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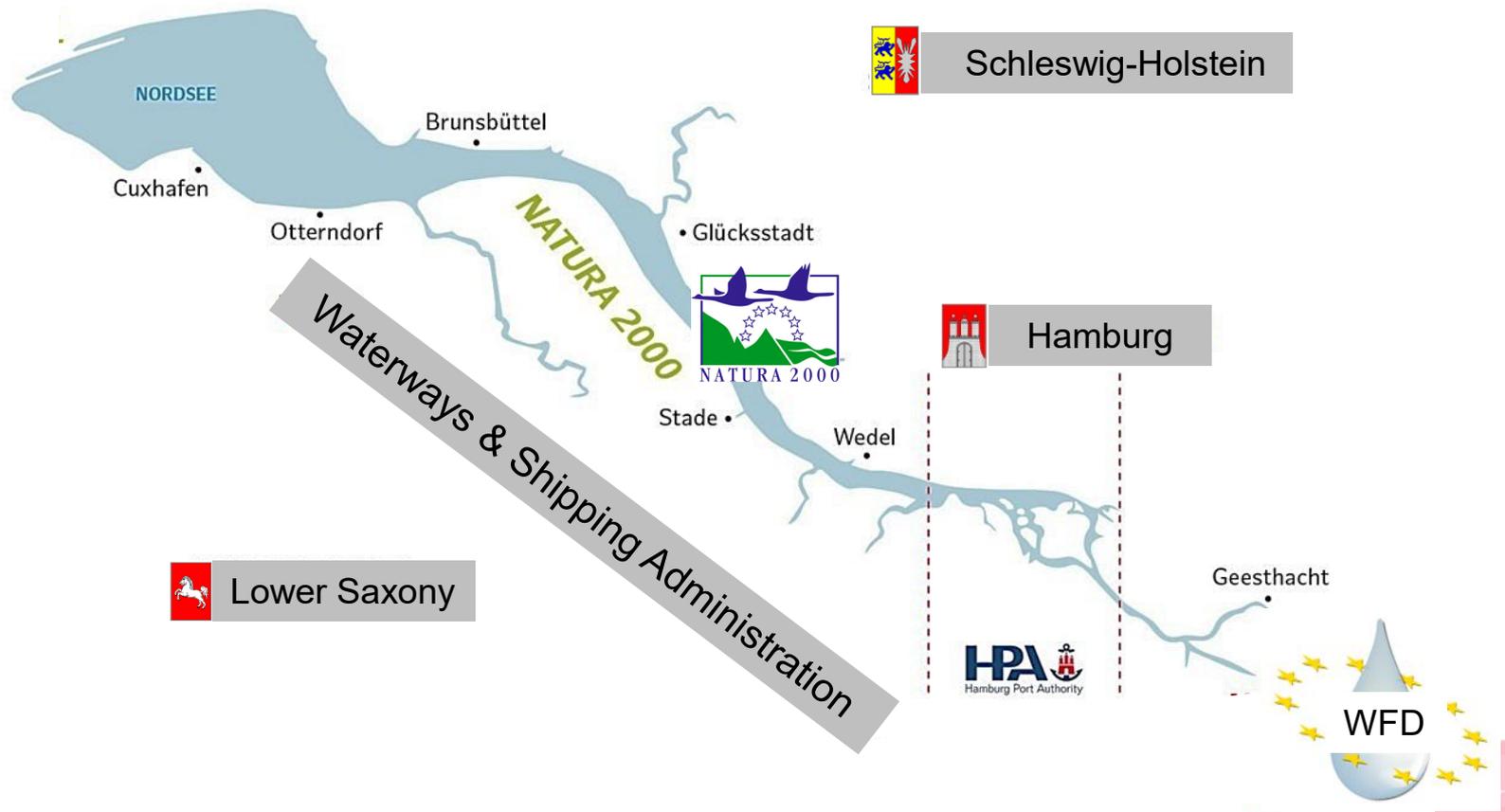
# True integrated management of the Elbe estuary – can it actually be achieved?

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

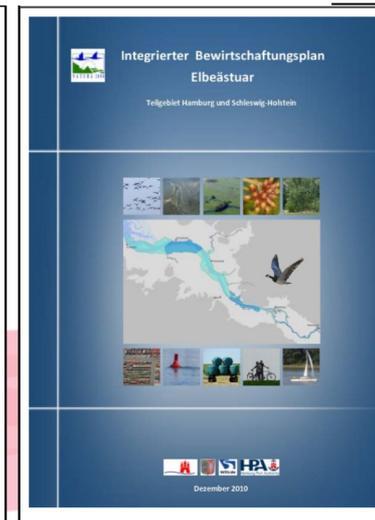
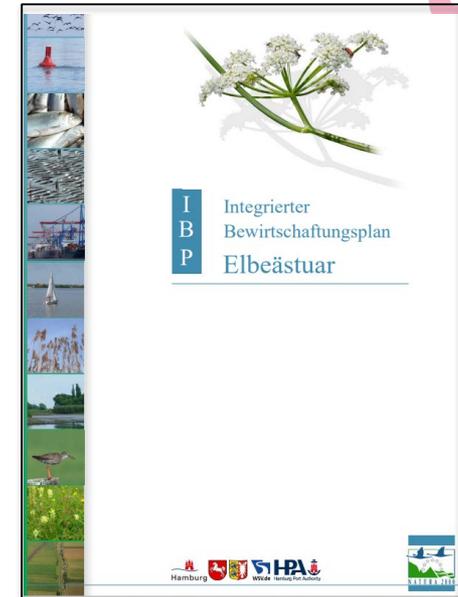
- Consultation process “Forum Strombau- und Sedimentmanagement Tideelbe” (2013 -2015) (<http://www.dialogforum-tideelbe.de/>)
- “Forum Tideelbe” (2016 –2020) (<https://www.forum-tideelbe.de/>)



# 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.\**

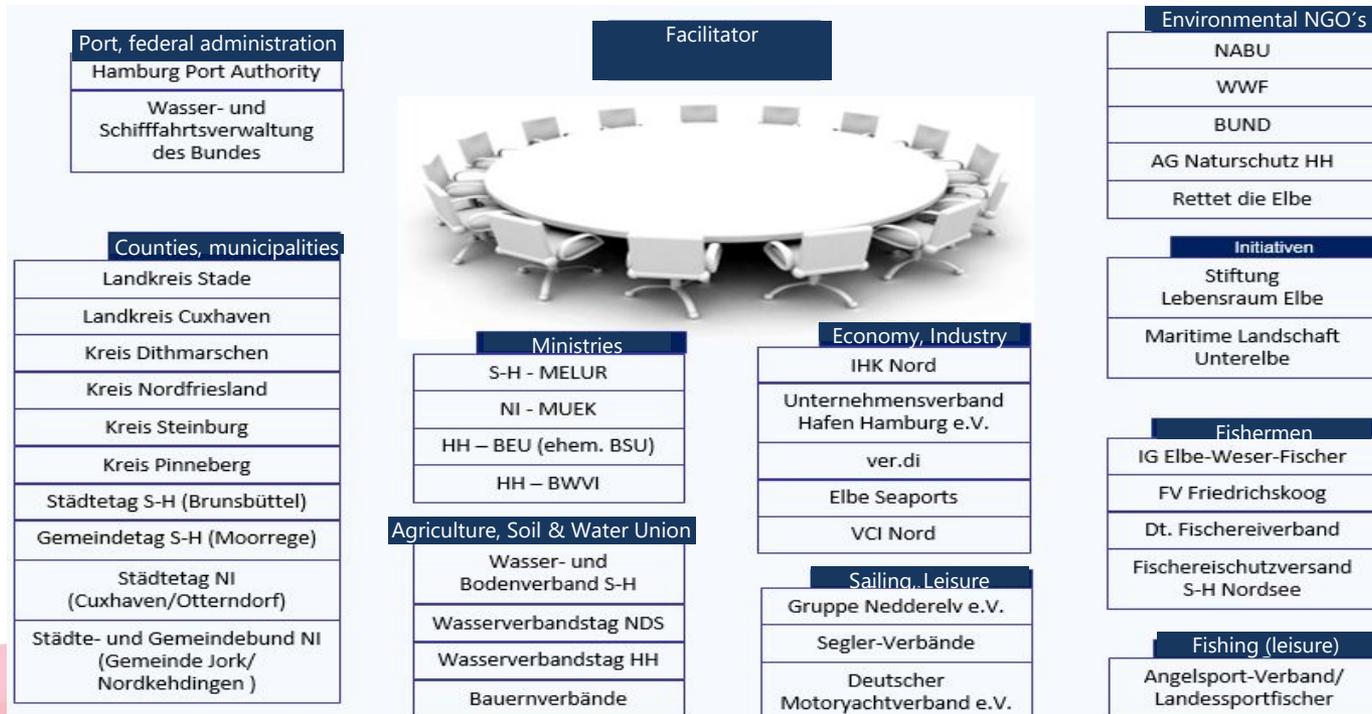
\* Reese & Köck (2018)



## Stakeholder involvement:

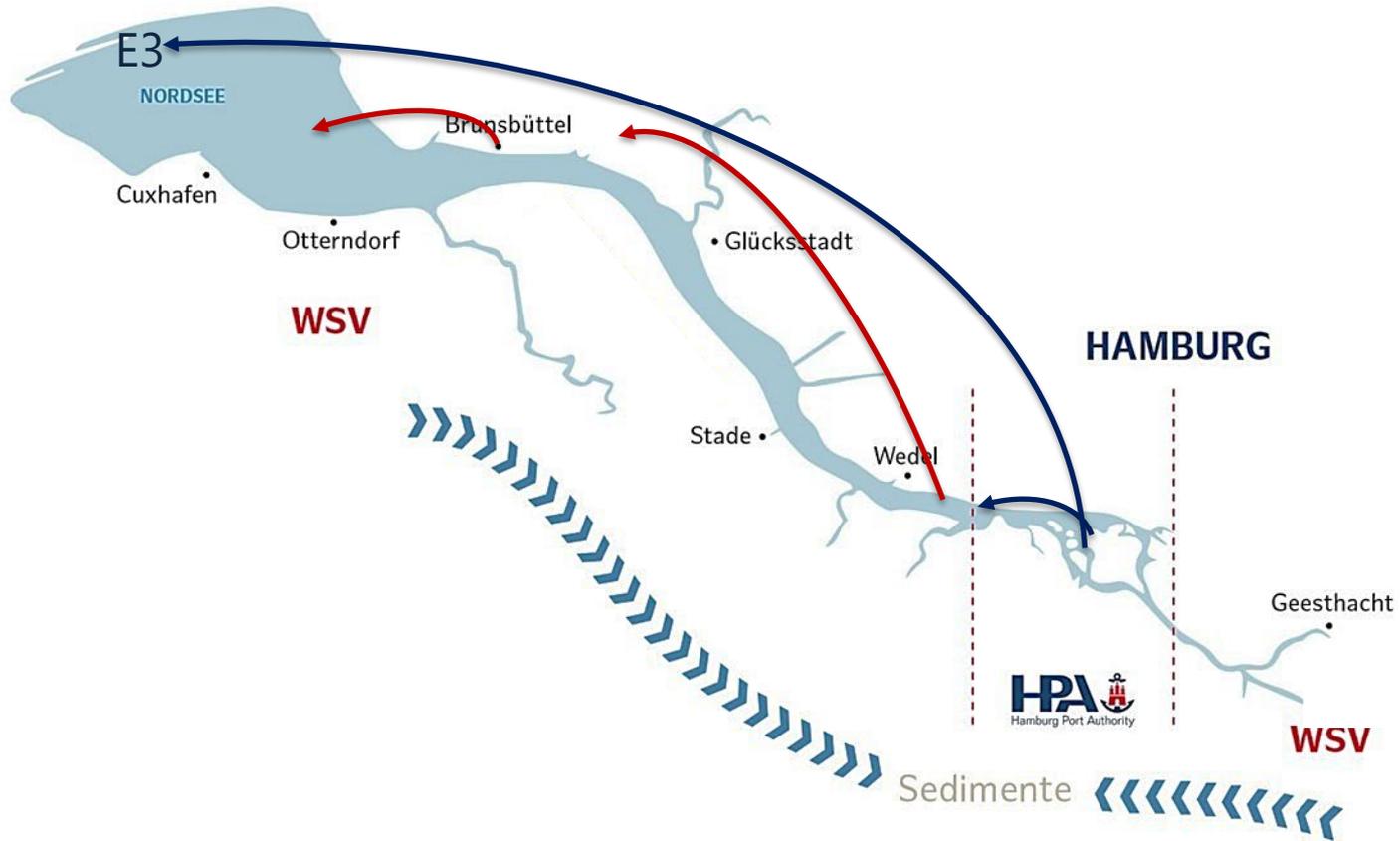
# Forum Strombau- und Sedimentmanagement Tideelbe & Forum Tideelbe

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



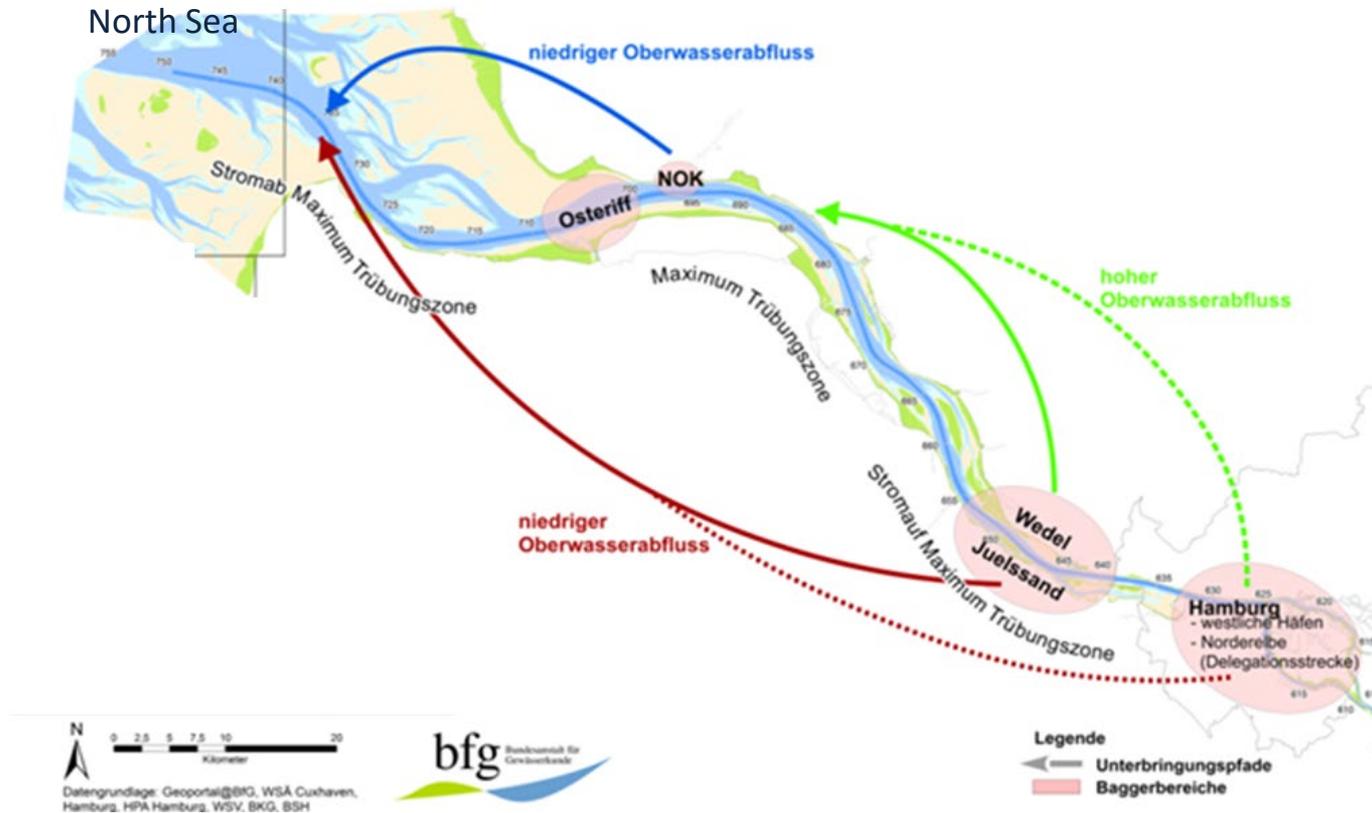


# - Sediment management: fractionated today





# 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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