

MEETING DOCUMENT

Wadden Sea Board (WSB 44)

20 November 2024
Online meeting



Agenda Item:	5.3 Manage and communicate effectively (paras 44-56)
Subject:	Wadden Sea Quality Status Report
Document No.:	WSB 44/5.3/1
Date:	7 November 2024
Submitted by:	CWSS

The Wadden Sea Quality Status Report (QSR) is a conglomeration of thematic reports on the Wadden Sea.

In the Wilhelmshaven Declaration, the Wadden Sea Board was instructed “*to produce updates of the online Wadden Sea Quality Status Report that reflect important ecological and socio-economic topics, also in the light of climate change, and to deliver a comprehensive synthesis report in time for the next Trilateral Governmental Conference;*”

This document contains information on the status of new QSR thematic reports in 2024, planned reports, as well as a Synthesis Report and a QSR process description to be developed.

Proposal: The meeting is invited to note the status and progress of thematic reports and the development of a Synthesis Report and the overall QSR process.

Status and progress of thematic reports and the development of a synthesis report of the Wadden Sea Quality Status report

New thematic reports of the QSR in 2024

- Thematic QSR “Climate Change”:

Philippart C.J.M., Baptist M.J., Bastmeijer C.J., Bregnballe T., Buschbaum C., Hoekstra P., Laursen K., van Leeuwen S.M., Oost A.P., Wegner M. & Zijlstra R. (2024) *Climate change*. In: Wadden Sea Quality Status Report. Eds.: Kloepper S. et al., Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Wilhelmshaven, Germany. Last updated: 01.02.2024. Downloaded 28.10.2024. qsr.waddensea-worldheritage.org/climate-change-2024

- Thematic QSR “Harbours and Shipping”:

Bahlke C. (2024) *Harbours and shipping*. In: Wadden Sea Quality Status Report. Eds.: Kloepper S. et al., Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Wilhelmshaven, Germany. Last updated: 28.05.2024. Downloaded 28.10.2024. qsr.waddensea-worldheritage.org/harbours-and-shipping-2024

- Thematic QSR “Salt marshes”:

Elschot K., Esselink P., Frikke J., Jensen K., Janinhoff-Verdaat N., Paarup Thomsen M., Padlat M., van der Wal J.T., van Duin W.E., van Puijenbroek M.E.B., Rupprecht F. & Stock M. (2024) *Salt Marshes*. In: Wadden Sea Quality Status Report. Eds.: Kloepper S. et al., Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Wilhelmshaven, Germany. Last updated: 06.11.2024. Downloaded 06.11.2024. qsr.waddensea-worldheritage.org/reports/salt-marshes-2024

QSR thematic reports in preparation and planned

- Update of thematic QSR “Fisheries”
- Update of thematic QSR “Seagrass”
- Update of thematic QSR “Eutrophication”
- Update of QSR Introduction
- Update of thematic QSR “Pollutants in Bird Eggs” (depending on resolution of outstanding issues regarding data analysis)
- Preparation of thematic QSR “Hazardous Substances” for further processing (complex process due to issues with the data availability)

QSR synthesis report

A synthesis report of all thematic QSRs is planned for 2025, thereby assessing the current environmental state of the Wadden Sea focusing on habitats and species, the linkages between these and current pressures upon them. The drafting of the report shall be performed in connection to the joint Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) requested by the World Heritage Committee.

QSR process review

A QSR process review and proposal for the future organization and set-up of the QSR process is planned, to be presented for the WSB 45 in spring 2025. This should include organizational aspects as well as proposals on finances, content, responsibilities, authorships and review process and shall be prepared under consultation of relevant trilateral bodies and external partners.