



CPMR
NORTH SEA
COMMISSION

Minutes

Marine Resources Group meeting 2nd and 3rd of October 2018 Peterhead, Aberdeenshire

Participants

CLlr Anders Fasth, Västra Götaland (Chair)
CLlr Åshild Kjelsnes, Sogn og Fjordane (Vice Chair)
CLlr Kerstin Brunnström, Västra Götaland (president NSC)
CLlr Richard Thomson, Aberdeenshire
CLlr Trine Danielsen, Rogaland
CLlr Erik Kursetgjerde, Møre og Romsdal
CLlr Jan-Nico Appelman, Flevoland
CLlr Tina Juul Kjellberg, Nordjylland

Magnus Engelbrektsson (NSC)
Derek McDonald, Aberdeenshire
Inge Døskeland, Hordaland
Lisbeth Nervik, Møre og Romsdal
Lena Söderholm, Sogn og Fjordane
Sidony Venema, Flevoland
Karen Greve Somersset, Nordjylland

Bastiaan van Hoeve, student
Rhona Fairgrieve, Scottish Coastal Forum
Arabelle Bentley, KIMO
Grioghair McCord, KIMO
David Pratt, Marine Scotland
Berit Weiby Gregersen, Aust-Agder
Yolanda Schmal, Advisor



1. New North Sea Region Strategy

The chair Cllr. Anders Fasth welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Cllr. Richard Thomson for inviting both the the Marine Resources and the Energy&Climate Change group to Aberdeenshire and for the very interesting guided bus tour to Peterhead. Cllr. Richard Thomson welcomed everyone to Peterhead.

Magnus Engelbrektsson addressed both groups for an update on the North Sea Region Strategy. The general outline of the process and deliveries was presented. A discussion followed about the goal of the strategy. Suggestions were made on why it's important to include what financial resources are available to implement a new strategy, what lobby activities are necessary and effective and clarify what our regional role/authority is in these matters.

Action and follow up:

It was agreed that **all regions provide input before the 31st of December 2018** on the following questions:

- 1) How do you perceive the current strategy? What works, what doesn't?
- 2) What should we keep in mind when we define challenges and set priorities for the next strategy?
- 3) What parts of the respective priority areas should be carried on to the new strategy?
- 4) Which new relevant challenges and opportunities do you see?

The advisor stressed the importance of this homework for all regions to ensure the new strategy reflects common goals and ambitions for the North Sea Region. The advisor also pointed out that the next NSC Strategy Taskforce (scheduled on the 29th of November) will result in additional information about our next MRG meeting in Groningen which will have a strong focus on developing the New Strategy. Additional actions will therefore be sent with the meeting papers for the Groningen meeting (meeting papers for Groningen will be sent on/around the 13th of December).

2. Welcome to the MRG by Chair and Advisor

Cllr. Anders Fasth welcomed everyone to the Marine Resources Group meeting and shared the news that he will step down as Chair of the MRG to start enjoying his pension. The MRG meeting in Groningen will be Anders' last meeting. The vice-chairs will discuss who will take over from Anders after which it will be officially decided during the next ABM in June 2019.

3. Update on Fredrikstad June 2018

The advisor presented slides and reported back on the events in Fredrikstad. It involved a beach clean-up session during which the local artist (who's building a Cathedral of Hope from marine litter) joined us as well as the project manager of the Interreg project "Clean Coastline", Oslofjord friluftsråd and KIMO International.

It was a great awareness raising operation. The advisor explained that the MRG's resolution on marine litter was well received and strongly supported by all members of the Annual Business Meeting. The resolution was adopted with the ambition to develop an action plan which will be discussed in the next agenda point.

Also a recap was given on the Interreg NSR annual event which included a workshop on marine litter and the Maritime Spatial Planning board game to put into practice the lessons learned during the marine litter workshop. An interesting fact during the final session of the Annual Event is that topics deemed most relevant for the future Interreg programme included: Maritime Spatial Planning, marine litter and plastics.

4. Draft action plan marine litter

The advisor introduced the topic and the action plan on marine litter which was developed in cooperation with KIMO, Stichting Noordzee, experts from the province of Noord-Holland and several other sources like the European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy. The Marine Resources Group strongly supported the action plan, it was adopted and agreed to keep this topic on the agenda for future MRG meetings. The goal is to discuss the action plan during each MRG meeting to identify what actions have been implemented, what bottlenecks or problems are encountered and what progress is made.

A discussion followed about how it's important to focus both on cleaning up and recycling but equally important is the production of plastic. It's the source of the problem. It was discussed why it's important to move to a production cycle in which the polluter pays. Cllr. Erik Kursetgjerde from Møre og Romsdal mentioned that he will submit the action plan to his council and will inform the MRG about his proposals during the next MRG meeting.

Action and follow up:

1. Each region reports back how the action plan was discussed in the local and regional councils as well as with local stakeholders.
2. Each region reports back about the progress made (or problems encountered) on implementing or working with action(s) identified in the action plan on marine litter.

After discussing the action plan on marine litter, Crawford Paris from the East Grampian Coastal Partnership and Sophie Green from Moray Firth Partnership presented their inspiring local beach clean-up projects with some astonishing results. An interesting fact about the success of these projects was the amount of attention it received in the press and how stakeholders as well as volunteers were very engaged from the start, making it an instant success. Presentations are available through [this link](#).

5. Brexit Taskforce update by Magnus Engelbrektsson

Magnus Engelbrektsson gave a short update about the Brexit Taskforce from both the Atlantic Arc Commission on September 13th as well as the North Sea Commission's taskforce on Brexit which was held on the 20th of September. A short discussion followed but it is clear that there are still many uncertainties. It certainly does enforce the need for continued cooperation around the North Sea.

6 and 7. Presentations on Brexit and the fishing sector

David Anderson, CEO Aberdeen Fish Producers Organisation, gave a presentation on the fishing sector and the impact of Brexit on the UK and Europe fishing industry. Jimmy Buchan, Chief Executive of the Scottish Seafood Association talked about the processing sector and the biggest challenges facing the industry today. An insight was given about the biggest problem at the moment of hiring skilled work force and an explanation was given about the Peterhead Fish market. It is the largest fresh whitefish market of its type in Europe. The new fish market opened on 18 June 2018.

8. Wrap up, AOB and next MRG

There were no points for AOB.

The next MRG meeting will be held [in Groningen](#). Cllr. Henk Staghouwer invites us all for a lunch to lunch meeting on the 9th and 10th of January 2019. It will be a meeting focussing on the marine litter action plan and the New North Sea Region Strategy. The second day will include a very interesting site visit to the beautiful city of Leeuwarden and we'll visit a project which is a combination between Blue Economy and Bio-Economy.

Action and follow up:

1. Please let me know as soon as possible about your attendance to the MRG meeting in Groningen. [Register by filling in this form](#).

After the MRG meeting we were invited to visit the Scottish Maritime Academy & Simulator in Peterhead Harbour. We enjoyed a guided tour of the facility to learn more about the institution, the teaching programmes and the close cooperation with industry. We were then educated by students of the Academy about ropes and making knots and we engaged in a virtual reality race between MRG members on the open sea. Information about the winning team will be shared upon request.

The second day started with a joint visit to the new fish market in Peterhead, which is the largest fresh whitefish market of its type in Europe. It was a very impressive sight especially since it had only just officially opened in June 2018.

The day continued with a joint meeting and presentations on marine planning from a Scottish perspective by Robert Gray, Head of Planning of the Aberdeenshire Council. Followed by a presentation from David Pratt, head of planning and strategy at Marine Scotland about the process of MSP in Scotland and Rhona Fairgrieve, expert from Marine Scotland on the progress of the Interreg NorthSEE project and the role of the regions in Maritime Spatial Planning.

Two innovative projects were presented: Equinor Hywind Park by Hannah Mary Goodland. Hywind is the world's first floating Windfarm Park, located just outside of Peterhead. North Connect Interconnector was presented by Dr Richard Blanchfield, head of development UK. North Connect is an on-going project which aims to generate and transmit energy between Scotland and Norway.

The Energy and Climate Change Group members continued with a NorthSEE energy workshop at the Marine Laboratory of Aberdeen. The workshop regarded an introduction to the NorthSEE workshop that was followed the day after (4 October) with the Maritime Spatial Planning Challenge.

Please see [this video](#) about the Wild North East, Scotland's Natural Gem which was supposed to run at the start of the second day.

Press coverage:

Please see these two articles which were published after the meeting:

- [News article](#) press and journal
- [News article](#) Aberdeenshire council
- [News article](#) Chamber of Commerce