

## Tidal Basin Inventory and comparison

This workshop focused on the relevance and feasibility of an inventory and comparison of all Wadden Sea tidal basins, as a basis for providing answers to topical policy questions. The preliminary results of a pre-study were presented, showing that many relevant data are available, be it with highly different quality. There are also substantial gaps, in particular regarding human use and data coverage of the various basins.

The final report of the pre-study will be made available by the end of January 2011.

The feedback of the workshop was very positive. The use of tidal basins as functional units to support research into several policy-relevant questions was supported. There are, however, still a number of methodological questions to be solved, such as borders (to what extent to include ebb tidal delta, islands, salt marshes).

An important recommendation from the workshop with respect to data gathering: as a first step existing data should be used in an intelligent way (including using remote sensing data and modelling) for a number of tidal basins for which most data are available to compare differences in human use (for example sand suppletion, mussel dredging), related to different physical and biological features of the basins.

A second recommendation involved future trilateral studies: the tidal basin concept should be applied where relevant and to the extent possible.