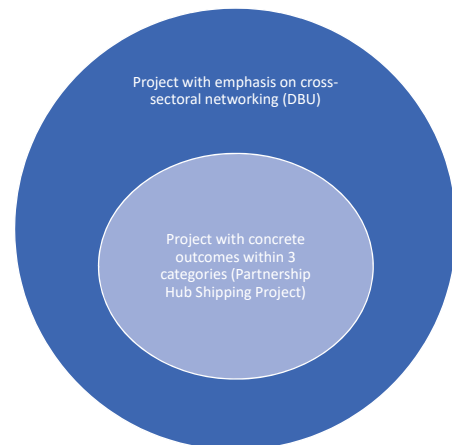




Context

- Two trilateral projects aiming to develop a cross-sectoral dialogue and activities regarding shipping and ports in the Wadden Sea
- Partnership Hub Shipping Project:
 - August 2021 – December 2022
 - Main goal: New basis of knowledge in order to cross-fertilise and multiply best practices at trilateral level regarding shipping and port activities
- Sustainable Shipping and Ports at the Wadden Sea (DBU project):
 - November 2021 – April 2023
 - Main goal: Develop a long-term dialogue and cooperation between shipping, ports and nature organisations representatives



Partnership Hub Shipping Project

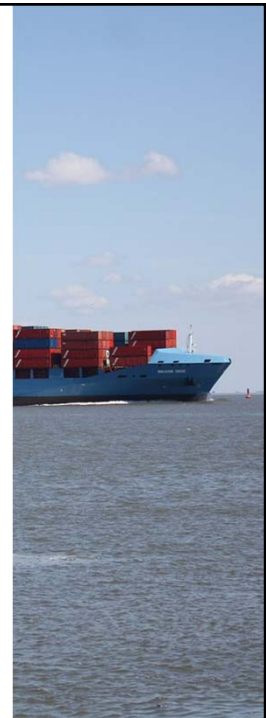
Sharing and developing knowledge to strengthen the contribution of shipping to a well-protected Wadden Sea World Heritage

funded by the Wadden Sea Board



Results

- WP Ship operation
 - Initiation of a dialogue on ferries and water taxis
 - Report on existing and recommendation of new APMS in the Wadden Sea PSSA
 - Workshop at the TGC to safeguard the lessons learned from the MSC Zoe incident
- WP Ports
 - Information package on the project results
 - **Signing of a joint document by all WS Ports and WST representatives at TGC**
 - Compilation of ECOPorts and Greenports best practices in the Wadden Sea Region
- WP Knowledge dissemination
 - Engage with other stakeholders dealing with shipping within the Wadden Sea Region
 - Create text modules for communicating on the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage



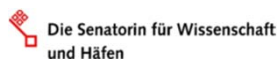
Sustainable shipping and ports at the Wadden Sea

Development of cross-sectoral and cross-stakeholder concepts for sustainable shipping in the trilateral Wadden Sea

funded by the DBU (Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt)



Niedersachsen
Ports



Activities

<p>Shipping (WP1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of relevant dialogue points - Compilation and processing - Discussion and prioritisation 	<p>Ports (WP2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of relevant dialogue points - Compilation and processing - Discussion and prioritisation 	<p>Scientific monitoring (WP4)</p>
<p>Dialogue (WP3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of relevant dialogue formats - Preparation and organisation of selected dialogue formats - Implementation of the dialogue formats identified in WP1 and WP2 		

First results

Signature "Sustainable Shipping and Ports Initiative for a well-protected Wadden Sea" (SustSPI)



Credit: ©WSS

SUSTAINABLE SHIPPING AND PORTS INITIATIVE FOR A WELL-PROTECTED WADDEN SEA

The Wadden Sea at the southern North Sea coast is the largest tidal flat ecosystem in the world and home to a large and unique variety of natural habitats and species. Based on its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), the Wadden Sea has been designated as a [UNESCO World heritage site](#) since 2009.

At the same time, the southern North Sea, including parts of the Wadden Sea and the adjacent estuaries, is one of the world's busiest ship traffic areas, connecting the largest transit and transshipment ports; passing at a short distance the vulnerable, pristine Natura 2000 area of the Wadden Sea. In the Wadden Sea, shipping traffic is mainly associated with recreational uses, transportation to and from the islands and smaller harbors hosting activities such as fisheries, extraction of material and traffic to and from offshore platforms.

Finding an appropriate balance between an ecologically healthy Wadden Sea preserving its OUV and a viable shipping and ports sector is the objective of the Sustainable Shipping and Ports Initiative for a well-protected Wadden Sea (SustSPI). In the past, important steps in this direction were taken such as the ongoing set up of operational structures for the handling of ship accidents, the designation of the Wadden Sea as "Particularly Sensitive Sea Area" (PSSA) by the IMO in 2002, the adoption of the PSSA Wadden Sea Operational Plans with the Tender Declaration in 2014, the start of [Maritime](#) signed in 2018 by Dutch NGOs and representatives of the Dutch ports, or the [Letter of Intent](#) on a trilateral maritime co-operation to promote environmental efforts between the Dutch, German and Danish Wadden Sea Ports signed in 2018.

Despite all of this, there are still many challenges from a sustainability point of view. E.g. relevant impacts occur on habitats, species, landscape, and the natural dynamics. Possible causes are activities such as irresponsible dredging and dumping, high speed traffic, ship accidents, improper waste management aboard and ashore according to IMO and EU regulations and toxic substances such as oil released in the case of accidents. In addition, these impacts are accompanied by new challenges related to climate change such as sea-level rise and energy transition. The activities and their impacts vary according to the regions, but a lot can be achieved by exchanging, analyzing and implementing best practices. Therefore, representatives from the shipping and the ports sector together with nature conservation organizations jointly perceived that an extended trilateral and cross-sectoral dialogue process is needed to enable further progress. This process is currently funded by the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU) and the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC) concerning activities and projects running initially from 2021 to 2023. The SustSPI is one component of this work.

The SustSPI, as described in this document, reflects the common understanding between stakeholders from Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands working together towards a well-protected Wadden Sea where natural processes proceed in an undisturbed way as much as possible, and where sustainable shipping and ports activities flourish.

The signatories of this initiative are representatives from the shipping and ports sectors, from environmental and nature conservation organizations, and from other stakeholders in the Wadden

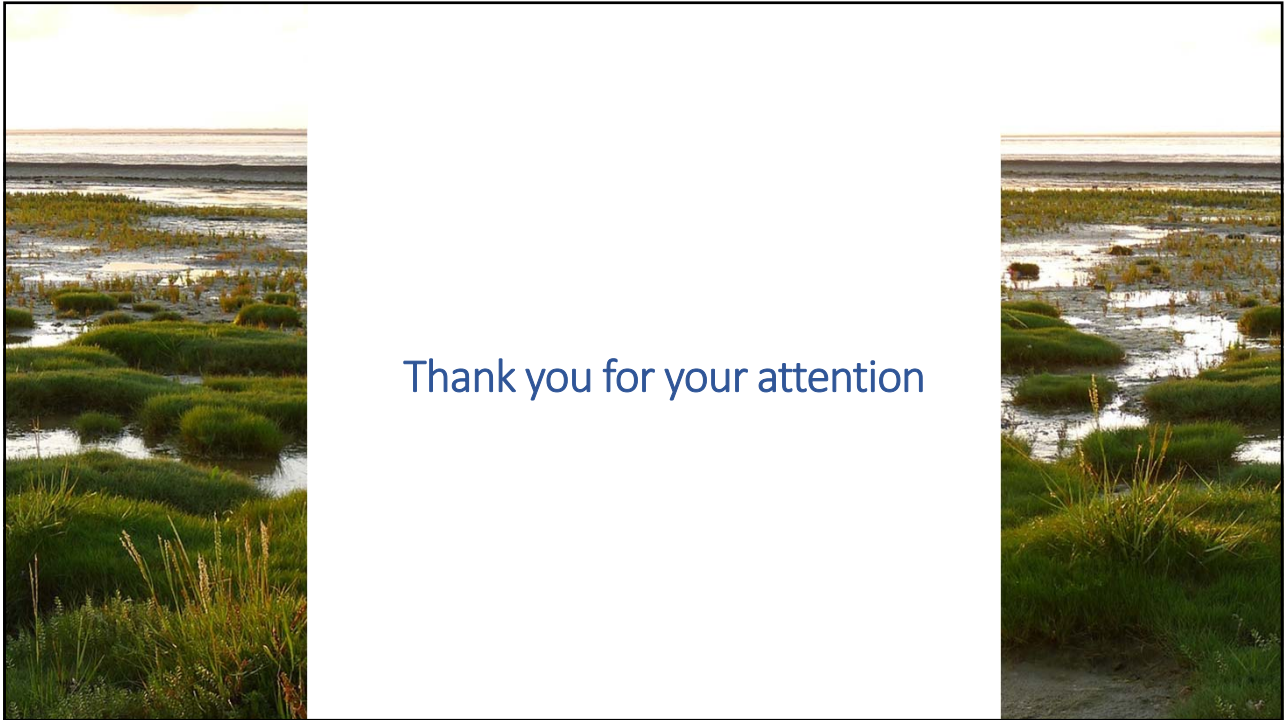


Current status and expected results

- Signature “Sustainable Shipping and Ports Initiative for a well-protected Wadden Sea” (SustSPI)
- Current activities:
 - Based on the identification of relevant dialogue points (topics) and dialogue formats (methods), dialogue in 3 working groups:
 - Shipping safety
 - Light management in ports
 - Port accessibility
- Expected result: Definition the conditions for further collaboration – next steps (format, main topic(s), concrete goals to be reached...)

Discussion

- What are important constraints to fulfil the ambition by the next Trilateral Governmental Conference?
- Is the WSF willing to write, with the support of the eNGOs and the ports, an advice to the Wadden Sea Board?



Thank you for your attention