



**Wadden Sea Forum**  
**40<sup>th</sup> meeting**  
**Skærbæk (DK), 29-30 September 2021**

FINAL DRAFT MINUTES

**1. Opening**

The chair of the meeting, Mr Preben Friis-Hauge, welcomed all participants in Skaerbaek to the first live meeting of the WSF after Corona pandemic travel restrictions and opened the meeting at 13:00 hours.

A short introduction round took place and the list of participants is in Annex 1. The chair introduced the program and the draft agenda, which was adopted without any changes and which is in Annex 2. A list of the actions as summary of WSF-40 is in Annex 3.

**2. Adoption of the Draft Record of WSF-39**

Due to the conduction as an online event, the WSF secretary did not prepare official minutes. Therefore, the meeting adopted the final draft records of the WSF-39 online meeting, 17 and 18 March 2021, about "Green Coastal Deal" and "Energy Transition". The records are also available on the WSF website [www.waddensea-forum.org](http://www.waddensea-forum.org).

**3. Membership WSF**

*Document: WSF-40 3 Membership list*

The WSF secretariat informed the WSF members that new persons have applied for membership in the WSF:

- Mr Ulf Berner of Denkflut e.V., Wilhelmshaven
- Personal Membership, Mr Heinz-Gerhard Elsen (staff of Water Police Lower Saxony)
- Ms Stine Bundgaard and Mr Niels Laursen of SAGRO Denmark
- Mr Jan-Torge Voss of county Nordfriesland, successor of Mr Andreas Doll

#### 4. Announcements

Preben Friis-Hauge told that the Danish Environment Minister is introducing a new type of nature in Denmark. It is called "Naturenationalparks". Denmark already has "natureparks", which are the local authorities themselves taking the initiative and approved by the Open air Council. In addition, Denmark has "nationalparks", run from the Danish Environmental Agency. The new "naturenationalparks" should/are planned to be large areas of fenced nature, where large grazing animals are going all year. These animals must find their own food in the wild all year. The plan is to establish 10 "naturenationalparks" in Denmark.

Frank Ahlhorn mentioned that he was not elected for head of county Wesermarsch.

Pieter van Kuppenveld stated that during the World Clean-Up Day several events among water sports took place. The Swiss watch manufacturer Oris sponsored these events and the main place sponsored this year was in the Netherlands. Next year the Oris sponsorship event will be in Germany and in 2023 in Denmark. Therefore, on Saturday, September 18, the Trilateral Wadden Sea Sailing Association, together with the CWSS organized a cleanup-day for water sports in the Netherlands, which was executed by "Wadvaarders" and accompanied by people from the CWSS and Oris. They went to Het Rif, a sand between Ameland and Schiermonnikoog. Many bags were filled with plastic and other garbage. In Germany, the event took place on Saturday, September 11, due to the tide. "Soltwaters" cleaned-up in cooperation with the Lower Saxon National Park Wadden Sea authority (NLPV). Cleaning-up on the chosen places can only be done at low tide; low water is not at the same time in the whole Wadden Sea Region. "Soltwaters" and the NLPV went to Minsener Oog and filled 19 big bags with garbage, around 12 m<sup>3</sup> with a weight of 6 tons. In Denmark, the "Vadehavets Bådklubber" went to Langli Sand; with five people, they filled many bags in half an hour time. All participating people had a marvelous day (due to the weather) and decided to clean-up parts of the intertidal area next year again.

Holger Wesemüller informed that following a proposal by the states of Hamburg, Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein in May 2017, the regulation for navigation in the national parks is currently being amended in the German area of the Wadden Sea. This primarily affects small-scale and recreational shipping. The regulation has been overdue for more than 20 years. High-speed routes for ferries and supply ships to the wind farms will cross the natural area. Again, a desirable solution to regulate boat traffic and shipping in a common way for the trilateral Wadden Sea area will not be achieved.

2. A new deepening is being prepared for the Outer Weser and the estuary; the formal planning procedure will start in early 2022.

3. The highest load of munitions left over from two world wars exists in the coastal sea of Lower Saxony. 1.3 million of a total of 1.6 million tons of conventional ammunition waste lie on and in the German seabed of the North Sea. In particular, tourism, fisheries and nature conservation, as well as the population of the region, agree that swift action must be taken. The Advisory Board for the Lower Saxony Wadden Sea National Park has therefore started to think about finally contributing to a step-by-step solution of the problem of military legacy in the most heavily contaminated coastal sea. In the meantime, there has been some movement at the political level. The German Bundestag has addressed the worsening problem. The state

of Schleswig-Holstein is increasingly concerned only with the Baltic Sea. Practical salvage procedures for decaying munitions are being tested there. On the North Sea coast, on the other hand, only occasional and sporadic action is being taken in connection with specific projects in the marine area, such as cable routes. Environmental associations in Lower Saxony called this a "scandal". After all, the condition of munitions in the coastal sea may continue to deteriorate dramatically. Environmentally friendly salvage techniques would also have to be tested in the North Sea area. The topic of the removal of military legacy sites also deserves more trilateral attention.

4. In the German coastal region, an initiative is being taken for the first time to promote the switch from fossil-fuel ship propulsion to climate-friendly engines in the leisure shipping sector. To this end, a joint sustainable strategy is being developed with relevant interest groups. Through information events and exchanges, the project networks the state-wide motor yacht and sailing associations - with the involvement of the LandesSportBund Niedersachsen (LSB) - with the user groups directly affected, such as (recreational boat) port operators and municipal and regional political stakeholders. Pieter van Kuppenveld welcomed such a project as contribution to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and mentioned that such efforts also exist in the Netherlands.

Peter Deyle mentioned the project LifeGRID (Life-saving in flood and energy-critical hazard situations through realization of stand-alone solutions in the context of services of general interest) carried out by the county of Wesermarsch and the Jade University of Applied Sciences Wilhelmshaven/Oldenburg/Elsfleth. They are investigating supply concepts for the protection of vulnerable population groups against flooding's and black out. Timeframe of the project is 2 years until November 2022. Further information can be found on the link [https://www.sifo.de/sifo/de/foerderung/sifolife/lifegrid-landkreis-wesermarsch/lifegrid-landkreis-wesermarsch\\_node.html;jsessionid=123E8877AB7104FF5203918FE5655591.live092](https://www.sifo.de/sifo/de/foerderung/sifolife/lifegrid-landkreis-wesermarsch/lifegrid-landkreis-wesermarsch_node.html;jsessionid=123E8877AB7104FF5203918FE5655591.live092) and Mr Deyle was asked to give a short presentation about the preliminary project results at the next plenary meeting.

Heidi Nielsen gave the information about a new Power-to-X (PtX) facility in Esbjerg next to the Waddensea. It is Europe's largest green ammonia facility: HØST PtX Esbjerg under development, deploying industrial use of electrolysis-technology on GW-level. PtX is a next generation renewable energy and storage technology, which represents a significant new chapter in large-scale de-carbonization of e.g. infrastructure and agriculture. The plant will rely on electricity from renewables as sole source of energy. The outcome of this CO2-free production process is green hydrogen and the final product is green ammonia. (<https://ptxesbjerg.dk/about-ptx/>).

## **5. Minutes Steering Committee**

*Documents: WSF-40 5 Minutes SC-2021-2*

The meeting took note of the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting SC-2021-2 on 8 July 2021, which was held online before summer break.

## 6. Progress WSF Activities

*Document: WSF-40 6 Summary progress report*

The WSF secretary informed the WSF members about news and new developments within the WSF. Furthermore, members could follow the WSF on different social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook or LinkedIn.

### Shipping and Ports

- a) Trilateral Round Table "Shipping"  
*New approach by involving the RRT of the WSF Green Coastal Deal. Proposed date for the kick-off meeting in spring 2022.*
- b) Shipping project proposal together with different partners at DBU  
*The project team is finalising the project proposal until mid-October. Hopefully, the final approval could be at the end of October. A 18 month project is submitted together with representatives of harbours and the green NGO's of the WSR.*
- c) Accessibility to Wadden Sea Harbours  
*Students wrote the theses dealing with this issue. They should finish until the end of this year. Furthermore, the WSF secretary attends a meeting on mobility between main land and islands in the Netherlands (PRW Mobiliteit).*

### Risk/Crisis management – Management of volunteers

*WSF secretary is looking for funding for this project proposal, because current developments (pandemic, flooding's, new publications on climate change) illustrate the need.*

### Goose Management

- *WSF supported a first webinar of the TF Agriculture under AEWA*
- *Second webinar will follow this autumn*
- *WSF attended the AEWA conference in June 2021*
- *WSF sent inquiry to Federal German Ministry of Environment*

### Media:

"MediaWatt" approved! -> TV coverage of WSF by Public Access Channels (Bürgersender): OldenburgEins, Radio WeserTV, Radio Jade, Radio Ostfriesland.

Movies are available on <https://www.waddensea-forum.org/topics/projects/mediawatt>

In future, the results of the "MediaWatt" project will be visible via the WSF's YouTube-channel. Now, find the first movies on our website of the WSF.

**Sediment:**

"TrilaWatt" – Digital Twin for the Trilateral Wadden Sea Region: BigData methods for sediment, hydrodynamic and geomorphological data sets in the trilateral WSR. The WSF is partner of this project and cooperating with BAW, smile Consult and planGIS.

WSF is supporting the "Community of Understanding – Sediment Solutions" for its excursion to Germany. The WSF secretary will accompany the group through the region Weser-Elbe.

**Mobility:**

Cooperation with Program towards a rich Wadden Sea (PRW). Planning is to conduct a joint webinar on "Mobility in the WSR".

Mr Wesemüller mentioned huge problems with a rapidly increasing number of "water-taxis" in Lower Saxony. Pieter van Kuppenveld stated that NL is also aware of the increasing numbers of "water taxis" and with it similar problems – speed, noise, waves - but they are not 'huge' in NL up to now. However, they like to draw attention to it.

Further information on the progress of the WSF are provided on our website and via different social media channels.

**7. WSF toward 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WSF and TGC-2022**

Since the foundation of the WSF in 2002 almost 20 years have passed. Next year, the WSF is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the WSF is thinking about the way of celebrating this event. Furthermore, ideas about the input and events the WSF wants to offer to the Trilateral Governmental Conference end of 2022 were discussed.

**8. Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards and WSB**

Representatives of the Advisory Boards were invited to present relevant information about proceedings within their boards and organisations.

**Denmark:**

Mr Friis-Hauge briefly introduced the key topics discussed in the Danish Wadden Sea Advisory Board (DWSAB) on 28 September 2021:

- DWSAB was informed of applications received, of a pilot project, to be allowed to fish oysters in selected areas of the Danish Wadden Sea. DWSAB was informed of the considerations, which national authorities are taking before granting such authorization.
- DWSAB confirmed its role as a Regional Round Table for the WSF.
- The DWSAB discussed the forthcoming ministerial conference, including what input could be envisaged by the Danish side. One of the proposals was goose management.

- DWSAB received information on a wetlands project in the municipality of Varde, which reduces nitrogen emissions to the Wadden Sea by 19 tons per year. Total project area are 180 hectare including a new lake with an area of 96 hectares.

Schleswig-Holstein:

Mr Rösner reported about some aspects of the work of the Advisory Boards in August. Topics were

- Problems with dredged sediments in river Elbe and at Hamburg harbour
- Information on the wish of the local community to include the island of Pellworm into the biosphere reserve
- Organisation of the regional discussion about the draft "Single Integrated Management Plan"
- New seal hunter information units at visitor centres

Lower Saxony:

Mr Wesemüller informed about relevant topics from the latest Advisory Board meeting:

- Dealing with munition contamination in the Wadden Sea from the Second World War, (see announcements).
- Sediment management and dredging, situations in estuaries (Ems, Jade, Weser, Elbe).
- A second resolution end of March 2021 addressed to the Federal Minister of Transport on improving the protection of the Wadden Sea by shifting shipping routes seawards; an answer is still pending.
- Joining the TGC as Advisory Board still in process
- The Biosphere Region is now also enshrined in law after the last amendment of the NWattNPG. It is primarily about sustainable development in the coastal region and a buffer function to the Wadden Sea National Park and World Heritage Site. And it was also stipulated that the acceding municipalities cannot suffer any disadvantages, for example due to requirements for new nature conservation measures.

## **9. WSF Green Coastal Deal – RRT "Shipping and Wadden Sea"**

*Documents: WSF-40 9 RRT Shipping Green Coastal Deal*

The WSF decided on establishing RRT to realize the Green Coastal Deal and is eager start to them in each Wadden Sea Region, i.e. the Netherlands, Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein and Denmark. First task of the working process in the RRT will be the discussion of a sustainable and long-time strategy for a dialogue on shipping in the Wadden Sea area.

In this matter, the WSF contacted the Advisory Boards of Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein and asked for support and cooperation on the topic. The requests were rejected due to legal aspects with regard to the tasks and operation of the Advisory Boards. Ms Bauer outlined that the remit of the Advisory Boards is limited, but that, nonetheless, the members are free to engage on their own in a Round Table while acting as a stakeholder on their field

of interest. Furthermore, more specific expertise might be needed which is not represented by board members.

Mr. Rösner suggested to try a more simple approach by asking each head of the German advisory boards to put the topic "WSF" as additional "5 or 10 minutes agenda points" on their agenda to inform and communicate about trilateral WSF issues.

The WSF started to organize a trilateral Round Table "Shipping" with the support of the TG-M and the CWSS in spring this year. Due to certain reasons, the kick-off meeting was postponed. A date for a new approach has to be found, but is at the horizon in spring 2022.

Last week, three members of the Dutch Omgevingsberaad visited the WSF. They were informed about the work of the WSF and its latest developments. A next meeting with all members of the Omgevingsberaad is foreseen for 12-13 May 2022 to intensify the relationship and to start the cooperation.

Two members of the Danish Advisory Board are already members in the WSF. They promised to bring the issue into their Board and to look for support in this matter.

## **10. WSF Finances**

The WSF secretary informed the plenary meeting about the budget appropriation for 2021 until 2024 and showed a map regarding the contributing counties, regions, companies and countries. Based on the status, the budget for 2021 until 2023 will be positive balanced. The budget for 2024 displays a light negative balance of approx. 1.700 Euro, but the WSF is applying for external funding through new projects, e.g. at the DBU for shipping, at EU level (Horizon2020) for SEA the FUTURES, at national level (German Transport Ministry) for TrilaWatt. If these projects will be approved, the WSF is able to safeguard the next years and probably could enlarge the amount of staff.

## **11. Next Meeting**

Hopefully, the Corona crisis will fade away in the coming month that we are able to meet again physically. The meeting agreed to hold the next **WSF-41** meeting on **16-17 May 2022**, which will take place in Nordfriesland, Germany.

## **12. Any other Business**

No other business discussed.

## **13. Closing**

The chair summarized the agreements made, which are in **Annex 3**, thanked the participants for their commitment and fruitful contributions and closed the meeting at 11:40 hours on 30 September 2021.

**ANNEX 2**

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

- Agenda item 1.      Opening**
- Agenda item 2.      Adoption of the Draft Record of WSF-39**
- Agenda item 3.      Membership WSF**
- Agenda item 4.      Announcements**
- Agenda item 5.      Minutes Steering Committee**
- Agenda item 6.      Progress WSF Activities**
- Agenda item 7.      WSF toward 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WSF and TGC-2022**
- Agenda item 8.      Reports Wadden Sea Advisory Boards and WSB**
- Agenda item 9.      WSF Green Coastal Deal – RRT “Shipping and Wadden Sea”**
- Agenda item 10.     WSF Finances**
- Agenda item 11.     Next Meeting**
- Agenda item 12.     Any other Business**
- Agenda item 13.     Closing**



**ANNEX 3****Wadden Sea Forum****40<sup>th</sup> meeting****Skærbæk (DK), 29-30 September 2021**

## ACTIONS

Item	Action	Status
WSF at TGC in 2022 - Side event - Time slot at conference	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ask and inform Thomas Borchers (BMU)</li> <li>2. Discuss financial support for planning and developing ideas</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Done</li> <li>2. In progress</li> </ol>
TGC 2022 content of - Side event - Time slot at conference	WSF secretariat <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compile ideas and thoughts</li> <li>2. Detailed planning for side event and time slot</li> <li>3. Draft a time schedule</li> <li>4. Indicate the need for support to the SC</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In progress</li> <li>2. In progress</li> <li>3. In progress</li> <li>4. In progress</li> </ol>
Regional Round Tables of WSF "Green Coastal Deal" (to discuss shipping and Wadden Sea)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Invite members of WSF in Lower Saxony to further discuss a solution</li> <li>2. Bilateral meeting with Carolin Galler on the advisory board of Lower Saxony</li> <li>3. Make appointments with both head of county from Dithmarschen and Nordfriesland</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Done</li> <li>2. In progress</li> <li>3. Done</li> </ol>
WSF-41	WSF secretariat Compile ideas for WSF-41 presentations, e.g. LifeGrid (P. Deyle); Shipping (C. Balhke); students' results; BMVI on A20, Elbe Tunnel, Elbferry; Ministerial declaration; Goose management; agriculture and water management; showcase TenneT/MELUND 220 KV power cable stakeholder dialogue; Marine Spatial Plan in the EEZ; Landing of offshore WEA cable on main land	In progress