

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 31)

18 June 2020
Virtual Meeting



Agenda Item:	4.1 Announcements
Subject:	International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium 2021
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Submitted by:	Schleswig-Holstein/ Common Wadden Sea Secretariat

On four days in March 23.–26.03.2021, the 15th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS) under the header ‘*The importance of science for the management of the Wadden Sea World Heritage in the context of climate change*’ will take place in Büsum, Schleswig-Holstein.

The ISWSS 2021 will be organized under the lead of the National Park Authority Wadden Sea of Schleswig-Holstein in cooperation with CWSS, financed by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and the Ministry of Energy, Agriculture, the Environment, Nature and Digitalization Schleswig-Holstein.

Proposal: The meeting is invited to **note** the information in the document as a basis for further proceeding and to welcome the draft programme. The delegations are invited to support and contribute to the ISWSS at all levels and are asked for proposals for keynote speaker, moderators and rapporteurs, especially via the respective working groups.

International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium 2021

The importance of science for the management of the Wadden Sea World Heritage in the context of climate change

23 - 26.03.2021, Watt'n Hus - Südstrand 11 - 25761 Büsum

organized by Schleswig-Holstein National Park Authority Wadden Sea of Schleswig-Holstein in cooperation with CWSS

The International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium traditionally provides a forum for scientists who are active in and around the Wadden Sea to contribute their research results and to involve themselves in the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC). The purpose of the symposium is to report on the state of the Wadden Sea from a scientific point of view and to give prospects for the future. The outcomes of the ISWSS will be transferred to the Trilateral Governmental Conference in 2022, as an important input for the discussion on the future work of the TWSC.

One of the current key challenges of the TWSC is to identify how the effects of climate change, including sea level rise, will affect the Wadden Sea, its dynamics and biodiversity as well as the neighbouring Wadden Sea region, while considering which steps should be taken to safeguard the World Heritage. Concurrently, the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (UN Decade of the Ocean) from 2021 to 2030, offers a “once in a lifetime opportunity” for nations to work together to generate the global ocean science needed to support the protection and sustainable development of our shared ocean. Across the science-policy interface, the ISWSS will deliver the input to better analyse and define, what we desire of future Wadden Sea. ISWSS will also contribute to strengthening the protection and management of our oceans and coastal regions for the benefit of humanity, taking into account the well-established reputation and status of protection of the Wadden Sea World Heritage.

In the spirit of improving the knowledge, management and decision making, we should seize the opportunity to strengthen collaboration among all disciplines of scientists, managers, politicians and the society to maintain the Wadden Sea ecosystem for present and future generations. In this framework, questions which will be focused on by the upcoming ISWSS are:

How will the Wadden Sea ecosystem respond to climate change? What effects will it have on biodiversity, species composition and food webs? What effects will it have on the neighbouring Wadden Sea region? What management options are available? How can the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the Wadden Sea be preserved? How will the tourism impact the World Heritage Site? How can the joint monitoring and assessment be improved? How can a meaningful and continuous collaboration between scientist and managers be enhanced? What consequences will this have for management on the ground and which options are there?

The *save the date* and the *call for abstracts* were sent out in April 2020, the invitations will be sent out in the 2nd half of 2020. The relevance of the content for the trilateral cooperation and its current work is decisive for the selection of the presentations and should therefore be developed in exchange with TG-MA.

Structure

The ISWSS will be organised in four types of sessions: six thematic sessions focusing on the natural ecosystem and sustainable development in the Wadden Sea, one breakout session that thematically relates to these topics and links to the expected outcomes of the UN Decade of the Ocean, one session to envisage the future of the Wadden Sea and the scientific, social and political prerequisites and finally, one poster session.

1. Thematic sessions

The ISWSS will have six thematic sessions of two-hour time slots with six lectures each. All thematic sessions will have a keynote speaker and a Quality Status Report (QSR) author presenting the current results and recommendations from the relevant QSR chapter. The remaining four lectures will be selected from the scientific contributions received via the call for abstracts. The delegations (via their participants in the expert, working and network groups) are asked for proposals for keynote speaker, moderators and rapporteurs.

The six thematic sessions cover various topics. Submissions should address at least one of the topics and the effect of climate change. Submissions are encouraged to place their research in the framework of the trilateral planning and management tools (Wadden Sea Plan, Breeding Bird Action Plan, Management and Action Plan Alien Species, Seal Management Plan, Sustainable Tourism Strategy, etc.). Studies that provide an integral analysis of the ecosystem functioning combining several of the broad themes and topics listed below are welcomed.

Theme I Birds

Reference to the Breeding Bird Action Plan (BBAP)
Driver for the decline of breeding birds in the Wadden Sea
Food availability near bird colonies
Reference to the Flyway Initiative especially Arctic
Adaptation potential of breeding and resting birds
Proposals for management measures on breeding and resting birds

Theme II Marine mammals

Reference to the Seals Management Plan (SMP)
Effects of "new" pollutants on health status
Effects of human activities
Food ecology and habitat use
Marine mammals as bio-indicators of changing environmental conditions
Proposals for management measures for harbour porpoises and seals in the Wadden Sea

Theme III Alien species

Reference to the Management and Action Plan Alien Species (MAPAS)
Effects on species and communities
Possible measures to prevent their introduction
Possible measures for eradication measures
Management of already established invasive alien species
Proposals for appropriate monitoring parameters

Theme IV Fish

Reference to the Swimway Action Programme
Impact of human activities on habitats and migration routes
Species-Habitat and Predator-Prey Relationships
Importance of pelagic and non-commercial fish species in the Wadden Sea
Proposals for monitoring parameters
Sustainable fisheries

Theme V Sublittoral habitats

Reference to the objectives of the Wadden Sea Plan (WSP)
Methods for identifying sublittoral habitats
Importance of biogenic structures and hard substrates for biodiversity
Proposals for monitoring rare sublittoral biotopes
Proposals for the management of sublittoral biotopes

Theme VI Sustainable development

Reference to the objectives of the Wadden Sea Plan (WSP)
Possible development of the Wadden Sea due to the consequences of climate change
Connection between the Wadden Sea regional cultural identities
Sustainable tourism in the Wadden Sea region
Impact of human activities on the Wadden Sea
Impact of human activities on the inhabitants of the Wadden Sea Region

2. Breakout session

The ISWSS will have one breakout session with six groups working in parallel mainly dealing with one of the issues of the thematic sessions.

The objective of this session is to bring together scientists from different disciplines, managers and politicians to discuss and come up with recommendations to improve research, monitoring and assessment (TMAP) as well as management for the safeguarding of the OUV. It is desirable that these recommendations also link to how the Wadden Sea community could contribute to the UN Decade of the Ocean.

Recommendations resulting from each breakout group will be presented and discussed in the final plenary session, wrapped up in a final document and handed over to the WSB to be considered in the preparation of the Trilateral Governmental Conference in 2022.

3. Science Slam / Session: The future of the Wadden Sea

This session offers the opportunity to engage politicians, authorities and scientists in a meaningful exchange about the future of the Wadden Sea - Where do we stand in 2050?

In a science slam, presenters explain their research in a popular way: understandable, entertaining and concise. Presenters are asked to address these questions: Which changes are expected in the Wadden Sea ecosystem under the influence of climate change? How will the local community and visitors experience the OUV of the Wadden Sea World Heritage? Will human activities and the infrastructure change? Is there a need to develop adaptive management and conservation measures? How can scientists, managers, politicians and the society use the UN Ocean Decade (“A transparent and accessible Ocean”) as a benefit for the Wadden Sea and contribute to the conservation of world’s oceans? How can scientists, managers, politicians and the community work collaboratively to protect the Wadden Sea in /for the future?

4. Poster session

The scientific community is invited to present their Wadden Sea research in a poster format, especially addressing the sessions' themes and topics. The poster session is assigned with one hour-time slot.

Draft Programme (as of April 2020)

Day, Date	Content
Tuesday, 23.03.2021	Start of ISWSS; 10:00 - 11:00h Arrival & registration 11:00 - 11:20h Welcome notes 11:20 - 11:25h Multivision show Wadden Sea 11:25 - 11:45h Setting the scene 11:45 - 11:55h News from the Partnership Hub 12:00 - 14:00h THEME SESSION BIRDS 14:00 - 15:00h Lunch Break 15:00 - 17:00h THEME SESSION MARINE MAMMALS 17:00 - 17:30h Coffee Break 17:30 - 18:30h POSTER SESSION 18:30h Symposium Dinner at the Watt'n Hus
Wednesday, 24.03.2021	8:00 - 8:30h Arrival 8:30 - 10:30h THEME SESSION ALIEN SPECIES 10:30 - 11:00h Coffee Break 11:00 - 13:00h THEME SESSION FISH 13:00 - 14:00h Lunch Break 14:00 - 16:00h THEME SESSION SUBLITTORAL HABITATS 16:00 - 16:30h Coffee Break 16:30 - 18:30h THEME SESSION SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 18:30 - 19:00h Transfer to Friesenhof 19:00h Symposium Dinner at the Friesenhof
Thursday, 25.03.2021	8:00 - 8:30h Arrival 8:30 - 10:00h BREAKOUT SESSIONS 10:00 - 10:30h Coffee Break 10:30 - 12:30h THEME SESSION FUTURE WADDEN SEA 12:30 - 13:30h Lunch Break 12:30 - 13:00h Press conference 13:30 - 14:30h Presentation of the results from breakout sessions 14:30 - 15:00h Conclusion and Wrap up 15:00 - 15:15h Outlook Ministerial Conference2022 15:15 - 16:00h Coffee Break 16:00h Start of the excursions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A guided walk on the mudflats near to Büsum 2) Guided tour of Büsum town
Friday, 26.03.2021	excursion day: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) Dithmarschen excursion 4) Westerhever excursion 5) Multimar Wattforum 6) Bird excursion by FTZ* 7) Scientific research vessel excursion by FTZ*

*West Coast Research and Technology Center (FTZ), cooperation partner of the National Park Authority.