



# NORDIC MARINE THINK TANK

NMTT Board

Zoom meeting Wednesday 26 August 2020

Iceland at 11 pm, Faroe Islands at 12 pm, Norway, Sweden and Denmark at 1 pm

## **Minutes**

Presence: Carl-Christian Schmidt, Chair, Dorothy Dankel, viceChair, Sigrun Elsa Smáradóttir, Staffan Waldo, Jesper Heldbo, Odma Johannesen and Lars Clinc, NMTT Secretariat.

- 1) Welcome and pending issues  
including minutes of the board meeting 19 May 2020

The Chair welcomed the Board members and the Board adopted the minutes of the Board meeting the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020. No further items were proposed to the agenda.

- 2) Nordic Climate Change Forum for Fisheries and Aquaculture

The Chair informed that the NMTT paper on Climate Change had been sent to the Nordic Council of Ministers' Secretariat which has been positive. The Nordic Council of Ministers is now working on the allocation of the cross sectorial budget for climate changes which may include funding of initiatives on the marine sector (pollution, fisheries, transport and so on).

Dorothy Dankel informed on the climate changes in the Arctic and on The 2. UN Ocean Decade and climate forum (agenda item 3) and further on The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (agenda item 4).

There are many interests involved in the Arctic Ocean. China is interested in the new shorter and cheaper transport routes caused of the melting ice in the Arctic.

Local communities have their livelihood in the area and their conditions are changing. They have a knowledge on the development on climate changes.

Dorothy has just completed a project including University of British Columbia, Canada, SINTEF Ocean (Trondheim) and the University of Tromsø as partners on how to involve nations and generations on the uncertainty of the future. They have organized dialogues ensuring experiences from generations on one hand and the expectations of future and uncertain situations on the other. How should the

dialog be organized and then how should the analyses be organized. See article at: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2020.00537/full>

When the cod migrates from Norway to Iceland or Russia the processing industry in Norway has to move. Norway has to look into alternatives such as fish farming on land.

The migrating mackerel is a relevant scenario to test the theory on the experiences from and expectations to climate changes using a method which will be developed in a workshop. The NMTT could be involved (moderator).

The UN Sustainable Goal 2030 includes 169 goals, one of which is goal No. 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. These have to be developed during a decade based on scientific proposals to be provided until 15 September 2020.

The High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy includes the coChair Peter Haugan from the Institute of Marine Research in Bergen.

It is a huge proces to develop science to understand the ocean we need for the future we want. Social scientists, stakeholders including indigeneus people, local industry, their knowledge and data will be relevant. The role of regional organisations and their capacity will be involved. One important task will be the dialog.

NMTT has to find its own role based on a dialog and information on the structure and institutional set up, including the coordination and the objectives of the work. It should be clarified if countries deliver their separate input to the process. Based on this context the NMTT could work on its own strategy to find the right time and place for involvement.

You can register to take part in the proces at: <https://www.oceandecade.org/signup?tab=join>. Dorothy would look into possible involvment by the NMTT through a dialog with her colleague in Bergen, Prof. Peter Haugan, outgoing Chair of the UN IOC.

- 3) The 2. UN Ocean Decade and climate forum (see item 2).
- 4) The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (see item 2).
- 5) Fishers Pay System in Nordic Fisheries

The project is in progress and shows interesting results. Carl-Christian and Max Nielsen (from Copenhagen University) are working on an article on the subject.

The sharing structures of the revenue in some pelagic fisheries in the Nordic

countries are profitable for the fishers. This system gives the possibility for fishers to capture a share of the resource rent. Only the owner of a vessel is investing in more efficient vessels but the subsequent efficiency gains are shared. Moving towards a sustainable fishery means more resource rent.

The sales systems are different in the Nordic countries – in Denmark an auction system (market price) is prevalent whereas in Iceland many landings are direct to processing plants thus an issue of internal pricing arises. In price systems with internal pricing issues such as in Iceland can get the fishers to strike so as to improve prices and hence wages.

The structure of the fleet has changed to fewer and larger vessels with smaller crew which has led to concentration of the industry. However, in Norway there are many small vessels in small communities along the Norwegian coast line due to historical political incentive to ensure livelihood along the whole Norwegian coastline which historically includes a surveillance role along the coast.

One conclusion of this study will be that the more sustainable fishery the more financial revenue to the fishers.

#### 6) Aquaculture

Jesper informed that his report on aquaculture was sent to Helcom. Helcom would look into it in order to find some inspiration to initiatives especially on licence systems to aquaculture in the off shore Baltic Sea. The Chair will look into it. Jesper referred to the website:  
<http://mr.crossref.org/iPage?doi=10.6027%2FTN2013-529>

#### 7) Financial status

Lars informed that there now are 12 paying members – whereas 8 have paid for 3 years membership.

The Board has approved the budget for 2020 which has to be approved by the General Assembly. The accountant is prepared to start her work provided the election of her at the NMTT General Assembly.

The Board agreed that the election of accountant should be approved by the General Assembly.

#### 8) Overall information strategy – NMTT website

The Board was encouraged to send proposals on the website to Lars and Odma.

#### 9) How to deal with the GA in light of Coronavirus and the NMTT activities

The GA will be a zoom meeting Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2020 at 13:00 DK time

and should be run by Lars and Odma. The statutory agenda items of the GA will be presented first (3 quarter of an hour) and then followed by an information session (3 quarter of an hour) on the Fisher Pay project, Climate changes, Artic and Aquaculture.

The GA will be an open meeting for all interested. However, only paying members should vote. The invitation to the GA includes an information on this.

The Board members should inform on their remarks on the GA agenda before the end of this week.

10) Any other business

There was no other business - and the Board meeting was closed.