FINAL SUMMARY RECORD v1.0

Expert Group Swimway (EG-Swimway 21-1)

17 November 2021

Online

# Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the Agenda

The first meeting of the Expert Group Swimway (EG-Swimway) was opened by the chairperson, Mr Kellermann, at 13:30 on 17 November 2021. He thanked CWSS for hosting the online meeting by MS Teams. The chair passed apologies from Morten Frederiksen, Wouter van der Heij and guest Ralf Vorberg who could not join the meeting. A list of participants is in Annex 1

The meeting started with a short tour de table, in which participants summarized their background and expectations for the group, including:

* Facilitate fish migration, take stock of infrastructure representing obstacles for migratory fish, and take other action to improve life cycle connectivity;
* Produce practical management advice to protect fish;
* Bring in science and NGO perspective into group work;
* Bring in philosophy of SWIMWAY, the role of Wadden Sea in life cycle of fish species;
* Trilateral project development and application for third party funds;
* The group to be a platform for information flow and knowledge exchange;
* Expand SWIMWAY beyond the Wadden Sea borders (example Flyway);
* Build bridges between the different institutions;
* Interest in predator prey interactions and comparative (e.g., North Sea and Baltic Sea).

The group **noted** the information and background of the group with guests comprising expertise in (fish) biology, (marine) ecology, marine spatial planning, environmental policy, and administration. The chair pointed out that some new group members are representing new networks and interest groups which are welcome to the SWIMWAY network. The group **adopted** the draft agenda of the meeting (Annex 2).

# Announcements

### Germany

When bottlenecks along the life cycles of Wadden Sea fish were identified as a research priority at the SWIMWAY conference 2019, a project consortium of German partners was organized to prepare a proposal on identifying and mitigating bottlenecks in fish life cycles. The draft proposal of this German Bottleneck Project has been revised by the consortium and is currently finalized for submission to the German Federal Funding Programme on Biological Diversity. The revision of the draft has considerably focused both conceptual and practical approaches to meet the project objectives and contributed much to make the workplan more explicit and straightforward.

In case of successful evaluation of the draft proposal, a full proposal may be invited for consideration for partial (75%) funding. Supplementary funds still need to be found. Despite the financial disruptions on the federal level due to the Corona pandemic, proposals are still invited by the funding body also for large projects, but eventual decisions on funding are unlikely to be made before 2024.

Much cooperation has already been agreed, in very few cases decisions on cooperation and support are still pending. Submission of the draft proposal is scheduled before Christmas 2021.

## Schleswig Holstein

* On behalf of the National Park Administration Schleswig-Holstein Wadden Sea, Ralf Vorberg completed the second year of fish monitoring using a pelagic trawl. It is still a pilot project in order to assess this new gear and method Unfortunately, a comparative fishery with a stow net vessel was not possible in 2021 year, but is envisaged for 2022;
* Katja Heubel leads a sub-project Wadden Sea benthos and fish within a larger project funded by the German Alliance of Marine Research. In this sub-project, a post doc position related to SWIMWAY is open.

## Lower Saxony

* The NLWKN, together with several partners, has conducted a fish monitoring at sluices and pumping stations in the first dike line along the Wadden Sea in Lower Saxony. Results for 2017 and 2018 will be shared with the group (in German);
* Additionally in Lower Saxony several projects and measures are in place to improve connectivity between the Wadden Sea and inland waters, amongst these in the Ems estuary the pumping station and sluice Knock near Emden (see also Flyer EV Emden), in Oldersum (WSA lock), at the Petkum sluice (Emssperrwerk compensatory measure) and at the Sautel sluice (EWE-AG compensatory measure) as well as at the small river Harle (Harlesiel), discharging directly into the Wadden Sea (see also Flyer EV WTM).

## CWSS

* Next Wadden Sea Board (WSB) meeting(s) 2022:

WSB 35. 10 March 2022. Netherlands offered to host this meeting.

WSB 36: Date TBD end of April, online

WSB 37. 26 August 2022 in Wilhelmshaven, back-to-back with Wadden Sea Day.

WSB 38. Optional Sept 2022 (no date fixed yet, pending also on the progress made in August meeting of WSB).

WSB 39. 6 October 2022. Denmark offered to host this meeting

WSB 40 29 /30 November, Wilhelmshaven, day before Ministerial Council.

WSB 41. 30 Nov/1Dec, Wilhelmshaven, after Ministerial Council, start-up under Danish presidency

* The position of CWSS Partnership Hub officer Cristina Nazzari has been prolonged until 31 December 2022 thanks to the extension for the Interreg Prowad Link project and the contribution of the Netherlands;
* Ms Amelie Banke is supporting CWSS from August 2021- August 2022 within her *Freiwilliges Ökologisches Jahr (FÖJ)*;
* Germany plans to initiate a ’Youth Conference’ as part of its presidency of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation. BfN/ BMU approached the CWSS to organize this conference in September 2022, as lead project coordinator, due to its key position in the trilateral network. Simone Prestes Dürrnagel is supporting CWSS as Project Coordinator, Youth Conference.

The group **noted** the information

# SWIMWAY trilateral

###### Document: EG-Swimway21-1-3-Trilateral-overview

The chair introduced work of EG-Swimway in the setting of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation (TWSC), and informed on success stories of the previous ad hoc Working Group Swimway (ad hoc WG Swimway), including a [SWIMWAY conference on understanding connectivity within the life cycles of coastal fish](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/resources/swimways-understanding-connectivity-within-life-cycles-coastal-fish-conference-report) in 2019, and a draft monitoring proposal for fish monitoring within the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP). Several group members informed on the relation of current fish projects to fisheries, which is by their Terms of Reference out of scope of EG-Swimway (see EG-Swimway21-1-3-Trilateral-overview). It was emphasized that fishery as a key stressor to fish populations and life cycles should be addressed in order to implement the trilateral fish targets.

The group **noted** the information and **agreed** to dedicate time in the next meeting for deciding how and what to communicate for the relation of SWIMWAY to fisheries.

# SWIMWAY vision and action programme

The chair introduced the Swimway Vision which was signed by 25 stakeholders and which was presented at the Trilateral Governmental Conference in Leeuwarden 2018, and annexed to the Ministerial Declaration ([Leeuwarden Declaration 2018](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/resources/2018-leeuwarden-declaration)), and the corresponding *[Swimway Vision and Action Programme](https://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/resources/trilateral-wadden-sea-swimway-vision-action-programme)* 2019 with its four pillars 1) Research and monitoring, 2) Measures, 3) Policy and 4) Stakeholder involvement, communication and education.

The group **noted** the information and **agreed** to inquire who did not sign the SWIMWAY Vision (Annex 3 to Leeuwarden Declaration 2018) and for what reason. The group **agreed** that ideally all stakeholders relevant to fish protection in the Wadden Sea should sign the SWIMWAY vision.

The [*Swimway Vision and Action Programme*](https://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/resources/trilateral-wadden-sea-swimway-vision-action-programme) should be financed through projects: “*It is envisaged that a number of collaborative projects will be developed to address the objectives of the SWIMWAY programme. The funding of these projects will be sought from external sources, both national and EU. Even if national funding cannot be used in a trilateral context, it is important that the available financial resources are being coordinated as much as possible. Scientific institutes may be able to develop students’ projects and PhD programmes for elaborating the SWIMWAY topics. The process of submitting proposals and getting funds is usually long and intense. The project leader/members of the trilateral countries should be available to help, making use of national support, e. g. from the National Contact Points.”*

Paddy Walker informed on a sub-group which regularly met in 2021 to come up with a trilateral SWIMWAY proposal. Outcome is a living document with six areas for trilateral project(s), displayed in several modules. These could be selected stand-alone or fully, yet for a full project it is too large to apply for a small funds, but too niche to apply for larger funds, e.g., within Horizon 2020. Participants added ideas and buzzwords, which could also be used for an extension. Amongst these were additional trophic levels, e.g., predation by marine mammals (see [ASCOBANS Resolution](https://www.ascobans.org/en/document/food-availability-and-resource-depletion)) or birds, as well as reinstalling connectivity, e.g., through dams (Sylt- and Rømø) and from river source to sea. Besides connectivity, the buzzwords punching holes and bottlenecks were mentioned.

The group **agreed** to take up discussion on a concrete way forward to trilateral project in the next meeting while **noting** that writing a full proposal is out of scope for the EG-Swimway and that external support is needed.

The chair further reported on the currently valid fish targets in the [Wadden Sea Plan 2010](https://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/resources/2010-wadden-sea-plan), which are formulated in a general way and can therefore not be evaluated quantitatively. To facilitate evaluation of objectives in the future, [Tulp et al 2017 in the Quality Status Report thematic report fish](https://qsr.waddensea-worldheritage.org/reports/fish) (and Tulp et al in press, QSR 2022) proposed to restructure and reformulate the targets.

The group **agreed** to bring a decision about the use of the suggested (QSR 2017) fish targets forward.

## Research & monitoring

###### Document: EG-Swimway21-1-4-1 Swimway projects

New members stressed the usefulness of the document which is a list of projects with relation to the four pillars of the Swimway vision and action programme, which had been established in the previous ad hoc Working Group Swimway (WG-Swimway) as living document.

The group **noted** the information and usefulness of the document.

The group **agreed** to regularly update the living document online: <https://waddenseasecretariat-my.sharepoint.com/:x:/g/personal/busch_waddensea-secretariat_org/EUP1yhB-3FNMuQTZ3HmrrhIBfnpvTu0bCF09ytGIo8L0AA?e=2n9Dwf>

## Measures

In the Swimway Vision Action programme, the pillar Measures is summarised as “*At various locations conservation measures have already been carried out to improve living conditions for, and to mitigate threats to, fish. An integrative and comprehensive overview of such measures, together with a review of their contribution to the realisation of the Fish Targets, will help to evaluate the do’s and don’ts and identify the “lessons learned”. Combining this with the analysis of the bottlenecks will help gain insight into where measures might be developed in a participatory process with stakeholders.”*

The group discussed current measures related to Swimway, including on interconnectivity, salt marshes, climate change, external pressures, and (lack of) underwater structural habitats.

The group **agreed** to formulate guidelines/position paper on *Using windows of opportunity to redesign sluices and other flood protection structures fish-friendly* based on a talk by Jeroen Huisman on the Swimway conference. A drafting group will elaborate on format and text, consisting of Jeroen Huisman, Niels Jepsen, Oliver Finch, Andreas Dänhardt, Aline Kühl Stenzel, Adi Kellermann and CWSS: <https://waddenseasecretariat-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/busch_waddensea-secretariat_org/EegKvzhSlnFNmZhzVKxLFkYBIKk2MBbsYPSJwnpCDZE1cQ?e=2pV3la> Fish friendly dikes and sluices could be a key measure (possibly on a more formal level) on the Trilateral Governmental Conference in 2022.

The chair inquired on the group´s ambition to organise a follow-up conference of the SWIMWAYs: Understanding connectivity within the life cycles of coastal fish 2019 conference.

The group **agreed** to follow-up on the idea of organising a SWIMWAY conference, aiming for the year 2023, either as stand-alone conference or embedded in an overarching setting, e.g., the UNESCO Marine Site mangers conference, if held in the Wadden Sea.

The group further **agreed** to continue exchange in EG-Swimway, e.g., by theme sessions on fish targets or SWIMWAY pillars, or on topics, such as salt marsh management, underwater activities, nursery function of the Wadden Sea, migration, connectivity or sluices.

## Policy

[*WSB-32-5-2-4-Swimway-policy-statement*](https://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/system/files/WSB-32-5-2-4-Swimway-policy-statement.pdf)

The chair informed on activities for this pillar, which includes a Swimway policy statement, which summarizes a short inventory of existing policies and regulations relevant to the Trilateral Fish Targets at the international, European and trilateral level. In their 32 meeting, the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) had noted the information in support of the conclusions and recommendations of the Swimway policy statement.

Julia Busch informed on an excel table summarising also national policies related to the trilateral fish targets by CWSS.

The group **noted** the information and **agreed** to discuss activities in this SWIMWAY pillar in their next meeting, e.g., taking up recommendations of the Swimway policy statement, possibly in form of a position paper.

## Stakeholder involvement, communication and education

The group **agreed** to tackle this item in one of the next meetings.

# Quality Status Report (QSR)

Ingrid Tulp informed that a first revision of a new Quality Status Report (QSR) thematic report fish, for which she functioned as first author, was submitted to CWSS.

The group **noted** the information. CWSS will share the draft report as pdf with the group.

# Roadmap

###### Document: EG-Swimway21-1-6 Roadmap.docx

Julia Busch outlined main activities of EG-Swimway, of which some were inherited by the WG-Swimway, such as a SWIMWAY micro(web)site. Important milestones for planning of activities are in 2022, such as the Ministerial Declaration and Trilateral Governmental Conference and a mid-term review of the Swimway Vision Action programme, and in 2024 when the SWIMWAY Vision Action programme ends.

The group **noted** the information and agreed that chair and CWSS will revise the Roadmap. The group further **agreed** to add to an online document for short term planning until the TGC and MD end of 2022 <https://waddenseasecretariat-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/busch_waddensea-secretariat_org/EVRnSoYFiWpPghH04GFcBZsBjLigjv2Ttxt_R4_poFDjEw?e=35lRta>.

# Any Other Business and next meeting

As part of the organizational team of the International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS), Marina Sanns informed that recent COVID developments are watched closely and that different possibilities of how the symposium can be held in a safe and relaxed way are investigated. A decision will be taken until Friday 19 November and participants will be informed as soon as possible.

WG-Swimway **noted** the information.

**Next meeting:**

WG-Swimway **agreed** to timely fill in a doodle shared by CWSS for a next meeting early 2021.

# Closing

The meeting was be closed by the chair Adi Kellermann at 16:45 on 17 November 2021. He thanked the participants for the good discussions and thanked CWSS for smooth organization.

**ANNEX 1: List of participants**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Expert Group Swimway (EG-Swimway 21-1)

17 November 2021

Online

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Denmark** | |
| **Mr Niels Jepsen**  DTU AQUA/National Institute of Aquatic Resources  Section for Freshwater Fisheries Ecology  Technical University of Denmark  Vejlsøvej 39  DK-8600 Silkeborg  Phone: +45 35 88 31 31  E-Mail: nj@aqua.dtu.dk | **Ms Xenia Salomonsen**  Danish National Park Wadden Sea  Nationalpark Vadehavet  Havnebyvej 30  DK-6792 Rømø  Phone: +45 72 54 36 52  Mobil: +45 26 28 44 66  E-Mail: xemsa@danmarksnationalparker.dk |
| **Schleswig-Holstein** | |
| **Ms Marina Sanns**  Schleswig-Holstein Agency for Coastal Defense, National Park and Marine Conservation  National Park Authority  Schloßgarten 1  D-25832 Tönning |  |
| **Germany (Hamburg, Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein)** | |
| **Mr Christian Abel**  National Park Authority Lower Saxony  Virchowstr. 1  D-26382 Wilhelmshaven  Phone: +49 (0) 4421 911xx  E-Mail: christian.abel@nlpv-wattenmeer.niedersachsen.de | **Mr Oliver-David Finch**,  Lower Saxony Water Management, Coastal Protection and Nature Conservation Agency (NLWKN)  Oldersumer Straße 48  D-26603 Aurich  Phone: +49 (0) 4941 176-155  E-mail: Oliver-David.Finch@nlwkn.niedersachsen.de |
| **Netherlands** | |
| **Ms Martha Buitenkamp**  Programme towards a rich Wadden Sea (PRW)  Brusselseweg 6  NL - 9321 TN Peize  Phone: +31 (0) 621578477  E-Mail: m.buitenkamp@anantis.nl | **Mr Jeroen Huisman**  Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Science (VHL)  PO box 1528  NL-8901 BV Leeuwarden  Phone: +31 58 - 2846245  Mobile: +31 6- 22839827  E-mail: [jeroen.huisman@hvhl.nl](mailto:jeroen.huisman@hvhl.nl) |
| **Ms Ingrid Tulp**  Wageningen, University & Research (WUR)  Dept. Wageningen Marine Research  Postbus 68  NL-1970 AB Ijmuiden  Phone:+31 (317) 487112  E-Mail: ingrid.tulp@wur.nl |  |
| **Participants from advisors to WSB and external experts** | |
| **Ms. Aline Kühl-Stenzel**  NABU-Bundesverband  c/o Landesgeschäftsstelle Hamburg  Klaus-Groth-Str. 21  D-20535 Hamburg  Mobil: +49 (0)174 1818477  Email: aline.kuehl-stenzel@NABU.de | **Ms Eva Lages**  WWF, Wadden Sea Office  Hafenstraße 3  D-25813 Husum  Phone: +49 151 188 54 197  E-Mail: Eva.Lages@wwf.de |
| **Chair and** **Secretary** | |
| **Mr Adi Kellermann (Chair)**  Kellermann-Consultants  Ostdeutsche Str. 28  D-25840 Friedrichstadt  Phone: +49 4881610  E-Mail: [akellerman@t-online.de](mailto:akellerman@t-online.de) | **Ms Julia A. Busch (Secretary)**  Common Wadden Sea Secretariat |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Invited guests** | |
| **Mr Andreas Dänhardt** (D)  Phone: +49 179 5171539  E-Mail: andreas@daenhardt.com | **Ms Katja Heubel (D)**  Kiel University, Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel -Research adn Technology Centre, West Coast (FTZ)  Hafentörn 1  D- 25761 Büsum  Phone: +49 4834 604 203  E-Mail: heubel@ftz-west.uni-kiel.de |
| **Ms Paddy Walker** (NL)  Tethys: aquatic ecosystem advice  Mûnebuorren 25  NL 9132 EJ, Engwierum  Phone: +31622278193  E-Mail: tethysadvice@gmail.com |  |

**ANNEX 2: Agenda**

A picture containing diagram

Description automatically generatedFINAL AGENDA

**Expert Group Swimway**

**(EG-Swimway 21-1)**

17 November 2021

Online meeting

# Opening of the Meeting and adoption of the Agenda

The meeting will be opened by the Chairperson at 13:30 on 17 November. Proposal: Adopt the draft agenda of the meeting.

# Announcements

###### Document: EG-Swimway21-1-1-Announcements

Meeting participants are invited to hand in their information to CWSS before the meeting. Individual general announcements will not be repeated in this online format, but time given for questions. Focus is on exchange of information on SWIMWAY related projects and proposal initiatives. Proposal: Note the information.

# SWIMWAY trilateral

###### Document: EG-Swimway21-1-3-Trilateral-overview

Overview on trilateral setting [Adi]. Proposal: Note the information

# SWIMWAY vision and action programme

Short introduction to the *[Swimway Vision and Action Programme](https://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/resources/trilateral-wadden-sea-swimway-vision-action-programme)* [Adi]. Proposal: Note the information

## Research & monitoring

###### Document: EG-Swimway21-1-4-Inventory projects and initiatives Swimway-living document.xlsx

Discuss relevant information and exchange projects and proposals of SWIMWAY activities [Adi, all]. Proposal: Note the information and EG-Swimway to regularly update living document.

## Measures

Discuss SWIMWAY measures [all]. Proposal: Collect information on measures and documentation and define product.

## Policy

[*WSB-32-5-2-4-Swimway-policy-statement*](https://www.waddensea-secretariat.org/system/files/WSB-32-5-2-4-Swimway-policy-statement.pdf)

Information on SWIMWAY policy statement [Adi]. Proposal: Note the information

## Stakeholder involvement, communication and education

Proposal: Discuss at next meeting.

# Quality Status Report

Information on update of the Quality Status Report (QSR) thematic report fish [QSR Authors]. Proposal: Note the information

# Roadmap

###### Document: EG-Swimway21-1-6 Roadmap.docx

Discuss further procedure and roadmap for 2022, including risk assessment [Adi]. Proposal: Agree on roadmap

1. **Any Other Business and next meeting**

Discuss any other business (AOB) and next meeting(s). Proposal: Note the information

1. **Closing**

The meeting will be closed no later than 16:00 hours on 17 November 2021.

**ANNEX 3: Action items arising from WG-Swimway 21-1**

ACTION ITEMS

Expert Group Swimway (EG-Swimway 21-1)

17 February 2021

Online

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Action #** | **Agenda item** | **Actions agreed upon** | **Person responsible** | **Deadline** |
| 1 | 3 | Dedicate time for deciding how and what to communicate for the relation of SWIMWAY to fisheries. | all | Next meeting |
| 2 | 4 | Inquire who did not sign the SWIMWAY Vision (Annex 3 to Leeuwarden Declaration 2018) and for which reason | Martha Buitenkamp, CWSS | Next meeting |
| 3 | 4 | Take up discussion on a concrete way forward to trilateral project | all | Next meeting |
| 4 | 4 | Bring a decision about the use of the suggested (QSR 2017) fish targets forward | CWSS? | TBD |
| 5 | 4.1 | Regularly update the living document on Swimway related projects online | all | On-going |
| 6 | 4.2 | Elaborate on format and formulate guidelines/position paper on *Using windows of opportunity to redesign sluices and other flood protection structures fish-friendly*. | Drafting group: Jeroen Huisman, Niels Jepsen, Oliver Finch, Andreas Dänhardt, Aline Kühl Stenzel and CWSS | Next meeting? |
| 7 | 4.2 | Follow-up on the idea of organising a SWIMWAY conference, aiming for the year 2023 | all | Next meeting |
| 8 | 4.2 | Continue exchange in EG-Swimway, e.g., by theme sessions on fish targets or SWIMWAY pillars, or on topics, such as salt marsh management, underwater activities, nursery function of the Wadden Sea, migration, connectivity or sluices. | all | On-going |
| 9 | 4.3 | Discuss activities in “Measures”, e.g., taking up recommendations of the SWIMWAY policy statement, possibly in form of a position paper. | all | Next meeting |
| 10 | 4.4 | Tackle Swimway pillar Stakeholder involvement, communication and education | all | One of the next meetings |
| 11 | 5 | Share QSR fish report draft 2021 as pdf with EG-Swimway. | CWSS | ASAP |
| 12 | 6 | Revise the Roadmap | Chair, CWSS | Next meeting |
| 13 | 6 | Add to an online document for short term planning until the TGC and MD end of 2022. | all | 14 December 2021 |
| 14 | 7 | Prepare doodle for next meeting, in time (before mid February 2022) for the deadline of WSB 35 documents | CWSS | ASAP |