

Fisheries and society – challenges to 2025

11-12 October 2018

Stockholm, Sweden

Objectives sought: The overall objective of the conference is to bring together higher level civil servants from Nordic fisheries administrations, parliamentarians dealing with fisheries matters, fisheries organisations and invited speakers for an informed discussion on the challenges to Nordic fisheries management to 2025 and beyond, with a focus on the relations between fisheries management and society at large. The detailed aims of the conference are to heighten the understanding and hence demystify the use of market-based fisheries management systems and in particular individual transferable quota systems, discuss the lessons learned from those Nordic countries that have an experience in their implementation, administration and use, and to better understand their effects, and acceptability, on fishing communities, fishing fleets, revenues and the returns to society. The important economic contribution fisheries potentially can generate to societies is an important consideration for fisheries policy makers on the one hand, while ensuring that the fisheries management and its outcomes are legitimate on the other.

Organisation: Day 1 will be used to update participants on the findings of recent studies undertaken on fisheries management reform in the Nordic countries. Day 1 will largely be run by the researchers having produced the studies highlighting key results and findings. On Day 2 the focus will be on Nordic and national fisheries policies, paths to fisheries reform and visions for the future. Day 2 will be run by higher level representatives from fisheries administrations and fishermen's organisations.

Venue: Polhemssalen, Citykonferensen Ingenjörshuset, Malmskillnadsgatan 46, 111 57 Stockholm, Sweden.

Draft Programme

11 October 2018

09:00-10:00 Opening of the Conference and Welcome Remarks

The Conference will be opened by a high-level Nordic fisheries policy maker, the Chair of Nordic Marine Think Tank and Max Nielsen.

The purpose of the opening session is to welcome participants and provide an overview of the overall objectives of the Conference and bring participants up to date on the links to the substantive reports produced under the project and the conference objectives.

10:00-10:30 Coffee break

Session 1: Presentation of the findings of the substantive reports

A number of reports have been produced for the Nordic Council of Ministers to help foster further discussion on the pros and cons of using individual quotas management systems. A common theme of these individual reports is their focus on potential future structural adjustments in the Nordic fisheries sector. This should be seen in the light of a wish that the fisheries sector contributes to the overall national economy. The three authors will each present the key results followed by questions from the floor.

10:30-11:30 Max Nielsen: Structural development and regulation of Nordic fisheries to 2025

11:30-12:15 Jeppe Høst: a) From School to fisherman: An examination of recruitment and generational challenges in Nordic fisheries, and b) Value chains in coastal fisheries

12:15-13:00 Edgar Henriksen: Impacts of fisheries policy on coastal employment and settlement in fisheries dependent areas in Norway, Iceland and the Faroe Islands and related projects.

13:00-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-14:30 Dadi Mar Kristofersson: A note on how resource rent and taxation has been handled across the Nordic Countries.

14:30- 15:00 Coffee break

15:00-16:30 Pathways in fisheries management reform: country experiences

A panel will briefly present how fisheries management reform have been undertaken across the Nordic countries (Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden) and in particular highlight the challenges encountered in this process. An OECD representative will review challenges faced in introducing ITQs based on recent studies carried out by the OECDs COFI. This will be followed up by a discussion with participants of the pathways used and practical challenges encountered. Why are there differences across the Nordics in the way fisheries management reform came by? What was the process followed? How did industry get involved? – these are some of the questions this panel will seek to address.

16:30-17:00 Summing up key points for discussion in Session 2.

19:00 Conference Dinner (Venue: TBD)

12 October 2018

Session 2: Policy discussions, moderated by Carl-Christian Schmidt, Chair, NMTT

8:30-9:00 Summing up of day 1 and introductions to day 2

9:00-12:00 Roundtable policy discussion

The roundtable discussion will be formatted around themes which are recurrent in the ITQ debate i.e. coastal fisheries communities and local employment, quota concentration, taxation of resource rent, allocation of quotas, environmental consideration and administration of quotas.

For each theme, an expert will provide a five-minute factual introduction to the issue i.e. What is it? How does it happen? What to look out for of possible consequences? Then a Nordic panel of national fisheries policy practitioners will comment highlighting observations from the national debate surrounding the introduction of ITQs including the practical problems and political challenges faced. The theme will then be subject to a discussion with the floor. Lessons learned from the Nordic experiences on each of the themes will be shared and will highlight examples of successful reform paths that may be taken up by other countries.

A short coffee break at 10:00.

12:00-12:30 Summing up and final remarks

A representative from the NCM, the Conference moderator and high-level fisheries policy maker will close the Conference and provide some final thoughts on the Conference results and how these may feed into future work programme dealing with the future of Nordic fisheries.

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00 Departure