

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 31)

18 June 2020
Virtual Meeting



Agenda Item:	5.4 Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme
Subject:	Progress Report TG-MA
Document No.:	WSB 31/5.4/1
Date:	27 May 2020
Submitted by:	TG-MA

This document contains a progress report of the Task Group Monitoring and Assessment (TG-MA) and a work plan 2020-22 of the group (Annex 1) including a note from the chairperson TG-MA (see below). Since WSB 30 three TG-MA meetings had been held, one as back-to-back meeting with EG-Data and two as conference calls due to the coronavirus epidemic.

Proposal: The WSB is invited to **note** the information and to **endorse** processes or proposals where indicated.

Note from the chairperson:

TG-MA is in its second year of reviewing and revising the TMAP and its data handling procedures, including supporting the 2021 ISWSS and preparing upcoming QSRs. Good progress has been made on these issues; however, some tasks were and still are largely impeded by having only incomplete information at hand. This is due to the absence of one party to meetings since meanwhile almost half a year, albeit the participation of a representative of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality since May 2020 is welcomed. Nevertheless, the lack of mutual exchange and information delays ultimately threaten the process lying ahead of the group which may affect other processes and decisions substantially, such as the timely alignment and empowerment of the TMAP to meet future challenges. The participation of our indispensable RWS colleagues in TG-MA is therefore most desirable.

Task Group Monitoring and Assessment (TG-MA) progress report to WSB 31

Since WSB-30 the TG-MA has progressed on the following specific items:

1. Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP)

During its first meeting, the TG-MA decided to start the activities on TMAP and data handling with a programme inventory covering all regions and the full set of parameters. The table was based on former attempts of the predecessor group TMAG. For TG-MA 20-2, information from Denmark Schleswig-Holstein and Lower Saxony was almost completely available. Any contribution from the Netherlands and Hamburg was still pending which was considered impairing the analysis.

Based on the available information, TG-MA would conduct an internal workshop in the periphery of the next physical meeting in September to perform a closer evaluation of parameter-groups on the background of their implementation status and their usefulness for EU reporting obligations, but also their mandatory and optional status and alignment with other (EU) requirements, at the same time considering the QSR recommendations and the Wadden Sea Plan targets. This evaluation would also have the aim to prepare an expert workshop on the TMAP parameter package in November 2020. During this expert workshop, pre-selected established and newly proposed TMAP parameters would be assessed by involving members of the former QSR Editorial Board, further trilateral groups and potentially further invited external experts. Focus should also be on a holistic assessment approach of TMAP and QSR.

TG-MA briefly analyzed the recommendations for monitoring from the latest QSR although information from two regions was missing. The group would further consider the assembled information in the process of evaluating the TMAP parameters.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

2. Trilateral data handling

During the first meetings, it turned out to be a too complex task to solve the data handling issues at the same time as reviewing and newly developing the TMAP. TG-MA decided to decouple the two processes for some time to first come up with suggestions for the TMAP parameter package and then to further discuss the implementation also regarding the data handling. The EG-Data would be involved once the TMAP review would be accepted. It was envisaged to schedule a workshop on the data exchange issues involving external data base experts in 2021.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

3. Quality Status Report (QSR)

TG-MA agreed on a proposal on the future QSR developed by CWSS. The proposal was submitted to WSB 31 as a separate document (**WSB 31/5.4/2**).

TG-MA decided that a full QSR during the German presidency would not be realistic due to capacity issues and the ongoing TMAP and data handling revision. As an alternative, it was decided to present **selected updated QSR Thematic Reports in the framework of the International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS) in March 2021** and also to link the selection process with the proposed sessions of the conference. Alien Species and Climate Change were already agreed upon for selection. Furthermore, a chapter on chemical pollutants (Heavy metal and xenobiotics) was considered, as the report was still pending for the QSR 2017.

Based on the proposed themes of the ISWSS, further decision would be needed on updates of the reports on:

- Birds - Breeding Birds / Migrating Birds / Flyway
- Marine Mammals
- Fish
- Subtidal Habitats - Subtidal Habitats / Beds of blue mussels and pacific oysters / Macrozoobenthos
- Sustainable Development - Harbours and shipping / Fisheries / Tourism /Energy / Extraction and Dredging

Any selection would be further discussed and decided upon at the latest during TG-MA 20-3 end of June 2020. The Thematic Reports would be supplemented with an overview of the new TMAP package in time for the Ministerial Conference in 2022.

The **QSR 2017 Synthesis Report** had not been issued as there had been still reservations within the German delegation. TG-MA agreed during its latest meeting to propose to WSB to withdraw the draft document and to skip the report due to the extensive delay and unclear political support. The group considered this as a dissatisfying result and setback and that the QSR Editorial Board would need to be informed with the due sensitivity. The experience from the process around the Synthesis should be considered during the planning and the creation of future products with similar intention.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information and to endorse the proposal on the QSR 2017 Synthesis Report.

4. 15th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium 2021

TG-MA was introduced to the general concept for the 15th International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS) on 23-26 March 2021 in Büsum, Germany. The conference programme was expected for WSB 31.

The National Park Authority in Schleswig-Holstein was in the lead in cooperation with CWSS. The organizers requested the involvement of TG-MA on proposing key note speakers, moderators and rapporteurs for the conference and also to consider contributions by group members. Additionally, the trilateral groups would be requested by TG-MA for their support on these issues. A corresponding note would be sent out after approval by WSB.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

5. Single Integrated Management Plan (SIMP)

As part of the SIMP development process, TG-MA was requested to:

1. provide a section displaying an overview of the existing monitoring system and data handling, including data accessibility and analyses for producing the QSR;
collaborate on the identification of key topics of the SIMP (fisheries, tourism, shipping, renewable wind energy, energy from oil and gas and coastal flood defence and protection measures)
2. with the respective groups in charge with the aim to define monitoring, data collection and data management as means to support the management of these key topics.

Re. 1.: TG-MA noted that this request was rather difficult to fulfil as the whole TMAP was under revision and that this process would most likely expand over the period of the German presidency. The same lasted for the

data handling issue which was expected to undergo major adjustments once the new TMAP would be fully operational again.

Re. 2.: TG-MA considered the prioritized key topics as barely covered by TMAP to date and a contribution would therefore be very limited. Nevertheless, TG-MA would take up these key topics into the adjustment and development of the TMAP parameters.

TG-MA expressed its willingness to continue the close exchange with the SIMP coordinator and TG-WH further elaborate on a reasonable contribution to the SIMP.

Proposal: WSB is invited to note the information.

Draft TG-MA Workplan 2020-21

v. May 2020

year month	2020												2021											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<u>Theme</u>																								
TMAP																								
Review of programmes/Common Package											*													
Proposal on new TMAP																								
Data handling analysis																								
Data handling proposal																								
TMAP & data handling implementation phase																								
TMAP/QSR Report 2021 (new TMAP and selected QSR Thematic Reports)																								
Selection QSR Thematic Reports for updating																								
QSR Thematic Reports updating																								
QSR future																								
Development proposal future QSRs																								
Approval of QSR process WSB																								
QSR Thematic Reports *general*																								
Continuous updates																								

* Expert Workshop on TMAP Common Package