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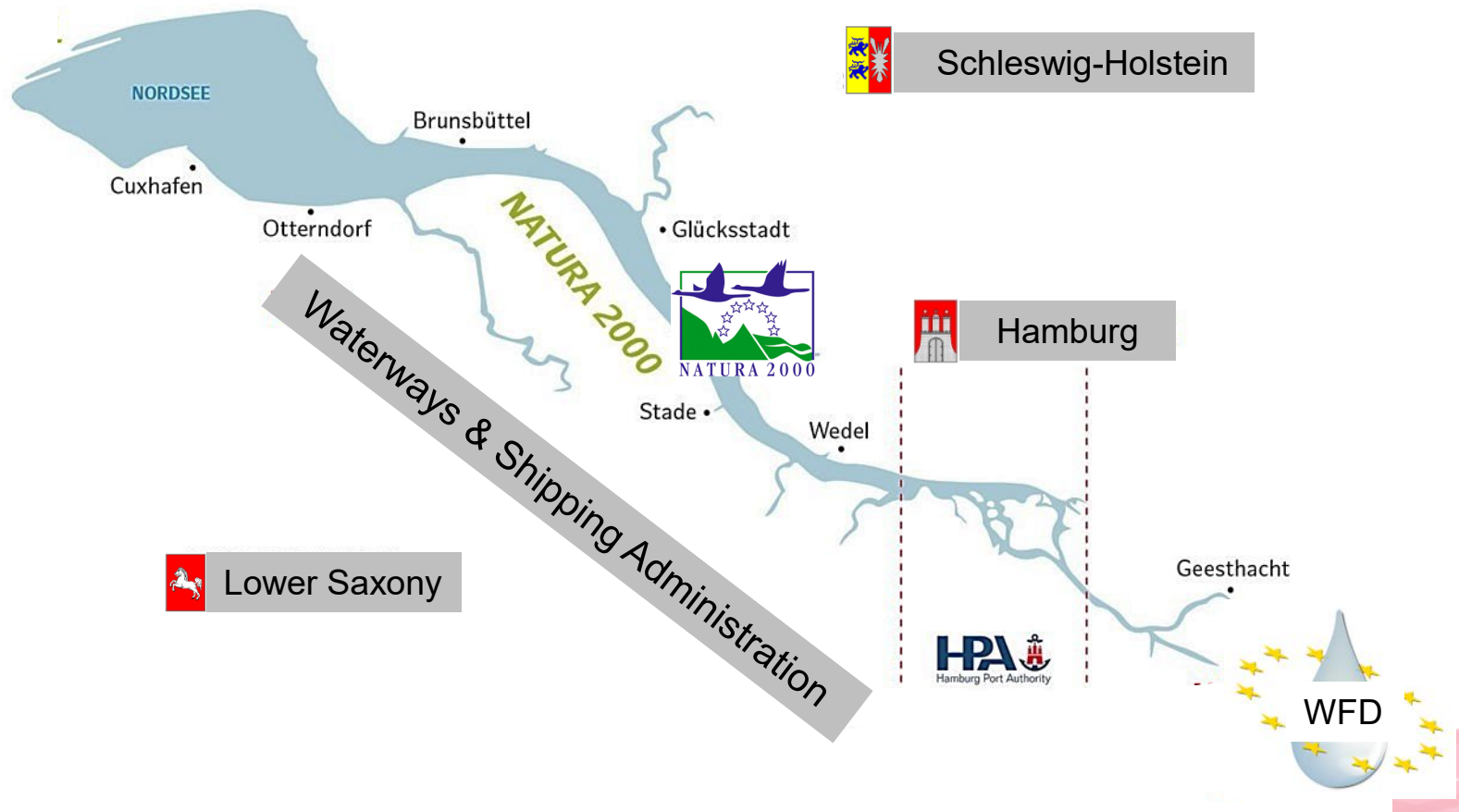
True integrated management of the Elbe estuary – can it actually be achieved?

Kirsten Wolfstein, Hamburg Port Authority (HPA), Germany



Management responsibilities and environmental legislation

-> Integrated management is a requirement of European directives!



Examples for integrated management, co-operation and stakeholder involvement

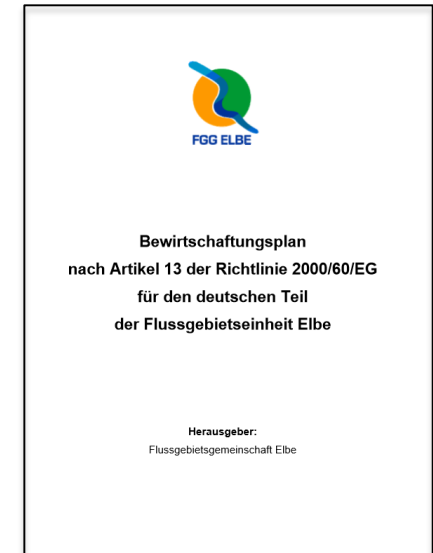
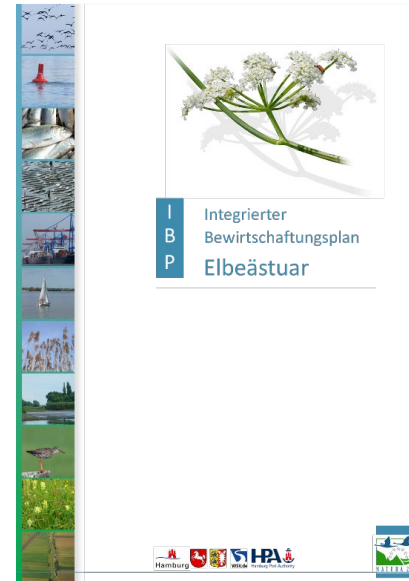


1. Integrated Management Plan

- Natura 2000

2. River Basin Management Plan

- WFD



3. Stakeholder process for sediment management & river engineering measures

- Consultation process “Forum Strombau- und Sedimentmanagement Tideelbe” (2013 -2015) (<http://www.dialogforum-tideelbe.de/>)
- “Forum Tideelbe” (2016 –2020) (<https://www.forum-tideelbe.de/>)



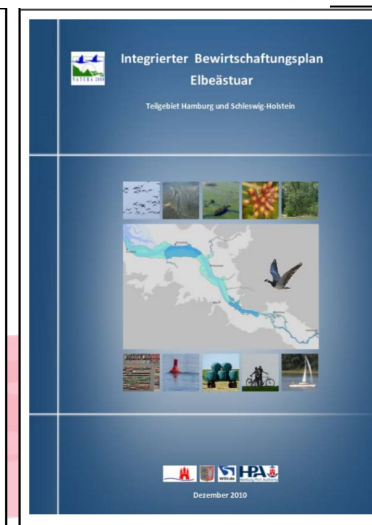
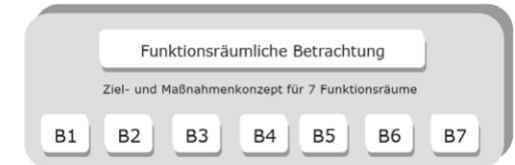
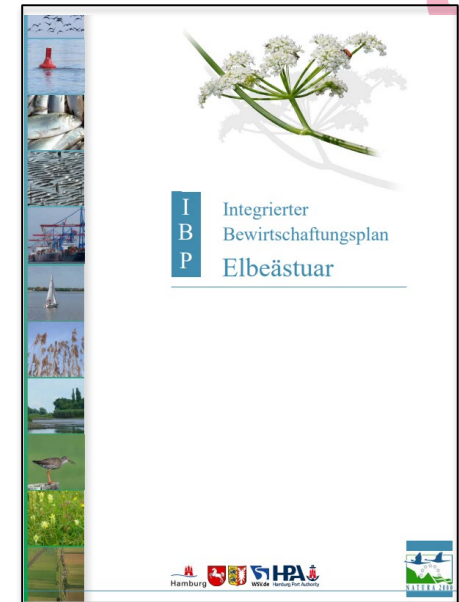
Integrated Management Plan (Natura 2000)

+ Co-operation:

- All main stakeholder groups were involved and contributed to the plan.
- Co-operation for several years.
- Due to size and diversity of estuary and area specific requirements of federal states 2 sub-parts of the IBP were produced and merged to one overall plan.
- WG for exchange on progress of measures.

Important note:

Management plan is non-binding obligation, cannot be enforced.





River Basin Management (WFD)

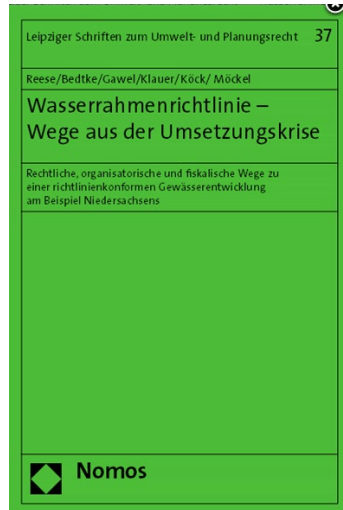
+ Co-operation

- Between federal states for set up of management plan.
- Involvement of stakeholders.

Goal of WFD:

- overcome the upstream-downstream user problem,
- ensure coordinated & cost-efficient management of water resources of river basin residents.

- Coordination of measures to meet the objectives (pollutants -> **for sediments**)
 - Estuary and Hamburg receive polluted sediments from upstream located catchment.
 - Guidelines for handling dredged sediments do not build on river basin based WFD concept but on case-based assessment (HABAB, GÜBAK).
 - Federal states are responsible of funding for measures.
 - Federal states of upper Elbe catchment area make use of exemptions according to WFD concerning treatment of their polluted sediments.



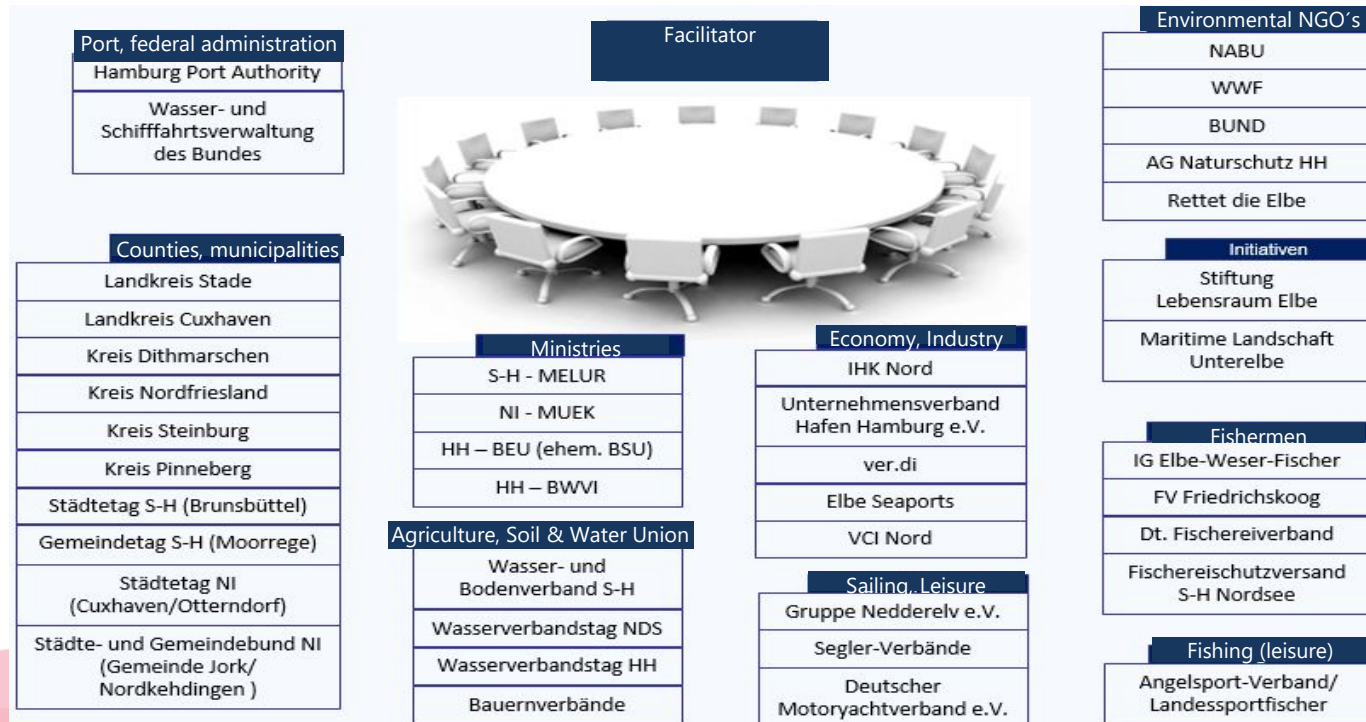
*Handling of pollutant loads with distant effects in management plans and programme of measures systematically fails to fulfil WFD obligations of integrated and coordinated river basin management.**

* Reese & Köck (2018)

Stakeholder involvement:

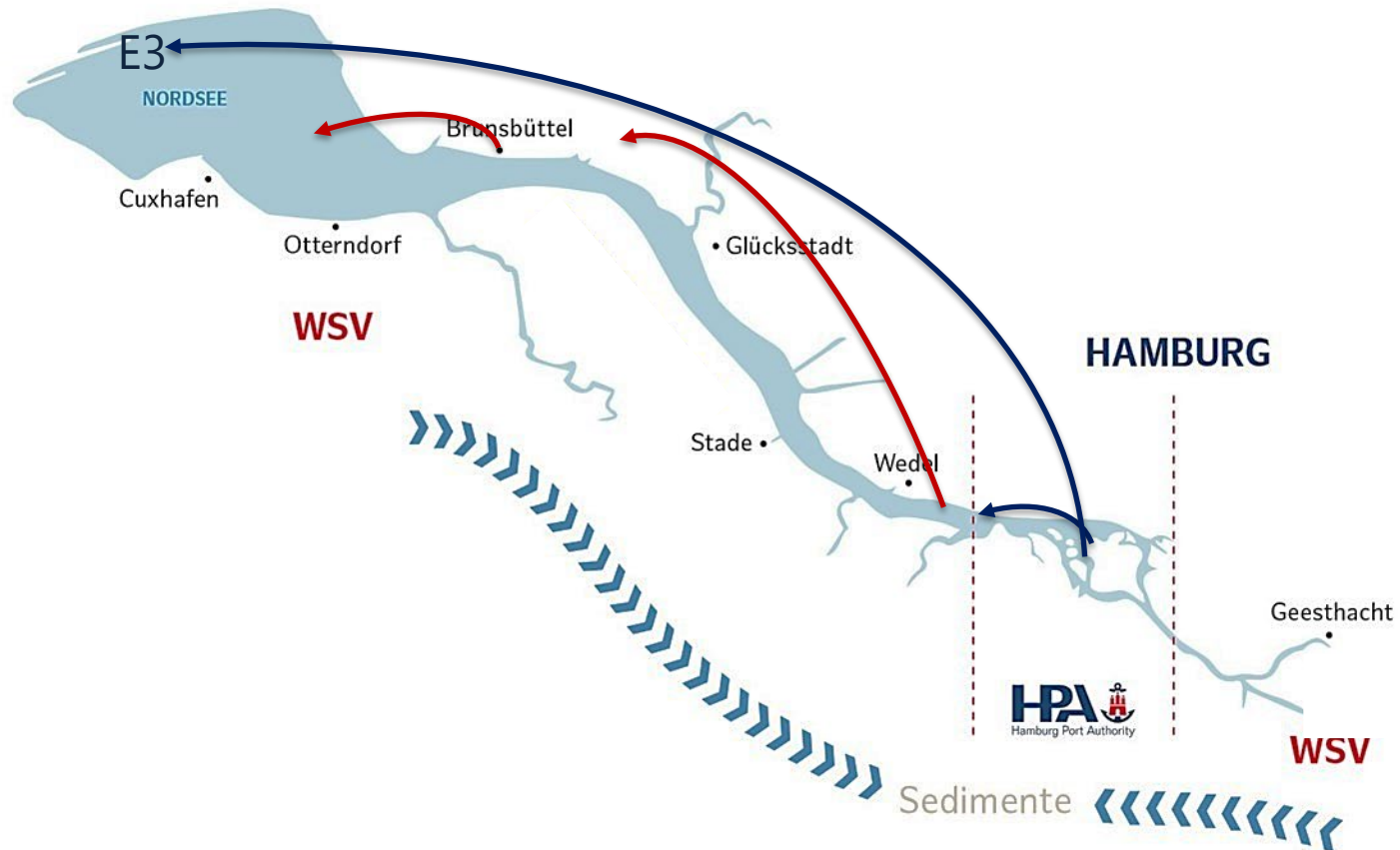
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- + 1st voluntary long-time stakeholder involvement: sediment management processes and measures for improvement of estuary condition
- + Joint fact-finding



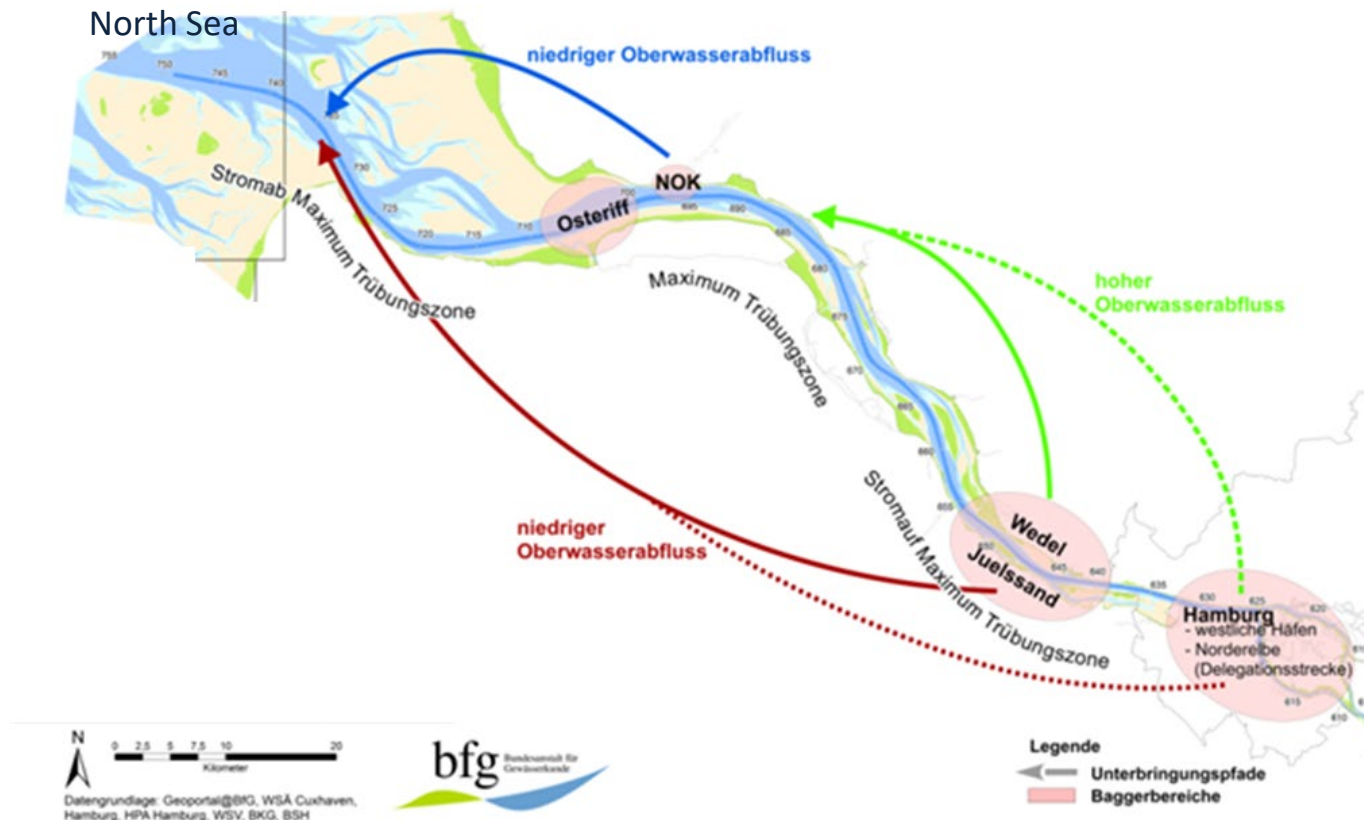


- Sediment management: fractionated today





Goal: common flexible and adaptive strategy of WSV & HPA



- Sediment does not know administrative borders!
- A common optimised maintenance strategy should only be based on sediment quality & hydrological conditions!

Experiences:



Forum Strombau- und Sedimentmanagement Tideelbe & Forum Tideelbe

- +** • Overall positive feed-back of involved stakeholders.
- Improvement of relationships of involved participants during the process.
- Assessment of potential measures → very early consultation process, before any decision is taken.
- • Focus only on sediment management related issues.
- Different level of understanding of estuarine processes → challenge.
- Process asks a lot of time & capacities → hard for some stakeholder groups.
- Analysis of concrete measures raised strong resistance of residents (originally not involved in the “Forum Tideelbe”)

NIMBY

Umweltsenator Kerstan distanziert sich von Dove-Elbe-Plan

- ***Rational arguments are important, but people’s emotions too.***
- ***Mutual trust is very important – and is partially lacking.***





Conclusions

- + Official and formal cooperation exists between federal states and national administration.
- However, it “is strongly shaped according to the federal structure. Integrated catchment management planning presents a great challenge for coordinating over states boundaries.”* At the end own interests of single federal states and national administration dominate over overall interest (example: quality of sediments, sediment management).
- + An overarching goal for the development of the Elbe estuary exists (Natura 2000, WFD).
- No comparable overarching vision like the ‘Lange Termijn Visie’ for the Western Scheldt.
- + Stakeholder participation exists – on information/consultation base,
- but not on decision making level and at a late planning stage.
- + Overall willingness to improve the state of the estuary exists,
- but “not in my backyard”.

* Kampa et al. (2003): HarmoniCop Project





Thank you very much for your attention!



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