MEETING DOCUMENT

**Ad hoc Working Group Swimway (WG-Swimway 20-3)**

07 October 2020

Online meeting

**Agenda Item: 7. Roadmap, Terms of Reference and future constituency**

**Subject: Terms of Reference**

**Document No.:** WG-Swimway 20-3/7/2rev

**Date:** 05 October 2020

**Submitted by: all**

This document contains Terms of Reference (ToR) for a possible future Expert Group based on discussions at WG-Swimway 20-2b follow-up ToR on 07 July and a subsequent email consultation with the Swimway group.

This is the first revision of the document, containing additional comments of the Netherlands as submitted on 4 September 2020.

**Proposal:** The group is invited to agree to the ToR and submit their proposal to the Task Group Management (TG-M).

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 at WSB28. EG SWIMWAY reports to CWSS and to TG-M and the Task Group Monitoring and Assessment (TG-MA) if appropriate. The EG has the possibility to report once yearly to the Wadden Sea Board (WSB).

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 implementation of 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) 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;

(2) 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;

(3) 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);

(4) 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;

(5) Promote communication of its work and actions to other national, trilateral and international groups and to the public at large;

(6) Management of the Swimway Vision and Action Programme; Policy issues arising from or connected to the Vision and Action Programme will be coordinated with the relevant TG(‘s)[Coordination: reservation DK, to be discussed with TG-M]

(7) Organization of trilateral Swimway conference every other year

(8) Elaborating recommendations of the Swimway policy review, including analysis of national and regional policies related to trilateral fish targets to achieve an ecosystem-based integrated policy approach.

**Deliverables**

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

(2) 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, if possible also including joint research projects;

(3) 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;

(4) 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;

(5) 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.

**Composition/Membership**

Chairperson with capacity to function as Swimway Action Programme Coordinator.

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

Participation by additional experts and interested stakeholders etc. to EG-SWIWMAY meetings and activities is welcome, for example by WSB-advisors and/or other strategic partners.

**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.