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## Minutes of the 47<sup>th</sup> NSC Executive Committee Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2008 at the Hotel Scandic Europa, Gothenburg, Sweden.

### NSC Executive Committee Participants:

President	Cllr. Gunn Marit Helgesen (Telemark)
Vice - President	Cllr. Sandy Cluness (Shetland)
Danish Representative	Cllr. Henrik Ringbæk Madsen (Region Nordjylland)
Dutch Representative	not represented
English Representative	Cllr. Kevan Lim (East of England Regional Assembly)
French Representative	not represented
German Representative	Cllr. Martin Kayenburg (Land Schleswig-Holstein)
Norwegian Representative	Cllr. Gisle Handeland (Hordaland)
Scottish Representative	Cllr. Kate Dean (Aberdeen City)
Swedish Representative	Cllr. Annelie Stark (Region Västra Götaland)
Executive Secretary	Lars Haukvik
Assistant Executive Secretary	Vibeke Jakobsen

### NSC Chairs/Vice-Chairs of Thematic Groups present:

Culture and Tourism	not represented
Innovation and Education	Cllr. Ole B. Sørensen (Region Nordjylland)
Sustainable Development	Cllr. Andreas Lervik (Østfold)
	Cllr. Henrik Ringbæk Madsen (Region Nordjylland)
	Cllr. John Lamb (EERA)
Marine Resources	Cllr. Anders Fasth (Region Västra Götaland)
Transport	Cllr. Leif Blomquist (Region Västra Götaland)
	Cllr. Anne Robertson (Aberdeenshire)

### Supporting officers and Observers:

Martin Brebner (Aberdeenshire)  
Sally Spence (Shetland)  
Michelle Armstrong (EERA)  
Cecilia Lagerdahl (Region Västra Götaland)  
Hilde Donker (Noord Holland)  
Twan Janssen (SNN)  
Henrik M. Jensen (Region Midjylland)  
Anders Carlberg (Region Västra Götaland)  
Vivien Collie  
Andrew Llanwarne



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## NSC Thematic Group Advisers present:

Culture and Tourism	Geir Sør-Reime (Rogaland)
Innovation and Education	Erik Lindboe (Rogaland)
Sustainable Development	Yasa Ratnayeke (Aberdeen City)
Marine Resources	Ann Bell (Aberdeenshire)
Transport	Jon Halvard Eide (Vest-Agder)

## Apologies:

Cllr. Rinske Krusinga  
Cllr. Uwe Döring  
Cllr. Sjoerd Galema  
Cllr. Marten Wiersma

## Agenda

All papers for the meeting are available at  
[www.northsea.org/nsc/executive\\_committee/0804\\_gtb/agenda.html](http://www.northsea.org/nsc/executive_committee/0804_gtb/agenda.html)

The President started by welcoming everyone.

The Agenda for the meeting was approved.

### 1. Minutes of the 46<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting, in Cambridge, 2 November 2007.

#### Decision:

*The Minutes were approved unanimously.*

### 2. Reports

**Culture & Tourism group:** The group had a meeting last week of March and decided on the action plan. The group has a new chair, Cllr. Harry van Waveren, they discussed a lot of new projects, planning a food projects and other project ideas for the third North Sea Call. The group are planning to hold a conference in the end of the year on Culture Strategy for Europe and Sustainable Tourism.

**Innovation & Education group:** The group plans to have 2 group meetings a year with a topic each time. Last meeting was in Lille with theme Education. Other discussion was joint food project with C&TG, the Work Shadow proposal and Vocational training. Next meeting in May in Aalborg with theme: Innovation.

**Marine Resources group:** Had a meeting in Bergen, with very good presentations Martin Brebner got credit for having made a good preparation on the maritime paper.



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The Chair presented a newspaper article on removal of Mercury contaminated sediments round the submarine outside Norway using a freezing technique.

The North Sea Women's Network will have a follow up conference in Edinburgh 14<sup>th</sup> May, Next meeting will be 19<sup>th</sup> May in Brussels. Vice-Chair Harry Jensen will represent NSC at a meeting in the European Parliament on 16<sup>th</sup> April.

**Sustainable Development group:** The last meeting was in December with the Baltic Sea preparing the joint conference 23-25 April in Umeå, Sweden. SDG annual meeting will be 22<sup>nd</sup> April in Umeå.

The Group will invite Martin Brebner inform about the Maritime Policy Blue Book.

**Transport group:** Last meeting in February in Gothenburg, discussed cooperation between the different groups. Energy and sustainable issues are cross border for all groups. Next meeting will be in South End, UK.

BSC transport group is re established and 29<sup>th</sup> April the Transport Adviser will meet them. The Adviser has participated in the BSR Interreg project Interbaltic.

The group will try to set up a joint meeting with BSC in Herning in June.

**NSC-BSC Cooperation:** The BSC have no Marine Group but we try to work through the CPMR Aquamarine group.

Transport Groups are planning for a common meeting in Herning.

Important issues now are cooperation between all Baltic Sea regions on Energy and Climate issues.

The East Indies traveller ship "Göteborg" will be touring the Baltic Sea during this summer. Maybe there are possibilities for a joint NSC-BSC activity during a stay in one of the ports? BSC ExCom has sent a letter to the CPMR President regarding the FOGAR

**CoR:** The report is clear. There have been two plenary meetings since our last meeting. 20<sup>th</sup> May is the maritime day with activities in Brussels.

**CPMR CAP:** The CAP group is open for all CPMR members, 60 regions participated in the first meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. The CPMR Secretariat are responsible for the drafting the papers to the Political Bureau meeting in 27<sup>th</sup> June. The issues are very wide on many different themes. Difficult topic to discuss and difficult to reach an agreement on this paper. There will be a meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> April in Paris to try to improve the papers.

### **NSC Energy coordination group.**

Report from the meeting the CPMR energy group had with the EU Commissioner Dimas regarding the new target set for member's states in the "Climate action and renewable energy package": Pressure made to make targets flexible (ie. Poland is putting pressure on the coal issues) A new meeting for the CPMR Energy group will be in Brussels. 28<sup>th</sup> May. There should be more representatives from north. Hilde Donker will look into the Dutch representation.

The NSC Energy Coordination group will be invited to a meeting in Brussels 27<sup>th</sup> May.

The Central Denmark Region informed about their work regarding 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Bio-fuel.



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**Decision:**

***The written reports were approved***

### **3. NSC Work Plans 2008 - 2010**

**Culture and Tourist**, no comments

**Innovation and Education**, no comments

**Marine Resources**, will be updated to next meeting

**Sustainable Development**, no comments

**Transport**, no comments

**Decision:**

***The work plans were approved***

### **4. The future of CPMR**

The Background paper and enquiry plan was discussed on 3<sup>rd</sup> April at the thematic meeting. Jean-Didier Hache presented the papers on the thematic 3<sup>rd</sup> April and the discussion was the first input from NSC.

This issue will be the main theme at the political seminar in Herning in 11<sup>th</sup> June. We must remember that CPMR is a well-known organisation and the position we already have.

The discussion on 3<sup>rd</sup> April it was a common feeling that CPMR should continue as a European organisation with a maritime focus. All appreciated the process started and lead by Jean-Didier Hache and the possibility to give their opinion during the process.

**Recommendations from the ExCom:**

*Members are asked to send candidates to be interviewed to Lars Haukvik.  
ExCom suggest CPMR to interview members who have left recently.*

### **5. Progress Maritime Policy and CPMR Aquamarine group**

Martin Brebner, represented NSC at the meeting of the group 26<sup>th</sup> March in Brussels, see report under item 5. Other representatives from NSC regions were Ann Bell (MRFG and RAC) and Hilde Donker. They felt the meeting was not as they had expected from the mandate the group was given at the CPMR Political Bureau in January and they had difficulty in understanding what the meeting was about. The focus seems to be to try to



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put forward the Brittany view and to organise this like a mini CPMR, with thematic meetings and sub-groups.

Maritime policy day in 20<sup>th</sup> May, with a big event in Brussels. NSC will try to get a NSC representative in the programme presenting our view of the Maritime Policy.

**Decision:**

***The Executive Secretary will contact the CPMR Secretariat regarding the mandate of the Aquamarina group and its future work.***

## 6. NSC Response to the "EU Green Paper on Urban Transport"

An integrated response is required. One size does not fit all, the paper is more a investigation and trying to set standards.

The NSC response is based on the EERA paper and after consultation in the Transport group more examples were added before sending the NSC response.

The calling is to include the private sector and to try to get the commission to finance activities.

The group was congratulated with the excellent work on producing the paper.

**Decision:**

***The response was approved***

## 7. NSC Finances

The accounts from 31.12.07 were presented. The accounts will be audited for the GA and there are expected not to be big changes. For 2007 a surplus of 39.248 Euro is expected.

The membership fee for 2008 are paid by most of the members.

The secretariat has started the work for updating the NSC website together with the BSC, to make it more modern and more interactive. The cost for the work is not clear yet, but the secretariat intends to present the cost to the ExCom at their next meeting.

The Secretariat has promised to support the cost of meeting/conferences of the SDG, C&TG and IEG

**Decision:**

***The financial statement and budget were approved***



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## 8. NSC Organisational issues

Andrew Llanwarne updated on the progress of the project, several interviews of involved people has been completed.

The aim of the enquiry is to look at the benefit you get out of being members of NSC. They have found different on the benefits of being members in NSC. They specially look into the Maritime paper and the work we did and the influence NSC have made.

*For those who have not been contacted, but want to give your input please contact the Executive Secretary Lars Haukvik as soon as possible, no later than 30.04.08.*

The final report will be presented in the next ExCom meeting in Herning.

### **ESPON:**

The NSC Secretariat has been asked by the Norwegian Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development to take part in an ESPON project The NSC part in the project is a small part of the work mostly for the secretariat, disseminating the results of the project.

### **Website:**

Hope to show a trial version of the new website in Herning in June.

Parts of the website (the work area) must be password protected. The secretariat is responsible for the work, in cooperation with the Executive Secretary of the BSC

### **Open days in Brussels 2009**

Due to little time participation (holding a seminar) in Open Days 2008 is not realistic. The Secretariat suggested participation in the 2009 Open Days.

What is the Open Days? It is a platform for the regions to present themselves In October every year in Brussels. Open Days are very popular so there are some rules to follow. You need to find around 8 – 12 partners and the aim is to make cooperation for organise a seminar and an event in your own region.

We are already regions who cooperate and one region must be the lead partner. There is a lot of work for the lead partner. It is important to choose the right theme for a seminar. Scotland house might be a venue for a seminar during the Open Days.

#### **Decision**

- 1. The progress of the project Promoting the Success of the NSC is for information***
- 2. NSC Secretariat takes part in the ESPON project as described in the meeting paper.***
- 3. The work for updating the NSC website is a responsibility for the Secretariat. The work will continue within the costs of the budget.***



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4. ***NSC aim for to contribute to the Open Days 2009, responsible is the Vice-President for External relations with help from the Secretariat and the Advisers.***

## 9. The 17th General Assembly

Malou Munkholm, Region Midtjylland had a presentation on the program and practical information on the General Assembly. Information and registration is now available on the NSC website, **deadline for registration is 30 April.**

It is proposed to hold a joint NSC-BSC Political seminar on Wednesday 11 June in the Afternoon. Former Vice-President Audrey Findlay will be asked to Chair the seminar and Vivian Collie to facilitate. Theme will be the reorganisation of the CPMR.

For the meeting two resolutions were prepared for the Annual Business Meeting:

### **Energy as a priority in European sustainable procurement**

Some issues need to be added. 2<sup>nd</sup> Page, what actually is green procurement? This needs to be described. 3<sup>rd</sup> page. There will need to be adjustments. New point no. 6 that changes the European regulations on green procurement. A revised proposal will be discussed at the joint NSC-BSC seminar in Umeå 22-24 April and then sent to the Secretariat to be presented at the Annual Business Meeting.

### **Discard – incompatible with sustainable fisheries:**

How do we overcome the by-catch issue? The fish is already dead or will die. Should be counted in the quota? The paper should be strengthened. Try and find the good things and the bad thing. Norway and Iceland have already these regulations and should be brought forward as soon as possible.

Minor additions to the statement were adopted and the new updated statement is attached. *The revised paper is enclosed in these minutes.*

### **General Assembly 2009:**

The region Noord-Holland offered to host the General Assembly 2009. The President thanked for the invitation and looked forward to the event.

### **Decision**

1. ***The Executive Committee wants a Political Seminar during the General Assembly as described in the paper.***
2. ***The deadline for sending resolutions to the Secretariat to be presented for the Annual Business Meeting is 15 May 2008.***

3. ***The Political Statement "ENERGY AS A PRIORITY IN EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT" is supported by the Executive Committee and to be sent to the Annual Business Meeting adoption.***
4. ***The Political Statement " DISCARD – INCOMPATIBLE WITH SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES" is supported by the Executive Committee and to be sent to the Annual Business Meeting adoption***
5. ***The Executive Committee accepted the invitation from Noord-Holland to host the General Assembly 2009.***

## **10. Next meeting**

Next meeting will be in Herning on 13<sup>th</sup> June.

## **11. AOB**

### **Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion**

As told by Arve Skjerpen at the thematic meeting the first unofficial draft will be ready in the end of April, the official consultation will start in September. (the PowerPoint from Arve Skjerpen is available on the NSC website).

How do we want NSC to be involved? CPMR take part in "Group 158" via the Islands Commission and Jean-Didier Hache. NSC is not members of this group, but will be informed by them and asked for opinions since many of the NSC members are affected by the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion.

***NSC wanted to be more active, the ExCom decided to set up an Ad Hoc group on Territorial Cohesion.***

*Sandy Cluness will chair the group together with Vice-President Rinske Kruisinga. Each thematic group was asked to nominate one of the Chairs/Vice-Chairs to the group, with support from their Advisers. Vice-President Sandy Cluness are responsible to arrange the first meeting of the group.*

**The president thanked Region Västra Götaland for their hospitality and a well-organised meeting.**

**End of meeting**



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## Discard – Incompatible with Sustainable Fisheries

*Statement adopted by the Executive Committee at their meeting 04.04.08, based on a proposal from the Marine Resources Group. For adoption at the Annual Business Meeting 13.06.08*

### Background

Discards are the portion of a catch of **fish** which is not retained on board during **commercial fishing** operations and is returned, often dead or dying, to the sea. The practice of discarding is driven by **economic** and **political** factors; fish which are discarded are often catches of species which fishermen are not allowed to land, for instance due to **quota** restrictions, or unmarketable species, e.g. individuals which are below **minimum landing sizes**. Discards form part of the **by-catch** of a fishing operation, although by-catch includes marketable species caught unintentionally.

According to a recent study, almost one million tonnes in weight and many millions of pounds worth of discards – including haddock, cod, whiting and flatfish like plaice, sole and dab - are thrown back into the North Sea after they are caught in trawlers' nets every year, and they are usually dead by the time they are returned to the water<sup>1</sup>. This quantity equates to nearly one-third of the total weight of fish brought ashore, and one-tenth of the estimated total of biomass of fish in the North Sea.

The problem differs greatly between different maritime areas, as a result of different fishing practises but also of different species composition. Generally the discard problem is greater in so-called mixed fisheries, e.g. North Sea demersal trawling fisheries.

### Policies on Discard

Discard is a well known phenomenon and drawback in most forms of fisheries management. Criticism of discard practises is widespread, in the fisheries sector as well as outside of it, among consumers, citizens groups and in political forums. The issue of discards has been addressed by The North Sea Regional Advisory Council (NSRAC) which has proposed that an effort management system be put in place in the Kattegat in order to reduce discards substantially.

In Europe, Norway and Iceland are already operating with a discard ban. Recently the EU Commission proposed the gradual introduction of a discard ban in the European Union. A proposal is expected from the EU Commission in 2008.

### Statement from the NSC

The member regions of the NSC are supporting measures which will lead to the gradual elimination of discard in Europe. Discard represents serious mismanagement of marine resources. The NSC also believes that discard reflects negatively on all fisheries and undermines the standing of the industry with consumers.

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<sup>1</sup> University Of Newcastle Upon Tyne (2004, November 3). Call To End Fishing 'Discards'. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved March 13, 2008, from <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2004/10/041030144323.htm>



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Therefore prioritized actions and management reforms are urgent. These should introduce technical and management measures which allows for the elimination of discards, while at the same time allows for the industry to adjust to a more sustainable regime. The NSC stresses the need to learn from experiences in both Iceland and Norway, and also to use the knowledge of the relevant scientific and technical expertise. The importance of the discard-problem should be reflected in EU's urgency in coming to terms with the issue.

#### Proposal

The NSC Marine Resources Group proposes that the NSC adopts this statement as an expression of its concern for sustainable fisheries and a healthy marine environment. The NSC urges the European Union to move forward towards a system of fisheries management where discard is reduced to a minimum. We believe that measures should be planned and executed in co-operation with the fishing industry and fisheries science, integrating efforts of both communities in this crucial effort.