FINAL SUMMARY RECORD v1.0

Meeting of the

**Task Group Management (TG-M 21-5)**

17 December 2021

Online meeting

1. **Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the Agenda**

The meeting was opened by the chair, Henrik Jørgensen at 12:00 on 17 December 2021. He passed apologies from Nina Schröder, Maren Bauer, Angelique Nielen and Klaus Janke. A list of attendees is at Annex 1.

TG-M **adopted** the agenda of the meeting (Annex 2).

1. **Adoption of the draft summary record**

*Document: TG-M21-5-2\_SR21-4*

Julia Busch reported that all action items resulting from TG-M 21-4 were fully completed and that remaining items of previous meetings were either fulfilled or part of this meeting, including approaches for shipping and fisheries in the frame of Agenda item 7, work plan. Marine litter recommendations were shared with the secretary of the Task Group Monitoring and Assessment.

TG-M **adopted** the draft summary record of TG-M21-5.

1. **Announcements**

**Denmark, Germany, Hamburg**

No announcements

**Netherlands**

* In the Netherlands, the last license for gas drilling under the Wadden Sea will be given. From now on, no drilling in or from outside the Wadden Sea will be granted.
* A decision on new power cable near the island of Schiermonnikoog is postponed, and will be discussed under consideration of two new planned offshore wind parks;
* There was elaborated attention in the media on UNESCO.

**Lower Saxony**

* The Lower Saxon act on the national park was amended and includes now a complete ban for oil and gas drilling. A legal procedure started with participation phase (since a week). The ban will extend to all drilling infrastructure, but it would be still possible to explore a gas field from outside the area. In the Wadden Sea property are some “exclaves” remaining.

**Schleswig-Holstein**

* Except for existing Mittelplate | Wintershall Dea AG, there is no more gas and oil drilling in the Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea. There are two “exclaves” in the World Heritage property remaining;
* 15th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium 30.11-02.12.2021:

More than 180 experts from Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands presented and discussed the latest scientific findings on the status of the UNESCO World Heritage Wadden Sea at the 15th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS) under the title: The importance of science for the management of the Wadden Sea World Heritage in context of climate change.

Climate change and the associated sea level rise are considered among the greatest threats to the globally unique ecosystem of the Wadden Sea. Their impact on the biodiversity and geological dynamics of the Wadden Sea as well as possible protection measures were the focus of the symposium. The key topics Birds, Marine Mammals, Alien Species, Sublittoral Habitats, and Socioeconomic/Ecological Sustainable Development were discussed in six thematic sessions, including associated break-out groups.

The event was originally planned as a face-to-face meeting in Büsum, Germany, but after thorough consideration of various options and in view of the current corona pandemic developments, it was decided to hold as an online event. The original programme was adapted accordingly. The online platform offered various options for networking and chat with colleagues, to compensate as much as possible for the missing social aspects of a face-to-face event.

It is thanks to the commitment, enthusiasm and the willingness of moderators, rapporteurs, technical support and the symposium participants to engage in discussions that we have achieved the aim of the symposium: three recommendations on science and three recommendation on management by each breakout group covering the abovementioned topics.

In addition, this was supplemented by recommendations concerning the fish in the Wadden Sea, which were worked out by fish experts participating in the symposium.

These results will be of value to identify next steps in the further work of the TWSC and, where adequate, will serve as an input to the Ministerial Declaration 2022. The recommendations will be published in due time after the symposium.

A publication of the contribution at the ISWSS and also of work beyond the symposium is intended as a peer-reviewed paper under the topical collection „Biodiversity and Ecology of the Wadden Sea under changing environments“ in the journal Marine Biodiversity in Mid-2022.

**CWSS**

* An additional Wadden Sea Board meeting is planned for end of April 2022.

The group **noted** the information, including that after the end of the process described for Lower Saxony above, the ban of gas drilling within and below the Wadden Sea may be formulated in the Ministerial Conference Declaration (MCD). Also, a discussion on an inclusion of (some) exclaves in the Wadden Sea property may be started.

1. **International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS)**

*Document: TG-M21-5-4-Recommendations ISWSS*

The Task Group reflected on the International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS) and discussed relevant aspects of the ISWSS for the Ministerial Conference Declaration.

TG-M **noted** the information and will consider recommendations for discussions on the Ministerial Conference Declaration.

1. **Implementation of the Leeuwarden Declaration and work plan TG-M 2021/22**

*Document: TG-M21-5-5\_energy\_proposal*

Upon suggestion of the chair, this agenda item was limited to discussion on renewable energy.

Karst Jaarsma presented the meeting document with the proposal to establish an ad hoc Working Group to explore the implementation gap in the Leeuwarden Declaration article:

***LD 29. Instruct*** *the Wadden Sea Board to review and monitor the impacts of renewable energy production and energy transportation on the Wadden Sea ecosystem and to consider measures to avoid or mitigate possible negative impacts by looking for best environmental practices also with the aim of developing, for example, related common principles to evaluate the impact of high-voltage power cables in the Wadden Sea Area in close consultation with the responsible bodies and stakeholders*

Proposed steps include:

1. To establish an ad-hoc working group renewable energy production;
2. The group will be asked to provide a proposal on how the trilateral cooperation can act on this topic and main questions are:
	1. How can we better exchange best practices and information on the impact side?
	2. How can we better exchange best practices and information on the mitigation side?
	3. What are the most important open research questions?
	4. What role can the trilateral wadden sea cooperation play in advising on the possibilities in regard to routing?
	5. What role can and should the trilateral wadden sea cooperation play in regards to the supergrid planning?
3. The group will additionally be asked to work out how the budget can contribute best to the topic.
4. Membership: One from each region (NL,LS,SH,DK)

The chair asked for the possibility to include compensation measures.

The group **agreed** to establish an ad hoc Working Group under TG-M, consisting of Maren Bauer, Margrita Sobottka, Karst Jaarsma and, if possible, additional members from Denmark and Germany. Henrik Jorgensen and Thomas Borchers will reach out to relevant agencies for possible group members as soon as possible, to give members a chance to contribute to the groups Terms of Reference. The group will prepare draft ToR until TG-M 22-1 meeting in January 2022. The name of the group will be determined, and it is planned to operate until the end of the German presidency.

1. **Ministerial Conference Declaration (MCD) and Governmental Conference (TGC)**

*Document: TG-M21-5-6\_MCD-TGC*

Henrik Jorgensen informed that first ideas for the Ministerial Conference Declaration were drafted as submitted to the last Wadden Sea Board. No decision on structure or length was taken by the Drafting Group.

TG-M **agreed** to add to an online document for planning of TG-M activities in 2022 with relevant LD articles, as well as suggestions of TG-M for the next MCD, based on the meeting document TG-M 21-5-6 and discussions in agenda item 4. The document will be prepared prepared by chair and CWSS, enriched by TG-M and discussed at the TG-M 22-1 meeting in January 2022.

Discuss TG-M contribution to Ministerial Conference Declaration (MCD) and possible activities at the TGC based on online document

1. **Any Other Business**

No other business was discussed

1. **Next meeting**

The group **agreed** on next meetings, for which CWSS will send outlook items:

TG-M 22-1 Monday 17 January 13:00 – 16:30 online

TG-M 22-2 Tuesday 29 – Wednesday 30 March noon to noon in person if COVID allows. Possibly with excursion?

TG-M 22-3 Wednesday 22 June, online 9:30 – 12:30

No meeting on Wednesday 24 August (day before Wadden Sea Day), due to low availability

TG-M 22-4 Friday 28 October online or in person - TBD

TG-M 22-5 5, 7 or 9 December – to be discussed, due to limited availability

1. **Closing**

Henrik Jørgensen thanked participants for a fruitful discussion and closed the meeting at 12:45 on 17 December 2021.

**ANNEX 1: List of participants**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**Task Group Management (TG-M 21-5)**

17 December 2021

Online meeting

|  |
| --- |
| **Denmark** |
| **Mr Henrik G. Pind Jørgensen (chair)**Environment Protection Agency Skovridervej 3, ArnumDK-6510 Gramphone: +45 (0) 72 54 34 44E-Mail: hepgj@mst.dk |  |
| **Germany** |
| **Mr Thomas Borchers** Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, GermanyRobert-Schuman-Platz 3D-53175 BonnPhone: +49 (0) 228 99 305 2629Mobile: +49 (0) 173 2843906E-Mail: Thomas.Borchers@bmu.bund.de  |  |
| **Ms Margrita Sobottka**National Park Authority Lower SaxonyVirchowstr. 1D-26382 WilhelmshavenPhone: +49 (0) 4421 911 277E-Mail: Margrita.Sobottka@nlpvw.niedersachsen.de | **Ms Marina Sanns**National Park Authority Schleswig-HolsteinSchloßgarten 1D 25832 Tönning Phone: +49 (0) 4861 61 645 E-Mail: Marina.Sanns@lkn.landsh.de |
| **Netherlands** |
| **Mr Karst Jaarsma**Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food QualityDirectorate-General Nature, Fisheries and Rural AreaPostbus 20401 NL-2500 EK The Hague Phone : +31 (0) 64 858E-Mail: k.c.a.jaarsma@minlnv.nl  | **Mr Floris van Bentum**Directorate-General for Public Works and Water ManagementDirectorate Noord-NederlandPO Box 2301 NL-8901 JH LeeuwardenE-Mail: floris.van.bentum@rws.nl |
| **Secretary** |
| **Ms Julia Busch**Common Wadden Sea Secretariat |  |

**ANNEX 2:** **Final agenda**

FINAL AGENDA v1.0

**Task Group Management (TG-M 21-5)**

17 December 2021

Online meeting

# Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the Agenda

The meeting will be opened by the chairperson at **10:00** on **17 December 2021**. Participants will be invited to adopt the draft agenda of the meeting.

1. **Summary record**

*Documents:* *TG-M21-5-2\_SR21-4*

Proposal: Adopt the draft Summary Record of TG-M 21-3.

1. **Announcements**

*Document: TG-M21-5-3-Announcements*

To account for the shortened time for this virtual meeting, meeting participants are invited to hand in their information to the CWSS until **16 December 2021**. Individual announcements will not be repeated during the meeting, but time given for questions. Proposal: Note the information

1. **International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS)**

*Document: TG-M21-5-4-Recommendations ISWSS*

Reflect on the International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS) as relevant for TG-M.

This can include findings and recommendations from the symposium’s thematic sessions relevant for MCD.

Proposal: Note the information and consider for TG-M activities

1. **Implementation of the Leeuwarden Declaration and work plan TG-M 2021/22**

*Document: TG-M21-5-5-Energy*

Review progress of items under TG-M responsibility (see also articles Leeuwarden Declaration in TG-M21-5-6\_MCD-TGC) and discuss TG-M activities/projects until the Trilateral Governmental Conference (TGC).

Renewable energy information by Maren Bauer, Margrita Sobottka and Karst Jaarsma.

Proposal: Agree on TG-M activities products

1. **Ministerial Conference Declaration (MCD) and Governmental Conference (TGC)**

*Documents: TG-M21-5-6\_MCD-TGC*

Discuss TG-M contribution to Ministerial Conference Declaration (MCD) and possible activities at the TGC based on online document

Proposal: Agree on topics/articles for submission to Ministerial Conference Declaration drafting group and start planning side event(s) (and suggest to German presidency)

1. **Any Other Business**

The group will be invited to discuss any other business

1. **Next meeting**

For TG-M meetings in 2022 the following dates are proposed, following a doodle:

TG-M 22-1 Friday 28 January, online. 9:30 – 12:30

TG-M 22-2 Tuesday 29 – Wednesday 30 March noon to noon in person if COVID allows. Possibly with excursion?

TG-M 22-3 Wednesday 22 June, online 9:30 – 12:30

No meeting on Wednesday 24 August (day before Wadden Sea Day), due to low availability

TG-M 22-4 Friday 28 October online or in person - TBD

TG-M 22-5 5, 7 or 9 December – to be discussed, due to limited availability

Proposal: Agree on meeting dates and times for 2022

1. **Closing**

The meeting will be closed no later than **13:00** on **17 December 2021.**

**ANNEX 3: Action items arising from TG-M 21-5**

ACTION ITEMS

**Task Group Management (TG-M 21-5)**

17 December 2021

Online meeting

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Action #** | **Agenda item** | **Actions agreed upon** | **Person responsible** | **Deadline** |
| 1 | 2 | Receive input to marine litter recommendations by TG-MA chair and secretary and submit to WSB | TG-MA chair and secretary/CWSS |  |
| 2 | 5 | Proceed with establishment of ad hoc Working Group Energy under TG-M and prepare ToR / explore new members  | Maren, Margrita, Karst/Henrik, Thomas | Next meeting |
| 3 | 6 | Prepare online document for work plan planning and MCD/enrich | Chair and CWSS/all | Next meeting |
| 4 | 8 | Share outlook notes for next meetings | CWSS | 2021-12-17 |
| **Pending from previous meetings** |
|  | 21-4/6/7 | Discuss level playing field for fisheries | all |  |
|  | 21-3/4.4 | Proceed with N2000 feasibility study (aim: WSB 33 paper) | Denmark | ASAP |
|  | 21-3/6 | Provide missing input to status of Framework Sustainable Fisheries principles | all | 2021-03-31 |
|  | 20-4/4 | Consider taking up the implementation of the EU single-use plastics directive | TG-M |  |
|  | 20-2/6 | Share N2000 feasibility study with TG-MA | CWSS | Upon finalisation |