



NORDIC MARINE THINK TANK

Report of the
Seventh Ordinary General Assembly of the Nordic Marine Think Tank

Tuesday 08 October 2019, 10.00 – 12.00 hours, Axelborg, Copenhagen

Agenda for the General Assembly

- 1) Appointment of chair and rapporteur
- 2) Approval of the agenda, its timely distribution and submitted proxies
- 3) Presentation of the annual report for approval
- 4) Presentation of the certified financial statement for 2018 for approval as well as decision on surplus or loss of the accounting year
- 5) Presentation of the work-plan and budget for 2019, including proposed quota for members and supporting members for approval
- 6) Settlement of the dispute with the tax authorities
- 7) Approval of New Statutes (draft to be forwarded)
- 8) Consideration of submitted proposals
- 9) Election of the Board
 - State of play (attached)
- 10) Election of the Auditor
- 11) Any other business

- 1) Appointment of chair and rapporteur

The NMTT Chair welcomed the participants to the seventh ordinary General Assembly, who elected Helge Paulsen as Chair for the meeting and Odma Johannesen as rapporteur.

2) Adoption of the Agenda, its timely distribution and received proxies

The Chair confirmed that the agenda for the meeting had been distributed within the prescribed deadline and that two proxies had been received giving voting rights to participating members. He ascertained that the meeting had the necessary quorum.

The agenda was adopted.

3) Presentation of the annual report for approval

The NMTT Chair presented the annual report.

a) Projects:

The NMTT Chair informed about the activities held in 2018-2019, which consist of two major projects:

- The FMSY project - Optimizing sustainable fishing yields- ecosystem and management perspectives, and
- Conference on improved Fisheries Management Models.

On the Fmsy the Chair recalled that this project was the largest undertaken so far by the NMTT. While the results of the project were the subject of a conference later in the day it was of clear interest to a wide range of stakeholders in both Nordic countries and further afield. Moreover the project implementation has given the NMTT, and in particular Lars, Odma and Victor, insights into how to manage such projects with financing from EU, the Danish ministry, NCM and the Norwegian research council. This experience would be of great value in the future.

As for the results of the project the NMTT and project participants need to further work on how this might be taken up by fisheries management authorities and especially ICES.

The Chair then informed the GA that he had been invited to China to address a conference on the blue economy ("The International Cooperation and Development Forum on Marine Economy 2019") under the title: "Mapping out the future of the blue economy". This would be dealing with how to go green/blue in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. The conference is to take place in Shenzhen 15-16 October 2019 (<https://www.oceancouncil.org/event/international-cooperation-and-development-forum-on-the-marine-economy/>).

He then informed that the FAO will host a major fisheries conference on November 18-21, 2019 ("The International Symposium on Fisheries Sustainability - Strengthening the Science Policy Nexus") to which the chair will deliver a keynote speech dealing with the economics of fisheries management (<http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/sustainable-fisheries-symposium/en/>).

c) Administrative issues

- Talks have been held with the Danish tax authority on obtaining the "binding answer" by the tax authority recognizing the NMTT as a non-profit NGO.
- The secretarial tasks of the organisation will be taken over by Odma Johannesen and Lars Clink.

Finally the role of NMTT was discussed taking into consideration the advantages of engaging NMTT in the Nordic climate vision and other international initiatives within the agendas of Climate, Blue Economy, environmental protection and the strengthening of sustainability of fisheries and marine activities at large.

The annual report was approved by the assembly.

4) Presentation of the certified financial statement for 2018 for approval

Lars presented the financial statement. In accordance with the decision of the Danish tax authority it was divided into a taxable “business” part – i.e. commercial activities and a “non-business” part which is not subject to tax and includes membership activities. The “commercial” deficit of 100.413 DKK had been declared in the NMTT’s tax statement for 2018 and could be carried over to the following years. All project activities were unfinished at the end of 2018. These activities are kept in the balance sheet and do not influence the financial result of 2018. The accounts as well as the overall result of a deficit of 107.231 DKK - mainly due to legal costs – was approved by the General Assembly.

5) Presentation of the work-plan and budget for 2019, including proposed quota for members and supporting members for approval

Lars presented the preliminary figures for 2019 which at this stage were not discussed in further detail. The supporting fee of DKK 5.000 and personal fee of DKK 100 were approved by the assembly.

6) Settlement of the dispute with the Danish tax authority

The Danish tax authority is expected to approve the new statutes of NMTT as a non-profit NGO, in accordance with the Danish definition of its objectives as being “Almennyttig”.

As soon as the fully signed New Statutes paper is ready and deposited with the Danish tax authority and subject to the approval of the tax authority, the NMTT will have the right to keep tax-free assets for the benefit of strengthening its role as a non-profit NGO or to invest into activities, which are compliant with its objectives.

7) Approval of New Statutes

The new Statutes were approved by the General Assembly, and signed by the chair.

8) Consideration of submitted proposals

No proposals were submitted

9) Election of the Board

The election of the board was held in accordance with the rules in the New Statutes, with 4 members elected on even years and 4 members on uneven years, thus limiting for the first year the term to 1 year for 4 of the elected members. The non present members of the new Board would be asked to sign the New Statutes as soon as possible.

NMTT Board - GA 2019		
Name	Country	Elected until
Dorothy Dankel	NO	2021
Staffan Waldo	SE	2021
Asmundur Gudjonsson	FO	2021
Odma Johannesen	FO	2021
JesperHeldbo	DK	2020
Peter Ørebech	NO	2020
SigrúnSmáradóttir	IS	2020
Carl-Christian Schmidt	DK	2020

10) Election of the Auditor

Hans Jørgen Larsen was re-elected as auditor.

11) Any other business

No additional points.

The Chair thanked the participants for good conduct and declared the meeting closed.

/Victor Hjort/Odma Johannesen, Lars Clink 14 October 2019

Participants' list:

Members	Name	Copenhagen	Video	Proxy
	Asmundur Gudjonsson	1		
	Carl-Christian Schmidt	1		
	Dorothy Dankel	1		
	Hans Lassen	1		
	Helle Siegstad		1	
	Henrik Sparholt	1		
	Jesper Heldbo			1
	Lars Clink	1		
	Odma Johannesen	1		
	Peter Ørebech			1
	Sigrún Smáradóttir		1	
	Sten Sverdrup Jensen	1		
	Victor Hjort	1		
	Søren Anker Pedersen	1		
Total		10	2	2
Guests	Helge Paulsen			
	Bjørn Tore Erdal			