

## Minutes Marine Resources Group meeting

Aalborg (DK) 18 – 19 January 2018

### Participants

Cllr Anders Fasth, Västra Götaland (Chair)  
 Cllr Åshild Kjelsnes, Sogn og Fjordane (Vice Chair)  
 Cllr Richard Thompson, Aberdeenshire  
 Cllr Mona Strømme, Hordaland  
 Cllr Trine Danielsen, Rogaland  
 Cllr Erik Kursetgjerde, Møre og Romsdal  
 Cllr Jan-Nico Appelman, Flevoland

Derek McDonald, Aberdeenshire  
 Inge Døskeland, Hordaland  
 Lisbeth Nervik, Møre og Romsdal  
 Lena Söderholm, Sogn og Fjordane  
 Kåre Kristiansen, Vest-Agder  
 Leif Harald Hanssen, Sør Trøndelag  
 Sidony Venema, Flevoland

Irma Ganibegovic, NSC  
 Yolanda Schmal, Advisor

### Agenda: Thursday 18 January 2018

#### Marine Resources Group Meeting: meeting room B

11:30 – 12:30	Welcome and lunch at office of Regional Council
12:30 – 17:00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome and introduction by Chair and Advisor</li> <li>2. Minutes MRG meeting Flekkefjord</li> <li>3. Update on General Assembly Helsinki</li> <li>4. Discussion on marine litter and plastics</li> <li>5. Update on ExCom Cardiff (NSC secretariat)</li> <li>6. NorthSEE proposal</li> <li>7. Update on EMD workshop June 2018, Burgas</li> <li>8. North Sea Region Annual Event</li> <li>9. Action plan 2018</li> <li>10. Next MRG April, June, October 2018</li> <li>11. AOB</li> </ol>
19:00	Joint dinner with Smart Regions Group at First Hotel Aalborg



CPMR  
NORTH SEA  
COMMISSION

## 1. Welcome and introduction by MRG chair and advisor

The chair Anders Fasth welcomed everyone to the meeting. Warm welcome to the new MRG member: Province of Flevoland.



Jan-Nico Appelman, Cllr. for the province of Flevoland, introduced himself. He is the regional minister for (amongst other topics) economic development, harbour development and fisheries. The recent vote in the EU on the ban on pulse fishing, is a major setback. It is a fine example how common interests can be dealt within the CPMR and NSC to address these issues. Jan-Nico Appelman invites the MRG to Flevoland next time and elaborates a bit on the programme. The focus will be the future of fisheries, a joint diner and a site visit to Urk.

Yolanda Schmal, the new Advisor of the MRG, introduced herself.

Agenda approved. The chair Anders Fasth would like to include an agenda point under AOB: a short discussion about Brexit.

## 2. Minutes MRG meeting in Flekkefjord September 2017

The minutes from last meeting were adopted with the addition of attendance of Leif Harald Hanssen, Sør Trøndelag during the meeting in Flekkefjord.

## 3. Update on General Assembly Helsinki

Anders Fasth gave an update on the General Assembly in Helsinki. The issue of plastics was raised during three separate occasions during the GA. First during the workshop of the CPMR on Maritime issues, secondly during the North Sea Commission and finally during the General Assembly. During these interventions, all members agreed and supported the proposal from the Marine Resources Group to include it in the final declaration of the CPMR. It was a great success and very important to put forward such an important issue which wasn't on the agenda of the CPMR yet.

## 4. Discussion on marine litter and plastics

A discussion about the role of the Marine Resources Group in the field of marine litter and plastics started after an impressive presentation given by Inge Døskeland, Hordaland.

Presentation will be sent with the minutes.

Some conclusions of the discussion:

- What's the most effective approach to the problem of Marine Litter? Should it be on a local, regional, national, EU or even global level? The answer is a combination. A multi-level approach is needed as well as political support. Political momentum has to be mobilized.
- More knowledge is needed, important to join up with other initiatives and organisations like KIMO. And join up with EU circular economy initiative.
- A long term approach is needed
- Examples were shared of awarding prizes to members of the public for cleaning up beaches
- Single use of plastics has to stop, could be influenced by including it in tender processes
- The issue has been raised at CPMR level, we should collaborate with other sea bassins.
- Practical policy is needed to act and do something about marine litter.

### Action and follow up:

- Irma from the NSC explained the Interreg secretariat will send out a call soon for anyone who wants to organize a workshop. The secretariat will arrange the application.
- Suggestion was supported to organize a workshop during the ABM and the Interreg Annual Event. It can serve as input for future theme in the new programme.
- On the 31<sup>st</sup> of January a CPMR meeting on plastics is planned. The chair Anders Fasth, the vice-chair Åshild Kjelsnes, Irma from the NSC secretariat and the Advisor, Yolanda will join this meeting. Representatives from KIMO have been invited as well.
- A resolution on plastics will be prepared for the next MRG meeting in April
- **Action:** please send Yolanda information about how your region deals with marine litter

## 5. Update on Executive Committee Cardiff

Irma from the NSC secretariat gives an update of on the Executive Committee in Cardiff (November 2018). A decision was made to start a process for developing a post 2020 NSR Strategy. The current strategy ends in two years and the first phase starts with an evaluating and mapping phase. All stakeholders will be involved to analyse how they have worked with the strategy, what was useful and what should be improved?

Another issue was the call which has been issued to host the new NSC secretariat. Two regions have applied: the current region and the region of Westland from Norway. Västra Götaland will not be involved in the preparations of the decision, an independent committee is going to assess the applications.

The members of the Executive Committee have adopted a statement for continued cooperation with the UK and it's being spread to local and national press in member states to raise awareness that we are active regions and the North Sea Region will be affected heavily by Brexit. An article was published in the Swedish National press: [Dagens Nyheter](#).

#### **Action and follow up:**

- **Action:** please provide Irma with contact details of stakeholders so they can be involved in the evaluation of the current strategy.

## **6. Update NorthSEE project**

Yolanda gave a short update on the new approach of the NorthSEE project. It was approved and decided that the new interactive approach is appreciated. The next MRG meeting will therefore be combined with a visit to the Partner Meeting of the NorthSEE project to interact and have a debate on what the role of regions can be in Maritime Spatial Planning.

## **7. Update on European Maritime Days workshop Burgas 2018**

Yolanda gave an update on the application of a workshop during the European Maritime Days in Burgas 2018. During the meeting it was unclear what the status of the application was, there was some delay from the organizing team of the European Maritime Days.

Currently we have received a reply and unfortunately our workshop was not selected.

## **8. North Sea Region Annual Event 13-14 June 2018**

An update was given by Irma from the NSC secretariat. The Annual Event has a slightly different character than previous years. Instead of a two day event, it will be a 1 day event only.

A discussion started about the activities the Marine Resources Group would like to be involved in.

#### **Action and follow up:**

- It was decided to go for the full package during the Annual Event:
  - o **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> of June**
    - During the morning: short MRG meeting and site visit
    - During the afternoon: Annual Business Meeting
  - o **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> of June**
    - Annual Event
    - Workshop on Marine Litter by members of MRG and KIMO

- **Action:** please inform Yolanda who wants to be actively involved in preparation of the workshop during the Annual Event.
  - o Inge Døskeland, Kåre Kristiansen and Derek McDonald have already indicated they are happy to help and provide input.
- **Action:** to the Norwegian delegations: please provide Yolanda with input for suggestions for a site visit on Marine Litter during the Annual Event.

## 9. Current and future Action Plan

The current and future Action Plan were discussed. Please find the revised Action Plan attached.

### Action and follow up:

- **Action:** approval of the new Action Plan is needed by **February 21<sup>st</sup>**. Please inform Yolanda if you **do not** approve with the new Action Plan (see below). **No response will be considered as approval.**

NSR 2020 Priority: Managing Maritime Space			
Key action area	Objectives	Key activities	Timeline
Use maritime spatial planning (MSP) as a tool to promote dialogue between different governmental levels and stakeholders	Increase dialogue with relevant authorities on national level and regional level	Coordinate/contribute to NSC activities within the NorthSEE project	Continuous; it is a 3 year Interreg- project
	Ensure that relevant EU institutions and member states have good knowledge about the NSR and the NSC's priorities within the field.	Maintain contact with desk officers at DG Mare	Continuous
		Regular meetings and/or contact with relevant officials and stakeholders to keep them up to date with NSR developments.	2-3 times/year, when Advisors are in Brussels
Ensure sustainable and innovative exploitation of marine resources	Promote a NSC position on Brexit to make sure regional interests are heard	Actively follow Brexit's potential implication on the marine sector	Continuous
	Establish a NSC position on marine litter and plastics	Identify areas of cooperation with Member Regions, Waddensee cooperation and KIMO in field of marine litter and plastics	2018

	Establish a NSC position on the Future of EU Maritime and Fisheries Policy and Fund	Conference on Future of EU Maritime and Fisheries Policy and Fund in Flevoland in April	2018
Ensure a skilled workforce to meet the needs of the future and livelihood in coastal communities	Raise awareness about the importance of a skilled workforce	Boost exchange of experience between member regions regarding maritime skills, showcase good examples	Continuous
		Contribute to the European Commission's blue careers initiative Inform group members and other stakeholders in NSR about relevant EU calls.	Continuous

## 10. Next MRG meetings

The proposal was discussed to combine the next MRG meeting in Flevoland with the Partner Meeting of the NorthSEE project which happens to take place in the exact same week in the Netherlands.

The conclusion was that MRG members are very interested to join the Partner Meeting of the NorthSEE project on the isle of Texel in advance of the regular MRG meeting.

This allows for an interactive session and a true Maritime Spatial Planning experience with the members of the MRG. The MRG is of course an observer in the project and actively involved through the participation by the Province of Noord-Holland.

### Action and follow up:

- It was decided to combine the next MRG meeting with the NorthSEE Partner Meeting.
- The preliminary draft programme is as follows:
  - o **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> of April**
    - 10:00 start of MSP debate at the isle of Texel
    - 18:00 dinner with NorthSEE partners at isle of Texel
  - o **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> of April**
    - 09:00 bus from Texel to Flevoland will be organised
    - 11:30: lunch and MRG meeting at Flevoland
    - 18:00 site visit to Urk including dinner

- **Fridayday 20<sup>th</sup> of April**
  - 10:00 start of seminar Future of Fisheries
  - 13:30 lunch and end of seminar
  
- **Action:** confirm your attendance to the next MRG including the MSP debate on the isle of Texel to Yolanda **by February 21<sup>st</sup>**.
- **Action:** To be in time for the meeting at the isle of Texel at 10:00, it is advised to arrive Tuesday afternoon. Practical details will follow, for now it's important to know whether you are able to join. The train ride from Schiphol to Den Helder takes 1 hour and 40 minutes. Transportation from Texel harbour to the venue will be arranged.
  - Members who have already indicated their attendance:
 

▪ Cllr Åshild Kjelsnes	Cllr Mona Strømme
▪ Cllr Richard Thompson	Cllr Erik Kursetjerde
▪ Cllr Trine Danielsen	Lena Søderholm
▪ Inge Døskeland	Derek McDonald
▪ Lisbeth Nervik	Leif Harald Hanssen
- **Action:** if you are unable to join the MSP debate at the isle of Texel by 10:00, please indicate at what time you will be able to arrive. Exact details will follow.
- **Action:** the MRG meeting in the autumn will be organised at the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2018. The MRG is kindly invited by Aberdeenshire. More information will follow.

## 11. AOB

During AOB a short discussion about Brexit was requested by Anders Fash, he wondered if there was any news to share. Derek McDonald explained there are still a lot of uncertainties and it's difficult to say anything concrete.

Leif Harald Hanssen elaborated on the situation in Norway where two regions are going to merge and it's unsure whether the decision to remain a member of the NSC is going to be positive. He will inform us as soon as the decision has been made (February).



## Minutes Friday 19 January 2018:

### Joint meeting Smart Regions Group and Marine Resources Group

08:30	Welcome
08:30 – 12:30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. KIMO presentation on marine litter</li> <li>2. Blue Growth Strategy of North Jutland</li> <li>3. New marine protein sources</li> </ol> <p>Coffee break</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Bio-refinement of Seaweed</li> <li>5. Marine Group from Orbicon Consultancy Firm</li> <li>6. Private farming of mussels and seaweed Fjordhaver</li> </ol>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch and end of meeting

During the joint meeting with the Smart Regions Group, presentations were held by several speakers with interesting themes for both groups. It was an interactive session with room for discussion after each presentation.

The need for joining forces on the issue of Marine Litter was shared by all members. The scale of the problem was made very clear. Suggestions on how regions can get involved and pro-actively mobilize politicians as well as the public were shared. Fishing for litter for example, started with 10 fishermen and now is a global approach.

It's important to realise that polluters do not pay and it's therefore difficult to manage. Municipalities and small scale businesses are the ones paying. How can costs be traced back to the producers? What steps can we jointly take to tackle this problem?

We need to join forces, we need knowledge and a long term approach.

Presentations will be made available at a later stage.