



**Wadden Sea Forum**  
**29<sup>th</sup> meeting**  
**Husum, 13-14 October 2016**

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

**1. Opening**

The chair of the meeting, Henk Staghouwer, welcomed the participants in Husum and opened the plenary meeting at 13:00 on 13 October 2016. He thanked the Landrat Dieter Harrsen from the county of Nordfriesland for hosting the meeting and organisation of the visit of the Rungholt exhibition in the North Sea Museum.

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

The meeting adopted the agenda without amendments and is in **Annex 2**. A list of the agreements and decisions as summary of WSF-29 is in **Annex 3**.

**2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF-28**

*Document: WSF-28 Final Draft Minutes*

The meeting adopted the final draft minutes of the WSF-28 meeting on 07-08 April 2016 on Fanø, Denmark. The final draft minutes of WSF-28 have been distributed by e-mail of 25 April 2016. The final draft minutes are also available on the WSF website [www.waddensea-forum.org](http://www.waddensea-forum.org).

**3. Membership WSF**

*Document: WSF 29-3.1 Membership list*

The secretary referred to the distributed WSF member list and informed the meeting about some changes.

Danish State Government: Henrik G. Pind Jørgensen will replace Anne Husum Marboe

German Federal Government: Michael Feiler will replace Stefanie Hedtkamp

Germany Research: Beate Ratter will replace Holger Janssen, who will be deputy

The meeting noted the information.

**4. Announcements**

Kristen Fromsejer stated that on April 12, a regional Goose meeting in Denmark was held. The meeting was organized in corporation by the WSF and agriculture organizations. Preben Friis-Hauge was the moderator and opened the meeting with a brief information about the WSF and the work which has been done here to promote a management plan for Geese. The meeting was a briefing for landowners and interested persons about the latest developments in the Goose challenge including a briefing on the field damage and the losses this creates in agriculture. Jesper Madsen informed about the developments in Goose populations and the AEWA cooperation, which should end up with a management

plan for Geese at European level, which should hopefully reduce the problems the Geese are creating in society. Finally, a new regulation agreement for Barnacle Goose in Denmark was presented. 100 persons participated in the meeting.

Hans-Ulrich Rösner informed about a framework agreement about the future of the mussel fishery in compliance with the protection goals for the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea which had been decided upon in July 2015 ([https://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/Landesregierung/V/Presse/PI/2015/0715/MELUR\\_150713\\_muschelfischer\\_ei.html](https://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/Landesregierung/V/Presse/PI/2015/0715/MELUR_150713_muschelfischer_ei.html)). This agreement had been signed by the mussel fishery, the government and five nature NGOs. For the time being it can be reported that the implementation seems to be running as intended, which means there is regular communication and a comprehensive environmental impact assessment has been carried out. In these days the formal consultation for an application comprising all components of the future mussel fishery in the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea on the basis of the impact assessment is beginning, to be finished in 2016. The sector was also requesting MSC certification, which seems to be on the way now. However, it will include a condition that the framework agreement is being implemented fully. (*remark: the MSC-certificate has been granted shortly after the meeting*)

Bernard Baerends said that in the Netherlands several people in the Wadden Sea Region took the initiative to promote the protection of darkness in the WSR, recognizing that it is one of the last 'dark' regions in Europe. Supported by the "Programme towards a Rich Wadden Sea", this initiative developed quickly and support increased. Darkness is worthwhile protecting from a nature point of view, while it was also demonstrated that certain measures to reduce the amount of light are also interesting from an economic point of view. It is planned to sign an agreement of intention, to strengthen this initiative for the 'Dark Sky World heritage Wadden Sea Region' by several partners (a.o. governmental parties, nature organizations, harbours) at the end of October 2016.

Natalie Eckelt spoke about a new initiative of European island authorities and actors to find new pathways for European Islands by starting a "Smart Islands Forum" on 21-22 June 2016, Athens, Greece. The Smart Islands Initiative is inspired by the European Commission's Smart Cities and Communities initiative to create smart, inclusive and thriving island societies for an innovative and sustainable Europe. A pdf-document about the "Smart Island Declaration" can be found on our homepage under <http://waddensea-forum.org/en/forum/archive/meeting-documents/plenary-meeting-docs-2014-2016>. Another topic was that the Insel- und Halligkonferenz in cooperation with the SDN (Schutzgemeinschaft Deutsche Nordseeküste) has given their resolutions to KIMO/OSPAR regarding spatial planning, traffic corridors and harmonization in driving rules including emergencies. This pdf-document can be found on our homepage under <http://waddensea-forum.org/en/forum/archive/meeting-documents/plenary-meeting-docs-2014-2016>.

Herman Verheij stated that in the Netherlands an 'adaptive programme' for the improvement of the Eems-Dollard estuary has been developed. The programme is scheduled to run for many years, with the year 2050 (comparable to the German Masterplan Ems 2015) as the final stage. One of the main issues is the management of dredging, and in particular the question of how to deal with the material that is being dredged. Current thinking indicates that it might be better to take it out of the system altogether instead of dumping it in a different place. In that light the Waddenvereniging and other nature protection organisations have questioned the intention of Rijkswaterstaat to use a dumpsite in the German Riffgat protected area.

Iris Bornhold recalled the request that actual digital information should be easy available for sailors, e.g. for free or for low costs via internet. A possible portal could be Nautin, which is already implemented in the Netherlands. There would be a possibility to implement an extra website to Nautin, filled with the available information. It would cost extra time or manpower to ensure that this site delivers the correct information and is always up to date. For this problem a solution isn't yet found. Further, she reported that in the North Sea the number of windmill-plants were growing. Possibilities of regulations for small yachts (e.g. up to 20m length) to pass such windmill-plants should be considered. These

small boats would not destroy the windmills in case of accidents. But it could be safer for them to sail through the plant than to use a shipping route of big vessels.

Holger Wesemüller reported with regard to the deepening of the river Weser that the "Bundesverwaltungsgericht" had stopped the implementation of the plans for a further deepening due to incompatibility with the EU Water Framework Directive. As a consequence, the NGOs called for a complete re-evaluation of plans for deepening of the rivers Weser, Elbe and Ems. A court decision about the deepening of the river Elbe would be pending.

He further pointed to the deepening of the outer Ems estuary and the dumping of the dredged material in a marine protected area close to the Wadden Sea National Park. He questioned the German license given to Rijkswaterstaat as the expected turbidity would have negative impacts on flora and fauna. A concept for sediment management would be still missing although dredging had started.

## **5. Minutes Steering Committee**

*Documents: WSF 29-5.1 Minutes SC-2016-2*

The plenary took note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting SC-2016-2, Bremen, 08 June 2016. The secretary recalled the most important items, also for further discussion and decision making.

1) Nomination vice-chair: The Steering Committee nominated in its meeting Mr. Preben Friis-Hauge as vice-chair for the WSF, to be elected at the WSF-29 meeting.

2) Partnership Center: The meeting was briefly informed about the progress of implementing a World Heritage Partnership Center (PC), a network of several organisations dealing with the Wadden Sea and bordering areas. The WSF requested the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) and the drafting group of the PC to better inform and integrate the WSF in the implementation. At the last meeting of the drafting group the request was well received and according to statements of its members, the WSF will receive an official request to propose the way of involvement.

3) "Speed boats" activities: the activities on sport boat tourism are going well (see also agenda item 7) while communication matters are lacking. In the past, no articles about news and developments in the sectors have been delivered and postings on Facebook are almost not existent due to missing messages. (Item picked up under no. 8)

4) Delivery TGC-13: The SC proposed to contribute to the Governmental Conference 2018 in Leeuwarden with qualified input in order to get good attention. Two themes were considered, a report about new data and analysis of the indicator tool and a cultural theme. The meeting welcomed the proposals and tasked the ICZM group to prepare the next steps and to inform the WSF plenary accordingly.

Further items of the SC 2016-2 minutes are dealt with later in this agenda.

## **6. Election of WSF chair**

Due to changes in the Wadden Sea Board, a new Dutch delegation representing the governmental levels in the Netherlands had been nominated and the current WSF chair, Henk Staghouwer, was nominated to represent the Dutch Wadden Sea provinces in the WSB. Therefore, he had to resign from WSF chairmanship and a new chair had to be elected. The Steering Committee proposed to elect the recently announced candidate Mr. Cees Loggen from the province of Noord-Holland.

Henk Staghouwer thanked the meeting for the good cooperation and work as well as for the trust within his period of chairmanship. Following, he gave the floor to Cees Loggen.

Cees Loggen introduced himself as a committed person to the WSF and its tasks in the Wadden Sea Region. He is Regional Minister for Water and Europe in the province of Noord-Holland and he also deals with Maritime and Spatial Planning and Goose Management. Cees feels himself obliged safeguarding the natural assets and promoted the dark sky initiative as additional natural value of the WSR.

The meeting welcomed his commitment for the WSF and **elected** him as new chair of the Forum. Furthermore, the meeting officially **elected** Preben Friis-Hauge as vice chair, following the proposal of the Steering Committee.

## 7. Progress WSF Activities

*Document: WSF 29-7.1 Summary progress report*

*Document: WSF 29-7.2 Presentation T.Gripp, Sustainability indicators*

The meeting was briefly informed about the progress of WSF activities, following the outline of the document.

a) The ICZM group is the only permanent working group of the WSF, working on coastal management issues (including risk management) and supports the secretariat coordinating the work of ad hoc groups on topical issues. Furthermore, the group is responsible for the WSF instruments Indicator Tool, Planning Portal and Climate Atlas.

The Indicator Tool is going to be improved by applying the "Sustainability Balance Sheet Framework" of Telos. This will allow a detailed analysis of the developments on municipality level and will provide answers on causes and consequences of development effects. Cooperation between WSF, the Dutch Wadden Academy, Telos and Kiel University has led to the involvement of master students working towards the new objectives.

Tamara Gripp of the University of Kiel presented the first results and gave an outlook to further analyses. The **presentation** is placed on the **WSF website**; the full report will be available soon and distributed to the WSF members.

The Climate Atlas is going to be updated by new sets of scenarios. This will be done for the entire Wadden Sea Region. An integration of the water level (wave heights and currents) turned out as quite difficult as changes would occur on small scale. It is foreseen, to check the feasibility of this integration in 2017.

b) Water sport and sport boat tourism is a prominent theme of an WSF ad hoc group. Information about rules and regulations and nature conservation are compiled and provided for the users. The Trilateral Wadden Sea Sailing Association (TWSSA), which was founded by the Danish Vadehavets Bådklubber, the German Soltwaters e.V and the Dutch Wadvaarders, aims at sustainable water sport and respect for nature. Both, sustainable use and protection of the nature should go hand in hand.

c) With regard to projects, possibly co-financed by third parties, the secretary informed that two envisaged projects would not come into force. The project on Sustainable Islands, in which the WSF should be partner, was rejected by the Interreg Steering Committee. Another project under Interreg Europe, to integrate nature conservation and cultural heritage, will probably not be launched because of lacking partnership and strong restrictions. A third one, mainly financed by the German Ministry for Research and Technology, will start in a few weeks, but the role of the WSF in the project is still unclear.

d) Finally, the meeting was briefly informed about topical issues, the WSF is dealing with. The ENHANCE project will come to an end by November this year and the WSF contributed with several workshops and stakeholder advice. Nevertheless, the aim of the project, enhancing partnership in risk management, will stay as future objective of the WSF and the ICZM group (see also agenda item 12).

A further topical issue was about Green Harbours and Green Shipping. As discussed in earlier meetings, the WSF will deal with this issue, supported by an ad hoc group, which has to be implemented. A first action will be to set up a symposium on Green Shipping in cooperation with MARIKO, the Maritime Competence Centre in Leer. It is envisaged, to hold the symposium on 1 June 2017 in Norddeich, Germany. A draft program is under elaboration and will be distributed to the WSF members. The meeting welcomed this activity and recommended to aim at a trilateral approach. Herman Verheij requested to participate in the preparation.

## 8. WSF Communication

The meeting discussed possibilities to improve communication about the work of the WSF and to inform via the instruments website and Facebook.

It was proposed to frequently place articles about topical issues as well as a short status report of the WSF activities on the website. The publication of short reports of the sectors and different organizations was seen as not practical as selection and translation into English would be to elaborate. With regard to Facebook it was stated that postings have to be done in short intervals, therefore the use of Facebook was questioned. It was agreed to improve the efforts in information and communication according the proposals and to discuss the development and outcome at the next plenary meeting again.

## 9. Goose Management

*Document: WSF 29-9.1 Demand note to the national Governments*

*Document: WSF 29-9.2 Presentation Madsen, AEWA Goose Management Platform*

The WSF has worked on a Trilateral Goose Management Scheme to minimize conflicts between nature conservation and the society for many years and has forwarded a detailed Trilateral Goose Management Scheme. Unfortunately, the implementation of the WSF recommendations on regional level did not succeed for various reasons. Therefore, the WSF sees a big chance to succeed with the international flyway approach of AEWA.

Jesper Madsen from Aarhus University presented necessary background information as well as ongoing management activities to provide a basis for further discussion and decision making within the Forum. He outlined the flyway of the populations of Barnacle and Greylag Geese and described management objectives of the AEWA Goose Management Platform in more detail. Management plans for the two concerned species should be elaborated until 2019. Finally, he summarized the support and financial contributions of the AEWA member states, of which Germany has not contributed yet. The **presentation** is placed on the **WSF web site**. (<http://waddensea-forum.org/en/forum/archive/meeting-documents/plenary-meeting-docs-2014-2016>)

Taking the given information into account, the WSF fully **supports** the objectives and work of the AEWA Goose Management Platform, discussed the distributed document and agreed that it should be forwarded by the WSF chair to the German Government as urgent request instead of demand.

## 10. Offshore Wind Energy Production

*Document: WSF 29-10.1 Presentation TenneT, Future Infrastructure North Sea*

Offshore wind energy production is rapidly growing. Many off-shore wind parks are installed and even more are approved, ready for construction. The meeting was informed about recently published plans of the Dutch company TenneT, to construct an energy hub in the North Sea as part of future oriented infrastructure for off-shore energy production. The presentation informed about energy transition, cable connections of the off-shore wind parks and the different policies in the Wadden Sea countries. Finally, the focus was on the construction of an artificial island in the shallow waters of the Doggerbank, which is partly also Natura 2000 area. The aim of the construction, to connect all the wind parks in the southern North Sea to utilize the capacity of the power cables would minimize both, costs and impact on nature.

The **presentation**, which is placed on the **WSF website**, was very much welcomed and different views about necessity and impacts were discussed. The meeting tasked the ICZM working group to further deal with offshore infrastructure and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and to elaborate on advice for the political level. (<http://waddensea-forum.org/en/forum/archive/meeting-documents/plenary-meeting-docs-2014-2016>)

## 11. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards and WSB

*Document: WSF 29-11.1 Trilateral Research Agenda*

Representatives of the advisory boards as well as of the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) were invited to present relevant information about the proceedings within their boards and organizations.

Jörn Klimant as representative of the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea advisory board informed about an agreement on kite surfing between the green NGOs and the tourism sector. He further reported that the future of shrimp fishery had been an issue in the advisory boards and that further information had been requested from the government in Kiel in order to form opinions within the boards.

Holger Wesemüller as representative of the Niedersachsen Wadden Sea advisory board informed about discussion issues like future tasks, 30 years anniversary of the National Park, press release regarding hunting in the National Park area and sailing rules as well as about the implementation of the World Heritage Partnership Centre and the role of Niedersachsen in this PC.

Folkert de Jong briefly introduced the document of the Trilateral Research Agenda which was an issue for many years. Now, the first draft would be available for comments. Up to now, it would be a scientific approach which had to be adjusted to the political agenda. The research agenda would be further developed in the coming months and introduced at the scientific symposium in May 2017 in Tønder. Finally, it would be forwarded to the Governmental Conference 2018 in Leeuwarden.

## 12. Sum up Risk Management Workshops

*Document: WSF 29-12.1 Presentation Ratter, Risk Management*

Beate Ratter recalled the three workshops on risk management in 2014 and 2015 and thanked the WSF stakeholders for their cooperation. She pointed at the lessons learnt with regard to the perceptions of risks, management approaches and possible future scenarios. Finally, a brochure about the discussed scenarios was distributed and following, the participants were asked to complete a questionnaire for feedback and as basis to define further objectives in risk management. The **presentation** is placed on the **WSF website**. (<http://waddensea-forum.org/en/forum/archive/meeting-documents/plenary-meeting-docs-2014-2016>)

The meeting welcomed the sum up of their cooperation and expressed the necessity to continue the work on this issue. On request of the chair, a round of comments took place to verify the future role of the WSF. In conclusion it can be stated that most of the members do see a future role of the WSF in risk management. This will be on information exchange and awareness rising, but also defining relevant questions for the political level. Risks and uncertainties have been defined and these have to be specified and more precise on the WSR level.

## 13. WSF Budget 2017

The secretary introduced the budget for 2017. While the budget 2016 was balanced, up to now no balanced budget for 2017 would be available. An additional financial support of 34,000 Euro would be needed to guarantee a facilitation of the WSF by the secretariat. The deficit resulted out of lacking cooperation in EU-projects and the missing contribution of the German government.

The chair requested the secretariat to check possible financial contributions through "speed-boat" actions and foundations to minimize the financial gap. Following, he would request the member organisations to contribute with a certain share to guarantee a survival of the Forum.

#### **14. Next Meeting**

A meeting date for WSF-30 will be proposed by the chair in the coming weeks. The chair invited the WSF to the province of Noord-Holland, a venue will be chosen soon.

#### **15. Any other Business**

Herman Verheij informed that the Dutch Government is currently reassessing its policies with regard to the Wadden Sea. New policy proposals are expected in the course of next year, after the formation of a new government following the elections for Parliament in March 2017.

#### **16. Closing**

The new chairman **summarized** the main actions to be taken (see also **Annex 3**), thanked all participants for coming and their fruitful contributions and closed the meeting at 12:00 hours on 14 October 2016.

**Wadden Sea Forum  
29<sup>th</sup> meeting  
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**DRAFT AGENDA**

- Agenda item 1. Opening**
- Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Minutes WSF-28**
- Agenda item 3. Membership WSF**
- Agenda item 4. Announcements**
- Agenda item 5. Minutes Steering Committee**
- Agenda item 6. Election of WSF chair**
- Agenda item 7. Progress WSF Activities**
- Agenda item 8. WSF Communication**
- Agenda item 9. Goose Management**
- Agenda item 10. Offshore Wind Energy Production**
- Agenda item 11. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards and WSB**
- Agenda item 12. Sum up Risk Management Workshops**
- Agenda item 13. WSF Budget 2017**
- Agenda item 14. Next Meeting**
- Agenda item 15. Any other Business**
- Agenda item 16. Closing**



**ANNEX 3**

**Wadden Sea Forum**  
**29<sup>th</sup> meeting**  
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**Decisions and Agreements**

- Cees Loggen, Regional Minister for Water and Europe in the province of Noord-Holland was elected as new WSF chair.
- Preben Friis-Hauge from the municipality of Varde, Denmark, was elected as WSF vice-chair.
- The WSF agreed to implement a symposium on Green Shipping and Green Harbours in cooperation with Mariko, Leer in June 2017. A draft program will be distributed to the WSF members.
- It was agreed to improve the efforts in information and communication by frequently placing articles about topical issues as well as a short status report of the WSF activities on the website and to discuss the development and outcome at the next plenary meeting again.
- The WSF agreed to forward an urgent request to the German Government to financially support the AEWA Goose Management Platform.
- The meeting tasked the ICZM working group to further deal with offshore infrastructure and Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and to elaborate on advice for the political level.
- The WSF decided to continue working on specific risk management issues in the Wadden Sea Region.
- The chair requested the secretariat to check possible financial contributions through "speed-boat" actions and foundations to minimize the financial gap. Following, he would request the member organisations to contribute with a certain share to guarantee a survival of the Forum.