



NORDIC MARINE THINK TANK

Report of the Sixth Ordinary General Assembly of the Nordic Marine Think Tank

Friday 12 October 2018 14.00 – 16.00 hours, Citykonferensen, Stockholm
Sweden

The meeting was attended by sixteen members of the NMTT (see the attached list)

Provisional Agenda

- 1) Appointment of chair and rapporteur
- 2) Approval of the agenda, its timely distribution and submitted proxies
- 3) Presentation of the annual report for approval
- 4) Presentation of the certified financial statement for 2017 for approval
- 5) Presentation of the work-plan and budget for 2018, including proposed quota for members and supporting members for approval
- 6) Consideration of submitted proposals
 - Organisation changes and New Statutes
- 7) Election of the Board
 - State of play (attached)
- 8) Election of the Auditor
- 9) Any other business

1) Appointment of chair and rapporteur

The NMTT Chair welcomed the participants to the sixth ordinary General Assembly, who elected Helge Paulsen as Chair for the meeting and Victor Hjort as rapporteur.

2) Adoption of the Agenda, its timely distribution and received proxies

The Chair confirmed that the agenda for the meeting had been distributed within the prescribed deadline and that two proxies had been received giving voting rights to participating members. He ascertained that the meeting had the necessary quorum.

The agenda was adopted.

3) Presentation of the annual report for approval.

The NMTT Chair presented the annual report.

The NMTT Chair informed about the activities held in 2017-2018, which consist of two major projects:

- The FMSY project - Optimizing sustainable fishing yields - ecosystem and management perspectives, and
- Conference on Fisheries and Society - Challenges to 2025

The FMSY project funded by EU EMMF, Nordic Council of Ministers, Danish Ministry of Fisheries and the Norwegian Fisheries Research Fund. Overall the project has identified a general bias in the current FMSY values for data rich stocks in the North Atlantic as presently used models do not integrate ecosystem considerations. Consequently, if a broader approach is taken integrating ecosystem functioning in the modelling FMSY values will produce additional catch possibilities. It has been estimated that these might be worth up to 5 billion EUR on an annual basis. The project, in addition to a report which is scheduled to be finalized in the beginning of 2019, has hosted a series of workshops and a final symposium in Copenhagen in October 2018, presenting the preliminary results of the research. In this regard it is recalled that the fish stocks in the North Atlantic are rebuilding, calling for improved exploitation that ensures ecological, social and economic sustainability.

The Conference on Fisheries and Society - Challenges to 2025 was held in Stockholm just prior to the 2018 NMTT GA. The conference was sponsored by the Nordic Council of Ministers, and brought together higher level civil servants from Nordic fisheries administrations, parliamentarians dealing with fisheries matters, fisheries organisations and invited speakers for an informed and informal discussion on the challenges to Nordic fisheries management to 2025 and beyond. The main objective was to strengthen the dialogue on how policy makers and fisheries authorities might face up to those challenges. The conference is a final step in a process which has involved a series of research projects undertaken on various aspects of the use of market based economic instruments, including ITQs, in Nordic fisheries. This multidisciplinary research has been undertaken by the University of Copenhagen (Max Nielsen and Jeppe Hoest) and NOFIMA in Norway (Edgar Henriksen). It was mentioned that the outcome of the Conference, a meeting report with “the sense of the meeting”, will be published on the NMTT web site. Also, studies undertaken for the Conference are available on the websites of NCM and NOFIMA.

The two projects provided the basis for possible new initiatives/follow up for the NMTT’s programme of work for 2019.

The NMTT chair mentioned other fisheries events held in Europe to which NMTT was invited as speaker. These included activities undertaken by the FAO (trade in fisheries services and agriculture/fisheries market modelling) and ICTSD (support for WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies).

Finally the NMTT chair informed about the current effort to clarify the status of NMTT and to get acceptance by the Danish tax-authority that NMTT is a non-profit NGO not subject to taxation. The Danish tax has questioned the status of the NMTT as an NGO rather seeing the NMTT activities has a commercial enterprise. This has led to the NMTT involving a lawyer to rewrite the statutes of the NMTT with a view to have these new statutes cleared by the Danish tax authorities.

Questions were asked about the lack of board meetings and lack of more information to the members of the board and members in general. The NMTT Chair acknowledged the points made but reminded that the organisation is based on voluntary work, with a considerable working load to manage the before-mentioned projects as well as the time-consuming issue with the tax-authority. Efforts would certainly be made to improve the level of information and dialogue. One member mentioned the distribution of relevant newspaper articles as giving insight into the issues going on in the other Nordic countries.

The Chair declared the report as adopted by the meeting.

4) Presentation of the certified financial statement for 2017 for approval

Questions were asked about the number of NMTT members and the Secretariat was requested to undertake a stricter member management.

The assembly adopted the audited accounts for 2017.

5) Presentation of the work-plan and budget for 2018, including proposed quota for members and supporting members for approval

A state of play of the economy 2018 was presented. One member noted that a budget based on timely estimates should be presented, even at this late stage in the year. Questions were asked about a working programme and suggestions were made referring to environmental issues, global warming, follow up on Blue Economy and contacts with other similar organisations.

The assembly took note of the project working plan mentioned in the Chair's report and adopted the annual personal membership fee at Kr 100.

6) Consideration of submitted proposals

The assembly was informed of the procedure planned for the issue with the tax authority. It was agreed that the working group would start the review of the draft submitted by the lawyer. This working group consists of Sten, Odma, Lars and Victor and will commence the drafting of new statutes in cooperation with the

lawyer without further delay. IT is envisaged that once a revised formal draft has been agreed by the group and the lawyer, this will be submitted to the tax-authorities for “approval” and as basis for issuing a “binding” answer, committing the tax-authority’s recognition of NMTT as a non-profit NGO.

7) Election of the Board

Five out of six members standing for election accepted re-election. The Chair noted that Odma Johannesen, Denmark, accepted to be elected as new member.

The Chair noted consensus on the re-election of five existing members and of one new member.

The composition of the new board is provided in the table below.

NMTT Board - GA 2018		
Name	Country	Year elected (2 year election periods)
Victor Hjort	DK	2017
Sigrún Smáradóttir	IS	2017
Dorothy Dankel	NO	2017
Staffan Waldo	SE	2017
Carl-Christian Schmidt	DK	2017
Odma Johannesen	DK	2018
Jesper Heldbo	DK	2018
Hans Lassen	DK	2018
Peter Ørebech	NO	2018
Asmundur Gudjonsson	FO	2018
Helle Siegstad	GL	2018

8) Election of the Auditor

Hans Jørgen Larsen was re-elected as auditor.

The Chair thanked the participants for good conduct and declared the meeting closed.

/Victor Hjort, 22 October 2018

Participants' list in Stockholm and by video-link:

Members	Name	Stockholm	Video
	Asmundur Gudjonsson	1	
	Carl-Christian Schmidt		
	Dorothy Dankel		1
	Gunnar Haraldsson	1	
	Hans Lassen		1
	Helle Siegstad		1
	Henrik Sparholt	1	
	Jakup Mørkøre	1	
	Jesper Heldbo	1	
	Lars Clink		1
	Odma Johannesen	1	
	Peter Ørebech	1	
	Sigrún Smáradóttir	1	
	Staffan Waldo	1	
	Sten Sverdrup Jensen	1	
	Søren Qvist Eliassen	1	
	Victor Hjort	1	
		12	4
Guests	Helge Paulsen		
	Bjørn Tore Erdal		