Session II – Habitat Restoration

1) **Discussing oxygen deficiencies in estuaries | group A (B. Netz)**

- No deficiencies in other Atlantic estuaries apart Elbe/Ems

- Elbe: Reducing the nutrient input in the catchment

2) **The Habitat 1130 – Shipping lane contradiction – time for a new thinking? | group B (R. Morris)**

- It will not be possible to achieve good conservation status
  - We can achieve a lot but… Need commission to accept this
  - Overall aim for improvement but not perfection in special/unusual cases

- Definition of estuaries needs to be revised

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3) **How to implement major restoration projects | group C (Prof. Elliott)**

- (SMART) objectives: realistic, achievable, linking conservation objectives for site & obj. for restoration projects

- Are conservation objectives suited to a dynamic system? Learn to deal with uncertainty.

- Success factor: functioning of site within the larger system even across national borders.

- It takes a good understanding of system for measures to be successful.

4) **Preservation vs. succession: Should we let nature take its course? | groups D (K. Čivić), E (S. Lehrke/C. Müller)**

- nature directives admin framework – but what about natural dynamics? We should conserve habitats but also dynamics & take time-frame into account

- Valuable habitats are also result of human actions (e.g. grassland)

- accept more natural dynamics

- Estuaries are strongly modified by humans today:
  - habitats like shallows need maintenance
  - Should we keep it up indefinitely?

5) **Balancing site specific objectives and overall objectives of the estuarine system|**
groups F (M. Meine), G (Prof. Meire)

- legislation vs. real life

- only little space

- feedback between ecology and the physics

- allow natural dynamics in newly created sites based on knowledge of model sites (e.g. Heuckenloc)

- consider global objectives and adopt to local conditions

- take into account rarity of species when creating the diversity of habitats