



# NORDIC MARINE THINK TANK

NMTT Board

Zoom meeting Thursday 4 December 2020

## Minutes

Present: The NMTT chair Carl-Christian Schmidt and Vice Chair Dorothy Dankel, Ásmundur Guðjónsson, Bryndís Björnsdóttir, Jesper Heldbo, Johan Williams, Odma Johannesen and Lars Clink, NMTT Secretariat.

Staffan Waldo was not present.

### 1. **Welcome and Minutes of the Board meeting 20 October 2020**

The chair welcomed the new members of the Board, Bryndís Björnsdóttir from Iceland and Johan Williams from Norway.

He noted that there had been no comments to the Minutes of the Board meeting 26 August 2020 nor to the constitutional Board meeting 20 October 2020.

### 2. **Nordic Climate Change Forum for Fisheries and Aquaculture**

The chair informed that this NMTT project had planned an initial 1½ day conference Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 in Helsingør, Denmark. when this corona pandemic hopefully will be over. The project is financed by the Nordic Council of Fisheries (400.000 DKK).

So far the Danish industry seems to be positiv and the timing seems to be good. The Chair will provide a briefing paper to enable members of the Board to inform and involve the industry, authorities, NGO's etc. in their countries on the conference. This includes national representatives in international fora.

The Chair, the Vice Chair Dorothy and Johan have discussed and developed a paper on the conference issues. The Chair will continue to discuss and develop the paper with Ásmundur, Bryndís and Jesper and will consider if, how and when to invite maritime authorities (in Denmark: Danish Maritime Authority). The overall question is how and when to mitigate the industries' impact on the climate and how and when to adapt to the climate changes.

The Board discussed the need for a recurring Climate Change Forum. The timing of such a forum will depend on how topical issues are to the industry. Furthermore the future funding of the Forum should be solved. The potential for such a forum seems to be there. The funding should come from the industry. However, some basic costs could be funded by other public institutions.

The NMTT will produce a flyer on the conference. Dorothy knows a local designer and has established a cooperation on designing a draft for the flyer.

### 3. **NMTT overall information strategy – website**

The focus on the environment in the statutes was raised. The Chair informed that the Danish Tax authorities linked the fishing industry in the NMTT statutes to a commercial industry in Denmark that had to pay tax. NMTT has been a voluntary organisation from the very beginning but had to change the statutes accordingly. The NMTT has spent a lot of money on an attorney to solve this problem.

Lars informed that he had some difficulties to update the website. Dorothy informed that the designer mentioned in item 2 was working with websites too. Some members discussed an alternative to the existing NMTT platform and the chair recommended the Wix software which was easy to establish and to run. Dorothy encouraged members of the Board to find and provide some photos of fish and wessels for the new website.

The Chair mentioned the criticism of the fact that ICES did not mention NMTT in its publication on the Fmsy project. However, ICES has some strict rules in their publications and does not promote such interests in their articles. As Chair of the NMTT Carl-Christian promotes the NMTT when he attends international meetings in such as FAO.

As Vice Chair, Dorothy found that the NMTT has a learning curve and NMTT must move on. The Chair added that the NMTT Board will be informed at the next Board meeting in January or February 2021.

### 4. **Financial status**

Lars informed that very little has happened since the GA. We should return to this at the next meeting and at that point look at the final accounts for 2020 and the budget for 2021.

### 5. **Any other business, including The Artic Ocean and other international processes, Aquaculture, Crew Payment Systems in Nordic Fisheries**

The Chair invited comments on this issue and to this meeting.

Bryndis found that her first meeting at the Board was interesting and she was satisfied to be a part of the NMTT Board. Jesper mentioned the FAO prospects in world food supply – a reduction of 5 %. The aquaculture tecnology developed in the north is moving south to other species. Dorothy reminded that the decade of climate changes starts in January 2021. Ásmundur mentioned that the Board has not discussed the problems of the pelagic fish stocks distribution in the North Atlantic nor the industry's problems by loosing the MSC-certification of Atlantic mackerel and herring. The chair answered that this issue is related to the overall stock situation and it is sensitive to discuss stock distribution.

The Chair thanked all members for their contribution at this meeting and was looking forward to the next Board meeting at the end of January or the beginning of February.