

## FOREWORD

At the 6th Trilateral Governmental Conference on the Protection of the Wadden Sea, held in Esbjerg in 1991, it was decided, according to § 25 of the Ministerial Declaration:

„To broaden and intensify the protection of plants and animals, and to this end agree to develop a Red List of marine and coastal species and biotopes in the Wadden Sea area covering the three member states, which points out the endangered species, both within the Wadden Sea taken as an entity and in separate areas of each Wadden Sea country“.

Germany took a leading role with regard to the fulfilment of this part of the Esbjerg Declaration and coordinated the work necessary to prepare the Red Lists in 1993–1995, with the assistance of the Section „Marine and Coastal Nature Conservation“, Isle of Vilm, of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN). A trilateral expert working group „Trilateral Red List of Marine and Coastal Species and Habitats in the Wadden Sea Area“ was installed to assist on request of the Trilateral Working Group (TWG) in establishing the category systems, and to coordinate the work.

The present report was written by about 65 Danish, Dutch and German experts. The experts responsible for the scientific contents of the various Red Lists are presented at the beginning of each list and on pages V–VIII. The compilation of the report and the editorial work was done by the BfN with the assistance of the Common Wadden Sea Secretariat. The publication was financed by the BfN.