

15. Fisheries in the Wadden Sea

Presentation Douwe Hollenga

Mr Hollenga gave a presentation about the developments in the fishery sector in the Wadden Sea with a focus on the Netherlands. Basis was the Interreg project "North Sea Fish: Innovation from catch to plate". In the second part of the presentation, he focussed on brown shrimp fisheries and the certification process in the Netherlands. The economic and social relevance of this fishery sector was explained in more detail. Also the environmental impacts were briefly analysed and finally, the different markets along the coast were introduced.

The presentation was very much appreciated and made clear that the different aspects of fisheries in the WSR had to be dealt with in more detail, also in order to be integrated in the future work of the WSF. Hence, it was requested to reinstall a WSF working group fishery. First negotiations have taken place and it is envisaged to hold a fisheries meeting in the second half of November in Wilhelmshaven.

16. WSB Progress Report

Jens Enemark informed the meeting about the progress of WSB activities with a focus on the preparation of the Wadden Sea Conference in February 2014. The draft Ministerial Declaration (MD) would be in a consultation process and finally discussed in the forthcoming WSB meeting in December. He stated that the contributions from the WSF to the conference were very late and was concerned that it would be possible for the meeting of the Council of Ministers to take a position on the suggestions of the WSF. A clear input with precise proposals for the WSB 10 preparatory meeting would be necessary. The meeting **noted** the information.

17. WSF Budget 2014

The secretary informed about the WSF budget 2014. The budget would not be balanced yet for the whole year. All national and regional governments, who had supported the WSF financially in the past, had committed themselves to continue the financial support in the future. The secretariat had approached some stakeholders to also support the WSF from 2014 on. It was envisaged to have the budget settled in spring 2014 at the latest.

18. Next meeting

The meeting **agreed** on **13 – 14 May 2014** for the WSF-24 meeting, which will take place in Denmark.

19. Any other business

No other business discussed.

20. Closing

The chairman **summarized** the main topics discussed at the meeting (see also decisions and agreements in **Annex 3**), thanked all participants for coming and their fruitful contributions and closed the meeting at 12:30 hours on 01 November 2013.

ANNEX 2

**Wadden Sea Forum
23rd Meeting
Aurich, 31 October/01 November 2013**

A G E N D A

- Agenda item 1. Opening**
- Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF 22**
- Agenda item 3. Membership WSF**
- Agenda item 4. Announcements**
- Agenda item 5. Minutes Steering Committee**
- Agenda item 6. Election of Vice-chair**
- Agenda item 7. Climate Change in the North Sea Region**
- Agenda item 8. Progress WSF Activities**
- Agenda item 9. Goose Report**
- Agenda item 10. Results Cultural Identity Survey**
- Agenda item 11. Spatial Planning in the Southern North Sea**
- Agenda item 12. Opportunities and Challenges of Fracking in Gas Production**
- Agenda item 13. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards**
- Agenda item 14. ICZM Strategy for the Wadden Sea Region**
- Agenda item 15. Fisheries in the Wadden Sea**
- Agenda item 16. WSB Progress Report**
- Agenda item 17. WSF Budget 2014**
- Agenda item 18. Next Meeting**
- Agenda item 19. Any other business**
- Agenda item 20. Closing**

ANNEX 3

**Wadden Sea Forum
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Decisions and Agreements

- The WSF 23 meeting elected Mr Henk Staghouwer from the province of Groningen as new vice-chair.
- The meeting agreed to the proposal of the working group cultural identity to present the organ exhibition and two posters about identity at the Wadden Sea Conference in Tønder.
- The meeting requested to take every possible effort to keep the WSR Planning Portal up to date.
- The WSF plenary adopted the report on goose management, which will be forwarded (including the detailed description of regional management schemes in the annex) to the WSB-10 meeting in December and following to the Wadden Sea Conference in February 2014.
- The plenary agreed to use the planning portal as WSF product and contribution in co-financed projects.
- The meeting adopted the ICZM strategy with the request to clarify possible misunderstandings due to wording and to forward it to the Wadden Sea Conference in February 2014.
- The meeting requested to reinstall a WSF working group fishery and tasked the secretariat to take the initiative.