MEETING DOCUMENT

**Task Group Management (TG-M 20-3)**

20 October 2020

Online meeting

**Agenda Item: 4. Implementation of the Leeuwarden Declaration**

**Subject:** **WG-Swimway-Terms of reference (ToR)**

**Document No.:** TG-M 20-3/4/2

**Date:** 09 October 2020

**Submitted by: WG-Swimway**

The ad hoc Working Group SWIMWAY has been set up by the Wadden Sea Board (WSB) to initiate the SWIMWAY Vision and Action Programme 2019 – 2024.

For 2020, a transformation of the ad hoc Working Group Swimway (WG-Swimway) to an Expert Group has been envisaged. Consequently, the Terms of Reference for WG-Swimway include Task (2) Elaborate TOR and a work plan for a possible Expert Group Fish;

The group is discussed and recommends their transformation to an Expert Group with the respective Terms of Reference (ToR), also under consideration of the [conference report SWIMWAYs: Understanding connectivity within the life cycles of coastal fish](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/sites/default/files/2019_Swimway%20conference%20report.pdf) and monitoring report (WG-SWIMWAY20-2-6).

This document contains Terms of Reference (ToR) for a possible future Expert Group agreed upon by the Swimway group in their meeting WG-Swimway 20-3 on 7 October 2020.

**Proposal:** Adopt ToR for EG-Swimway and submit to the next Wadden Sea Board for endorsement

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 confirmed the wish, to implement 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.

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) insofar as these are relevant to its work.

**Objective**

The overarching goal of the group is to improve the situation for fish in the Wadden Sea. This goal is to be achieved by implementing the latest adopted trilateral fish targets and to provide an overarching SWIMWAY approach as umbrella for initiatives related to achieving the targets, by putting in effect the Swimway Vision Action Programme and its four pillars: research and monitoring; policy; measures and stakeholder involvement, communication and education.

**Tasks**

(1) Develop, initiate, carry out/support, document and evaluate activities targeted at improving the situation for fish in the Wadden Sea. Activities include but are not limited to research, monitoring, conservation and restoration measures, capacity building, development of best practices, education and advice;

(2) Coordinate a 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 other, 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 and to the public at large, including organization of Swimway confernces;

(7) Management of the Swimway Vision and Action Programme; including elaborating recommendations of the Swimway policy review. Policy issues arising from or connected to the Vision and Action Programme will be coordinated with the relevant TG(‘s).

**Deliverables**

(1) Regular documentation of how the group work has improved the situation for fish in the Wadden Sea;

(2) Recommendation for operational fish monitoring programme(s) under TMAP;

(3) SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-bound) sub-targets for Trilateral Fish Targets and monitoring their implementation; Acquisition of collaborative projects with relevance to the SWIMWAY vision and action programme, such as joint research projects;

(4) 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;

(5) Concept and platform for communication and for exchange of information with other SWIMWAY initiatives and entities to consider the wider geographical context of migrating fish;

(6) Information material, collaboration and exchange, e.g., by Swimway conferences;

(7) Activity plan for implementation of SWIMWAY Vision and Action Programme with clearly defined products and results, division of tasks, agreements on time expenditure and budget, with continuous updates.

**Composition/Membership**

Chairperson with capacity to function as Swimway Action Programme Coordinator.

Two members per region (DK, HH, LS, NL, SH), preferably with scientific background and expertise in Wadden Sea fish and/or from monitoring and administrative level.

Participation by additional experts to EG-SWIWMAY meetings and activities is welcome.

**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 2020 – 2024.