

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 32)

4 March 2020
Online Meeting



Agenda Item:	5.2
Subject:	Terms of Reference for Expert Group Swimway
Document No.:	WSB 32/5.2/3
Date:	10 February 2021
Submitted by:	TG-M/ad hoc WG-Swimway

The ad hoc Working Group Swimway Vision Initiation (WG-Swimway) was installed in 2019 with the overarching objective to solve tasks which could lead to a formation of an Expert Group Fish in 2020. Consequently, one of the tasks of WG-Swimway was to elaborate Terms of Reference (ToR) and a work plan for a possible Expert Group ([WSB 28/7.1/1 TOR TWSC groups](#)).

This document contains Terms of Reference for an Expert Group Swimway (EG-Swimway) drafted by WG-Swimway and amended by the Task Group Management (TG-M). The enclosed ToR was approved by TG.M in their TG-M 21-1 meeting in January 2021 and by WG-Swimway in their WG-Swimway 21-1 meeting.

Proposal: The WSB is invited to install an Expert Group Swimway (EG-Swimway) and adopt the ToR

The WSB is further invited to encourage the States for nominations of EG-Swimway members

Draft Terms of Reference for a trilateral Expert Group Swimway (EG-Swimway) 2021 – 2024

Background

At the Ministerial Council Meetings in 2014 and 2018, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands stated and decided to work on the further implementation of the five Trilateral Fish Targets as laid down in the Wadden Sea Plan 2010. To that effect, the trilateral Swimway Vision 2018-2024 was approved by the ministers at the 13th Governmental Conference on the protection of the Wadden Sea on 18 May 2018 in Leeuwarden, NL, and the Trilateral Wadden Sea Swimway Vision Action Programme as adopted by the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) at WSB28. EG Swimway reports to the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) and to the Task Groups Management (TG-M) and Monitoring and Assessment (TG-MA) if appropriate. The implementation of the Framework Sustainable Fisheries and other issues related to fisheries are excluded from the scope of work for this Expert Group.

In fulfilling its mandate, this group will duly take into account and seek to promote the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Objective

The overarching goal of the group is to contribute to improving the situation for fish in the Wadden Sea. This goal is to be achieved by fostering trilateral collaboration on the implementation of the trilateral fish targets as laid down in the WSP 2010 and to provide an overarching SWIMWAY approach as umbrella for initiatives related to achieving the targets according to the Swimway Vision Action Programme and its four pillars: research and monitoring; policy; measures and stakeholder involvement, communication and education.

Tasks

- (1) Develop, initiate, /support, document existing projects and evaluate activities targeted at improving the situation for fish in the Wadden Sea. Activities concern research, monitoring, conservation and restoration measures, capacity building, development of best practices, education and advice;
- (2) Exchange on national monitoring programmes and development of a possible future (harmonized) trilateral fish monitoring programme as part of the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP), including the promotion of complementary research programmes;
- (3) Overseeing progress towards reaching the trilateral fish targets under the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC), in particular by liaising with and/or participating in relevant actions to improve the conservation status of Wadden Sea fish, such as national and international research projects and action plans;
- (4) Conduct regular assessments based on the monitoring programme and relevant, scientific programmes in order to provide advice to management relevant for fish life cycles in the Wadden Sea. Contribution to and update of the thematic report on fish of the Quality Status Report (QSR);
- (5) Define a concept for a forum to stimulate and support exchange of information on Wadden Sea fish, and for coordination with other, EU – wide or global SWIMWAY and related activities;
- (6) Promote communication of its work and actions to other national, trilateral and international groups as part of the communication work of the TWSC via CWSS, including organization of Swimway conferences.

- (7) Coordination and implementation of the Swimway Vision and Action Programme; including elaborating recommendations of the Swimway policy review.
- (8) Acquisition of collaborative projects with relevance to the SWIMWAY vision and action programme, such as joint research projects, including an early exchange of information;

Deliverables

- (1) Regular documentation of how the group work has contributed to the improvement of the situation for fish in the Wadden Sea;
- (2) Recommendation for operational fish monitoring programme(s) under TMAP;
- (3) Regular trilateral progress reports on the status of Wadden Sea fish, including QSR thematic reports on fish, based on recent monitoring and under consideration of additional data, provide advice for measures to management;
- (4) The group to function as platform for communication and for exchange of information with other SWIMWAY initiatives and entities to consider the wider geographical context of migrating fish; Collaboration and exchange, e.g. via Swimway conferences, support of the development of information material;
- (5) Activity plan for implementation of SWIMWAY Vision and Action Programme with clearly defined products and results and division of tasks, with continuous updates.

Composition/Membership

Chairperson plus

1-2 members per region (DK, HH, LS, NL, SH), preferably with scientific expertise in Wadden Sea fish and from monitoring and administrative/ management level, plus 1 -2 representatives of NGOs with Wadden Sea fish expertise.

Participation by additional experts to EG-Swimway meetings and activities is welcome upon invitation on specific tasks/topics.

Time schedule

Permanent group.

According to the decision by the Ministerial Conference, the implementation of the Swimway Vision/Action Programme is foreseen to be accomplished within the German Presidency plus two years i.e. in the period 2021 – 2024.