

## **Trilateral Workshop on Mapping of Subtidal Habitats in the Wadden Sea**

Outline 11.11.2008

Structure and substrate of the seabed as well as the diversity and spatial distribution of marine habitats is one of the key items addressed in European directives and action plans (e.g. Water Framework Directive, Habitat Directive, Marine Strategy). A lot of mapping effort has been undertaken in the last decade on national and European level regarding the open shelf seas (e.g. the MESH project of the Interreg IIIB NWE Programme.). In contrast, information exists only sparsely for the Wadden Sea area and different mapping methods are applied which are not harmonized on trilateral level. For the next Trilateral Governmental Conference on the Protection of the Wadden Sea, which will be held in Germany in 2010, a Quality Status Report will be prepared in spring 2009 that should also include information about subtidal habitats in the Wadden Sea. To this end, the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat together with the GKSS Research Centre and ENCORA Germany will organise a trilateral workshop on seabed habitat mapping in the Wadden Sea that will bring together surveyors from scientific institutions and administrations.

The objectives of this workshop are:

1. preparation of an inventory of available information and initiatives running in the Wadden Sea
2. comparison of methodologies
3. identification of gaps in information
4. preparation of contributions to the Wadden Sea QSR 2009 including recommendations for research, monitoring and management,
5. building a network between the institutions
6. planning of joined activities.

The trilateral workshop will run under the framework of ENCORA and will be organized by the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat (CWSS) and the GKSS Research Centre Geesthacht.

Location will be the GKSS Research Centre in Geesthacht

Proposed date: Tuesday, Dec 16 2008.