MEETING DOCUMENT

**Task Group Management (TG-M 21-2)**

09 March 2021

Online meeting

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

**Subject: Marine litter**

**Document No.:** TG-M 21-2/4/2

**Date:** 24 February 2021

**Submitted by: Chair**

At the TG-M 19-1 meeting in April 2019, a proposal was endorsed that the Netherlands would make an inventory on marine litter in the three countries, based on a note where Denmark has made a first inventory on activities going on in Denmark regarding marine litter. At WSB 29 also the relation with the OPteam PH was discussed and recognized.

At TG-M 20-3, it was agreed to prepare a note to state possible activities and policy and management recommendations for WSB and possibly the coming Declaration, based on the group´s responsibility to follow up on the issue of marine litter since the Leeuwarden Conference in 2018. TG-M further decided to add a legal framework overview to the paper containing the inventory.

Both the inventory and possible activities and recommendations were discussed at the TG-M meeting 21-1 on 28 January 2021. This inventory with the legal framework overview was submitted by TG-M to WSB 32 ([WSB 32/5.2/5 TG-M Marine Litter inventory](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/system/files/WSB-32-5-2-5-tg%20m%20marine%20litter.pdf)).

As shown in the inventory, the subject marine litter is dealt with in many activities on many levels while not necessarily optimally coordinated. To gain the most possible added value from a Wadden Sea perspective, possible actions by TWSC must build on -/be coordinated with initiatives, strategies and efforts already formulated or being formulated in adjacent areas, organisations and agreements. TG-M thus presented a first version of a paper to WSB 32 that in its next and final stage will also contain concrete recommendations to the TWSC for improving focussed and targeted collaboration and coordination. TG-M expects to be able to develop this in time for WSB 33.

This document contains a first draft of recommendations as were submitted to TG-M 21-1 as document TG-M21-1-4-2-Marine litter note (Draft v. 0.3).docx

**Proposal:** The group is invited to discuss recommendations to the TWSC for improving focussed and targeted collaboration and coordination (upon approval of WSB at their WSB 32 meeting on 4 March 2021)

**Inventory**

For the latest version of the inventory see([WSB 32/5.2/5 TG-M Marine Litter inventory](https://www.waddensea-worldheritage.org/system/files/WSB-32-5-2-5-tg%20m%20marine%20litter.pdf)). The next and final stage will also contain concrete recommendations to the TWSC for improving focussed and targeted collaboration and coordination.

The following discussion and activities have been submitted to TG-M 21-1 as document *TG-M21-1-4-2-Marine litter note (Draft v. 0.3).docx*

**Discussion:**

Being aware that TWSC has limited resources due to it’s small size compared with other marine litter “players”, i.e. [PAME under the Arctic Council](https://pame.is/index.php/projects/arctic-marine-pollution), [EU](https://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/europes-seas-and-coasts/assessments/marine-litterwatch), [UN](https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/oceans-seas/what-we-do/addressing-land-based-pollution/global-partnership-marine) and [OSPAR](https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/eiha/marine-litter) and the fact that marine litter per se is a cross-border phenomenon, it is perhaps more obvious here than other areas of action to focus on the value of cooperation with partners in adjacent geographical locations, and further, when it comes to the management and action angle of a strategy in line with i.e. MAPAS, Swimway and Flyway that this must build on -/be coordinated with initiatives, strategies and efforts already formulated or being formulated in adjacent areas.

A potential strength of TWSC in a Marine Litter context attaches to the QSR-complex, where research recommendations, or to be more precise regarding the current QSR, remarks and preconditions mentioned about monitoring and data are present, but where the scientists given a more specific task of formulating specific research recommendations might contribute more substantially to a coming strategy.

Assuming TWSC is successful in creating easy access to data collected according to TMAP and other relevant data sources this might also ease the possibilities of more benefit from the QSR in the marine litter area.

**Possible activities (prioritized):**

Below is a list of existing and new/updated initiatives and actions which, if implemented in full, is estimated to be able to meet the intentions set out in the Leeuwarden Declaration. If only some of the initiatives and actions are implemented, a re-evaluation of the level of ambition in the Leeuwarden Declaration must be considered.

The list has initially been prioritized by the authors, who at the same time considers initiatives 1-6 to be appropriate/feasible to handle within a very modest increase of resources:

1. Maintain present ambitions regarding marine litter monitoring and QSR-reporting.
2. To intensify efforts regarding systematic access to data thus also facilitating research initiatives.
3. In connection with TMAP updates evaluate the coverage of marine litter monitoring in NL, D & DK and subsequently make proposals for updating the national monitoring programs and in that connection to investigate whether the current monitoring gives enough information to deal with potential land-based and/or riverine sources of marine litter.
4. Closely follow and contribute to, as appropriate via the national representations, the work at EU and OSPAR level.
5. Awareness rising via communication and dissemination on a regular basis and subsequently encourage the sharing of good practices, for example by formulating and communicating a list of typical Wadden Sea litter which can be easily avoided by different users.
6. To offer the Partnership Hub (and Center) as a place for stakeholder-activities and research (initiatives beyond monitoring/QSR).
7. More actively identify specific research gaps and facilitate project formulation within the PH-concept
8. To supplement and actively participate in strategies/initiatives from other stakeholders, connecting to the activities listed earlier in this note.
9. To develop a Trilateral strategy and action plan (also based on a comparison of the trilateral implementation of the EU-Directive on Single Used Plastic) for MC-2022 in Wilhelmshaven for inclusion as an annex in the new Declaration in line with other examples (SIMP, MAPAS, Swimway, Flyway etc.) e.g. based on OSPAR’s regional Plan on Marine Litter.

**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that TG-M discuss the above, and in general consider to express an inclination towards focusing -/restricting the TWSC effort on Marine Litter to monitoring, data access/QSR-reporting, communication etc. and activities connected to the coming PH-Center in Wilhelmshaven. This will correspond to activities/initiatives 1-6. It is further recommended to consider the compliance of such a decision with both the letter and spirit of the Leeuwarden Declaration, preample and sections 2.2. and 2.3.