



Miljøministeriet
Naturstyrelsen

LIFE06 NAT/DK000159 - Blue Reef project
Technical Final Report
Annex 16
June 2013

After-LIFE Conservation Plan

1. Introduction

The BlueReef project (LIFE06 NAT/DK/000159) has been implemented from 1. August 2006 to 1 April 2013.

The objective was to restore and to stabilize the stone reef at Læsø Trindel, which is located in a Natura 2000 site. Another objective was to create an increased awareness of marine nature restoration among environmental managers, policymakers and the broader public.

The project has included a number of preliminary investigations, construction works, dissemination activities, a monitoring program and post bathymetry surveys.

The purpose of the After-LIFE Conservation Plan is to set out a plan for the management of the project. The plan includes which actions should be carried out, when, by whom and using what kind of finance.

The restored stone reef is situated in a Natura 2000 site, therefore the overall plan for nature protection and monitoring on the reef will be based on the Natura 2000 Management Plan for the area.

Further the After-LIFE Conservation Plan will include activities regarding safety of navigation and information and dissemination.

2. The Natura 2000 Management Plan

The BlueReef project area is situated in the Natura 2000 site no 192 Læsø Trindel and Tønneberg Banke (Habitat site number H168).

The features for which H168 is designated are Reefs (1170), as well as Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time (1110) and Submarine structures made by leaking gases (1180).

The present Natura 2000 Management Plan covers the period 2009-2015.

The Natura 2000 Management Plan includes a baseline analysis (description of the area, evaluation of threats, present management and assessment of conservation status), conservation objectives, action programme (general guidelines and specific guidelines) and a strategic environmental assessment.

The Natura 2000 Management Plan is coordinated with the River basin Management Plan for the northern Kattegat and Skagerrak.

The objectives of the Natura 2000 Management Plan are legally binding. All new projects undergo an environmental assessment to ensure the project does not adversely affect the habitats and species the area is designated for.

The Natura 2000 Management Plan will be revised every six year. The Danish Nature Agency is preparing the plan for the period 2016-2021. An updated baseline analysis will be published by the end of 2013, and the second Management Plan is due in 2015.

The Danish National Monitoring Programme NOVANA includes general monitoring of stone reefs. The Natura 2000 area is included with a monitoring station at Læsø Trindel. Additional monitoring stations are added to the restored reef which will include monitoring of macro algae and benthic fauna every six year.

Fishing with bottom trawl is one of the threats facing stone reefs. In the first plan period (2009-2015) one of the objectives for stone reef in the Natura 2000 site is to obtain a favourable conservation status. One effort to ensure this is by securing the reef against physical damage. The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries in Denmark is planning a prohibition against bottom trawling at stone reefs in Natura 2000 sites, including the Læsø Trindel and Tønnebjerg Banke site. The objective is to prohibit bottom trawling on the reef and within a 240 m buffer zone.

The Danish Nature Agency is responsible for the Natura 2000 Management Plans for Læsø Trindel and Tønnebjerg Banke and for financing the preparation of the Natura 2000 Management Plans as well as the implementation of the monitoring activities.

3. Safety of navigation

The restored stone reef consists of three parts. After the restoration the depth at the eastern reef has been reduced from approx. 4 meter to approx. 1 meter in the southern part. At the middle reef and the western reef the most shallow parts have a depth of 4-5 meter after the restoration.

The stone reef is marked by the Danish Maritime Authority using a compass marking, which is placed to the east of the shallow part of the eastern reef. Further the nautical chart is updated with the data from the latest post bathymetry carried out in August 2012.

Since the construction works in 2008 there have been reported collisions by Danish and Swedish yachtmen in the restored area. As the quarry stones used in the construction work has more sharp edges than normal sea stones the risk of damage can be by higher than at other reefs.

On the basis of the project experiences it has been decided to increase the safety of navigation by setting up an extra marking buoy and to carry out renewed information about the risk of collision (se section 4.).

It has been decided to enter into an agreement with the Danish Maritime Authority about the management of an extra buoy. According to the agreement the

Danish Maritime Authority will supervise the buoy and set up the buoy again if it detaches. The proposal has been in public hearing at Læsø island and the agreement is expected to be entered summer 2013.

There will also be set up an anchoring buoy for small boats. In 2013 the Danish Nature Agency will try to enter an agreement with the local divers, other wise the task will be carried out by other means.

The tasks about safety of navigation involve:

- Ongoing dialogue with the Danish Maritime Authority about the buoy agreement
- Updating the project web site with information about the buoys
- Possible adjustment of the agreement with the Danish Maritime Authority
- Setting up an anchoring buoy

The Danish Nature Agency is responsible for the tasks and for the financing of the tasks.

4. Information and dissemination

There has been launched a project web site, prepared and mounted information boards and prepared and disseminated a leaflet about the new stone reef at Læsø Trindel as part of the Blue Reef project.

The project web site www.Blueereef.dk includes information about the project, the implementation and ongoing news.

Information Boards (two plates on each board) have been mounted 4 places: Frederikshavn Marina, the Vesterø and Østerby harbours at Læsø island and the Læsø ferry. Further the Danish Nature Agency will later summer 2013 set up a set of information boards at Horneks Odde on the north coast of Læsø island at an area managed by the Agency. The boards are expected to last at least 3 years and there has been produced an extra set of boards for each place. Further design files have been elaborated if there is a need for printing more boards or in different size.

The leaflet is in Danish with a comprehensive English summary. It has been printed in a first edition of 1.100, where the major part has been distributed to the local tourist offices. A design file is available and a print friendly pdf-file is available at the project web site.

There is continued need to inform and disseminate the project to tourists, visitors and others.

The main tasks involve:

- Ongoing updating of web site with information about boating safety, dissemination activities etc.
- Supervision and maintenance of information boards
- Distribution of leaflets and possible reprints
- Participation in guided tours etc

The Danish Nature Agency is responsible for the tasks and for the financing of the tasks.