

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 42)

23 November 2023
Wilhelmshaven, Germany



Agenda Item:	7. Wadden Sea Board Advisors
Subject:	Wadden Sea Forum – Sediment Management Project
Document No.:	WSB 42/7.2
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Submitted by:	Wadden Sea Forum

At WSB-41, the WSF presented an information paper on the shipping and ports project led by the WSF. The WSB gratefully and positively acknowledged the information paper and requested to receive the envisaged roadmaps at its WSB-42 meeting.

At the WSF-44 plenary meeting in September 2023, the participants decided to submit the following paper to the WSB.

The available roadmap on “Sediment Management in Wadden Sea Ports” is the result of the DBU funded project and the discussion since the WSB-41 meeting in May 2023.

Proposal: The WSB is invited to take note of the document.
The WSB is invited to support the continuation of the cross-sectoral dialogue.
The WSB is asked to welcome and advice on the follow-up of the SustSPI, especially with regard to funding possibilities.

Shipping and Ports Dialogue 2026

Roadmap

Sediment Management in Wadden Sea Ports

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1. Background and Motivation

1.1. Background

The DBU project "Sustainable shipping and ports at the Wadden Sea" ran from November 2021 until May 2023 in order to re-start a dialogue process between the sectors of shipping, ports and the environmental NGOs in the Wadden Sea.

At the TGC-14, 45 organisations signed the "Sustainable Shipping and Ports Initiative for a well-protected World Heritage Wadden Sea (SustSPI)". The SustSPI document was developed jointly with Wadden Sea Board funded project "The Wadden Sea Sustainable Shipping Programme: Facilitating the contribution of shipping to a well-protected Wadden Sea World Heritage (WaSSSP)".

Mid-April 2023, at the final conference of the DBU project the participants agreed on the continuation of the dialogue process until 2026. During this dialogue process the different sectors want to concentrate on four selected topics: i) sediment management, ii) safety of navigation and PSSA evaluation, iii) climate-neutrality of Wadden Sea traffic and iv) light management. The latter topic is not part of the roadmap developed until autumn 2023. The topic of light management will be processed within the EU Interreg VI project "Darker Sky".

1.2. Motivation

During the DBU project an online survey as well as in-depth interviews were conducted. One of the most relevant topics identified and mentioned was sediment management with regard to the accessibility of ports and harbours. Within the DBU project three meetings were held with the focus of preparing this topic for a long-term dialogue process. The series of meetings encompassed one meeting solely with the eNGOs, one meeting solely for ports representatives and joint meeting. These meetings concentrated on the topic of port accessibility in a broader sense.

The outcomes and conclusions of these meetings were presented at the final conference of the DBU project. The participants of the final conference decided that sediment management should be one of the four selected topics for the long-term dialogue process until 2026.

2. Preliminary Note

At WSB-41 in May 2023, the WSF submitted an information on the envisaged process for developing the roadmaps for three topics. The WSB took positive note of the information and stated that it would be happy to receive the final roadmaps at WSB-42 in November 2023. Based on this communication, the WSF together with the BUND Lower Saxony informed the signatories and prepared draft roadmaps. These drafts should be discussed in June 2023. The envisaged meeting has to be cancelled due to low participation of

signatories. Therefore, it was decided to develop the final roadmaps as circular procedure and finally discuss and adopt them at WSF-44 in September 2023.

Again, at WSF-44 due to low participation of signatories the final discussion and adoption of roadmaps was impossible. The attending organisations decided to reduce the submission to the WSB to one roadmap, i.e. the roadmap on Sediment Management in Wadden Sea Ports.

The following paragraphs reflect the current version of the roadmap.

3. Aim and Scope

3.1. Aims

The aims of this long-term dialogue focussing on the topic of sediment management is to

- Gather and exchange knowledge and information on best-available-technique and best-practices in sediment management
- Jointly identify a measure within the trilateral Wadden Sea Region, which could be accompanied by a core group in order to draw lessons learnt for future sediment management projects within the World Heritage Wadden Sea area

3.2. Scope

The main scope for sediment management is to get into a constructive and fruitful dialogue for the future. Ports and harbours need to be accessible for a certain range of vessels, ships and boats. Nevertheless, the way of safeguarding the accessibility of ports and harbours will be conducted under continuous supervision of existing regulations and laws in the three member countries of the TWSC.

With regard to the aims of the World Heritage on the one hand and the interests and needs of different sectors on the other hand, a trustful and reliable management approach has to be developed for fruitful mutual development in a restricted natural area.

4. SedMan in Wadden Sea Ports– Dialogue Process

4.1. Ideas for content

Within the DBU project life-time three online meetings were conducted in order to identify and describe the interests and needs with regard to port accessibility in the Wadden Sea. Finally, the main item to work on was sediment management because the original task of port accessibility revealed to be too broad.

A requirement that was often mentioned by participants of these meetings was the possibility to concretely work on a specific item or task. Taking the differences of the circumstances and boundary conditions in each part of the Wadden Sea Region into account the identification of three different case studies one in each region could serve as

starting point for constructive discussions.

At the end of the dialogue and exchange process the intense consideration, in-depth investigation and joint evaluation of these case studies could create a sound basis to identify and describe best-practice and potential improvements in different fields such as communication, planning design and processes, windows of opportunity or win-win-solutions.

4.2. Process description

In Table 1 preliminary ideas for the process and the potential content of each step are compiled. The basic idea is to organise a series of meetings around the jointly identified case studies. These case studies should be selected based on criteria the participants of this working group are developing and adopting jointly.

The idea is to work on these case studies in order to identify best-practices, advantages and disadvantages of the processes connected to case studies.

The final product of this dialogue process has to be developed jointly in the series of meetings planned. Important to consider is that a concrete product should be ready at TGC-15 in 2026.

4.3. Important information

- No responsible organisation for facilitating the process has been identified, so far
- Some organisations indicated to be part of the process:
 - Bund Lower Saxony (if external funding is available)
 - Dutch Wadden Sea Ports
 - Nports
 - Bremenports
 - WHV e.V.
 - KIMO DK (if external funding is available)
 - DN (if external funding is available)
 - North Sea Foundation (if external funding is available)
 - MCN
 - SDG House DK (process support, if external funding is available)
- Ideas for concrete items were discussed as follows:
 - Create a scientific baseline for the Wadden Sea area
 - Compile available information on sediment management in each Member State
 - Develop a project taking the following aspects into account:
 - Which information already exists on SedMan?
 - What is the baseline for information and cooperation in SedMan?

- What could exactly be done until 2026?
- Looking for external funding, e.g. WSB

4.4. Preliminary Process Outline

Step	Activity	Responsibility
1	Kick-of Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of concrete case studies one in each region - Identify responsible organisation for each case study - Developing a dialogue process tailor-made for each case study - Jointly draft answers and products to be achieved until 2026 (TGC-15) 	Organisation: tbc
2	1 st Meeting at case study 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to case study - Q&A participants - Excursion if appropriate 	Case study 1 responsible (tbc)
3	2 nd Meeting at case study 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to case study - Q&A participants - Excursion if appropriate 	Case study 2 responsible (tbc)
4	3 rd Meeting at case study 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction to case study - Q&A participants - Excursion if appropriate - Draw preliminary lessons learnt, insights and findings - Draw ideas for a side event at TGC-15 	Case study 3 responsible (tbc)
5	4 th Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint discussion and review of insights, findings and lessons learnt - Draw first draft of end product for TGC-15 	Organiser: tbc
6	5 th Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final meeting for adopt the end product - Prepare document and event for the TGC-15 	Organiser: tbc
7	Attending TGC-15	All

Table 1: Ideas for process steps and ideas for the dialogue process on SedMan in Wadden Sea Ports