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15th Trilateral Governmental Conference on the Protection of the Wadden Sea

Protection Through Recognition

PROGRAMME

27-29 May 2026 in Esbjerg, Denmark

unesco
World Heritage Site

WADDEN SEA
WORLD HERITAGE

Wednesday, 27 May

*** Marked sessions are organised independently. Content responsibility lies with the respective presenters.

09.00 Doors Open for Registration & Marketplace Set-Up

11.00 **CONFERENCE OPENING**
Foyer
- Welcome Address by Anne-Marie Vægter Rasmussen, Chair of the Wadden Sea Board
- Opening of Marketplace

Moderator: Sascha Klöpper, Common Wadden Sea Secretariat

12.00 Lunch Break in the Foyer

13.00 **KEYNOTE: Protection Through Recognition – Shared Values & Joint Action**
Teatersalen
Presenter: Tove Damholt, Advisor on World Heritage and Sustainable Site Management

13.45 **SESSION 1: Safeguarding the Outstanding Universal Value of the Wadden Sea**
Moderators: Jeroen Bootsma, Task Group World Heritage, & Anja Szczesinski, IWSS

13.45-14.30 *Teatersalen*
Between Knowledge and Uncertainty: An Assessment of the Wadden Sea
Presenters: Common Wadden Sea Secretariat & Waddenacademie

13.45-14.45 *Mødesalen*
Shared Stories – Shared Responsibility: Integrating Multiple Perspectives into Wadden Sea Education
Presenters: Members of the trilateral Network Group Education

14.30-15.00 *Teatersalen*
Informing Future Decisions: A Joint Strategic Environmental Assessment of Cumulative Impacts on the UNESCO Wadden Sea World Heritage Site
Presenters: Members of the trilateral Task Group World Heritage and SEA Technical Subgroup, in collaboration with Haskoning, Ramboll, and BioConsult

15.00 Coffee Break in the Foyer

16.00 **SESSION 2: Sustainable Use of the Wadden Sea – Responsible Human Activities**
Moderators: Bernd Scherer, Trilateral Programming Committee - Wadden Sea Research, & Sjon de Haan, Network Group Sustainable Tourism

16.00-16.45 *Teatersalen*
Cables and Conservation Sustainable Offshore Energy Development in the Wadden Sea: How to balance offshore energy expansion with the protection of a sensitive marine ecosystem
Presenters: Members of the trilateral ad-hoc Working Group on Renewable Energy

16.00-16.45 *Mødesalen*
From Damage Control to Positive Impact – Tourism's Next Move: What regenerative tourism means in practice for the Wadden Sea region(s)***
Presenters: Wendy Oude Veldhuis & Fay de Koning, Visit Wadden

17.00-17.30 *Teatersalen*
From Visitors to Insights: A shared approach to monitoring the impact of tourism and recreation in the Wadden Sea Region***
Presenters: Monique Pruyt, Province Fryslân, Tom Koch, University of Applied Sciences Emden/ Leer, & Enno Lieder, Merk Fryslân/ Wadden Vision Interreg 6a

17.00-17.45 *Mødesalen*
Code of Conduct for Water Sport on the Wadden Sea: How good behaviour of visitors is the best way to protect the Wadden Sea***
Presenters: Pieter van Kuppenveld & Anders Bjerrum, Trilateral Wadden Sea Sailing Association (TWSSA)

17.30-18.00 *Teatersalen*
Strengthening the Data Foundation For Both National Management Tasks and Activities Under the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation***
Presenter: Henrik Dissing, Danmarks Miljøportal/ Danish Environmental Portal

18.30 Dinner with Music and Social Networking in the Foyer

Thursday, 28 May, Morning

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08.30 *Doors Open*

09.00 **SESSION 3: Advancing Nature-Based Climate Mitigation and Adaptation**
Moderators: Claus von Hoerschelmann, Expert Group Climate Change Adaptation, & Carlo Sass Sørensen, Wadden Sea Board

09.00-09.45 *Teatersalen*
Towards Climate Proof Landscapes – Water Safety with Biodiversity: Presentations of existing examples and discussion on their feasibility***
Presenter: Paul Rutten, Site Managers Collective Dutch Wadden Sea

09.00-09.45 *Mødesalen*
Advances in Monitoring of Intertidal Habitats – New Chances for Harmonisation: Implications of new monitoring tools for trilateral decision-making***
Presenter: Anna Kersten, BioConsult SH

10.00-10.45 *Teatersalen*
Resilience of Tidal Flats to Sea-Level Rise: Exploring sedimentation, sea-level rise, and intervention options in the Wadden Sea***
Presenter: Wenyan Zhang, Helmholtz-Zentrum Hereon

10.00-10.45 *Mødesalen*
The Future of Salt Marsh Conservation and Management Under Changing Climate: Experiences, insights, and upscaling potential from existing case studies across the Wadden Sea region
Presenters: Members of the trilateral Expert Groups Climate Change Adaptation and Salt Marshes & Dunes

11.00 **SESSION 4: Strengthening Trilateral and International Cooperation for a Resilient Wadden Sea**
Moderators: Tjeerd de Groot, Wadden Sea Team, & Emma Steinbrueck, Trilateral Youth Group

11.00-11.30 *Teatersalen*
Ecological Restoration at the Crossroads: Assessing the EU Nature Restoration Regulation's potential in the Wadden Sea***
Presenters: Kees Bastmeijer, Waddenacademie, & Floor Fleurke, Tilburg University

11.00-11.15 *Mødesalen*
Youth Engagement in the Wadden Sea World Heritage: Introductory overview
Presenter: Emma Steinbrueck, Trilateral Youth Network

11.15-12.00 *Mødesalen*
From Today's Voices to Tomorrow's Wadden Sea: Panel session featuring young experts from youth organisations in the Netherlands, Germany, and Denmark***
Presenter: Thomas van den Beukel, Jongerenberaad Waddengebied

11.45-12.15 *Teatersalen*
Eems-Dollard 2050 program: From a line to a zone – a coastal paradigm shift***
Presenter: Albert Vos, Province of Groningen

12.15-13.00 *Mødesalen*
Legacy: Long-term art-science collaboration – connecting glacier research and sea-level rise awareness through a long-term cultural project***
Presenter: Tyra Dokkedahl, Varde Municipality & Empathic Environments

12.30-13.00 *Teatersalen*
Connecting World Heritage Tidal Flats: Insights from the Korean Getbol for international cooperation***
Presenters: Yun Jae Lee, Ministry of Ocean and Fisheries; Gusung Lee & Kyung Hoon Kim, Korea Marine Environment Management Organization

13.00 *Lunch Break in the Foyer*

Thursday, 28 May, Afternoon

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14.00	**SESSION 5: Advancing Nature-Based Climate Mitigation and Adaptation** *Moderator: Peter Saabye Simonsen, National Park Vadehavet*
14.00-15.00 *Teatersalen*	**Stakeholder Engagement in the Wadden Sea Cooperation - Setting the Stage: Exploring, together & in collaboration, the opportunities for stakeholder engagement within the Wadden Sea partnership***** *Presenter: Omgevingsberaad Wadden & Det Rådgivende Udvalg for Vadehavet*
14.00-16.00 *Mødesalen*	**Enhancing Shipping Safety in the Wadden Sea and the North Sea: Stakeholder recommendations for action***** *Presenter: Lisa Bugge Nør Larsen, Local Authorities International Environmental Organisation (KIMO), Dutch Association of Wadden Sea Municipalities, The Wadden Sea Society*
15.15-16.00 *Teatersalen*	**Recognising Darkness – Protection of the Wadden Sea at Night: Interreg Darker Sky project – jointly shaped strategies for protecting and restoring darkness***** *Presenter: Nynke Visser, University of Groningen*
15.00 *Kunsten*	**Wadden Sea Board Meeting** (Upon Invitation: WSB Members & Advisors)
16.00 *Foyer*	**MINISTERIAL PROGRAMME OPENING** • Welcome Address by Jesper Frost Rasmussen, Mayor of Esbjerg • Welcome Remarks from International Guests
17.00	**Meeting of Ministers with their National Delegations** (Upon Invitation: Delegations)
17.00 *Mødesalen*	**MOVIE: The Green Coastline – Green Shipping and Dark Sky in the Wadden Sea Ports***** *Presenter: Arjen Bosch, Dutch Association of Wadden Sea Municipalities*
18.00	**Welcome Address by the Danish Minister in the Foyer**
18.30	**Ministers' Tour: Poster & Market Place**
20.00	*Doors Open for Ministerial Dinner in Koncertsalen (upon invitation only)*

Friday, 29 May

08.00 *Doors Open*

08.30 **Meeting of the Trilateral Governmental Council**
Mødesalen (Upon Invitation: Delegations)

08.30 **Safeguarding Our Migratory Waterbirds: From shared knowledge to joint actions along the East Atlantic Flyway**
Teatersalen *Presenters: Kristine Meise, Wadden Sea Flyway Initiative, & Rebecca Stewart, Climate-Resilient East Atlantic Flyway*

09.30 **MINISTERIAL SESSION**
Teatersalen **Protection Through Recognition**

12.00 **THE END & Lunch-to-go in the Foyer**
Conference ends (for all except WSB Members & Advisors)

13.00 **Wadden Sea Board Meeting**
Mødesalen (Upon Invitation: WSB Members & Advisors)

Find the up-to-date programme here

Organisers

The conference titled "Protection Through Recognition" is hosted by the current Danish Presidency of the Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation and organised by the Danish Agency for Green Transition and Aquatic Environment, supported by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat.

Ministry of Green Transition
Agency for Green Transition and Aquatic Environment

Common Wadden Sea Secretariat

Marketplace Overview

From Wednesday, 27 May, 11.00, to Friday, 29 May, 12.00

Information Stands in the Foyer

- DARKER SKY: Reclaiming the Night
- German Wadden Sea National Parks
- International Wadden Sea School (IWSS)
- National Park Vadehavet
- Omgevingsberaad voor het Waddengebied
- Swimway: Fish Without Borders
- Trilateral Wadden Sea Sailing Association (TWSSA)
- WWF & Schutzstation Wattenmeer

Posters in the Foyer

- Breeding Ground Under Pressure: Coastal Birds in the Wadden Sea
- Cumulative Impacts of Climate Change and Anthropogenic Activities on the Dutch Wadden Sea Under Four Socioeconomic and Environmental Scenarios
- DARKER SKY: Main Goals and Structure of the Project
- European Lobster in the Wadden Sea: Population Dynamics, Habitat Use and Connectivity for Conservation
- iSeal - Research for Nature Conservation
- Monitoring Change, Guiding Action: TMAP and the Future Wadden Sea
- Power Cables in the Wadden Sea: Pressures, Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Sustainable Ports Through the Years
- Swimway: Updated Vision and Action Programme
- Tracking Introduced Species: The Mutual Benefits of Science - Environmental Authority Cooperation
- Trilateral Wadden Youth: A Cross-Border Network for Youth Participation in the Wadden Sea World Heritage
- Triple Crisis Meets Trilateral Cooperation (TRICMA²)

Thursday, 28 May, 16.00-20.00 - Local Produce

Outside (16.00-20.00)

- Abildskærgård
- Bean Machine
- Benny og Elisas Bigård
- Doverholm Grønt
- Enghavegård Osteri
- Forum Mel
- Havervadgård
- Ormsiggaard
- Ribe Destilleri
- Toftegård Økologi
- Vester Vedsted Vingård
- Vingårdens Bord
- West Brew

In the Foyer (11.00-19.00)

- Fanø Laks
- Fanø Spirits
- OYSTER KING
- Vibegaard