



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Draft Agenda for the 17th NSC Annual Business Meeting, from 9.30 to 13 on 13 June 2008, at Herning Conference Center, Denmark.

Joint Meeting NSC – BSC

- ❖ The future of CPMR presentation from CPMR President Claudio Martini.

NSC Annual Business Meeting:

1. Annual Reports

- Presidents Report
- Annual Reports from the Thematic Groups
 - Culture & Tourism
 - Innovation & Education
 - Marine Resources
 - Sustainable Development
 - Transport
- NSC-BSC Cooperation
- Reports from cooperating organisations, to be presented at the meeting
 - Report from the NSRAC, Chair of RAC Hugo Andersson
 - Report from the Japanese cooperation, Professor Hideo Kojimoto
 - Report from the Interreg IVB North Sea Region programme, by Head of Secretariat Christian Byrith

2. Elections of NSC Office bearers

- Election of NSC President
- Confirmation of Members and Substitute Members to the NSC Executive Committee, elected by the National delegations 2007

3. NSC Thematic Groups Work Plans 2008 - 2009

- Culture & Tourism
- Innovation & Education
- Marine Resources
- Sustainable Development
- Transport

4. Finances ; financial status of 26.05.08, Accounts 2007 and Proposed Budget 2009

- Audit report



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

5. NSC Organisational issues

- Promoting the Success of NSC
- NSC preliminary response to the future of CPMR
- Renewal of the NSC website

6. Resolutions and Political Statements

- Political statement; "ENERGY AS A PRIORITY IN EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT".
- Political statement; "DISCARD – INCOMPATIBLE WITH SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES".
- Joint NSC and BSC Resolution; “TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE EUROPEAN REGIONAL COHESION POLICY - CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN SPARSELY POPULATED AREAS”

7. Invitation to the 18th General Assembly



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 1

NSC PRESIDENT AND THEMATIC GROUPS ANNUAL REPORTS

Enclosed are the Annual reports for the Thematic Groups.

The Presidents report will be presented at the meeting.

There will be a report from two cooperating organisations;

- The North Sea Regional Advisory Council by the Chair of NSRAC Hugo Andersson
- The Japanese cooperation "Sub Regions Influencing Regions" by Professor Hideo Kojimoto
- Report from the Interreg IVB North Sea Region programme, by Head of Secretariat Christian Byrith

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. The NSC Annual Business Meeting of 13th June 2008 adopts the Annual Reports and continues to support the work of the NSC.*



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 1

Culture & Tourism Group

Cllr Annelie Stark from Västra Götaland Region chaired the Culture & Tourism Group, till the 31st meeting, and since then by Cllr. Harry van Waveren from the Province of Zeeland. Prior to that, Cllr. Van Waveren was one of the Vice-Chairs. During the whole period, Cllr. Wendy Mawer from the East of England has been the other Vice-Chair. Since the 32nd Meeting, Cllr. Lars Nordström from Västra Götaland Region has been the other Vice-Chair. Advisor has been Mr Geir Sør-Reime, from Rogaland County Council.

The Culture & Tourism group had two meetings since last AGM:
31st Meeting Norwich 25 October 2007 and
32nd Meeting Bergen 27-28 March 2008.

12 and 14 delegates attended these meetings, respectively. These delegates represented 12 regional authorities from six countries (Denmark, England, Netherlands, Norway, Scotland, Sweden).

At the meetings, the main issues discussed were important initiatives from the European Union in relation to culture, and to tourism, especially sustainable tourism. The Cultural Agenda for the European Union puts culture and creativity right in the centre of the Lisbon agenda, and offers exciting and challenging opportunities for all cultural actors in the years to come.

The Sustainable Tourism initiative is an important response to the Gothenburg agenda, and to the Green Book on Maritime Policy. The CPMR has established an intercom group on sustainable tourism, chaired by Cllr Lars Nordström, one of our vice-chairs. Our group follows this work closely.

The development of project ideas and proposals has been another important priority of our group during the last year, and at the Bergen meeting, a highly successful project workshop was organised. More than 30 project ideas have been identified and discussed, and several have already resulted in project applications.



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 1

Innovation & Education Group

1. Introduction

The aim of this report is to summarise the work of the North Sea Commission's thematic group "Innovation and Education Group" (IEG).

2. IEG Chair, Vice-Chairs and Adviser

- Chair: - Cllr. Ole B. Sørensen, Region North Denmark
- Vice-Chairs: - Cllr. Stella Duneufjardin, Region of Nord-pas de Calais, France
- Cllr. Kate Dean, Aberdeen City, Scotland
- Adviser: - Erik Lindboe, Rogaland County Council, Norway

3. Innovation & Education Group meetings

a) 20 members of the IEG attended the group meeting in Lille, France, 14th – 15th November 2007.

Highlights from the agenda:

- Presentation of The "North Sea Regional Food Initiative project". This is a proposed Interreg IVB program, planned to run for 5 years with a budget of 3 million Euros.
- Presentation of the North Sea Schools project "Sustainability around the North Sea", which had the kick-off meeting in Stavanger, Norway, 2nd – 3rd October 2007. More information about "Sustainability around the North Sea" in the project's website:
<http://www.northseaschools.org/main.htm>
- Presentation of the "Work Shadowing Scheme".
All information regarding the Work Shadowing Scheme is found on the NSC website.
- Life Long Learning
- Introduction to the Passive House+ Project, a proposed Interreg project
- Study tour to colleges in the area

b) 16 councillors and officers attended the IEG meeting in Aalborg 14th – 15th May 2008. The main theme was Innovation. Highlights from the agenda:

- Presentation of the North Denmark Region
- The Regional Development Plan – a method of working
- Interreg Secretariat – Transnationality
- Aalborg University – Innovative research and ways of working together with private companies
Young Entrepreneurship
- Study tour to VR Media Lab in the Aalborg University, introduction to the Smart House.

4. The I & E Strategic Group meets a couple of times a year to plan future group activities and meetings, revise the Work Plan aso. The Strategic Group is: the Chair, vice-chairs and advisor, plus a limited number of supporting officers.

- The Strategic Group met in Nord-pas de Calais's offices in Brussels 1st February 2008 to go through the Work Plan and future Innovation & Education Group activities and meetings.
- The Strategic Groups of the Innovation & Education Group and the Culture & Tourism Group had a joint meeting 2nd February 2008 in Brussels. On the Agenda was future co-operation between the groups, including developing the item of *Food*.



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 1

5. Work Plan / Activities

The Work Plan has been updated, and the number of actions is kept on a level which adapts to our way of working and our ability to go through with the actions listed in the WP. The IEG is working with all the items of the plan.

The IEG aims to develop the connections with the Baltic Sea Commission. BSC was invited to the IEG meeting in Aalborg in May 2008, and will be invited to future events as well.

The Work Shadowing Scheme is presented on the North Sea Commission website, and it has also been disseminated by e-mail to NSC members.

The North Sea Schools Sustainability Network

In addition to the running school project “Sustainability around the North Sea”, a new application has been submitted to the Comenius offices, which delivers funding for different school projects in the EU. This planned school project is about food, and it’s aimed at children in primary schools. Comenius will announce its decision before the summer. The IEG will shadow these projects.

In addition, there are plans to develop another school project aimed at young people from 16 +.

If we succeed in this, the EU may be willing to give us the full status of a North Sea Schools Sustainability Network.

Food

The Innovation and Education Group has a major responsibility regarding *Food*, and aims to have a closer look at *Food* in cooperation with other NSC thematic groups. We are now awaiting the answer from Comenius on the school food project, which is mentioned above. We are also awaiting the Angus/Scotland food project, which will be submitted to the Interreg Secretariat later this year. If these projects are approved, the IEG will focus on following them up in the coming years.

Other projects

The applications for the Interreg-projects the Passive House+ (initiated by Sweden) and the North Sea Screen Partnership (initiated by Scotland) were submitted to the Interreg Secretariat in March 2008. The decision from the Interreg Secretariat is expected to be announced before the summer 2008. The NSC will be welcomed to shadow these projects.

More information:

The Passive House+ : <http://northsearegion.eu/ivb/project-ideas/&tid=115>

The North Sea Screen Partnership: <http://northsearegion.eu/ivb/project-ideas/&tid=232>

Information

Information about the IEG and the other thematic groups, invitations to group meetings, updated Work Plan and Newsletters are disseminated to the NSC Secretariat, group members, advisers of the other thematic groups by e-mail. Also, the NSC website is frequently updated.

Events calendar 2007 - 2009



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

**Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008**

Item 1

Date	Event
14 th September 2007	IEG Strategic Group meeting in Brussels
1 st – 4 th October 2007	“Sustainability around the North Sea” – Kick-off meeting in Stavanger, Norway
17 th – 19 th October 2007	CPMR General Assembly in Florence, Italy
14 th – 15 th November 2007	I&E Group meeting in Lille, France
1 st – 2 nd February 2008	IEG Strategic Group meeting in Brussels
15 th – 16 th May 2008	I&E Group meeting in Aalborg, Denmark. Main theme: Innovation.
26 th – 29 th May 2008	“ Sustainability around the North Sea”, project meeting in Busum, Germany, with teachers and pupils
11 th – 13 th June 2008	Joint NSC - Interreg conference in Viborg, Denmark, + NSC GA
5 th September 2008	IEG Strategic Group meeting in Copenhagen
30 th September – 1 st October 2008	North Sea Schools Network meeting in Fife, Scotland
1 st – 3 rd October 2008	CPMR General Assembly in Aquitaine, France
23 rd – 24 th October 2008	I&E Group meeting in Gothenburg
First week of June 2009	North Sea Schools Network: Final conference in Suffolk, England



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 1

Marine Resources Group

1. The aim of the report is inform the NSC General Assembly about the work of the NSC Marine Resource Group in 2007/2008.
2. Over the past year the NSCMRG has :
 - Had 2 Group meetings one in Bergen and one in Brussels
 - Had 1 Political meeting in Copenhagen
 - Had a meeting with ICES, North Sea RAC and the Baltic Sea RAC and Danish Fishermen's Association in Copenhagen
 - Presented the NSC resolution on closed areas to the EU Parliament Fisheries Committee, in Brussels
 - Taken part in a political Seminar at the EU Parliament in Brussels
 - Attended the CPMR Fisheries Group
 - Attended the Aqua Marina Group
 - Attended the NSC Advisor meeting Skein
 - Jointly organised a conference on Managing Change in Coastal Communities
 - Attended the EU Maritime Stakeholders Conference on 19/20 May 2008

3. Meetings:

1) This meeting took place in Bergen on 21/22 January 2008 at the invitation of Cllr. Tom-Christer Nilsen. During this meeting we discussed many issues including maritime spatial planning and coastal zone management, climate change and aquaculture, air pollution by ships, maritime policy (future projects) and we updated on IUU and the Mercury issue. We also had a study visit to the Marine Institute of Bergen, where we had two very interesting and thought provoking presentations, the first by Svein Sundby on Climate Effects on Marine Resources and the second on Aquaculture in Warmer, Wetter and Wilder Weather, was given by Oivind Bergh both were equally fascinating.

2) Our next meeting was held in Scotland House, Brussels on 19 May 2008. The meeting was well attended and we were very pleased to welcome Cllr Ellen Oseth and Kjetil Helstad from Troms Region for the first time. Our agenda included future co-operation with BSC Fisheries Group, report of the CPMR Fisheries group meeting. Carol Thomas, CPMR gave us an update on the Aquamarina group, the group voiced grave concern about this new group and feared that it could split the CPMR, we agreed that we would discuss this further at the NSC GA.

Cllr. Harry Jensen, NSCMRG EU Spokesperson, was invited to represent the NSC at a Seminar on Natura 2000, in the EU Parliament. Henrik Jensen gave feedback to the group, saying that it had been very useful and clearly highlighted that Member States differed in their interpretation of the Natura 2000, there seemed to be no common theme. The Group agreed that we would re-circulate the NSC Resolution on Closed Areas, so that it could be strengthened.

Cllr. Tom-Christer Nilsen is to represent the NSCMRG at the NSC energy Co-operation meeting, there was some discussion about what the group wanted him to present. Our colleagues from the Troms Region in Norway, were very pleased with the NSCMRG had handled the IUU issue, it had come to the NSCMRG, then on to the



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

**Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008**

Item 1

NSC executive then the NSC General Assembly and on to the CPMR GA, where at all stage it was approved. Since then it was sent to the EU Commission to influence there paper, also to the EU Parliament Fisheries Committee, the NSRAC and to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation FAO in Rome. It was also present to Commissioner Joe Borge, when he attended the NSRAC control and compliance conference.

Cllr. Nilsen was pleased to inform us about the lates on the mercury issue, The Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA) had put out tender on a salvage operation of U864. The bids were received on April 28, all from international salvage companies with a long-standing reputation in the field. The bids are now being assessed by Norwegian Veritas. They will conclude a recommendation to the NCA by the end of June this year. Cllr. Nilsen will keep us informed as to the progress. Our next meeting will take place in Denmark in October.

4. Copenhagen political meetings:

1) Our first meetings took place at the offices of the Danish Fishermen's Association. Chairman Anders Fasth and Ann Bell attended the meeting with ICES, Baltic Sea and North Sea RAC and a representative of the Danish Fishermen's Association. This meeting looked at co-operation between scientists and fishermen could be better developed along the lines of the NSC Fisheries Partnership and how co-ordination of scientific requirement for RACs could be improved to ensure that RACs had the best possible advice available to them. It also discussed how the co-operation could be strengthened between the NSC and the NSRAC and BSRAC.

2) The NSCMRG Political meeting also took place at the same venue. At this meeting we discussed the agenda for the next meeting, including, IUU, Baltic Sea co-operation, CPMR, Aquaculture and Climate Change and Fuel efficiency in fishing boats. It was agreed that the NSCMRG would create a new political post within the Group, Contact/Spokesperson on Climate Change, Energy and the Costal Zone. This Spokesperson and an officer would be the contact persons on these issues, on behalf of the NSCMRG, both within the NSC and at EU and International level on fisheries related issues. It was also agreed that Cllr. Tom-Christer Nilsen was nominated. This suggestion would put to the next NSC Executive Committee for their approval. As Cllr. Sandy Clunes had resigned as our Vice Chairman, the NSCMRG had to look for another Vice Chair, Cllr. Josie Simpson, Shetland Islands Council, had put his name forward for the position, this was fully supported by the MSCMRG politicians, their recommendation would also go forward to the next Executive Committe. Both the recommendations were approved by the NSC Executive Committee.

5. Closed Areas and Natura 2000

The ongoing debate on Closed and Marine Protected Areas was discussed at an Inter-RAC Conference held at the Scottish Parliament, the EU Commission has agreed along the lines of the NSC resolution that Consultation and stakeholder involvement is vital.

Cllr. Harry Jensen, Ann Bell, Tommy Mostrup and Pim Visser presented the NSC resolution plus a Danish and Dutch case to the EU parliament Fisheries Committee.



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 1

The EU Parliament Fisheries Committee congratulated the NSC on the work they were undertaking and supported our resolution.

Cllr. Jensen also represented the NSC as a speaker at a seminar on debate on “Natura 2000- an opportunity for or an obstacle to development”, organized by the EU Alde Group, in the European Parliament other speakers included Commissioner Hubner.

6. CPMR Fisheries Group

Anders Fasth, Ann Bell and Anders Carlberg attended a meeting of the CPMR Fisheries Group in Brussels, one area highlighted was the need for the CPMR to be more involved in RACs, following the line of the NSC. It was agreed that Josie Simpson, Chair of the CPMRFIG would attend the next meeting of the Inter-RAC Committee to discuss ways of better involvement in all RACs. Josie has since attended an Inter-RAC meeting. Cllr. Josie Simpson has also been elected as the Vice Chair of the NSCMRG, this will ensure even closer co-operation between both groups.

7. CPMR Aqua Marina Group

Ann Bell and Martin Brebner attend the first meeting of the CPMR aqua Marina Group in Brussels. The meeting established a working method for the group, which involves 3 plenary sessions per year, each focusing on a particular thematic area of the maritime policy (e.g. research, transport etc.). There is also the potential for thematic groups/meetings to be set up to examine issues in more detail. Martin Brebner and Ann Bell were both concerned that this sectoral/thematic approach to examining the Blue Book could overlap significantly with the work of other groups in the CPMR. As the Maritime Policy covers similar policy areas to the CPMR as a whole, there is a real risk that the Aquamarina group becomes a 'mini-CPMR.

We both felt that was merit in continuing the Aquamarina group, as it is important to follow the implementation of the policy. However, in order to avoid duplication with the work of other CPMR working groups and the Geographical Commissions, it may be better for the Aquamarina group to focus on the co-ordination and governance of the Maritime Policy (i.e. conflicts between policy areas, cross-sectoral working across Commission DGs, co-ordination across national boundaries, regional/national/european co-operation etc.) and perhaps the planning framework (ICZM etc.). The group could also look at any gaps in the policy itself. **In short, the main issue we both had with the group is the thematic nature of its meetings, which tends to conflict with the idea of a cross sectoral maritime policy.**

8. Managing Change in Coastal Communities conference

In June 2004 the NSC organised a conference in Peterhead, which looked at the “Changing role of Women in Fishing and Rural Communities”, as a result of the conference the North Sea Women’s Network was formed, the NSWN now has a seat on the Executive Committee of the NSRAC and also Chair the NSRAC Socio Economic Focus group. The main aim of the NSWN is to be the voice of the Coastal Communities on the NSRAC. It was agreed that the time was right to take a look at how Coastal Communities were managing the many changes that have taken place. The conference was jointly organised by the NSC and the NSWN and funded by the Scottish Government. Women from fishing communities in France, Canada, Ireland,

the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, England and Scotland, attended the one day event in Edinburgh on 14th May. Delegates were welcomed by Scottish Fisheries Minister Richard Lochhead, MSP, who said: "There is huge potential in our fishing communities - from the men out at sea to the women and families back on shore. I want our coastal and rural communities to be a place where people want to live and work. From now on we will should be helping communities shape their own future by assisting them to set and achieve their own priorities at a grassroots level."

An international panel of presenters tackled key issues related to fisheries and aquaculture, including Dr Katia Frangoudes, University of Brest, who gave the keynote presentation on the role of women in coastal communities in Europe; Dr Alyne Delaney, an anthropologist working in Denmark who has been investigating the effects of cod recovery plans on fishing communities in Scotland and the Netherlands; and Lena Söderholm (NSC) a fisheries advisor with the Sogn og Fjordane county council in Norway, who spoke about a strategy and project to manage change in one of the country's most fishery dependent communities.

A workshop session explored the challenges facing women due to the changing dynamics of the fishing industry, discussed initiatives to manage change and identify development priorities and funding sources, and looked at ways to regenerate communities, keep young people in them, and put back a sense of pride.



Scottish Cabinet Secretary Richard Lockhead MSP receiving a NSC Tartan Tie at the conference

9. Maritime Policy

Martine Brebner prepared a very good discussion paper for the NSC Marine Resource Group on possible North Sea Maritime Policy projects. After much debate we identified 4 possible project areas:

- Maritime Spatial Planning and integrated coastal zone management.
- Air pollution by ships.
- Safety at sea – The development of the Fish-Safe initiative, which is a good example of industries working in partnership to bring long term improvements in safety and the management of environmental risks. It also provides the opportunity to expand the capture and dissemination of data relating to hazards in the North Sea other than those in UK waters.
- Work the Marine Institute in Bergen and Sogn og Fjordane to develop a project on the marine ecosystem and climate change.



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 1

To date I have had two meetings with the EU Commission regarding the funding of the Safety at Sea project. This project would be split into two phases, one the development of the Fish-Safe equipment and two the management of spatial data on the hazards that lie beneath the North Sea. Another meeting with the EU Commission Maritime Policy team is scheduled for 17 June. Cllr. Tom-Christer Nilsen has been assisting with this project idea, which is being carried out in collaboration with the Oil & Gas and Fishing sectors.



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 1

Sustainable Development Group

This report aims to summarise the work of the Sustainable Development Group (SDG) for the period of 2007/08

1. Officer Bearers

- Chair - Cllr Andreas Lervik
- Vice Chair - Cllr Henrik Ringbaek Madsen
- Vice Chair - Cllr John Lamb
- Adviser - Yasa Ratnayeke

2. SDG Meetings

- 26th September 2007
The Chair, Vice Chairs and the Adviser met in Aberdeen to discuss the organisation of the Joint Annual Conference of the Baltic Sea Energy Group and the SDG in April 08. The work plan was also discussed in detail and it was decided that we should try and limit our work plan to work that we could actually carry out with the year. It was also decided that the group should look at developing a Political Paper on Sustainable Procurement. The next meeting of the entire group was set for the 13th of December 2007 at Scotland House in Brussels.
- 12th & 13th December 2007
On the 12th of December the Chair, Vice Chair and Adviser met with the Baltic Sea Energy Group to discuss and finalise preparations for the Joint Annual Conference of the two groups. It was decided that the meeting will be held in Umeå on the 24th and 25th of April at the Umeå Folkets Hus and that the NSC – SDG will contribute 5000 Euro towards the cost of hosting the joint conference. We also discussed topics of the conference and also speakers. It was decided that the travel costs and accommodation costs of the speakers will be covered by the organisers.

The 13th of December so the SDG members (Eleven of them) meet and discussed in detail the input our members should have in organising speakers for the Joint Annual Conference. There was a very good response from our members. The group agreed on the work plan being developed should concentrate solely on things we could achieve within a realistic time frame. There was also agreement that we should look at developing a Background paper on European Strategy for Sustainable, Competitive and Secure Energy and the Adviser was tasked in getting this done. This has been done and also a Political Paper was developed on “Energy As A Priority in European Sustainable Procurement” which was submitted to the CPMR Energy Group who supported the paper.



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

**Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008**

Item 1

- 23rd and 24th April 2008 – Umeå
We had 13 members attending this meeting. The Political Paper on “Energy as a Priority in European Sustainable Procurement” was discussed and amended as per Cllr Kevan Lim – Chair of the NSC Energy Group comments. There was also lively debate on the CPMR Policy Position on the Energy / Climate Package, which the group requested that the Adviser to pass on their comments to the CPMR Energy Group, which has been done. The members also approved the attached work plan.
The Chair informed the group that he will be stepping down as from the NSC AGM and he requested that one of the Vice Chairs should take on the role of Chair. It was agreed by the members that Cllr John Lamb should take over as Chair and his post as Vice Chair will be advertised by the NSC Secretariat. The members thanked Cllr Andreas Lervik for all the hard work that was done by him for this group and wished him all the best in his new job.

The 24th of April saw the start of the first Joint Annual Conference of the Baltic Sea Energy group and the SDG. The conference was a great success and well received by all attendees. The NSC – SDG should take this a big step forward in the possibilities of joint working with the Baltic Sea and try and influence funding Programmes (Interreg) to support transnational between the two regions in a substantial way.



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 1

Transport Group

Introduction

This report summarises the work of the NSC Transport group since the last NSC General Assembly in Brunstad in June 2007.

The Transport group in brief

The main aim of the group is to improve cohesion, accessibility and competitiveness in the North Sea Region (NSR) through the development of sustainable and efficient transport solutions.

Current key issues of the group: Sea based intermodal transport corridors & Motorways of the Sea, developing projects for the Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme, cooperation with Baltic Sea Commission, statistical mapping and promoting use of more sustainable energy in the transport sector.

Leadership and administration

Chair: Councillor Leif Blomqvist, Västra Götaland region Sweden (appointed 1 March 2006)

Adviser: Jon Halvard Eide, Vest-Agder Norway (appointed October 2000)

Vice-Chair: Councillor Anne E. Robertson, Aberdeenshire Council, Scotland (appointed in June 2007)

Vice Chair: Poul Weber, South Denmark Region (appointed June 2007)

Membership

The group has got about 30 registered members. In addition, a number of regions are on a correspondence list receiving information about the activities of the group.

Group meetings

The group has held three ordinary meetings in the 2007 – 2008 season:

- Kolding, South Denmark Region, 2 – 3 October 2007
- Gothenburg, Västra Götaland Region, Sweden, 14 – 15 February 2008
- Southend, East of England, 21 – 22 May 2008

Attendance

On average, about 8 -12 persons coming from member regions in Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, England and Scotland have attended the meetings of the group, a level of attendance fairly equal to the 2006 - 2007 season. No representatives from German and French member regions have attended any group meetings this season.

We are happy to observe that the political chairmanship is participating somewhat more actively in group meetings than before.



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 1

Participation in other NSC meetings, contribution to general NSC activities

- The Chair, Vice-Chair Robertson and the Adviser attended a meeting of the Executive Committee in Cambridge, UK, on 2 November 2007
- Preparatory meeting for General Assembly 2008, Viborg, Central Denmark Region, 16 November 2007

The Adviser attended a meeting in Viborg, Central Denmark Region on 16 November 2007, together with the NSC Secretariat, other NSC Advisers and officers from the host region in order to prepare the study tours at the General Assembly. The transport tour will take place in the port of Aarhus, and will in addition to port-related issues also address the public transport system in Central Denmark Region.

- NSC Advisers meeting, Skien, Telemark, 3 – 4 March 2008

The Adviser attended a meeting with the NSC Secretariat and fellow NSC Advisers in Skien, Telemark, on 3 – 4 March. The first day of this meeting was devoted to presentations of the thematic groups to regional councillors. The second day was concerned with the preparation of the next Executive and the 2008 General Assembly, as well as with issues related to intergroup cooperation

- The Transport group drafted a NSC response to the consultation on the EU Green Paper on Urban Transport on 15 March (see also section on “Current issues and priorities” below)
- The Chair, Vice-Chair Robertson and the Adviser attended a meeting of the Executive Committee in Gothenburg on 4 April
- The Chair and the Adviser attended a meeting of the NSC Energy Coordination group in Brussels on 27 May

Involvement in external events of relevance to the group

- The adviser and some group members attended a project development seminar under the Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme in Stavanger on 20 -21 August 2007
- The Adviser attended and made a presentation at the Baltic Development Forum Summit in Tallinn on 6 November 2007
- The Adviser attended a meeting of the High-level group on Transports for Sustainable Growth in the Baltic Sea Region in Tallinn on 6 November 2007
- The Adviser attended a meeting of the North Sea Motorways of the Sea Task Force in Copenhagen on 26 February 2008 (see also section on “Current issues and priorities” below)
- The Adviser attended a meeting of the Baltic Sea Commission Working group on transport, Schwerin, Germany, 29 April 2008



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 1

Current issues & priorities of the group (according to Work Plan)

Developing intermodal transport corridors, incl. Motorways of the Sea (MoS)

As the MoS issue is primarily driven by national governments and industry actors, the primary roles of the Transport group are to monitor developments, exchange information on relevant initiatives involving NSC regions, and mobilise political support for MoS initiatives in the NSC regions.

The Adviser has followed the North Sea Motorways of the Sea Task Force as an observer on behalf of the Northern Maritime Corridor II project. The Task Force consists of Government Ministry & Maritime Administration officials from all EU member states in the North Sea Region, as well as from Norway. The European Commission DG TREN, and European stakeholder organisations related to ports and shipping are observers. The main responsibility of the Task Force is to organise joint calls for tender for MoS projects under the TransEuropean Network – TEN-T. Two such calls have been organised so far. Four proposals were submitted to the first MoS call, including the “NSC” ports of Gothenburg, Aarhus and Esbjerg.

Observership in this Task Force is regarded as an excellent opportunity to stay updated on the development of MoS in the North Sea Region, as well as for promoting NSC policy positions on the MoS directly towards representatives of the European Commission and the member states.

North Sea - Baltic Sea cooperation on transport issues

The Transport group has decided to investigate the feasibility of organising at least one joint meeting with the Transport group of the Baltic Sea Commission (BSC) per year. The first joint meeting could take place in conjunction with the General Assembly in Herring on 11 June.

NSC member regions in Denmark and Sweden which are also members of the BSC have furthermore been encouraged to involve themselves in the work of the BSC Transport group as a way of facilitating and promoting cooperation between the two Commissions

The Adviser attended a meeting of the BSC Transport group in Schwerin, Germany, on 29 April. The meeting discussed transport connections to Russia, project ideas for the Baltic Sea Region Programme, and responses to EU consultations on the Marco Polo II Programme and revision of the TEN-T.

The meeting agreed that there is a potential for BSC – NSC cooperation on the development of intermodal freight transport & MoS, air transport and various forms of sustainable transport. Relevant forms of cooperation could include:

- Recurrent exchange of information on plans, activities and positions
- Mutual attendance at group meetings
- Organisation of meetings, seminars, study visits
- Drafting of joint resolutions to CPMR and EU,
- Developing joint projects



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 1

Attendance at the annual Baltic Development Forum Summit and involvement in the High Level Group on transport in the Baltic Sea Region are furthermore regarded as useful platforms for further developing North Sea- Baltic Sea cooperation in the field of transport. Related projects under the Interreg Programmes for the respective regions are regarded as another relevant platform for cooperation.

Developing project ideas for the Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme

The adviser and some group members attended a seminar under the Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme in Stavanger on 20 -21 August. The main purpose of the seminar was to develop maritime projects for the first call of the Programme which opened in September 2007. The Adviser and some group members have since then been involved in the development of a project proposal on sea motorways (StratMoS) which was approved in the first call last autumn. This project has partners from several NSC member regions. Other NSC member regions are partners to a project bid on Dry Ports which is likely to be approved in the 2nd call this Spring. These projects have many interfaces and are regarded to be a useful platforms for the activities of the Transport group on the development of intermodal transport corridors and MoS.

NSC member regions in Sweden and Norway are furthermore partners to a project bid on transport to the 1st call of the Baltic Sea Region Programme 2007 – 2013 with many interfaces to the aforementioned projects.

Energy issues in the transport sector

In 2007, the Transport group started to explore energy issues in the transport sector and organised a thematic seminar on this issue in Aberdeenshire in May 2007. As a practical way of progressing this issue, the Transport group has started to collect and compile good practice solutions from the NSC member regions on the use of more sustainable fuel in the transport sector, including use of renewable energy and fuel saving schemes. Such good practice will be published at the NSC home page, and could also serve as input to future energy events organised by the NSC, as well as to the NSC Energy Coordination group.

The Chair and Adviser of the Transport group form part of the NSC Coordination group on energy, and attended the first meeting of this group in Brussels on 27 May.

Response to EU Green Paper on Urban Transport

In March 2008, the Transport group submitted a NSC response to the consultation on the EU Green Paper on Urban Transport. The Executive Committee endorsed the response on 4 April. The response was drafted on the basis of an EERA (East of England Regional Assembly) response, together with contributions from several member regions. The main



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 1

message of the response is that more sustainable urban transport would require a sophisticated approach, combining both soft and hard policy measures tailored to each locality. The response is emphasising the importance of technology, facilitating intermodality, cheap, innovative approaches (e.g car shiaring), early education & awareness-raising, infrastructure improvements, workplace travel plans and pricing mechanisms. The role of the EU should primarily be to disseminate good practice, support research and facilitate awareness raising. The response is also pointing to the need of making EU funding schemes more known and user-friendly.

Statistical mapping of key developments in the transport sector

The Transport group has continued to explore relevant items and sources for further developing the statistical mapping task. After the study on container traffic which was presented at a group meeting in May 2007, it was agreed that it would be logical to map RoRo services. It could also be interesting to map air transport services & traffic in the North Sea Region.

At the meeting in May 2008, the group heard a presentation on major trends in modal split / shift in the North Sea Region.



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

NSC-BSC cooperation 2007-2008

Introduction

The NSC- BSC cooperation has grown in importance during the last couple of years. This year we have joined together for common General assemblies in the Region of Midtjylland, Denmark.

This paper is a short summary of the activities that have been taken place during this past year. It is based upon previous reports submitted to the NSC Ex com, minutes and information provided by the BSC general secretary.

General analysis

It seems like most of the working groups in the NSC have an ongoing cooperation with their Baltic partners and are making good use of each others networks and competence. A high light during the past year was the joint conference between NSC sustainable working group and the BSC energy working group taking place in middle of April 2008. The theme was "[Regional actions for sustainable buildings](#)" and the conference was attended by almost 50 participants.

The BSC and NSC transport groups have also worked together in the project Inter Baltic. Within other groups such as the marine group, the cooperation NSC-BSC has not yet started.

Both the BSC and the NSC have followed the Aquamarina group and the group working with the future of the CAP.

Many of the groups in NSC and BSC also cooperate together with the CPMR Intercom groups such as the NSC Innovation/education group and the NSC Cultural and Tourism group have a cooperation with the CPMR TNRIS group(led by Stockholm County council) and the Intercom group on Sustainable tourism(led by Region Västra Götaland). Within the NSC there is also cooperation between working groups.

From the BSC agenda

In February a meeting took place between all Baltic Sea region organizations where they discussed common issues. The outcome was among other things a large consensus about a joint energy and climate platform for the whole of the Baltic Sea Region (BSR).

Since there are many BSC organizations working in the BSC this was first step to see if it is possible to work together on certain issues.



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

The different BSC groups discussed the following priorities for a joint cooperation:

- Analysis of the current Energy and Climate situation in the BSR
- Addressing concerns and considerations of the regional level on Energy and Climate issues to the high political level
- Raising awareness among the inhabitants of the BSR
- Further involvement of a broader range of actors (representatives of business, science, NGOs) working with Energy and Climate-related issues and obtaining financial support to implement joint activities
- A broader involvement of Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland and Russia.

The participants agreed on the following further steps:

- Amend and further elaborate the concept paper for the Joint Energy and Climate Platform
- Identify joint activities. The BSR organisations were asked to submit their priorities (3 to 4) to the BSSSC.
- Continue with information/knowledge exchange and dissemination
- BDF will issue a BDF Magazine in early Summer 2008. The publication will be about energy and will include semi-academic analyses, interesting articles and good examples from the BSR. .
- The platform agreed that a Tripple Helix approach is needed and the industry should be involved.
- The organisations agreed that the upcoming **BDF Summit** (Copenhagen-Malmö, 30 November - 2 December) would serve as the common platform to present the challenges of regional cooperation in the field.

Future

In the joint meeting in Göteborg in April the NSC-BSC decided that the long term future cooperation should continue, this year's priorities discussing issues such as the future budget of the EU, territorial cohesion and adaptation to climate change. Both commissions will continue to share information and possibly having joint resolutions.

The EU is presently drafting an EU strategy for the whole Baltic Sea region. It should be ready for amendments during June 2009 and discussed during the Swedish presidency in the EU during the fall of 2009. This field is currently widely discussed in Sweden and elsewhere and is seen as a great possibility for regional and local involvement.

This could be an area of future cooperation between the NSC and BSC.



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 2

ELECTION OF NSC OFFICE BEARERS

Item 2.1 Election of President of the North Sea Commission

The post as President for North Sea Commission is for election, since President Gunn Marit Helgesen has finalised her second 2 years period.

Cllr. Gunn Marit Helgesen is the only candidate for the position as President of the North Sea Commission for the period 2008 – 2010.

Item 2.2 Members of the Executive Committee

Members of the Executive Committee were elected in 2007 for a two-year period; the list of members is enclosed.

The National delegation elects the National representative and the Substitute member for the Executive Committee. The Annual Business Meeting only confirms the members

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. The NSC Annual Business Meeting of June 13th 2008 re-elects Cllr. Gunn Marit Helgesen as Presidents for North Sea Commission for the period 2008-2010.***
- 2. The NSC Annual Business Meeting of June 13th 2008 confirms the members of the Executive Committee for the period 2008-2009.***



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 2

**Members of North Sea Commission Executive Committee and their
Substitute Members for 2007 - 2009,
confirmed at the Annual Business Meeting June 22nd 2007.**

Denmark Cllr. Harry Jensen, Region Midtjylland

Substitute Member; Cllr. Henrik Ringbæk Madsen, Region Nordjylland

England Cllr. Kevan Lim, East of England Regional Assembly

Substitute Member; Vacant

France Cllr. Martine Filleul, Region Nord-Pas de Calais

Substitute Member; Cllr. Jeannine Marquaille, Region Nord-Pas de Calais

Germany Cllr. Uwe Döring, Land Schleswig-Holstein

Substitute Member; Cllr. Martin Kayenburg, Land Schleswig-Holstein

Netherlands Cllr. Sjoerd Galema, Province of Fryslân (SNN),

Substitute Member; Councillor Marten Wiersma, Province of Zeeland

Norway Cllr. Gisle Handeland, Hordaland Fylkeskommune

Substitute Member; Cllr. Thore Westermoen, Vest-Agder Fylkeskommune

Scotland Cllr. Katharine Dean, Aberdeen City Council,

Substitute Member; Cllr. Anne Robertson, Aberdeenshire Council,

Sweden Cllr. Annelie Stark, Region Västra Götaland

Substitute Member; Cllr. Annika Carlsson, Region Halland



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 3

NSC WORK PLANS 2008 - 2009

Enclosed are the Work Plans for the Thematic Groups, these Work Plans was adopted at the Executive Committee meeting 4 April 2008.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. The NSC Annual Business Meeting of 13th June 2008 adopts the presented Thematic Groups Work Plans for 2008 - 2009.***



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 3

Culture & Tourism Group Work Plan 2008-09 and Strategic Plan 2008-13.

The action plan 2008-09 is valid for the period between the NSC General Assemblies 2008 and 2009. The Strategic Plan is valid for the EU budget period 2007-13.

1. STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-13

The strategy of the Culture & Tourism Group is closely related to the EU agenda, and the strategies of CPMR and the North Sea Commission.

Our group represents the broad or overarching overview and analysis, and that this forms a strong platform for our future work. The role of culture and tourism in regional development as a key issue for us.

It is further important to define the roles of the political members, the officer members and of the observers within the group. Further, the need to prioritise and have a focus is stressed. The need to demonstrate value for money to the public is also underlined. Information to, and support for cultural actors is important. They need support both in the form of competence/assistance and financially.

The group should turn from being more or less re-active to being much more pro-active. We acknowledge that there is a raised political profile of the NSC, and that we should also raise the political profile of the C&T. We should try and influence the European agenda, and we should work closely with the CoR members from our regions, with our the processes as possible. Here we should also use our regional offices in Brussels as our ears. We also need better links between the Commission and the regions. Our group should co-operate closely with relevant bodies in Brussels and elsewhere.

1. The role of the Culture and Tourism Group within the NSC – we should focus on selected issues, and we should have clear objectives and priorities
2. The work should present added value to all member regions. It is also essential that group members provide a link back home to politicians and senior officials in their region.
3. We should act as a lobbying organisation in relation to the EU agenda and EU funds and we should keep an EU perspective in our work
4. We should report back to the group on all issues that are relevant for the members
5. Knowledge and competence building is vital to the group
6. We should maintain a regional development perspective

Our role is to strengthen the North Sea area, but also demonstrate how our region can address global issues in a good way; it should be a region of excellence in responding to global challenges. We must use the European networks also, and make them more accessible to all members. These networks are vital in relation to successful lobbying.



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 3

The membership of the group should be strengthened also, and members must be more conscious of reporting results back home, and taking issues from home to the table of the group.

Therefore, our strategy has three legs:

1. The EU perspective
2. The regional development perspective – the North Sea Vision
3. The political perspective – politicians should be actively involved in the group

The EU perspective 2008-13

The most important issues for us during this period will be the shaping of the regional policy after 2013, including the future culture and tourism strategies of the EU after 2013.

Together with the CPMR, we should ensure that there is an EU regional policy after 2013, and that this policy includes culture and tourism.

The regional perspective – the North Sea Vision

The North Sea should become a region of excellence for global issues, and the North Sea region should also become a region of demonstration for how regional co-operation can be developed in practice. For both these objectives, the Interreg North Sea is a good instrument. The NSC should develop an Interreg programme addressing these issues.

The political perspective

The strategy is a highly political one, and needs the support of politicians from all member regions of the NSC. The active participation of politicians within all thematic groups of the NSC should be encouraged.

2. WORK PLAN 2008-09

The action plans for NSC thematic groups must cover three levels:

1. Political priorities within culture and tourism
2. Concrete projects to follow up the strategic and political priorities and demonstrate how North Sea co-operation can contribute to achieving these priorities
3. Strategic priorities of the NSC Executive Committee

1. Political priorities of the culture and tourism group

The Culture and Tourism Group have decided on a set of political priorities. These have been linked to culture and tourism as important factors for regional development, and include monitoring of, and actions relating to the European agenda in these fields.

During 2008-09, the realization of the European Cultural Agenda and the involvement of all relevant stakeholders will have high priority also for us.



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 3

It is also important to support all work to ensure that culture and creativity are incorporated into various EU funding schemes, in accordance with the European Cultural Agenda priorities.

The same applies to sustainable tourism development, where we will work closely with the CPMR Intercom group on sustainable tourism to follow up initiatives from the Commission. It is also important to continue the co-operation with the Committee of the Regions.

2. Concrete projects

The new funding programmes 2007-13 offers a number of opportunities for development projects that can demonstrate North Sea contributions on major global and European challenges like climate change, economic and social cohesion, regional integration and cross-border co-operation.

Both the Cultural Programme 2007-13 and the new Interreg IV programmes are relevant for project funding, and members of the C&T group should help develop project ideas based on the strategic and political priorities of the NSC and relating to the thematic focus of our group

3. Strategic priorities of the NSC

The NSC Executive Committee decides on the strategic priorities of the NSC. These again also reflect the strategic priorities of the CPMR.

The ExCom has not yet set the strategic objectives for 2008-09.

However, the NSC General Assembly in June 2007 adopted a document entitled 'The important policy areas for NSC in the future'. This document outlines the strategic priorities of the NSC for the coming years.

The new strategic priorities are

1. Cooperation with the BSC
2. Sustainable development with a special focus on energy
3. Food
4. Innovation and Education
5. Cultural agenda and experiential tourism
6. Maritime polity

Concerning the thematic groups, this paper further states that

1. The thematic groups must continue to strengthen their internal and external networks, both for politicians and for officers
2. The thematic groups must investigate the possibilities for using projects/external funding as a tool for their work
3. The Executive Committee must then ensure the links between the groups, to avoid double work and to prioritise what to do
4. The thematic groups are responsible for the follow-up of the development of their issues and report to the Executive Committee when needed
5. Continue with cross-sectoral conferences in cooperation between the thematic groups.



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 3

The Culture & Tourism Group's main responsibility is to assist the Executive Committee on these strategic priorities. The group will identify specific issues within these where the group can give input, and the group will also respond to requests from the Executive Committee for assistance and input in specific issues.

The culture and tourism group will relate to the strategic priorities as follows:

1. Cooperation with BSC

Currently, there is no links on culture and tourism between the NSC and the BSC. Our Chair, in her role as the coordinator for NSC-BSC relations, has expressed a desire to extend NSC-BSC cooperation to include culture and tourism. We can achieve this by using our contacts to encourage the formation of a culture and tourism group within the BSC.

Action: Encourage formation of BSC culture and tourism group

2. Sustainable development with a special focus on energy

The intended objective is to clarify the NSC position on the future energy policies, and the Sustainable Development group is responsible for this issue.

The culture and tourism group could probably give important input. The Green Paper on adaptation to climate change is a good example, where protective measures for the cultural heritage were totally missing from the paper. The issue of sustainable tourism is also a case where the work of our two groups overlaps, and where we can work together.

Action: Respond to initiatives from the Sustainable Development group.

3. Food

This priority is a follow-up of the food conference August 2006, and the theme covers a number of issues, several of which are also of great importance to the culture and tourism group (including local food, and traditional food). The Innovation and Education group is responsible for this issue.

Action:

4. Innovation and education

This priority focuses on the Lisbon strategy. The EU Commission Policy Strategy for 2009 clearly states that 'The Commission will continue to pursue its broad-based innovation strategy. And focus on unlocking the potential of creative industries'. The Innovation and Education group is the responsible group, but with the publication of the new Commission Communication on a Strategy for Culture, the Lisbon strategy has been extended to culture and creativity, and we should have a stronger involvement in this issue.

Action: Monitor and respond to the European discussion on the inclusion of culture and creativity in the Lisbon strategy.

5. Cultural agenda and experiential tourism

This priority reflects our two main work areas, and the issue is our main responsibility.

We must participate actively in the discussion leading up to the European Cultural Agenda, and also in the ongoing discussions relating to the role of cultural tourism and sustainable tourism.



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 3

The Commission Communication on a Strategy for Culture lists three objectives for the agenda:

- Promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue
- Promotion of culture as a catalyst for creativity in the framework of the Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs
- Promotion of culture as a vital element in the Union's international relations.

Our group should have a particular focus on the second objective, albeit not forgetting the two others.

Concerning cultural tourism, our groups should continue supporting the initiatives of the ECTN.

Action: Monitor and respond to the European discussions on these issues. Work together with ECTN.

6. Maritime policy

We have already made inputs in relation to the Green Paper, and this now needs to be followed up. Our main responsibility will be to see to that the strong emphasis on the importance of the maritime heritage for all Europeans is reflected in future policies and priorities.

Action: Monitor and respond to policy papers on maritime policy.

Meetings 2008-09

End 2008: Meeting and conference in Zeeland on cultural agenda and sustainable tourism (the latter in cooperation with the sustainable development group)

Spring 2009: Meeting in Aberdeenshire

June 2009: Meeting in connection with AGM

Responsibilities:

1. Political priorities (EU agenda): Vice-Chair Lars Nordström
2. Concrete projects: Vice-Chair Wendy Mawer assisted by individual members of the C&T group and the advisor
3. Responding to strategic priorities and reporting back to Executive Committee: Chair Harry van Waveren, assisted by advisor



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 3

Innovation & Education Group Work Plan 08 – 09

Introduction

The Innovations and Education Group (IEG) was formed in 2006 by bringing together the Economic Development and Education & Research groups.

The IEG is chaired by Councillor Ole B. Sørensen from Region North Denmark.

The two Vice Chairs are Councillor Stella Duneufjardin from Nord-pas de Calais, France, and Councillor Kate Dean from Aberdeen City Council. Mr Erik Lindboe, from Rogaland County Council in Norway is the advisor of the group.

We have developed a Mission Statement:

"To develop a strategy, shaped by engagement with our members which helps deliver innovative economic activity allied to and involving life long learning within the countries of the North Sea and which is socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable and which promotes health and well being."

From such a mission statement we have developed a work plan which places emphasis upon several areas of interest:

- * Linking innovation and education via a project which expresses this link.
- * Establish a North Sea Schools Sustainability Project
- * Establish and then maintain a model for co-operation with the Baltic Sea Commission
- * Food

On behalf of the group,

Councillor Ole B. Sørensen



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 3

IEG Strategies	Actions	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources	Output
IEG's Strategic Group	Meetings to plan activities and actions	NSC IEG Strategic Group	Ongoing	IEG Chair, vice-chair, adviser and officers	Systematic Strategic IEG planning
IEG Members' Network	Send profile questionnaire to group members	Adviser	Ongoing	Adviser	A members' profile database on NSC website.
Market the IEG and the North Sea Commission	Publish news-letters, press releases etc	Strategic Group	2008	Strategic Group	Increase the knowledge of the NSC and the IEG
The Lisbon Strategy: (“Share best practice and Experience. Raise awareness of the importance of mobility in Europe (among professionals, and therefore aim to improve mobility of young people) Identify common challenges	Promote and encourage professional and social inclusion of young people	IEG vice-chair Cllr. Stella Duneufjardin, Nor-Pas de Calais, to follow this up.	Ongoing through 2008.....	To be determined - Sources of external funding may include: Leonardo da Vinci, Grundtvig, etc. Opportunities through Interreg to be investigated	Comparison among the regions of approaches to improving inclusion and employability of young people. Exchange of professionals Dissemination of findings
The North Sea Schools Sustainability Network	1- Involve schools in “Sustainability around the North Sea” 2- The school food project	Lead partner: Saxmundham Middle School, plus participating schools, and the IEG adviser. Application submitted to Comenius in Feb.2008,	Project period: October 2007 – June 2009. 2008 - 2010	IEG adviser / Partner schools	Exchange of best practice, climate research, seminars etc.
- The North Sea Screen Partnership	Shadow this proposed Interreg IVB program	Adviser	2008 – 2011	Members of the IEG / NSC	Knowledge transfer / best practise / network and cluster building.
Food	Follow up the NSC Food Event in Dundee, Scotland, 2006	Strategic group. Cooperation with other groups. Connect to Interreg- and school projects	2008 -	The IEG / thematic groups / group advisers	Focus on a variety subjects on Food,+ better food safety
Knowledge transfer / Best practise	Present the so-called “Scandinavian triangle model” – (a method for business development) to IEG members.	Adviser and The BTV region (Norway)	2008	IEG adviser, people from the BTV Region (Norway) and group members' time	Knowledge transfer re. business development schemes.



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

**Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008**

Item 3

Energy / Renewable energy	1) Shadow the "Passive House Project" in Sweden 2) The Energy co-ordinating group	IEG Adviser IEG chair / IEG adviser	2008	Adviser / Strategic Group IEG members	Proposed Interreg - project Meeting to be held with chairs and advisers
Increasing links with the other NSC Thematic Groups	Contact the thematic groups re. co-operation on projects, meetings, etc	Adviser	Ongoing	IEG, NSC Secretariat and other Thematic Groups.	Identify topics of mutual interest, develop joint meetings, projects, etc.
Co-operation with the Baltic Sea Commission	Develop the contact with the BSC. Joint meetings.	Adviser	Ongoing	Adviser	Identify areas of mutual interest.



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 3

Marine Resources Group Work Plan 08-09

“The NSCMRG aims to maximise the Quality of life in and around Coastal Communities around the North Sea”

Activity	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Staffing/resources	Output
Continue to improve relations between fishers and scientists relations	Continuing to take part in the work of the NSRAC	Advisor Chair or Vice Chairs	2008-2010	Advisor and Chair or Vice Chairs	<i>Ensure that NSC views and policies and taken account of by the NSRAC.</i>
Improve Stakeholder participation and stewardship	<p>Establish North Sea Commission Inshore Fisheries Forum</p> <p>Organise a Seminar in 2006 to discuss the formation of the Forum</p> <p>Search for funding</p> <p>VG & Shetland have to agree who will Chair and secretariat</p>	Co-ordinator – Vastra Gotaland Region & Shetland Islands Council	2008	Establishing secretariat - Chair for Forum	<i>Seminar was organised in May 2007 where it was agreed to take the report to the NSRAC Executive meeting in Vienna. This was also done with approval from the Seminar and the NSRAC, for establishment of an Inshore Fisheries.</i>
Political Learning Journey	Develop Links with Baltic Sea States	Chair. Vice Chairs politicians and Advisors of NSCMRG & NSCSDG			<i>Gain better understanding of common needs and interests. Develop economic, cultural links and share experience and best practice.</i>
Safety on, around and in the North Sea	<p>Organised a workshop in Stavanger, during the NSC Maritime Policy Conference, to highlight Fish Safe as a possible North Sea Maritime Policy Project.</p> <p>A new project will ensure that all fishermen working in the North Sea will access to this vital piece of safety equipment</p>	Advisor + NSC Maritime Policy Rapporteur	2008-2010	Travel costs	<i>NSCMRG has had several meeting with SFF Services, Oil & Gas sector and the EU Commission. We are now at the stage of prepare a note of interest for EFF funding and a further meeting to discuss Maritime Policy funding is arranged for the end of.</i>



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 3

CPMR Fisheries INTERCOM GROUP	Support CPMR FIG Chair & Secretariat with future work. Work with CPMR, NSRAC, OSPAR to develop a plan to include Maritime Basins in the future EU Maritime Policy	Advisor, Shetland Islands Council, CPMR, NSC Secretariat	2008-2010	Co-ordinator, Shetland Islands Council, CPMR & NSC Secretariat	<i>Closer working between NSCFG – CPMR FIG to encourage more effective and efficient use of time and resources. NSCMRG met with COPMRFIG in Brussels in March 2007. Chair of CPMRDFIG is now also the Vice Chair of NSCMRG he also represents the CPMR/NSC on the Inter-RAC group.</i>
Ports Strategy	Organise a workshop for small fishing ports	Advisor & members	2008-2009		<i>Develop a coherent North Sea Sustainable Ports Strategy</i>
OSPAR observership	Arrange a meeting with OSPAR, CPMR, NSRAC and NSC to look at the future of Maritime Basins and the Regional Approach for EU Maritime Policy	NSC Secretariat and Advisor, NSC maritime Policy Rapporteur and CPMR Secretariat	2008	Time of staff from relevant NSC member regions	<i>Contributions to OSPAR policies and EU Maritime Policy</i>
NSC/BSC Co-operation	Organise a joint meeting to discuss Marine Spatial Planning e.g. Barent Sea Marine Plan.	Advisor, Chair, Members NSC, BSC members, NSRAC Spatial Planning Working group Chair.	2008	Time of relevant members	<i>Share best practice and experience.</i>

The main priorities of NSCMRG 2008-2010 work plan will be:

- All Users of the North Sea – working together to ensure safety and protect stocks and the environment
- Fisheries: Inshore Fisheries Network
- Fishing Ports – Waste treatment & management, portside electricity developing a sustainable future
- NSC/Baltic Sea Co-operation both political and technical
- North Sea /Baltic Marine Spatial Plans
- NSC/CPMR/OSPAR/NSRAC working group to discuss Maritime Basins plan



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 3

Sustainable Development Group Work Plan 08 – 09

NORTH SEA COMMISSION SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP shall assume the full responsibility for the promotion of Sustainable Development within the North Sea area.

NSC – SDG Activity	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources & Comments	Output	Results
Maritime Policy “Blue Book”	Identify Actions suitable for the group from the 29 actions in the Blue Book.	All Members	2008 /09	All Members	Once actions are identified the SDG should focus on methods of how it could work with the Aquamarina group established by the CPMR in the implementation of the selected actions.	
Renewable Energy/CPMR Energy Group	Shadow Build with Care – North Sea Programme Project Work with the Energy Co-ordinating Group of NSC	Chair, Vice Chairs and Adviser	Ongoing	SDG Members, Chair, Vice Chairs and adviser	NSP – Project and working with the Innovation and Education Group. Input to CPMR energy policies and statements.	Interreg Application will be submitted on the 17 th of March.



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

**Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008**

Item 3

Baltic Sea Commission cooperation	Work more closely with relevant groups from BSC		On-going		Joint NSC-BSC conference on Energy 2008	Joint Annual Conference organised for the 24 th and 25 th of April 2008.
Holistic Working	Working together with other Thematic Groups	Adviser	Ongoing	Chair, Vice Chairs and Adviser	Development of Joint Projects and Papers.	
Sustainable Green Public Procurement	Produce Paper	Chair, Vice Chairs and Adviser	2008	Chair, Vice Chairs, Adviser and Members	Resolution Paper to CPMR General Assembly 2008	



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 3

Transport Group Work Plan 08 – 09

Work Plan for the NSC Transport group					
Key Activity	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources	Outputs
1. Developing Intermodal transport corridors, incl. Motorways of the Seas (MoS) in the North Sea Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor process in EU Commission and in North Sea states with regard to MoS - Consider policy initiatives - Explore and promote relevant transport corridors in the North Sea Region 	Chair, Vice-Chair(s), Co-ordinator and selected group members:	ongoing	Working time of Chair, Vice-Chair(s), Co-ordinator and group members, possibly travel, accommodation and meeting costs, expenses to promotional material, possibly expenses to private consultants	Meetings Seminars Reports Proposals Projects (?)

Key Activity	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources	Outputs
2. Develop ideas and proposals for transport projects under the Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and further develop project ideas Facilitate project partnerships Provide input to project proposals & applications 	Co-ordinator and selected group members	ongoing, group meetings as milestones	Working time of Co-ordinator and group members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Project ideas -Partner search submissions -Input to project applications -Project application submitted -Possibly approved projects



Key Activity	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources	Outputs
3. Co-operation with the Baltic Sea Commission (BSC) on Transport issues	-Identify and decide on relevant themes (MoS, air transport and sustainable transport) and forms of cooperation - Recurrent exchange of information on activities - Consider the organisation of meetings, seminars, study visits, drafting of joint resolutions to CPMR and EU, joint projects	Chair, Vice-Chair(s), Co-ordinator and selected group members	2007 – 2008 and probably beyond	Working time, travel and accommodation expenses of involved group members	-Meetings -Studies -Study tours -policy positions, resolutions - Seminar/conferences -Projects

Key Activity	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources	Outputs
4. Energy issues in the transport sector	-Explore pre-conditions for introducing more sustainable fuels in the transport sector -Exchange information and good practice on sustainable fuels in the transport sector -Contribute to NSC work on energy	Co-ordinator and selected group members	2007 – 2008 and probably beyond	Working time of Co-ordinator and involved group members, travel and accommodation expenses,	-Thematic seminar in Aberdeenshire 24 May - Seminar report - Compilation of good practice - Policy recommendations and other contributions to NSC work on energy



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 3

Key Activity	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Resources	Outputs
5. Statistical mapping of key developments in transport sector	<p>-Investigate availability of relevant statistical material</p> <p>-Compile key figures on origin/destination and modal split for passenger and goods flows within the NSR</p> <p>-Periodic publishing of statistics & corresponding analysis</p>	Chair and selected group members from Västra Götaland Region and Groningen Sea Ports	Permanent, starting spring 2007	Working time of Chair and involved group members	<p>-Periodic statistics & analysis on key developments in transport sector</p> <p>-Reports to Executive Committee and relevant transport Projects and networks.</p>



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 4

FINANCES

Item 3.1 Accounts 2007 and Audit report

Enclosed are the Accounts for 2007 and the Auditor's report of 16.05.08. The accounts show a surplus of 39.248 Euro, giving the NSC disposal to 130.395 Euro. All members paid the membership fee in 2007.

Enclosed is also the financial status of NSC of 26.05.08. By the 22 May have 27 members paid the membership fee for 2008.

Item 3.2 Budget for 2009

Enclosed is the proposed budget for 2009.

The total budget is for 2009 is 140.390 Euro, with the graded membership fees adopted by the Annual Business Meeting 22nd June 2007.

The individual membership fee for the members in 2009 will be;
Membership fee <500.000 inhabitants = 3191 Euro
Membership fee 500.000 - 1.000.000 inhabitants = 4786 Euro
Membership fee >1.000.000 inhabitants= 6381 Euro

This budget proposal is a consequence of the decision made by the Annual Business Meeting in 2005, on raising the membership fee annually by the inflation rate.

Eurostat has calculated the annual inflation rate to 3.3% in April 2008 for the Euro area, according to their news release 67/2008 of 15th May 2008.

Item 3.3 Members:

By 01.01.08 the North Sea Commission has 33 paying members who represent 54 regions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. The NSC Annual Business Meeting of June 13th 2008 adopts the accounts for 2007 as presented in Enclosure 1.***
- 2. The NSC Annual Business Meeting of June 13th 2008 adopts the Auditors report of 16.05.08.***
- 3. The NSC Annual Business Meeting of June 13th 2008 adopts the budget for 2009 as presented in Enclosure 2.***



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 4

Financial status of NSC pr. 26.05.08

The budget for 2008 was adopted by the Annual Business meeting in 22 June 2007.

	Submission	Budget 2008
	pr. 26.05.2008	
	Euro	Euro
INCOME:		
Membership subscription	106 563	135 906
INCOME:	106 563	135 906
EXPENDITURE:		
General Assembly Expenses	2 409	25 906
Promotional Expenditure	1 208	7 000
Travel, Accommodation, etc.	6 974	24 000
Thematic Groups, meetings	5 423	15 000
Adviser's Support	55 540	55 000
Tlf. adm, internet, etc	0	9 000
EXPENDITURE	71 554	135 906
1 Euro = 8 Nkr		

Note;

- For the budget line Thematic group meetings are 9000 Euro promised for support to the meetings of the SDG, C&TG and the I&EG.
- Approx 15000 Euro will be given to the region for support for the General Assembly
- The cost for updating the website is uncertain; the "new" website is updated in cooperation with the BSC and has started..



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 4

Enclosure 1

NSC Accounts for 2007

Since 31.12.07 are ESEC no more members of the NSC and CPMR. This has no influence of the budget for 2008.

Below are the accounts for 2007, the audit report is enclosed.

	Accounts	Budget 2007
	Pr 01.01.07	revised 010307
	Euro	Euro
INCOME:		
Membership subscription	137 600	123 902
INCOME:	137 600	123 902
		0
EXPENDITURE:		0
General Assembly Expenses	13 600	21 902
Promotional Expenditure	5 350	7 000
Travel, Accommodation, etc.	9 550	20 000
Thematic Groups, meetings	14 000	15 000
Adviser's Support	42 094	45 000
Telf.adm,internet, etc	60	15 000
EXPENDITURE	84 654	123 902
DISPOSAL:		
Transferred from previous 2005	16 333	
Transferred from previous 2006	74 814	
Transferred from previous 2007	52 946	
DISPOSAL of 31.12.07	144 093	

Exchange rate: 1Euro=8 Nkr.

All members paid the membership fee in 2007, the higher income for 2007 then in the budget is members who has paid membership fee for the previous year in 2007 and we got a new member in 2007; Syddanmark.

Comments to the accounts;

- General Assembly expenses was under the budget due to less expenses to travel, accommodation and help since the GA was held in the region of the Secretariat.
- Travel and accommodation is under budget due to some of the travel expenses for the President and the Secretariat has been covered by other partners.
- Tlf., adm., internet .expenses was under the budget since the proposed revision of the NSC website wasn't started in 2007.



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 4

Enclosure 2

Proposed budget for 2009

	Budget 2008	Budget 2009
INCOME:		
Membership subscription	135 906	140 390
INCOME:	135 906	140 390
EXPENDITURE:		
General Assembly Expenses	25 906	26 000
Promotional Expenditure	7 000	7 200
Travel, Accommodation, etc.	24 000	24 800
Thematic Groups, meetings	15 000	15 500
Advisers Support	55 000	55 000
Telephone, administration, internet, etc	9 000	11 890
EXPENDITURE	135 906	140 390

Explanation to some of the posts;

The budget is adjusted according to the inflation rate of the Euro area, Eurostat has calculated the annual inflation rate to 3.3% in April 2008 for the Euro area, according to their news release 67/2008 of 15th May 2008.

The General Assembly grows and the costs for hosting the conference as well, it is proposed to set of more money to support the hosting region of the General Assembly and to pay the expenses for the secretariat for preparation of the General Assembly.

Budget for Travel and Accommodation needs to be strengthened due to an increased activity.

There is a need to upgrade the website in 2008 and 2009 and there is a need to set of some money for this.

The Adviser's get a support of 11.000 Euro to run their thematic group.

Hovedkontor:
Fylkeshuset, 3706 Skien
Tlf: 35 58 44 07
Fax: 35 58 43 94
e-post: post-tkr@tekomrev.no
www.tekomrev.no

Distriktskontor:
Postboks 83, 3833 Bø
Tlf: 35 05 90 00
Fax: 35 95 02 15

Foretaksregisteret:
985 867 402 MVA

Vår ref.: 08/918/finl

Deres ref.:

Arkivkode: 623 000/07-II

North Sea Commission

Statement on submission of accounts North Sea Commission 2007

We have audited the submission of accounts for North Sea Commission for the year 2007, rendered by the management. The submission of accounts shows total income of € 137 600 and total expenditure of € 84 654. The management has been situated in Telemark County in Norway for the year 2007.

The audit has been performed in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and in accordance with relevant legislation. Good auditing practice requires that we plan and perform the audit to obtain convincing evidence that the submission of accounts is free of essential errors and omissions.

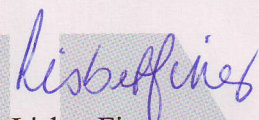
Based on an assessment of materiality risk during the audit we have verified the basis and documentation for all entries and other information mentioned in the submission of accounts.

The auditing has not caused any remarks.

It is our opinion that the submission of accounts for 2007 gives a true and fair view of North Sea Commission's total financial administration and that the submission of accounts has been rendered in accordance with the requirement of the legislation for rendering of accounts.

Skien, 16.05.2008

Telemark kommunerevisjon IKS



Lisbet Fines

Registered Public Auditor



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 5

NSC ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES

Item 5.1; Promoting the Success of NSC

At the Executive Committee meeting in 2 November 2007 it was decided to make an investigation to find the successes of the North Sea Commission. At the meeting Andrew Llanwarne will present the findings of the investigation.

Item 5.2; NSC preliminary response to the future of CPMR

The CPMR Political Bureau wants a thorough process and aims to involve the member regions, the Geographical Commission and external key persons to give their view of CPMR today and what CPMR should focus on for the future.

This issue will be presented and discussed with Jean-Didier Hache at the political seminar 11 June 2008. Jean-Didier Hache is responsible in the CPMR Secretariat for preparing the final paper on the future of CPMR.

In July all members will be sent a questionnaire asking for their opinion, with a deadline for response in end of August.

Enclosed are the papers prepared for the process;

- ❖ **FUTURE OF CPMR ENQUIRY**, Paper prepared by Jean-Didier Hache in cooperation with the Geographical Commissions' Executive Secretaries. (Note; the list of persons to be interviewed is not complete in the paper).

The activities for the process are planned as follows;

January 2008	CPMR Political Bureau, Séville. Decision to undertake an enquire into the future of CPMR.
February 2008	5th - Drafting of enquiry procedure by Executive-Secretaries Validation of procedure by email by Political Bureau Members.
STAGE 1	
March 2008	Start of interviews process Start of analytical study & background paper.
April 2008	3-4 th NSC ExCom, Vastra Gotaland 7 th – Meeting with CPMR Administrative Council 10-11 th IC annual Conference, Mallorca.
Mai 2008	
June 2008	12-13 th BSC-NSC Joint annual conference 12-13 th AA Annual Conference 23-24 th IMC annual meeting, Marseille 26 th BBSC annual Conference, Rhodes 27 th CPMR Political Bureau Rhodes. Presentation of paper and report of debates and interviews to PB. Validation of Stage 1



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 5

STAGE 2	
July 2008	Drafting of scenarios and questionnaire.
July – August 2008	Consultation sent to members by email
September 2008	Mid –September: end of consultation
October 2008	1-3rd CPMR General Assembly, Aquitaine. Presentation of enquiry conclusions. General debate.
November	Drafting of a synthesis position paper, or of different options. Circulation of these papers to members.
December 2008	
January 2009	
February 2009	Decision by CPMR Political Bureau. Start of recruiting procedure for future Secretary-General

Item 5.3; Renewal of the NSC website

As informed at earlier meetings there is a need for updating and re-organising the NSC website, and there is set of some money for this in the budget for 2008. There has been a discussion to have all geographical commissions' websites under the CPMR website, but this is not happening. As a result of this have the Executive Secretaries of the NSC and BSC decided to look for a joint solution and inviting the other commissions to join our solution to save costs.

The Executive Secretary of BSC, Anne Ståhl Mousa, has IT-expertise and is investigating different technical solutions.

The new website is planned to have the same functionalities as today, but with possibilities for easier charring documents, direct comments to papers under preparations, blogging etc. Parts of the website (the working area) will be closed for public access.

The cost for the new website is not clarified yet and must be discussed with the Executive committee later. There was set aside money for updating the website in 2007 that is not used (part of the surplus for 2007).

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. The NSC Annual Business Meeting of June 13th 2008 adopts the information on the NSC organisational issues.***

	<p>CONFERENCE DES REGIONS PERIPHERIQUES MARITIMES D'EUROPE CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME</p>
	<p>6, rue Saint-Martin - 35700 RENNES - F Tel. : + 33 (0)2 99 35 40 50 - Fax : + 33 (0)2 99 35 09 19 e.mail : secretariat@crpm.org – web : www.crpm.org</p>

February 2008

ENQUIRY INTO THE FUTURE OF THE CPMR

Following the presentation of a document on “The future of the CPMR”, the Political Bureau which met in Seville in January 2008 agreed that it was useful and timely to hold an enquiry on that theme, and gave mandate to the General Secretariat to do so. This enquiry is to be led by the Islands Commission Executive Secretary Jean-Didier Hache, in collaboration with the Executive Secretaries of the other Geographical Commissions as well as with the General Secretariat. It is due to be concluded by February 2009.

The enquiry’s detailed methodology, which has been drafted by the Geographical Commissions’ Executive Secretaries, is hereby detailed.

I - Foreword

The enquiry into the future of the CPMR aims to give the organisation a clear vision of the nature of its membership, and of the political goals commonly shared by its Members. It intends to assess the organisation’s past strengths and weaknesses, and draw lessons from them. It will outline the main objectives which its Members wish to pursue in the forthcoming years, as well as define the main fields of activities where they wish to see the CPMR involved, be it within or outside the geographical scope of the EU.

The enquiry will not deal with strictly organisational matters, since addressing such matters before clarifying political goals would be getting priorities wrong. Debates and decisions on organisational matters will obviously have to follow, but it seems appropriate that they be handled by the

It will be born in mind that this enquiry has to conciliate:

- a rather tight schedule, considering the complexity of the issues at stake, and the size of an organisation which gathers nearly 160 Regions;
- the necessity to leave as much time as reasonably possible for CPMR Members to debate, think about documents, and express their views in the course of CPMR events (Geographical Commissions’ Annual Conferences, Political Bureau meetings, General Assembly...) as well as directly to the CPMR.

The enquiry process will involve two stages:

- a) STAGE I, which will range from February to the holding of the next Political Bureau in June. It will deal with the very basic questions: “Who are we? What are our strengths, weaknesses and opportunities? What should be the scope of our activities?”
- b) STAGE II, which will range from the aftermath of the June Political Bureau onwards. It will address the issue of “What do we want to do from now on, and how should we do it?”

STAGE I: "Who are we? What are our weaknesses, strengths and opportunities? What should be the scope of our activities?"

Stage one will involve four types of actions:

Producing a brief background paper on the general European and world scene, and its

development in relation to the evolution of the CPMR.

Undertaking an analytical study of CPMR membership, which has considerably evolved over recent years. Its purpose will be to assess what its nature really is, and what its core interests are. The framework of this study is detailed in Appendix I.

Interviewing a limited selection of personalities internal and external to the CPMR. The proposed list of interviewees is detailed in Appendix II.

Holding open debates in the course of the annual conferences of the

This process of interviews and debates will be undertaken according to a common framework of

questions, to ensure a degree of consistency in the findings. This common framework is

These findings will be summarised and presented to the CPMR Political Bureau due to be held in Rhodes in June 2008. After discussion by the Political Bureau, we will proceed to Stage II.

STAGE II: "What do we want to do from now on, and how should we do it?"

Stage two will involve two types of actions:

The drafting of a number of "scenarios". These scenarios will be drafted by the Executive

Secretaries of the Geographical Commissions on the basis of Stage I findings, and the discussion within the June Political Bureau. They will be submitted to

The organisation of an "opinion pool", via a short questionnaire which will be distributed to all Member Regions in electronic format (to enable quick processing) the Members will be asked to give their opinion on each scenario proposed and to indicate their individual preference regarding the nature and goals of the CPMR. They will also be given the opportunity to make comments or suggestions.

These findings will be presented to the 2008 General Assembly in early October, where they

will be discussed. According to these conclusions and the outcome of the General Assembly

debate, a report will be circulated to CPMR Members and will propose either:

- o To approve a summary document;
- o Or to choose between a number of options.

It will be noted that the same Political Bureau will also have to approve a procedure for the recruitment process of the future Secretary General. It will henceforth be possible to include the enquiry's conclusion in the drafting of the "Post description" and "Candidate profile" leading to the recruitment of the future Secretary General.

The Political Bureau decision on the choice of the new Secretary General will be validated by the 2009

Appendix I: Analytical Study of CPMR Membership

This study will assess the situation of CPMR membership according to a number of indicators.

These indicators will be matched against two criteria:

- the number of individual Member Regions belonging to a category;
- the overall size of population pertaining to a category, so as to take into account the wide discrepancy which exists between CPMR Members when it comes to population size (with Regional populations varying from a few 10,000s to millions of

The indicators will be:

- Evolution of CPMR membership since its inception (number of Member Regions).

As well as the situation of the CPMR Member Regions with regards to:

- GDP/h (<75%, <100%, >120%, in relation to their national and the EU average);
- Unemployment rates (<75%, <100%, >120%, in relation to their national and the EU average);
- Level of accessibility within Europe (<60, <100, >100; using the ESPON map of multimodal accessibility);
- Maritime (existence or not of a shoreline);
- External Borders (eligibility under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument);
- Exposure to natural handicaps (island or part-island nature, mountainous or part-mountainous areas, low density of population (<12h/Km²), outermost regions). The accumulation of geographic or demographic handicaps in a same region (e.g. mountain+ island) will be highlighted;

Appendix II: Proposed list of interviewees

CPMR Internal

CPMR President + Presidents of Geographical Commissions

Pdt Alberto Jardim, Former CPMR Chairman, President of Madeira

Jean-Yves Le Drian, President of Brittany, CPMR founding and host Region

CPMR Administrative Council

Luis Valente de Oliveira, President of the CPMR Scientific Council, Former CPMR President

Executive Secretaries may also wish to interview in more detail specific Members or former Members of their Geographical Commission.

CPMR External

Pedro Cymbron, Member of Cabinet of President José Manuel Barroso

Kostas Hatzidakis, Greek Minister for Air Transport, and Former Chairman of the Regional Affairs

Committee at the European Parliament

Danuta Hübner, Commissioner for Regional Policy, or Slawomir Tokarski, Member of her Cabinet

Riccardo Illy, President of Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, AER President

Eneko Landaburu, Director General of DG External Relations, EU Commission, and Former Director of DG Regio

Jean-Charles Leygues, DG Regio

Yavuz Mildon, President, Chamber of Regions of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe

Jean-Pierre Raffarin, Former French Prime Minister and Former President of the Atlantic Arc

Commission

These interviews will be undertaken by the Executive Secretaries of Geographical Commissions of the

Appendix III: Common framework for the process of internal and external interviews, and for the debates within the Geographical Commissions

Note

- The Geographical Commissions are invited to debate the future of the CPMR on the basis of this framework. These debates are not expected to lead to any formal position, but essentially to raise comments and ideas which will be used to draft various scenarios.
- The particular conditions and membership of the Balkan and Black Sea Commission may require a different framework or specific questions, which will be proposed by its Executive Secretary. The same may apply, to some extent, to the Baltic Sea because of the issues related to its

1) Definitions

First of all, the components of the organisation's name "Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of

Regions

This usually means the democratically elected level of government below the national government.

However, this rule has been applied with a large degree of flexibility by the CPMR, which accepts in its ranks Regions whose political leaders are nominated by central government. The CPMR's practice has been not to reject such membership, but to accompany the process of regionalisation which

It will be noted that this situation leaves CPMR membership exposed to institutional changes when

Periphery

The definition of periphery can be the subject of endless debates. We will hereby propose the following definition, inspired by the work of Norwegian sociologist Johan Galtung:

"A periphery is a territory whose inhabitants are, or feel that they are, distant in space from a centre where the economic, political, or cultural power lies".

As such, the notion of "peripheralty" or "periphericity" is:

- Subjective, since it may depend on the inhabitant's view of their own condition, and perhaps also on how they are viewed by others;
- Relative, since a periphery may depend not on one, but on a number of centres, and also since a periphery may, in turn, be a centre for another periphery;
- Fluctuating, since changing political, economic, technological conditions etc. may result in a periphery becoming a centre, or a centre a periphery.

The concept is both simple and complex, and cannot be quantified by mere statistical criteria only. It is nevertheless a political reality, as demonstrates the 35 years existence of the CPMR.

Maritime

Article 1.2 of the CPMR Organisational Charter states that CPMR Members may be: "Any European region which, because of its geographical, economic or political situation, considers itself to be a part of the maritime periphery of Europe".

The obvious definition of a maritime region is a region which has a maritime border.

However, Article 1.2 of the Organisational Charter states that, with the agreement of the organisation's Members, membership may be opened to any region which: "considers itself to be a part of the Periphery of Europe" and "which form part of the large geographical maritime areas of Europe".

Europe

Article 1.2 of the Organisational Charter states that CPMR membership is open to the Regions of the Member States of the European Union, as well as to: "Member States of the Council of Europe, as well as other Associated membership is open, under certain conditions to "Any region of the States belonging to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership."

2) Questions

Two sets of questions are to be raised during the interviews and in the course of the Geographical

1) SWOT Analysis

- What do you consider to be the CPMR's biggest achievements during recent years?
- On what occasions, or in what areas, do you consider that the CPMR has failed, or could have done more?
- What do you consider as the most important issues which the CPMR should address in the foreseeable future?

2) CPMR external relationships

- How do you think that the CPMR could get more actively involved with other stakeholders on the European scene, and with which ones?
- How do you think that the CPMR could play a greater role with the territories covered by the EU Neighbourhood Economic Policy?
- How do you think that the CPMR could become increasingly involved with other structures or networks of regional organisations worldwide?

To allow a fruitful debate, the Executive Secretaries will ensure that these questions will be distributed to the Members prior to the annual conference of their Geographical Commission.

CALENDAR

January 2008	CPMR Political Bureau, Seville. Decision to undertake an enquiry into the future of the CPMR.
February 2008	5 - Drafting of enquiry procedure by Executive Secretaries
STAGE 1	
March 2008	- Validation of procedure (by email) by Political Bureau Members - Start of interview process - Start of analytical study & background paper
April 2008	3/ 4 - NSC Steering Committee, Västra Götaland (SE) 7 - CPMR Administrative Council Meeting 10/ 11 - Islands Commission Annual Conference, Mallorca (ES)
May 2008	
June 2008	12/ 13 - BSC & NSC Joint Annual Conference, Herning (DK) 12/ 13 - Atlantic Arc Commission Annual Conference, Deauville (FR) 24 - Intermediterranean Commission Short Meeting, Marseille (FR) 26 - BBSC Annual Conference, Rhodes (GR) 27 - CPMR Political Bureau Rhodes (GR) Presentation of paper and report of debates and interviews to Political
STAGE 2	
July 2008	Drafting of scenarios and questionnaire
August 2008	Consultation sent to Members by email
September 2008	Mid -September: end of consultation
October 2008	1/ 3 - CPMR General Assembly, Aquitaine (FR). Presentation of enquiry conclusions. General debate.
November 2008	Drafting of a summary position paper, or of different options Circulation of these papers to Members
December 2008	
January 2009	
February 2009	Decision by CPMR Political Bureau Start of recruitment procedure for future Secretary General
October 2009	Validation by General Assembly



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

Paper for the
17th NSC Annual Business Meeting,
13th June 2008

Item 6

RESOLUTIONS AND POLITICAL STATEMENTS

Within the deadline the Secretariat received the following political statements and resolutions to the Annual Business Meeting 13 June 2008.

Political statements supported by the Executive Committee at their meeting 4 April 2008.

- "ENERGY AS A PRIORITY IN EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT".
- "DISCARD – INCOMPATIBLE WITH SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES".

A proposition for a joint NSC – BSC resolution:

- "TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE EUROPEAN REGIONAL COHESION POLICY - CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN SPARSELY POPULATED AREAS"

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. ***The NSC Annual Business Meeting of June 13th 2008 adopts the political statement "ENERGY AS A PRIORITY IN EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT".***
2. ***The NSC Annual Business Meeting of June 13th 2008 adopts the political statement "DISCARD – INCOMPATIBLE WITH SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES".***
3. ***The NSC Annual Business Meeting of June 13th 2008 adopts the resolution "TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE EUROPEAN REGIONAL COHESION POLICY - CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN SPARSELY POPULATED AREAS"***



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skies, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fac: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

POLITICAL STATEMENT FOR THE NSC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING;

ENERGY AS A PRIORITY IN EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

PROPOSED BY ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL, SCOTLAND AND SUPPORTED BY THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP AND THE CPMR ENERGY WORKING GROUP.
Adopted at the Executive Committee meeting 4 April 2008.

SUMMARY

Given the importance and urgency of securing our energy supply in Europe while ensuring energy efficiency, and low carbon emissions, it is recommended that the Commission emphasise the link and prioritise energy in sustainable procurement.

The Commission should ensure that we align all relevant policies and Directives to ensure that national and local governments are required to green their procurement with particular reference to Energy Efficiency, Green and Renewable Energy Production and Supply.

BACKGROUND

Public Procurement amounts to 16% of EU GDP.

Sustainable Procurement

Sustainable procurement is the application of sustainable development principles to procurement and is a key activity in helping to ensure that the world remains habitable and that people have a decent quality of life. There is a wide range of approaches to sustainable procurement, which can be applied at all stages in the procurement process.

Hence any organisation that is serious about reducing its environmental impact has to give serious attention to the amount of fossil fuel that it uses in all its business operations heating, energy and transportation. And it needs to give similar attention to the greenhouse gas emissions of its suppliers. Given the purchasing power of local authorities, policies of sustainable procurement and energy will have a major impact on supply chains over time.

Energy and Bali Action Plan

The European Union has welcomed the agreement reached at the UN climate change conference in Bali, Indonesia to start formal negotiations on a global climate regime for the post-2012 period and on a Bali Roadmap that sets out an agenda for these negotiations. European Commission President José Manuel Barroso said: "We have worked hard to achieve this result. It is a very important step forward. Europe is determined to contribute all it can to move forward also in the future. I appeal to all our partners to take these commitments seriously and to act swiftly. Indeed there is only one planet. Together, developed and developing countries can reach success."

UN Bali Action Plan (December 2007)

(The following are relevant extracts from the action plan that have a relationship to climate change action by local government and will relate to sustainable procurement)

The Conference of the Parties agreed to:

(b) Enhanced national/international action on mitigation of climate change, including, inter alia, consideration of:.....

(vii) Ways to strengthen the catalytic role of the Convention in encouraging multilateral bodies, the public and private sectors and civil society, building on synergies among activities and processes, as a means to support mitigation in a coherent and integrated manner;

(e) Enhanced action on the provision of financial resources and investment to support action on mitigation and adaptation and technology cooperation, including, inter alia, consideration of: ..

(v) Mobilization of public- and private-sector funding and investment, including facilitation of carbon-friendly investment choices;

EUROPE AND SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

The greatest source of information at European level on sustainable procurement is:

European Commission Environment Directorate - **specifically the Green Public Procurement Section**. DG Environment published a study on costs/benefits of Green public procurement in Europe" (by Öko-Institut and ICLEI for EC), in July 2007. Its conclusion was that green products were no more or less expensive

than the non green alternative.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/eu_recommendations.pdf

One of its key recommendations was that political commitment (at all government levels) is regarded as essential to increasing green public procurement. They specifically mentioned that the report should be disseminated through the CPMR given its high credibility for decision makers.

ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability is an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organisations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. They have a Sustainable Procurement Team, and provide informative newsletters, special events and specific publications.

Generally, there are some excellent projects, toolkits and advice available to local authorities (from the UN to regional sources) to promote sustainable procurement, including energy in terms of buildings, transport and energy procurement itself. This paper is not going to repeat these and links are given at the end of this paper to some of the most useful web sites.

The **purpose of this paper** is to look at the opportunities for the North Sea Commission and the CPMR to lobby the EU for specific priority to be given to energy in sustainable procurement and upcoming legislation and programmes and also strengthens the North Sea Commission 's **“PORSGRUNN CHALLENGE”**.

Upcoming European Policy

The European Commission is preparing a set of initiatives to make procurement of public bodies, including Local Authorities greener. It is also important the Commission clearly establishes in the directive what qualifies as Green Procurement.

The three key initiatives at the moment are:

- a) National Action Plans on Green Public Procurement
 - b) A new Communication from the Commission
 - c) A related proposal on Public Procurement on Green Vehicles.
- (Source: Convention of Scottish Local Authorities European Office)

a) The 2003 EU Communication on Integrated Product Policy defined that National Action Plans should be produced by Member States by end 2006. In practice only 12 Member States have done so. The following link provides an update on the current national action plans.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/national_gpp_strategies_en.pdf

In March the Commission will take stock on this in view of proposing an EU wide target on Green Public Procurement.

b) It is understood that the Commission is about to finalise a Communication, (a policy paper), that will be published in 2008. This is an important step that will prepare the political ground for a draft **Directive on Green Public Procurement to be tabled in September 2008.**

- **Voluntary targets:** The key aspect of this proposal is a set of **voluntary target of 20% of local procurement shall be green by 2010 and 50% by 2020** (central government figures shall be 30% in 2010 and 50). The average level of Green Public Procurement (GPP) by then should be that of the three best performing states had in 2006.
- **Toolkit:** The commission is providing guidelines in 11 product categories and the 4 award criteria for each of them: *paper, cleaning products, office machinery, transport, furniture, electricity, textiles, medical devices, etc.* Guidelines 12 more product categories will be provided later next year.

c) The Commission is preparing a new proposal to encourage local authorities to spend part of their annual purchase of vehicles on green ones. This follows the defeat in the European Parliament last year of an earlier proposal that proposed explicit targets for Local Authorities to be met. Therefore the Commission approach now is more cautious and it will only propose a set of minimum standards on award criteria that Local Authorities can then use when assessing the ecologic standards of their prospective fleet.

ENERGY AS A PRIORITY IN EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT

Research for this paper has shown that there is no specific policy to promote Energy in Sustainable Procurement as a priority. It is generally assumed that energy is expected as good practice as part of all sustainable procurement processes. Given the international and European priorities to reduce emissions for climate change, and the Bali commitments (above), the North Sea Commission and the CPMR should consider lobbying Europe to give priority to energy within green/ sustainable procurement programmes and upcoming legislation.

The key areas where priority should be emphasised in future Commission policies would require more research, however the following could be considered as a start:

1. Energy procurement from the grid for renewable or certified green energy sources
2. Self generation or decentralised energy at local or regional level
3. Planning system to priorities renewable and decentralised energy production

4. Specification in local government tenders that requires for new builds, renovations, transport, equipment, alternative fuel sources etc to set low carbon targets. The use in tenders also to specify low mileage/kilometres, low emissions in life cycle to ensure reduced energy use.
5. Opportunities for joint procurement with neighbouring authorities. This can maximise the ability to procure green/ renewable energy at more affordable prices.
6. Make changes to European Procurement Regulations to make Green Procurement targets achievable.

CONCLUSION

There is a role for the North Sea Commission and the CPMR in persuading the Commission to prioritise energy, within Sustainable Procurement. The justification for this is to ensure that Europe can ensure energy security and reach its climate change targets.

Useful Links

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/index_en.htm
<http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=796>
<http://www.iclei-europe.org/?spupdate>
<http://www.iclei-europe.org/index.php?id=1820>
<http://www.iclei-europe.org/index.php?id=sustainableprocurem>
<http://www.iclei-europe.org/index.php?procuraplus>
<http://www.cannybuyer.com/guidebook/>



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

DISCARD – INCOMPATIBLE WITH SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

*Statement from The North Sea Commission (proposal from the NSC, Marine Resources Group)
Adopted at the Executive Committee meeting 4 April 2008.*

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 water¹. 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

¹ 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>



Fylkeshuset,
3706 Skien, Norway
Tel: +47 35 58 42 00
Fax: +47 35 52 90 44
nsc@northsea.org
www.northsea.org

resources. The NSC also believes that discard reflects negatively on all fisheries and undermines the standing of the industry with consumers.

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.

Draft resolution for the Annual Business meetings 11-13 June 2008, North Sea Commission and Baltic Sea Commission. Proposed by the county councils of Nordland (N), Troms (N), Västerbotten (S) and Norrbotten (S).

Towards a Sustainable European Regional Cohesion Policy - Challenges and opportunities in sparsely populated areas

The northern regions of NSC and BSC:

- Support the consideration shown for sparsely populated areas in the Treaty of Lisbon, Article 158, and welcome the new take on regional policy with the added territorial dimension with a holistic approach, assuming appurtenant financial instruments in support of a regional cohesion policy
- Will continue to work to provide for regional and local innovation, improve access and infrastructure, building on the Lisbon and Gothenburg Agendas to strengthen the position of peripheral regions in view of the future European Cohesion Policy post 2013, trusting that the use of structural funds does not cause growing disparities between the regions
- Believe that now is the time to stress the need to identify and communicate the challenges and opportunities peripheral regions are facing, building on sustainable rural-urban partnerships, ensuring a good dialogue with national governments and the EU, and by shifting the focus on to utilize potentials and enhance the attractiveness of peripheral regions
- Would like to emphasize that northern peripheral regions, islands and mountain areas are rich in resources and territorial excellence, all representing an added value to the EU
- Advocate the principle of subsidiarity and a framework enabling the use of regional models to enhance the regions potentials for the local, regional, national and international benefits

Future European Cohesion Policy

CPMR North Sea Commission (NSC) and Baltic Sea Commission (BSC) support the territorial cohesion aspect of the Lisbon strategy. BSC and NSC want to contribute together with the European Union to reduce economical and social differences and to strengthen the cohesion between regions and countries. Regions are at the core of the post 2013 project for Europe. This calls for a strong and sustainable cohesion policy framework, with room to develop diverse regional priorities, utilizing their current and future potentials.

Sparsely Populated Regions & Territorial Cohesion

We support the consideration shown for sparsely populated areas in the new Treaty of Lisbon, where the need for special action is stressed in Article 158. This legal basis of support should ensure that the special conditions of these regions also are reflected in other EU policy fields such as the EU regional policy, competition policy, environmental policy, transportation policy and fisheries policy amongst others. The new approach to a regional policy for Europe is emphasized by the added territorial dimension, complementing social and economic cohesion. We welcome this process due to the new focus on geographical specialties, which strengthen the role of peripheral regions.

One example of a geographical area, where geographical handicaps can be turned into assets, is the North Calotte. This area, sensitive to climatic changes, holds great natural resources, i.e. welfare for Europe, and has a low population density similar to other sparsely populated areas in Europe. Peripheral areas like the northern regions, islands, mountain areas etc. are rich in resources and territorial excellence, all **representing an added value to the EU** if allowed to

develop and grow. Without a good framework of development for people living in such regions, it will be even more difficult to take advantage of these resources which, also greater Europe is depending on. A good dialogue needs to be nurtured between the peripheral regions, their governments and the EU to bring out the potentials.

Peripheral Regions – Added Value

Life in peripheral areas adds challenges as well as opportunities for inhabitants, businesses, authorities and the environment. Challenges we often share with islands and mountain regions in Europe. As the European Union is in the process of developing a post 2013 cohesion policy, the NSC and the BSC want to stress that it is now time to identify and communicate the challenges and opportunities peripheral areas are facing.

Traditionally, peripheral areas contribute heavily to the national economies. Natural resources, from the sectors of energy, forestry, fisheries and agriculture, in addition to cultural aspects enhancing the tourism potential and local, regional and national identity are being extracted locally for the greater and common good. However, as a side effect of being peripheral, special needs often come second to the needs of more central and more heavily populated areas, due to the “greater public interest.” In this perspective we have to remember cities are not isolated entities; they exist within rural areas, creating the need of sustainable rural – urban partnerships.

The Territorial Perspective

As Europe is becoming more congested, more crowded and more centralised around urban areas, it is crucial to stress the importance of peripheral values and to ensure a balance between periphery and centre. Peripheral areas face challenges in the lack of infrastructure, long distances, fewer qualified and highly educated people, a growing elderly population, the demise of social hubs, cultural offers / services etc. As a consequence there are high public expenditures and high costs for the private industry.

It is time to shift the focus on to utilize potentials and enhance the attractiveness. Therefore, the North Sea Commission and the Baltic Sea Commission want to stress that not only GDP should be an indicator, but also aspects of assets, diversity and opportunities offered by these regions. The territorial excellence policy proposed by the CPMR, as part of the future cohesion policy, would apply in all European regions in order to optimise each region’s potential, and this adds an important spatial dimension to cohesion policy. The idea being that any region can grow if its assets and niches are developed. This would strengthen regional knowledge, innovation and competitiveness, and make the regions more attractive places to live and work. The EU states that people should not be disadvantaged according to where they live.

Regional Models and the principle of Subsidiarity

The holistic approach must cover all political areas when discussing regional development, cohesion policy and territorial cohesion and there is a need for clear definitions of terms. Employing the principle of subsidiarity and using the tools of regional policies to enable each region to enhance territorial excellence in peripheral and rural areas, will be the best way to ensure stable and prosperous peripheral communities and territorial cohesion. Using regional models suitable and adjusted especially for each unique region, bring the before mentioned added value to the greater region of Europe, making Europe into an even stronger economy.