



Letter of Intent

between

Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ)

and

Delft University of Technology

and

Deltares

and

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

and

Wageningen Marine Research

and

Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO)

and

Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research (IOW)

and

**Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht Centre for Materials and Coastal Research GmbH (HZG),
represented by Institute of Coastal Research**

and

Leibniz University of Hannover

and

Department Maritime Systems, University of Rostock

and

Kiel Marine Science, Kiel University

and

Project Management Jülich

on

Research regarding marine and coastal systems

Objective

The objective of this Letter of Intent is to advance existing collaborations and to lay the foundation for a wider framework for promoting and facilitating scientific cooperation between the institutions in Germany and the Netherlands, in the field of marine and coastal research focusing on the North Sea and the Baltic Sea.

The main drivers for this cooperation are as follows:

- The need for a better understanding of marine and coastal (eco-)systems;
- Cost-effective use of research infrastructure and innovative technologies;
- Policy requirements, essential for coherence in monitoring and assessment between neighboring countries.

Areas of cooperation

The partners acknowledge the urgency of intensified scientific cooperation with respect to the causes and consequences of climate change effects as well as anthropogenic impacts on coastal systems and their dynamics in tidal and non-tidal systems of the North Sea and the Baltic Sea. The partners will strive to develop common strategies and joint research efforts for better understanding the current system, more accurately predicting future changes and minimizing their impact, and for developing innovative and sustainable adaptation strategies to climate- and human-induced marine and coastal challenges.

The undersigning institutions agree on further intensifying their cooperation focused on, but not limited to, the following themes:

- Understanding marine and coastal (eco-)systems of the North Sea and the Baltic Sea;
- Predicting and better understanding the effects of climate change and sea level rise;
- Developing innovative approaches to coastal engineering and coastal protection;
- Developing the scientific basis for ensuring a good water quality with a focus on pollution and eutrophication of coastal waters.

This cooperation includes the joint support of young scientists in academic exchange and access to facilities of the participating institutions, as well as efficient sharing of relevant infrastructure.

Further steps

Within six months after signing this Declaration of Intent and based on the results of the joint workshop held on 20 May 2019 at the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research in Warnemünde, the partners shall seek to sign a Memorandum of Understanding regarding their future collaboration, possibly including additional signatories from Germany and the Netherlands.

Signatories

Prof. Dr. Henk Brinkhuis
*Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea
Research (NIOZ)*

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Bathmann
*Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research
Warnemünde (IOW)*

Prof. Dr. Henk Schuttelaars
Delft University of Technology

Prof. Dr. Corinna Schrum
*Institute of Coastal Research of the
Helmholtz-Zentrum Geesthacht, Centre for
Materials and Coastal Research GmbH*

Prof. Dr. Peter Herman
Deltares

Prof. Dr. Torsten Schlurmann
Leibniz University of Hannover

Dr. Heather Leslie
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Prof. Dr. Bernd Lennartz
*Department Maritime Systems, University
of Rostock*

Prof. Dr. Wim van den Doel
*Netherlands Organization for Scientific
Research (NWO)*

Dr. Joachim Harms
Project Management Jülich (PtJ)

Witnessed by HRM The King and HRM The Queen of The Netherlands

Warnemünde, 20th May 2019

Signatories

Place, Date

Dr. Tammo Bult
Wageningen Marine Research

Signatories

Place, Date

Prof. Dr. Ralph Schneider
Kiel Marine Science (KMS), Kiel University