



NORDIC MARINE THINK TANK

NMTT Board meeting on video 19 May 2020

Iceland at 12 Faroe Islands at 1 pm. Norway, Sweden and Denmark at 2 pm

Minutes

1) Following members were present at the Zoom meeting: Ásmundur Guðjonsson, Staffan Waldo, Dorothy Jane Dankel (viceChair), Carl-Christian Schmidt (Chair), Jesper Heldbo, Odma Johannesen (Secretariat), Lars Clink took part as Secretariat. Peter Ørebech and Sigrún Elsa Smáradóttir had informed the Chair that they were unable to take part.

a. The Chair welcomed the Board members and the Board adopted the minutes of the Board meeting the 25th February 2020.

b. Exempt from tax for donations. The NMTT is not on the list to exempt donors from tax. On the other hand the NMTT does not pay tax on donations.

c. List of members. The Secretariat has a list of names (members and former members) and their e-mail addresses. They will be encouraged to pay the member fee, and if not they will be deleted from the list. Thus the NMTT will meet the Data Protection regulation by not keeping a name on the list longer than decided by the member. The member fee is only 100 DKR, but the transfer fee to the bank is relatively high, 20 DKK. The NMTT has to find a way to run this. The members could be invited to pay the fee for 3 or 5 years and thus saving some transfer costs.

d. Registration and protection of personal data according to the EU regulation must be respected. NMTT will inform on this on the homepage.

2) Points for any other business, See point 6 and 7 below.

3) General state of play

a. Coronavirus and impacts on meeting activities.

In France the freedom of moving is now limited to 100 km from home. In Faroe Islands there is no coronavirus. People from abroad have a quarantine of 14 days. In Norway home office work is highly recommended and citizens are limited to domestic travel. In Sweden they are recommended not to travel more than 2 hours from home. The Board meetings will so far continue as Zoom meetings.

b. How to deal with the General Assembly in light of Coronavirus.

According to the NMTT statutes the GA needs at least 10 members present including presence by proxy. On next Board meeting in August/September the GA will be considered further, including the need for a Zoom meeting as well as who is member of the NMTT and how the membership fee should be paid.

c. Fishers Pay System in Nordic Fisheries is in progress. The project meeting last week in Copenhagen was changed to a Zoom meeting. So far the project reveals

a.o. different incentive structures in pelagic fisheries in the Nordic countries. The next Board meeting should consider an information about the project at the coming GA.

- d. Financial status. Auditor. The NMTT financial results are achieved by project management and mostly by members' voluntary, an unpaid, participation in project work.

The NMTT Secretariat has contacted an auditor, Birgitte Gawron who works for Albjerg Revision, Brøndby, Denmark. She has experience from auditing the EU set-up called BSAC (Baltic Sea Advisory Council). The NMTT expenses will be 7.500 DKR + VAT a year for the accounting service. The Board decided to propose her as the new accountant at the next GA.

- 4) Adoption of the Accounts for 2019. The deficit from ordinary activities mainly relates to costs for legal advice as well as normal expenditure for the hosting the GA, Secretariat office expenditures etc.

The Board adopted the accounts for 2019 which will have to be formally approved by the GA. The Board recommend that the financial results from finished project be transferred to the NMTT's own assets.

- 5) Adoption of budget for 2020
The Board adopted the budget for 2020 which will be presented at the GA for approval. The costs to run the NMTT website and the updating was discussed. The updating should include members of the Board, project activities and links to projects. The Chair concluded the need for an overall information strategy on who we are, what we do and how. A proposal for a strategy should be included on the agenda to next Board meeting so as to decide on a the appropriate way forward.
- 6) Future activities including a. Nordic Climate Change Forum for Fisheries, b. Aquaculture, c. Arctic issues and d. Proposals and inputs from Members including United Nations Decade of Ocean.

The note on Nordic Climate Change Forum for Fisheries and Aquaculture (distributed) has been forwarded to the Nordic Council of Ministers fisheries working groups (science/advisory group and the management group). Since the coronavirus outbreak there has been no action on the note. Other groups within the Nordic cooperation organisation may be interested. A common platform is needed for a dialog between science, industry and management in order to develop particular issues or themes. Coastal communities depending on small fishing vessels are vulnerable to climate changes when fishing opportunities move further offshore where only large vessels can reach the fish. The most pressure in Arctic zone is from warming and relatively high toxic pollution levels. The fish are moving north. A note will be available at the next Board meeting.

There is a need to mitigate the climate change from aquaculture and fisheries as well as the effects on this industry. The perspective of the industry should be highlighted.

The Nordic Council of Ministers are rearranging their common budget from sector by sector budgets into new approaches such as green competition and social issues whereas the green initiatives are increasing.

The UN Ocean Decade and climate forum will be on the agenda the coming years in many countries and the industry should be involved. The NMTT should find its own role.

At the next Board meeting these issues and developments should be considered to be included in the agenda of the NMTT GA later this year.

- 7) Any other business. The proposal to discuss The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development was included in the agenda item 6 on future activities.

The Chair will consider to rearrange the future Board agenda so as to discuss upcoming topics at the beginning of the meeting followed by the regular agenda items.