



Wadden Sea Board

WSB 10
11-12 December 2013
Tønder

Agenda Item:	5
Subject:	Business plan
Document No.	WSB 10/5/1
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Submitted by:	CWSS

Attached are brief reports on progress on the issues science-policy-matrix, tidal basins, fish, including proposals for amendments to the draft MCD, version June 2013, as well as proposals to the draft MCD by the WSFI advisory board and the JMBB.

The proposed amendments to the MCD have been taken into consideration by the ad-hoc drafting group in its meeting of 3-4 December 2013

Proposal	WSB is invited to note, respectively discuss the proposals
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1. Workshop Science-Policy matrix

Background

The first draft of a science-policy matrix, developed by the Dutch Wadden Academy, the CWSS and the TMAG chairman, was submitted to the WSB-9 meeting. WSB requested TG-M to further discuss the matrix with a broader audience of scientists and policy makers. To this end a workshop was held 20 November 2013 at the Hanse Wissenschaftskolleg, Delmenhorst, Germany. The workshop was attended by some sixty policy makers and scientists from Denmark, The Netherlands and Germany.

Workshop results

The participants discussed the methodology and contents of the matrix. This was done in two parallel groups, one addressing ecology/geology themes, the other socio-economy/cultural history themes.

Several comments were made to the structure of the matrix but, generally, the approach chosen was supported as a useful tool for communicating and prioritising trilateral Wadden Sea science and policy themes. A central point of discussion was whether or not to split up the matrix into a matrix covering ecology/geology issues and a matrix covering socio-economy and cultural history issues. Whilst it was recognized that it would be best to have one matrix it was also recognized that the integration should be further discussed. The meeting emphasised the need for presenting the matrix together with a clear explanation how to read and interpret it. The structure of the matrix was slightly changed on the basis of the comments made.

The meeting also discussed how best to use the matrix for setting priority research issues. It was in this respect proposed to consider cumulative impacts. It was also suggested to add up the different scorings along rows and/or columns.

The contents of the matrix, i.e. the assessment of priority themes and availability of knowledge was discussed in detail and the entries of the matrix amended. This resulted in a 2nd draft of the matrix as attached to this document.

Follow-up

The participants will receive a report of the meeting containing the rationale for the changes made to the entries, as well as a reflection of the discussion on the matrix methodology. The matrix will serve as the starting point for a workshop, planned to be held before summer 2014 at which work on setting priority research themes will be continued. A proposal will be prepared by the CWSS and the WA.

Proposal

To amend the current draft MCD §54 (**Welcome** the findings of the 13th scientific Wadden Sea symposium and **encourage** discussions within the scientific community regarding a trilateral research agenda, a trilateral research platform and a trilateral research fund.) into:

“Welcome the findings of the 13th scientific Wadden Sea symposium and the development of a trilateral science-policy matrix and **encourage and support** discussions by the scientific community and policy makers regarding a trilateral research agenda, a trilateral research platform and a trilateral research fund.”

Science-Policy matrix, 2nd draft

		Tourism	Coastal Protection Activities	Fishing and Aquaculture	Agriculture	Mining	Energy Generation	Ports and Shipping	Population development	Alien Species	Pollution	Eutrophication	Climate Change	Sea level rise	Governance and government
GEOSCIENCES	Subsurface and geofluids														
	Longer term geomorphology														
	Shorter term morphodynamics														
ECOLOGY	Marine mammals														
	Birds														
	Fish														
	Salt marshes														
	Beaches & Dunes														
	Tidal Area: Intertidal Habitats														
	Tidal Area: Subtidal Habitats														
	Offshore area														
	Estuaries														
ECONOMY AND SOCIETY	Employment														
	Income														
	Demographic structure														
	Liveability														
	Livelihood and identity														
CULTURAL HERITAGE	Historical landscape (1)														
	Tangible heritage (2)														
	Intangible heritage (3)														
	Use and management														
CLIMATE & WATER	Safety														
	Water quality														
	Fresh water availability														

Degree of concern to management	High	
	Moderate	
	Low	
Adequacy of information	High	
	Moderate	
	Low	

2. Workshop Tidal Basin approach

Background

A Wadden Sea tidal basin is connected to the open sea by an inlet between the islands and separated from the neighbouring tidal basin by tidal divides. The 39 Wadden Sea tidal basins are shown in the attached map.

The potential added value of tidal basins for policy, management and research has been investigated within the Dutch Programme Rich Wadden Sea (PRW). PRW has looked into distribution and development of littoral mussel beds and seagrass for the Wadden Sea tidal basins. Also in Germany the tidal basin approach is applied in research into eutrophication impacts and distribution patterns of spilled oil. The results seem very promising for application in Wadden Sea policy and management.

Workshop

On 21 November 2013 a trilateral workshop was held at the Hanse Wissenschaftskolleg, Delmenhorst, Germany, to discuss the relevance of tidal basins for Wadden Sea policy and management. The workshop was attended by some 30 scientists and policy makers and chaired by WSB member Bernd Scherer.

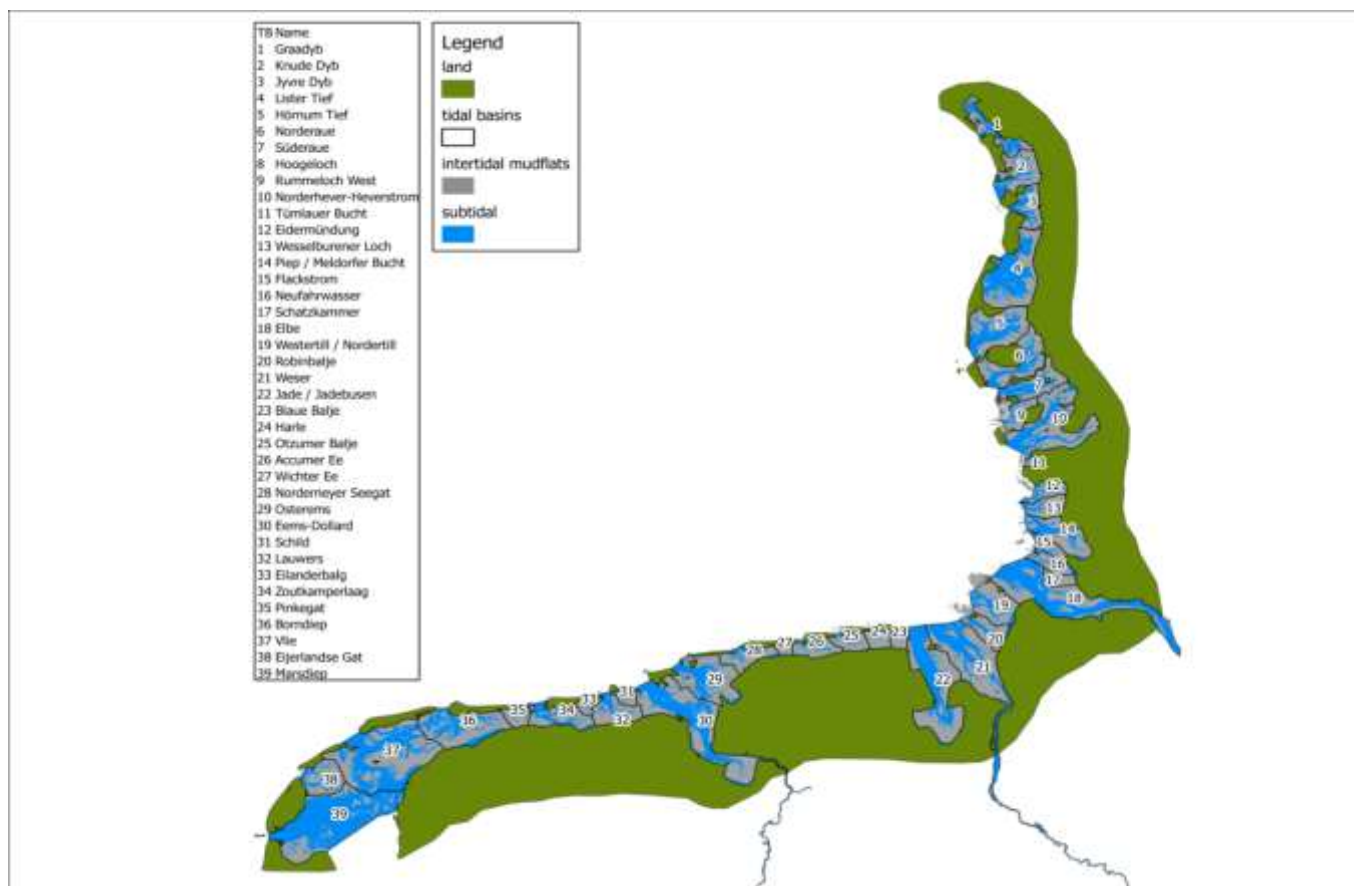
The participants critically discussed the options for using tidal basins in Wadden Sea policy and management. The meeting agreed to differentiate between tidal basins and estuaries as natural units. It was acknowledged that, depending on the scales that are considered, tidal basins and estuaries can be a useful supplementary tools in Wadden Sea management with the advantage that they are natural entities that can be used for cross boundary comparison, as well as fine-tuning of region-specific management. Overall, the workshop participants agreed that tidal basins and estuaries are useful morphological units the potential of which for analysis and management of the trilateral Wadden Sea needs to be further developed.

Proposal

To address the tidal basin approach in the MCD by including an additional para after the current §14:

“Aware of the potential of applying tidal basins in Wadden Sea policy and management, support the further elaboration of the tidal basin approach”

Wadden Sea Tidal Basins



3. Implementation of the trilateral fish targets

Background

At the WSB-9 meeting it was announced that a background document on the implementation of the trilateral fish targets would be submitted to the WSB-10 meeting. Such a document is in preparation, pending input from German and Danish experts. In summary the document addresses the fact that fish populations in the Wadden Sea have changed dramatically in the past decades. Large predators have virtually disappeared whilst other species, such as anchovy, are more abundant. The function of the Wadden Sea as a spawning and nursery area for fish seems to have diminished and the passageway for migratory species is often limited. Objectives for fish are addressed in a number of national and EU regulations and frameworks (e.g. N2000, Water Framework Directive and Marine Framework Strategy) which are implemented in each of the three countries with corresponding national objectives, and monitoring and research programmes. However, many objectives are still highly abstract and despite the efforts, there is little improvement in fish populations. In order to (cost)effectively manage fish populations a comprehensive approach is needed whereby objectives, monitoring and research are harmonised across the trilateral area. The trilateral fish targets provide the framework within which this can be developed and whereby national institutes can work together to identify suitable indicators and to develop a management strategy for the achievement of those targets. The TMAP Working Group Fish could play a leading role in this.

Proposal

To include a paragraph on fish management under the MCD header “Nature conservation and integrated ecosystem management”:

“To instruct the WSB to elaborate a trilateral management strategy for fish with a view to the implementation of the trilateral fish targets.”

4. Flyway Cooperation

Amendments to the draft MCD (version June 2013), proposed by the WSFI advisory board

Flyway Cooperation

10. Acknowledge the global importance of the Wadden Sea for migratory bird populations being a key feature of the Wadden Sea World Heritage, noting with concern that many are in decline.
11. Appreciate the progress made within the Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative, e.g. consolidating a network for migratory bird conservation, including capacity building, monitoring, and developing status assessments at the flyway level, initiated in response to the decision of the World Heritage Committee to strengthen cooperation on management and research on the African Eurasian Flyways with relevant state parties.
12. Agree to continue and ~~where necessary~~ expand the cooperation on management and research along the entire East Atlantic Flyway as outlined in the vision ~~and action plan~~ in Annex 3, shared by relevant governmental and non-governmental organisations.

5. Breeding birds

Amendments to the draft MCD (version June 2013), proposed by the JMBB expert group

Breeding Birds

27. **Concerned** about the persistent decrease of breeding bird populations in the Wadden Sea, ~~caused mainly driven~~ by low breeding success. caused by increased predation, food shortage and habitat deterioration.
28. **Instruct** the WSB to develop and implement a trilateral Action Plan on improving conditions for breeding birds.