



Dear Colleague

“Working together to manage the Marine Resources of the North Sea Region” Conference

North Sea Commission would like to invite you to attend the above mentioned conference, which is supported by the UK Government’s Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

The conference aims to ensure harmonisation of all users of the North Sea and is an important opportunity for dialogue between all users of the sea. During this event, representatives of the EU Institutions, Norway, Member States, Local and Regional Authorities, oil & gas, renewable energy, fisheries, shipping, aquaculture and environmental stakeholders can come together to find the most appropriate method of Managing the Marine Resources of the North Sea Region.

The North Sea is a **very complex and open marine ecosystem**, providing a nursery for fish and a migratory and wintering area for many species of birds. It is also one of the most heavily-used seas, supporting fishing, shipping, trade, energy, sand mining, defence and recreation. Increasing economic activity in the sea, such as growing shipping traffic and the development of offshore wind farms, is leading to more and more competition between users of the sea.

The need for **Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) and comprehensive resource management** is therefore urgent. The maritime related actions ranging from sea shipping, the exploitation of renewable energies (e.g. offshore –wind energy, tidal power), fisheries, tourism, oil & gas – will increase in the future. Some Member States have made significant progress in that direction.

.The challenge for the North Sea is to fully exploit the sea without affecting the fragile ecosystem, while also preserving the economic and socio-economic importance of fisheries to our region. As there are many links with fisheries from the perspective of an Integrated Maritime Policy, the revision of the Common Fisheries Policy offers a real possibility to consider regionalisation and the integration of the CFP into the Maritime Policy. **The integration of fisheries with other activities** will be very important to any future success.

It is hoped that this Conference will provide a platform for all users to highlight their future plans, to give examples of good practice and to find a way forward by Working Together.

To register for this unique conference please go to www.northsea.org

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Yours Sincerely


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