

# Wadden Sea Board

**WSB 6**  
**05 October 2012**  
**Wilhelmshaven**



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<b>Agenda Item:</b>	9
<b>Subject:</b>	Progress WSF Activities
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<b>Submitted by:</b>	WSF Secretariat

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Attached is the progress report by the Wadden Sea Forum which will be introduced by the chair.

## **Proposal**

The meeting is proposed to comment respectively note.

## **Wadden Sea Forum**

### **Overview of the Activities of the Wadden Sea Forum since WSB 5**

#### **WSF plenary and Steering Committee**

The WSF-20 meeting took place on 23-24 May in Esbjerg with a content-related emphasis on climate change, climate adaptation, CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and the Wadden Sea Conference in 2014.

The climate office of the HZG informed about climate scenarios in the Wadden Sea Region (WSR). The WSF and the HZG agreed to closely cooperate on climate change scenarios. The models will be designed for the whole WSR and the needs of the different sectors. Related to climate change, the WSF discussed on the basis of a presentation about CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and reduction measures future activities in this field. With regard to the Wadden Sea Conference in February 2014, the WSF agreed to elaborate a holistic report, analysing the developments and achievements in the past 10 years and defining the role of the WSF within the development of the WSR.

In October 2012, the chair and the secretary will start a visit tour to discuss with the main stakeholder organisations the input for the Wadden Sea Conference and the role of the WSF for the sustainable development of the WSR in the future. In this respect, cooperation with the WSB and the political level is very much welcomed and needed.

WSF-21 meeting is scheduled for 13-14 November in Dagebüll, SH. The Steering Committee will meet on 04 October.

#### **Working Groups**

##### **Shipping & Harbour**

The shipping group elaborated further on shipping safety, particularly on Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) and Vessel Traffic Management (VTM). The WSF is working on a resolution with regard to the implementation of VTM in sensitive marine areas with increasing ship traffic. First results and the view of the WSF in this respect will be presented at the PSSA workshop in September. A further aim will be to reach a common view of all stakeholders to get commitment for implementing necessary measures to protect the vulnerable environment.

##### **Energy, Industry & Infrastructure**

The working group focussed on the development of a climate friendly WSR. This will be further elaborated as contribution to the Wadden Sea Conference. In order to compile the necessary expertise, an energy conference will be prepared for spring 2013. Green house missions, CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and use, development of off-shore wind energy and energy concepts will be relevant topics to be introduced and discussed at the conference. Following, results and recommendations will be forwarded to the WSB for further discussion and guidance.

##### **ICZM**

The WSR Planning Portal will be developed further. Financial support from RWE Dea and in kind support from EUCC-D allow for implementing further information packages. The packages encompass socio-economic data, tourism, fishery and shipping data. It is envisaged to have the Planning Portal updated by September 2013. The Planning Portal will provide a comprehensive picture of the protection, use and development of the Wadden Sea Region, including the EEZs.

Also the Sustainability Indicator Tool is under further development. Besides an update of the implemented indicators by new data, new indicators are in a test phase for application, which will make the tool more resilient.

With regard to ICZM in general, a dialogue with DG Environment of the European Commission has started to meet future needs on the European level.

## Topical Issues

Besides the work in the different working groups, the WSF elaborates on topical issues, which have an overarching character and concerns different stakeholders and authorities.

### Wadden Sea Culture

As reported earlier, the WSF has brought together different topics and initiatives in order to better integrate the cultural issues in the development of the Wadden Sea Region and to further elaborate on the cultural grounds of the people living in the Region. Several projects are supported by the WSF, eg. organ culture, Wadden Sea survey "Heimat" and "Hartslag". The latter will be presented on an event on 12 October in the province of Groningen. Further information is available on the WSF website under cultural identity.

### Goose Management

The re-established Goose Management Group (GMG) has met twice since March 2012. A draft work plan was agreed with four priorities: policy development, communication and awareness, measures and knowledge. The management framework scheme will elaborate the priorities in further detail for implementation on regional level. The results with recommendations will be forwarded to the WSB to be presented at the Wadden Sea Conference.

All four regions are represented in the GMG and do support the work. A basic document, translated into the national languages, informs about goose populations, management schemes and further needs for implementing a goose management plan.

## Cooperation

HZG:	The climate office of the HZG is elaborating climate scenarios adjusted to the needs of the WSF sectors like agriculture, harbor development and tourism. This will deliver information for climate adaptation measures in the WSR.
EUCC-D:	Cooperation in the further elaboration and maintenance of the WRR planning portal.
FP7 ENHANCE project:	The WSF will be partner in the project with the objective to organize and analyse stakeholder workshops in the field of enhancing society's resilience to catastrophic natural hazard impacts. Starting date: December 2012.
FP7 COST project:	The WSF was asked to participate in another FP7 project, which is about Maritime Spatial Planning: Cost, Capacity-building for Maritime Spatial Planning for European Seas, which is still in an initial phase.