MEETING DOCUMENT

**Task Group Monitoring and Assessment**

**TG-MA 21-2**

15 March 2021

Online meeting

**Agenda Item:** 5. Quality Status Report

**Subject:** Editorial Board TORs after WSB 32

**Document No.:** TG-MA 21-2-5-1

**Date:** 10 March 21

**Submitted by:** Germany

Attached are the draft TORs for the future QSR Editorial Board with amendments from Germany after WSB 32.

**Proposal:** The meeting is invited to discuss and elaborate the document.

QSR Editorial Board (QSR-EB)

**Terms of Reference**

Amendments by Germany – 8 March 2021

Background

The regularly published Quality Status Reports describes and evaluates the ecological and environmental status of the Wadden Sea. The aim is to scientifically identify changes of this status and possible causes, to classify issues of concern and to indicate possible measures of redress, including the evaluation of the likely effectiveness of these measures, and to detect gaps in knowledge. The QSR is mainly based on the Trilateral Monitoring and Assessment Programme (TMAP) and is assessing the status against the targets of the Wadden Sea Plan (WSP) as well as safeguarding the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and the integrity of the World Heritage Site. Thematic Reports covering topics which are not based on TMAP, will be assessed by expert judgement in cooperation with the TG-M. CWSS, together with the Task Group Monitoring and Assessment (TG -MA) coordinates and is responsible for an effective planning and smooth processes of the QSR products, incl. the tasks of the Editorial Board . The QSR Editorial Board is an effective and independently acting panel for safeguarding sound scientific content by considering the involvement of an appropriate group of reviewers in consultation with TG-MA and TG-Management (TG-M) on relevant topics.

The Editorial Board is responsible for the content of the QSR and will contribute to the scientific products for the Ministerial Conference. The Wadden Sea Board (WSB) may mandate a policy response on the outcome, e.g. a Summary for Policy Makers.

Objective

Supervise, as an independent scientific panel, on the academic quality of relevant QSR products, on review and evaluation of content of QSR Thematic Reports, but also on further QSR products for the next Ministerial Conference. Safeguard the assessments against the WSP targets, the existing trilateral strategies and the OUV of the World Heritage site within the Thematic Reports.

Tasks

Evaluation and review of scientific content of QSR Thematic Reports and QSR products in preparation of the Ministerial Conference in November 2022 (Annex Table 1). During the German presidency, it was agreed to consider updates on selected QSR Thematic Reports and to provide a report that will summarize these chapters. The TG-MA supports the Editorial Board with the required data and/or, together with TG-M, the necessary links to the involved governmental bodies.

In particular:

1) Evaluate the scientific content of current QSR Thematic Reports on soundness and topicality;

2) Advise on planning and outlining of QSR Thematic Reports e.g. by suggesting alternative processes and content;

3) Coordinate and have an active role in the review process also by involving further external reviewers from their network and the trilateral community. This coordination will be conducted in consultation with TG-MA and TG-M on relevant topics (e.g. human use chapters), while these groups are not foreseen to participate in the actual reviews themselves;

4) Develop and contribute on content on agreed QSR relevant products for the Ministerial Conference together with TG-MA and TG-M;

5) Consider presentation of the outcomes of the QSR Thematic Reports at the International Scientific Wadden Sea Symposium (ISWSS) in Nov./Dec. 2021.

Deliverables

1) Coordination of the scientific review of selected QSR Thematic Reports;

2) Assessment of scientific content of Thematic Reports and, if applicable, its relevance for WSP targets and the OUV;

3) QSR relevant products/documents, also for the TGC in November 2022. (EB in consultation with relevant trilateral groups).

Composition/Membership

* Coordinator of QSR (CWSS) and Chairperson (from the trilateral framework).
* 1-2 members per region and/or state (NL, DE, LS, HH, SH, DK).
* The composition of the EB should reflect the subject areas of the QSR complex.

Time schedule

During German presidency.

The QSR EB will have a minimum of five meetings during the remaining working period of the presidency (approx. 1.5 years).

Annex:

Table 1: Selected QSR Thematic Reports for updating (see WSB 32/5.4)