



NORDIC MARINE THINK TANK

Report of
Nordic Marine Think Tank
Board Meeting
12.00 a.m. Monday 11 February 2019 at:
Axelborg, Axeltorv 3, 1609 Copenhagen V

1) Welcome

The meeting was attended by 10 persons including 2 guests. See below the list of attendees.

2) Any other business.

Zonal Attachment in view of BREXIT was proposed by Staffan.

3) General state of play

a. The legal position of NMTT and current action with tax authorities.

The actual state of play was summarised: the NMTT demand for a “Binding Answer” by the tax authority is on track and a response is expected within 5 months.

In a brief discussion it was clarified that NMTT income from projects, publications and generally dissemination can be set aside for the building of NMTT assets, in accordance with the new statutes, as a normal practice for non-profit organisations.

On the possible future developments for the NMTT, in the case of an unfavourable verdict from the tax review, it was unanimously excluded that NMTT could be turned into a commercial consultancy company.

The Board will launch a comprehensive discussion on the NMTT future, once the response of the tax authority is known.

b. NMTT-organisation and management

Carl-Christian informed that Victor will step down from his tasks by the next General Assembly and that Odma and Lars will take over. A gradual transition is already taking place.

c. The project: “Ecosystem Based Emsy Values in Fisheries Management”

The role of the NMTT and the project leader was discussed. Lars explained that the project is owned by the NMTT, and thus it is the NMTT that has the final responsibility towards the donor. The division of tasks between the project leader and the NMTT is problematic, involving weaknesses in the book-keeping procedure and in satisfying the donor’s requirements.

There was general agreement that there were “lessons learnt, and to be learnt” and seen from the board members’ view, there was a need to implement project best practices, such as setting milestones for intermediary reports. Dorothy suggested that a protocol on expectations to reporting should be drawn up for new projects.

d. Follow-up on conclusions from Stockholm “Conference on Fisheries and Society - Challenges to 2025”

The report of the conference has been posted on the NMTT.org website. Staffan noted that the conference was considered very useful in Sweden. The participation was good but unfortunately the presence of politicians was limited.

3.e and 4.a. Arctic Frontiers (Tromsø) and Arctic Circle (Reykjavik, 10-13 October 2019))

Dorothy had attended the annual Arctic Frontiers event in Tromsø and Asmundur and Sigrun met with the Arctic Circle in Reykjavik. Both organisations are an expression of the wide political interest for the Arctic region, which the NMTT should keep an eye on.

Following Asmundur's meeting in Reykjavik there is the possibility that NMTT could organise a plenary session item as well as an outbreak session. A session on Marine mammals and fisheries, as suggested by EU-Fishmeal would be very relevant in an Arctic context. It was agreed that such a project should focus on the ecosystem knowledge and not on resources, and be fully transparent. It was agreed to go ahead with this activity. NMTT will look for support from the Nordic Council of Ministers for this project.

It was agreed that it would be good if someone could draw up an overview of the various activities related to the Arctic, including a listing of the key organisations involved and their respective responsibilities and areas of action.

4.) Project opportunities

a. – see above

b. – Presentation of Fmsy project results – see 3.c above

c. Possible Aquaculture project.

NMTT has received information about the initiative for a Nordic based ecological aquaculture project. As Dorothy has been following a similar activity under the Horizon 2020 programme, she will follow up to explore possibilities.

i. Marine mammals and fisheries – see 4.a. above

5.) Any other business

Staffan informed about the reactions in Swedish fisheries on the perspectives of BREXIT on Zonal Attachment of fisheries. Considering the different perspectives in looking at this issue Dorothy mentioned that this would be a positive challenge for NMTT to embark upon issue as a think-tank.

The meeting ended at 14.00 hours. It was attended by Hans Lassen, Staffan Waldo, Odma Johannesen, Victor Hjort, Carl-Christian Schmidt, Helle Siegstad, Dorothy Dankel (video), Asmundur Gudjonsson (video) and Lars Clink and Søren Anker Pedersen (guests). Asmundur's video connection unfortunately didn't work, and Henrik could not participate, as he had a delayed flight to Copenhagen.

VH/Copenhagen 12 February 2019.