

## **NSC Marine Resources Group - Annual Report 2009-2010**

### **The NSCMRG**

**This report aims to update the General Assembly as to the work of the NSCMRG.**

The NSCMRG has had two meetings one in the Netherlands during the NSC GA last year and one in St. Combs, Aberdeenshire, on 4/5 February 2010. Both meetings were very well attended.

The NSCMRG also organised, on behalf of the NSC a North Sea Stakeholder Conference in Newcastle on 17/18 March 2010 and NSC Workshop on 20 May 2010 in Gijon during Maritime Days

### **The NSCMRG Advisor has attended the following:**

25/26 June 2009 NSCMRG meeting Netherlands

6/7 July 2009 – EU Marine Policy meeting with Commissioner Borg. President and Advisor attended this meeting.

2/14 August 2009 – NSC Strategic Committee

2/3 September 2009 – Marine Spatial Planning Project seminar, Netherlands

14 September – CPMR FIG meeting Brussels

16 November 2009 – CPMR FIG meeting Brussels

25 November 2009 NSC Advisors meeting Aberdeen

30 November/1 December 2009 – NSC Ex Com Keil

21 January 2010 meeting with DEFRA & EU Commission – Stakeholder Conference

4/5 February 2010 NSCMRG meeting, St Combs

17/18 March 2010 NS Stakeholder Conference

23 March 2010 meeting with DEFRA – Stakeholder Conference

23 March 2010 meeting at House of Lords – Stakeholder Conference

13/14 April 2010 COR Conference Brussels

28 April 2010 presentation at EU Parliament Regional Approach to Fisheries Management Seminar

18/21 May 2010 – NSC Stakeholder Workshop, Gijon

- CPMR Workshop, Gijon

29/30 June 2009, Martin Brebner represented the NSCMRG at the NSRAC Executive Committee meeting in Goteborg, to present the NSC Maritime Project Proposal.

### **1. Netherlands Meeting**

During this meeting we discussed the CPMR CFP response document, the group did not entirely agree with the response so it was agreed that we would prepare our own response. Resolution available on NSC website. We also discussed the Maritime Seminar report, which is on the web site and Martin Brebner gave us an update on the Maritime Project paper.

The NSCMRG Chair and Advisor joined the BSC General Assembly, which was held on the beautiful Island of Gotland. They were made very welcome by the President.



They also joined the BSC Workshop on Fisheries, which was Chaired by Dr. Rolf Gydemo, where we discussed future co-operation between the BSC and NSC Marine Resources groups. Also discussed were the issues of Salmon, seals, coastal fisheries and the CFP.

It was agreed that Rolf Gydemo be invited to speak at the Maritime Week Seminar on 18/19 May, as this would further enhance the co-operation between the two Commissions. Which, he did.

## **2. St Combs Meeting**

Chairman Anders Fasth welcomed Cllr Janne Johnsen and Camilla Stavnes from Rogaland to the meeting. He said it was good to have representatives from Rogaland once again.

This meeting was very well attended and included presentations of the CPMR, NSC and Aberdeenshire Council responses to the CFP reform paper, James Muldoon of the Scottish Government presented their views on Regionalisation. We also heard from Alan Campbell, Chairman of the Scottish Government Inquiry into Future Fisheries Management. After these presentations a lively debate followed, with discussion on the methods of reducing or banning discards. Cllr. Janne Johnsen agreed to send a copy of the Norwegian Discard paper. As discards was such an important issue it was agreed that we could continue the discussion at our next meeting.

Harry Jensen presented the need for a data base of polluted areas, it was agreed that this really important issues.

The latest version of the North Sea Strategy paper was presented by Martin Brebner and Ann Bell presented the draft programme for the NS Stakeholder Conference, much debate took place and changes to both the Strategy Paper and Conference Programme agreed.

Cllr Tom-Christer Nilsen presented the North Sea Clean ships Action Plan again a good discussion took place, these included views representative from both Fraserburgh and Peterhead Harbours.

Andrew Ironside, Harbours Master, Fraserburgh Harbour and John Wallace, Chief executive of Peterhead Port Authority both gave presentations on their respective ports with particular regard to their future plans for green energy; this was a most interesting item.

Roddy Matheson, Aberdeenshire Council Renewable Energy Champion, gave a really interesting presentation on renewables in Aberdeenshire; this was followed by input from James Muldoon and Tom-Christer Nilsen. We also had an interesting presentation from Carsten Westerholt, North Sea Interreg Programme, who highlighted the funding possibilities for possible projects.

We also had a very interesting visit to Fraserburgh Harbour, including the Fish Auction and Deep Sea Mission Memorial Room for those lost at sea.



Great fun was had at the Burns Supper hosted by Aberdeenshire Council, Chief Executive, Colin Mackenzie, where we were entertained by local children and Cllr. John Lamb, Chair Sustainable Development Group, who addressed the Haggis. We also sang Auld Lang Syne in Norwegian (which was translated by Lena Soderholm). A good night was had by all...



### 3. NS Stakeholder Conference

The Conference which, was attended by almost 140 participants from 8 countries including America and Japan, was chaired by Baron Sewel of Gilcomston (Lord Sewel). The level of presentations was very high, with all four parallel sessions being very well attended. The summing up stated “what we can do, following this conference, is to consider further the idea of developing a stakeholder forum for the North Sea, where representatives of the different sectors can reach agreement with one another and where they will also be able to draw the attention of member states to emerging cross-boundary problems. The immediate requirement is for a forum to address one another’s concerns, especially over the expansion of economic and commercial activities in the North Sea. Such a forum could also look at the impacts upon all sectors of implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the bringing forward of proposals for marine protected areas and perhaps also the compilation of data sets.

A decision to establish such a forum could not be made at the conference however it was agreed that the North Sea Commission could be asked to look into the implementation of such a forum, perhaps as a pilot project – with support and cooperation from the European Commission.





Final conference report available on NSC website.

#### **4. NSC Stakeholder Workshop Gijon**

The NSC Stakeholder event in Gijon had around 50 participants from diverse backgrounds. There was a great deal of discussion around the need or not for a North Sea Basin Strategy.

The three key messages from the workshop were:

- Dialogue and engagement with stakeholders is key to marine management, perhaps through the formation of a stakeholder forum
- There is a need to identify and prioritise tangible objectives for the North Sea Region
- There is a need for improved co-ordination between stakeholders and policy makers.

The report of the meeting is available on the NSC website

#### **5. Presentation to EU Parliament Regional Approach to Fisheries Management Seminar.**

This seminar organised by the Struan Stevenson MEP, Senior Vice President EU Parliament Fisheries Committee, Ian Hudgton MEP and Pat the Cope Gallagher MEP, looked at a Regional Approach to Fisheries Management, as this issue was within our response to the CFP I was asked to give a presentation.

The report of the Seminar and my presentation is available on the website.

#### **6. CPMR Fisheries Inter-Commission Group**

The NSCMRG has continued to work closely with the CPMR FIG and has been represented at most of their meeting over the past year. Reports of their meetings available on CPMR website.

The date of the next MRG meeting will take place on 16 June in Stavanger, where we will update our Workplan.

#### **7. Recommendations**

**It is recommended that the NSC General Assembly approve this report and continue to support the work of the NSCMRG.**

Report prepared by Ann Bell – Advisor  
On behalf of Chairman – Cllr. Anders Fasth



