MEETING DOCUMENT

**Task Group World Heritage (TG-WH 34)**

13./14. December 2021

Online meeting

**Agenda Item: 3. Announcements**

**Subject: Announcements Schleswig-Holstein**

**Document No.:** TG-WH 34/3

**Date:** 08 December 2021

**Submitted by: Schleswig-Holstein**

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.