



Copenhagen, 6 December 2024

Report

12th Ordinary General Assembly of the Nordic Marine Think Tank, Friday 22 November 2024, Gemba Headquarters Hørsholm, Denmark

Agenda for the General Assembly

1. Welcome by the Chair
2. Election of moderator and rapporteur
3. Adoption of the agenda and possible mandates
4. The annual report from the Chair
5. Presentation of annual accounts for adoption (attached as from the auditor)
6. Presentation of the Board's work plan concerning activities planned for the upcoming year. Under this point the Vice Chair will present plans for the Third Climate Forum.
7. Presentation of the Board's proposed budget for the coming financial year, including the level of the membership fees, for adoption (the budget attached)
8. Amendment of the NMMT statute – for adoption
9. Proposals submitted
10. Election of the Board and auditor
11. Any other business

Present:

Board: The NMTT Chair Dorothy Dankel, Johan Williams, Jens Møller.

On Zoom: Vice Chair Carl-Christian Schmidt, Jesper Heldbo, Staffan Waldo, Hildur Hauksdóttir. Other Members present: Søren Anker Pedersen, Kasper Teilmann. On Zoom: Asmundur Gudjonsson, Jessica Fuller and observer, Mads Christoffersen., Tænketanken HAV, invited.

1. The Chair opened the General Assembly and welcomed everybody and suggested Jens Møller as moderator and Sonja Feldthaus as rapporteur.

2. Election of moderator and rapporteur

Jens Møller was elected moderator and Sonja Feldthaus as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the agenda and possible mandates

The agenda was adopted as circulated. It was noted that the General Assembly was called for in accordance with the provisions in the statute. Proxy was received from Søren Eliassen and Marita Rasmussen.

4. Annual Report from the Chair

The Chair summarized the main activities in 2024 including the four Board Meetings at which the future of the Danish Fishery, possible introduction of ITQ in the Swedish demersal fishery, electrification of Danish harbours and on pelagic vessels, and climate cooperation between the Icelandic Fishery and the Government of Iceland were discussed. The Chair emphasized the valuable cooperation with ICES in general as well as in preparation of workshops etc. The NMMT's workshops in the context of The Nordic Climate Change Forum for Fisheries and Aquaculture have been well received. The NMTT is financially healthy. The Chair has participated in a number of ICES conferences and as well as has been involved with the Netflix series called "Our Oceans". It is important that NMTT continues to develop new ideas and projects, if possibly, in cooperation with other relevant parties.

5. Presentation of annual accounts for adoption

Lars Clink presented the 2023 audited accounts as circulated. Net assts at the end of 2023 was DKK 590.104.

The accounts were adopted unanimously by the General Assembly.

The budget for 2024 also includes money received from the Nordic Council of Minister for the Fourth Forum, which possibly will take place next year. It was noted that more members have paid their fees in 2024 compared to last year.

It was decided to keep the membership fee for 2025 unchanged at the level of DKK 100.

NMTT was encouraged to investigate whether other sources for funding could be found for NMTT activities. Funding from the EU was mentioned, but it was noted that the EU rules are complicated to comply with for organisations as NMTT. Cooperation with other parties should be looked into.

6. Presentation of the Board’s work plan concerning activities planned for the upcoming year

The Vice-Chair presented the idea for a fourth NMTT Climate Change Forum workshop which will address reducing CO₂ emissions from the fishery sector. Planning of the Third Workshop is progressing very satisfactorily. The programme will shortly be finalized and should be circulated as wide as possible. Also, speakers are confirmed. With respect to labelling MSC has been contacted with a view to discuss pros and cons to include CO₂ labelling.

Jesper Heldbo informed that fish farms before 2025 should present a plan for how to take climate change including CO₂ into account in their production. Suggested to consider to hold a workshop on aquaculture as this production form most likely will become more important in the years to come. It was mentioned that five ministries in Norway will cooperate on a big project on sustainable oceans. Johan Williams pointed out that it is a catastrophe that the coastal states concerned have not succeeded in agreeing on management plans for the pelagic species. This issue could perhaps also be addressed by NMTT.

7. Presentation of the Board’s proposed budget for the coming financial year, including the level of the membership fees, for adoption

This issue was addressed under point 5.

8. Amendment of the NMTT statute – for adoption

The amendment concerns Articles 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 concerning the functioning of the Board with respect to the number of people participating in order ensure that the Board is able to take decisions. The background for the proposal is triggered by the fact that it has proven difficult to recruit members as well as to muster enough votes to constitute a quorum.

Vote: Not enough members were present to adopt the proposed amendment. The proposal was referred to an extraordinary General Assembly for possible adoption.

9. Proposals submitted

No proposals were submitted prior to the General Assembly Meeting

10. Election of the Board and auditor

Four members of the Board were up for election: Jesper Heldbo, Johan Williams, Carl-Christian Schmidt and Hildur Hauksdóttir. All were re-elected for a new two-year period.

Marita Rasmussen (FO). Dorothy Dankel (Chair) (NO), Staffan Waldo (SE) and Jens Møller (DK) remain on the Board (were elected in 2023).

Dorothy Dankel announced that she will step down as Chair at the next General Assembly in 2025, but would like to remain on the Board.

11. Any other business

The importance of dissemination of information about the Third Workshop was underlined and it was agreed that Dorothy Dankel and Carl-Christian Schmidt will write an information note for distribution

NMTT has a “x account” which will be deleted. Other platforms should be considered.

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking the host and the participants for the work done during 2024.

Copenhagen, 17 December 2024

Note
on
Informal NMTT Meeting – The functioning of NMTT
22th November 2024

Following the NMTT General Assembly the Board met to discuss the work of NMTT with a view to finding ideas for the future work and functioning of the NMTT as well as addressing previous work.

First, it was decided to hold the first Board Meeting in 2025 on 17 February 2025, 13.00 hours CET.

It was mentioned that all previous projects can be found on the website: www.nmtt.org

Johan Willians gave a presentation of the current situation of the pelagic fisheries in light of the absence of coastal states fisheries agreements in the context of NEAFC. The lack of agreements including allocations keys is a disgrace. The current situation results in overfishing compared to the ICES advice given for the stocks.

Johan Williams was asked to prepare a short paper including a description of the problem with a view to seeing whether the pelagic complex could be a task for NMTT

Dorothy Dankel will prepare a paper on financing options and will present in on the Board meeting on 17 February 2025.

It is of utmost importance that NMTT identifies the problems it wants base its projects on.

How to ensure the future of NMTT with respect to recruitment to the board as well as to the setup of secretarial support should be further securitized. There is a need for a more forward-looking approach to the organization. It was also discussed whether to employ a salaried executive and how to finance such a post.

It is of utmost importance to be clear about what NMTT wants to focus on in the future. A possibility to engage an external agent to review the functioning of NMTT was mentioned.

New projects should be policy relevant. Currently climate change is aspect which should be an integral part of upcoming projects and not least to identify how climate change impact the fishing industry and biology, and whether climate change has an impact on stock distribution.

It is of utmost importance that NMTT has a clear view on how and why projects are selected.

Jens Møller and Kasper Teilmann will write a short paper on a strategy for NMTTs work to be discussed at the Board meeting on 17 February 2025.