

## Foreword

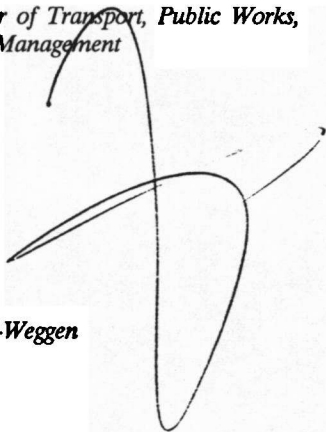
It is a great pleasure for me to introduce this Special Issue of *SULA* of the Dutch Seabird Group. This issue reflects the proceedings of the workshop 'Oil Pollution, Beached Bird Surveys and Policy: towards a more effective approach to an old problem'. The Workshop was an initiative of the Dutch Seabird Group and organized by this group and my Ministry.

As we all know, the prevention of marine pollution by oil and other harmful substances is extremely complex and requires the continuing and close co-operation of many organizations as well as dedicated individuals and a high level of exchange of information between all involved. Therefore I whole heartedly supported the Workshop. It provided very useful information and has stimulated mutual understanding and co-operation between policy, research institutes and volunteer organizations at an international level.

I am sure that the proceedings of this Workshop will further contribute to this effect as they clearly illustrate the important role of Beached Bird Surveys in signalling and monitoring the pollution of the North Sea. The workshop proceedings, presented to you in this Special Issue, demonstrate the valuable and indispensable role of volunteer organizations in environmental policy-making.

The Dutch Seabird Group has made a significant step in bridging the gap between specialized knowledge and its application in policy. As a policy maker, I see this Workshop and follow-up actions as a stimulus to continue our efforts in marine environmental management and I am sure that all other responsible authorities will feel the same. I fully support such initiatives and I am convinced that the result of this Workshop will contribute to the protection of the North Sea.

*The Minister of Transport, Public Works,  
and Water Management*

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long vertical stroke.

*J.R.H. Maij-Weggen*

