

Staatssekretär

An den Vorsitzenden des
Europaausschusses des
Schleswig-Holsteinischen Landtages
Herrn Peter Lehnert MdL
Landeshaus

Kiel

Schleswig-Holsteinischer Landtag
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**Bericht über die Jahresversammlung und die Sitzung des Vorstandes der Nordsee-
kommission (NSC) am 27.06.2014 in Aberdeen (Schottland/UK)**

Sehr geehrter Herr Vorsitzender,

da auf Grund der parlamentarischen Sommerpause keine anderweitige Möglichkeit einer zeitnahen Unterrichtung über die o. g. Sitzungen der Nordseekommission möglich ist, übersende ich Ihnen anliegend einen schriftlichen Bericht.

Ministerin Spoorendonk konnte an diesen Sitzungen, die im Rahmen der jährlichen „North Sea Conference“ (25.-27.06.2014) stattfanden, nicht teilnehmen, da zeitgleich die Justizministerkonferenz in Binz (Rügen) stattfand. Da auch ihr Stellvertreter, Herr Hermann Kuhn MdBü (Bremen) durch die zeitgleiche Plenarsitzung des Ausschusses der Regionen (AdR) in Brüssel gebunden war, konnten beider Länder nur auf Arbeitsebene in den o. g. Sitzungen anwesend sein.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Dr. Eberhard Schmidt-Elsaesser

Anlagen: 1

**Bericht über die 65. Sitzung des Executive Committee (Vorstand)
und das 23. Annual Business Meeting (Jahresversammlung)
der Nordseekommission (NSC), 27.06.2014, Aberdeen/Schottland (UK)**

Seit Juni 2012 wird der deutsche Sitz im NSC Executive Committee von Ministerin Spoorendonk wahrgenommen; Stellvertreter ist Hermann Kuhn MdBü (Mitglied der Bremischen Bürgerschaft). Beide waren jedoch auf Grund anderweitiger unabweisbarer Terminverpflichtungen – Justizministerkonferenz bzw. AdR-Plenartagung – gehindert, an Jahresversammlung bzw. Sitzung teilzunehmen. Diese wurden von Schleswig-Holstein wie von Bremen auf Arbeitsebene wahrgenommen (MJKE bzw. Bremer Vertretung in Brüssel).

Vorbemerkung:

Seit vielen Jahren wird einmal jährlich eine „North Sea Conference“ gemeinsam von der Nordseekommission (NSC) und dem INTERREG Nordseeprogramm ausgerichtet. Traditionell steht in dieser Konferenz das INTERREG Programm eindeutig im Vordergrund. Dies gilt sowohl für den gesamten Konferenzablauf (25.-27.06.2014) wie für die Teilnehmerzahl der Konferenz.

Demgegenüber nehmen im Rahmen dieser Konferenz die NSC-internen Sitzungen – Jahresversammlung und Vorstand (Executive Committee) – deutlich weniger Raum und Zeit ein. Zum Verständnis ist darauf hinzuweisen, dass die relevanten Arbeitssitzungen von Vorstand wie Arbeitsgruppen der NSC halbjährlich im Frühjahr und Herbst stattfinden.

Gemeinsame „North Sea Conference 2014“ (INTERREG Nordseeprogramm und NSC):

Dieser Programmteil am 25./26.06.2014 stand im Zeichen der Vorbereitung auf das neue INTERREG 5 B-Nordseeprogramm (2014-2020). In Arbeitssitzungen und Workshops diskutierten die rund 350 Teilnehmer Ideen und Vorbereitungen für Projektanträge, die in der für Frühjahr 2015 erwarteten ersten Ausschreibungsrunde des neuen Programms eingereicht werden sollen.¹

Im Plenarteil der Konferenz war die NSC durch ihren amtierenden Präsidenten John Lamb (Southend-on-Sea, England/UK) vertreten.

¹ Ausführlicher siehe das in der **Anlage 1** beigefügte Konferenzprogramm. Mehr Informationen zur „North Sea Conference 2014“ siehe: <http://www.northsearegion.eu/ivb/events/show/&tid=88>

NSC-interne Sitzungen (Annual Business Meeting, Vorstand) am 27.06.2014:

Im Blickpunkt der Sitzungen stand vor allem die Neuwahl des NSC-Präsidenten, nachdem der bisherige Präsident, Ole B. Sørensen (Region Nordjylland/DK), auf Grund seiner unerwarteten Nicht-Wiederwahl in die Regionsversammlung Nordjylland sein Amt zur Jahreswende niedergelegt hatte. Erwartungsgemäß wurde der bisherige Vizepräsident, **Tom-Christer Nilsen** (Vorsitzender der Region **Hordaland/NOR**), zum neuen NSC-Präsidenten gewählt. Ihm war es – trotz der Kürze der Zeit seit Jahresbeginn – gelungen, die Mittel für das von ihm ab September vorzuhaltende NSC-Sekretariat einzuwerben, die von mehreren norwegischen Regionen getragen werden.

Der besondere Dank des neuen Präsidenten und aller vertretenen NSC-Mitgliedsregionen galt der Region Nordjylland, die trotz des Amtsverzichts von Ole Sørensen die Arbeit des bislang in Aalborg angesiedelten Sekretariats aufrechterhalten hatte. Zur neuen gleichberechtigten Vizepräsidentin wurde **Kerstin Brunström** (Region **Västra Götaland/SWE**) gewählt. Die aus den Anrainerstaaten **benannten Vorstandsmitglieder** und deren Stellvertreter wurden per Akklamation bestätigt. Für Deutschland ergaben sich dabei keine Änderungen, da zwischen Bremen und Schleswig-Holstein einvernehmlich die Fortsetzung der bisherigen Benennung vereinbart worden war (Ministerin Spoorendonk als Mitglied, MdBü Kuhn als deren Stellvertreter).

Der neu gewählte NSC-Präsident unterstrich, dass er die wesentlichen Ziele seines Amtsvorgängers fortsetzen wolle. Hierzu zählen insbesondere die Werbung für eine eigene EU-Strategie für den Nordseeraum, die weitere Professionalisierung der NSC selbst sowie eine deutlichere politische Präsenz der NSC in Brüssel.

Inhaltlich diskutiert und anschließend einvernehmlich angenommen wurden die Vorschläge, auf die sich das Executive Committee in seiner vorangegangenen Sitzung (12.03.2014, Aalborg/DK) verständigt hatte: ²

- **Aktionsplan 2014/2015 zur Umsetzung der NSC-Strategie „North Sea Region 2020“:**

Bereits kurz nach seinem Amtsantritt im Juni 2012 hatte der frühere NSC-Präsident (Ole B. Sørensen, Region Nordjylland/Dänemark) begonnen, die noch unter seiner Vorgängerin Ende Oktober 2011 beschlossene o.g. NSC-Strategie für ein mehrfaches Reformziel zu nutzen:

² Vgl. hierzu jeweils ausführlicher den übermittelten Bericht über die 64. Sitzung des NSC Executive Committee (**Umdruck 18/2902**)

- eine stringenter Bindung der bislang überwiegend eigenständig arbeitenden **NSC-Arbeitsgruppen** an Arbeitsaufträge des Vorstandes bzw. der Jahresmitgliederversammlung,
- eine stärkere Fokussierung der Arbeit der NSC auf die **Umsetzung ihrer eigenen Strategie** sowie
- eine deutlich **politischere Ausrichtung des Vorstandes** und seiner Sitzungen.

Der dafür erstmals von der NSC-Jahresversammlung am 13.06.2013 (Halmstad/SWE) angenommene „**Aktionsplan 2013/2014**“ sollte zugleich der Tatsache Rechnung tragen, dass die von der NSC mit ihrer Strategie „North Sea Region 2020“ primär verfolgte Zielsetzung, in Brüssel den Boden für eine eigenständige EU-Strategie für den Nordseeraum zu bereiten, überwiegend auf kein Interesse der EU sowie der Mitgliedstaaten des Nordseeraums getroffen war. In diesem Aktionsplan sind vorrangige Maßnahmen und Projekte („**key activities**“) aufgeführt, die in einem Zeitraum von 2-3 Jahren abgearbeitet werden können. Sie orientieren sich an den vier Strategiefeldern der NSR 2020-Strategie:

- *Managing Maritime Space* (Management des Meeresraumes),
- *Increasing Accessibility and Clean Transport* (Verbesserung der Zugänglichkeit und des sauberen Verkehrs),
- *Tackling Climate Change* (Bekämpfung des Klimawandels)
- *Attractive and Sustainable Communities* (attraktive und nachhaltige Gemeinden)

sowie als horizontale Priorität

- *Promoting Innovation, Excellence and Sustainability* (Stärkung von Innovation, Exzellenz und Nachhaltigkeit).³

Dieser von den NSC-Arbeitsgruppen umzusetzende Aktionsplan wurde nach Jahresfrist fortgeschrieben und als **neuer „Aktionsplan 2014/2015“** einvernehmlich beschlossen.⁴ Um den dafür erforderlichen Berichtsaufwand für die NSC-Arbeitsgruppen – mit ihren jeweils nur 3-4 Arbeitstreffen pro Jahr – überschaubar zu halten und zugleich eine bessere Übersichtlichkeit gewährleisten zu können, hatte das NSC-Sekretariat ein erheblich schlankeres Berichtsformat als in früheren Jahren üblich entwickelt. Dennoch hat sich im ersten Jahr der Umsetzung des Aktionsplans vor allem das in dieser Form zuvor nicht bekannte Berichtsverfahren als überaus schwerfällig für die Arbeit der NSC-Arbeitsgruppen erwiesen. Dieses hatte Ministerin Spoorendonk bei der vorangegangenen Sitzung des Vorstandes (12.03.2014) kritisch angemerkt.

³ Fundstellen im Internet zum Strategiepapier „North Sea Region 2020“ unter: www.northsea.org/index.php/strategy-and-development/north-sea-region-2020, zum Aktionsplan 2013/2014 unter: www.northsea.org/index.php/strategy-and-development/action-plan

⁴ Vgl. **Anlage 4** zu diesem Bericht.

Weiteres Verfahren:

In Fortführung des bisherigen Verfahrens wird NSC-Sekretariat in Zusammenarbeit mit den Vorsitzenden der NSC-Arbeitsgruppen deren Arbeitsprogramme für 2014/2015 anpassen. Je nach Fortschritt werden einzelne Arbeitsgruppen zu den Sitzungen des Vorstands berichten. Auf dieser Grundlage soll zur nächsten Jahresversammlung (11.06.2015, Assen/NL) der Aktionsplan erneut fortgeschrieben und zugleich das 2013 gewählte Verfahren zur Umsetzung der NSC-Strategie evaluiert werden.

• **„Code of conduct for the Executive Committee“ – stärkere Einbindung der Vorstandsmitglieder in die politische Verantwortung der NSC:**

Das in der Vorstandssitzung am 12.03.2014 (Aalborg/DK) erstmals vorgelegte Papier geht auf eine offene Diskussion der Mitglieder des NSC Executive Committee zu ihren persönlichen Aufgaben und zur Arbeitsstruktur der NSC bei der vorangegangene Vorstandssitzung (24.10.2013, Bergen/NOR) zurück.⁵

Zu den wesentlichen Punkten dieses Papiers zählen u. a. folgende Aufgaben:

- stärkere Wahrnehmung der **Funktion eines „nationalen Repräsentanten“** durch die individuellen **Vorstandsmitglieder** – vorrangig durch Meinungsbildung und Interessensvertretung für alle NSC-Mitgliedsregionen im Heimatland, Aufbau eines Kommunikationsnetzes zur Meinungsbildung im Heimatland, Aufbau eines Kooperationsunterbaus auf politischer und administrativer Ebene zwischen allen NSC-Mitgliedsregionen des Heimatlandes, Vertretung von NSC-Positionen gegenüber der jeweiligen nationalen Regierung;
- verstärkte Ausarbeitung fokussierter politischer Positionspapiere durch die **NSC-Arbeitsgruppen** zur Beschlussfassung durch den Vorstand und Aufbereitung wichtigerer NSC-relevanter Themen zur Diskussion in Vorstandssitzungen;
- stärkere Ausrichtung auf **NSC-relevante Themen der EU-Politik** – vorrangig durch jährlich eine Vorstandssitzung in Brüssel, Aufbau eines NSC-Netzwerkes von Regionalbüros in Brüssel zum Screening aktueller EU-Politikentwicklungen und zu deren Aufbereitung für den NSC-Vorstand).

Weiteres Verfahren:

Erörterung der Umsetzung bei der nächsten Sitzung des Executive Committee (21.10.2014, Brüssel).

⁵ Zum Papier „Code of Conduct“ vgl. **Anlage 5** zu diesem Bericht. Zur Vorgeschichte vgl. ausführlicher die vorgelegten Berichte zur 63. und 64. Sitzung des NSC Executive Committee (**Umdrucke 18/2202 und 18/2902**).

- **Neues Finanzierungsmodell für das NSC-Sekretariat:**

Unter dem Eindruck der unerwarteten Amtsniederlegung des vorherigen NSC-Präsidenten Sørensen – und vor allem der daraus folgenden Zwangssituation für jedweden Nachfolgekandidaten, binnen kürzester Zeit Personal- und Finanzressourcen für ein neues NSC-Sekretariat mobilisieren zu müssen – war bei einem informellen Treffen des Executive Committee am 09.01.2014 das bisherige Modell, demzufolge das NSC-Sekretariat der jeweiligen NSC-Präsidentschaft folgt, grundlegend in Frage gestellt worden.

Kritisiert wurde u.a., dass dieses Sekretariats-Modell

- auch bei einem regulären Wechsel der Präsidentschaft eine Übergangsphase für Aufbau und Einarbeitung eines neuen Sekretariats mit Diskontinuitäts-Risiken bedeute;
- kleinere NSC-Mitgliedsregionen auf Grund derer geringeren Finanzausstattung faktisch von einer Bewerbung für die NSC-Präsidentschaft ausschließe;
- bei einem häufigeren Wechsel der NSC-Präsidentschaft einen regelmäßigen Qualitätsverlust für deren Auftreten und Wirkung bewirke.

Dem steht allerdings gegenüber, dass die vergleichsweise langen NSC-Präsidentschaften von Bent Hansen (DK, 1995-2004) und Gunn Marit Helgesen (NOR, 2004-2012) die so kritisierten Risiken auf ein Minimum reduziert hatten.

Nach einer ersten Diskussion im Vorstand (12.03.2014, Aalborg/DK) hatte das NSC-Sekretariat **drei mögliche Alternativ-Modelle** zur Jahresversammlung vorgelegt:

- a) ein **weiterhin „mit der Präsidentschaft wanderndes“ Sekretariat**, jedoch anteilig bzw. vollständig finanziert aus höheren Mitgliedsbeiträgen;
- b) ein **„zentral“ beim Brüsseler Büro der KPKR/CPMR** angesiedeltes Sekretariat, vollumfänglich aus höheren Mitgliedsbeiträgen finanziert;
- c) eine **Misch-Lösung** mit Ansiedlung des „Executive Secretary“ beim Brüsseler Büro der KPKR/CPMR und einer bei der Regionsverwaltung des jeweiligen NSC-Präsidenten angesiedelten Ortskraft – beide vollumfänglich aus höheren Mitgliedsbeiträgen finanziert.

Allen drei Alternativ-Modellen gemeinsam ist eine **deutliche Erhöhung der Jahresbeiträge allein für die Mitgliedschaft in der NSC** – unbeschadet der jährlich angepassten Jahresbeiträge für die Mitgliedschaft in der Mutterorganisation KPKR/CPMR.⁶

Eine fundiertere Aussprache fand in der Jahresversammlung nicht statt. Aus den Diskussionsbeiträgen wurde eine Präferenz für ein permanentes NSC-Sekretariat erkenn-

⁶ Vgl. hierzu **Anlage 6** zu diesem Bericht.

bar, ohne jedoch die daraus resultierenden höheren Mitgliedsbeiträge für die einzelnen NSC-Mitgliedsregionen zu problematisieren.

Der neu gewählte NSC-Präsident unterstrich, dass die Finanzierung des neu in Bergen (NOR) angesiedelten NSC-Sekretariats für die gesamte Präsidentschaftsperiode (bis September 2016) gewährleistet sei. Eine **Entscheidung** über ein Finanzierungsmodell müsse allerdings bei der **nächsten Jahresversammlung 2015** getroffen werden, um jedweden potenziellen Nachfolgebewerber eine klare Entscheidungsgrundlage für eine Bewerbung um die NSC-Präsidentschaft zu geben. Dabei müsse, so der Präsident wörtlich, auch das bislang praktizierte Modell des „wandernden“ Sekretariats weiterhin eine mögliche Option bleiben.

Weiteres Verfahren:

Fortsetzung der Diskussion in nächster Vorstandssitzung (21.10.2014). Entscheidungsvorschlag zur Jahresversammlung 2015.

- **EU-Haushaltszeile „Preparatory Action for the North Sea Region“:**

Im **EU-Budget 2014** war unter der Budgetlinie „Preparatory Actions“ (Vorbereitung für Makroregionen) eine kleinere Haushaltszeile zur vertiefenden Analyse der potenziellen Makroregion „North Sea Region“ eingestellt worden. Diese Haushaltszeile war vom bisherigen NSC-Präsident Sørensen persönlich über das EP erfolgreich lanciert worden. Die vom EP angeführte Begründung dieser Haushaltszeile bezieht sich explizit auf die Vorarbeiten der von der NSC selbst erstellten **Strategie „North Sea Region 2020“ (NSR 2020)** und bezeichnet die NSC mehrfach als Partner dieses Vorhabens.

Ausgestattet ist diese Haushaltszeile mit 250.000 € – im Vergleich zur Mittelausstattung für „Preparatory Actions“ in der bereits akzeptierten EU-Makroregion Donauraum oder zur Einführung der EU-Atlantik-Strategie (zwischen 1,5 und 2,0 Mio. €) ein durchaus geringfügiger Betrag. Auf Grundlage einer vertraglichen Vereinbarung mit der Europäischen Kommission können aus dieser Budgetlinie, die eigentlich für die **Vorbereitung von makro-regionalen EU-Strategien** (jeweils auf Beschluss des Europäischen Rates) ausgelegt ist, in einer ersten Phase vertiefende Analysen, Stakeholder-Konferenzen und follow up-Dialog mit Stakeholdern finanziert werden.

Da die NSC mangels eigenem Legalstatus nicht selbst als potenzieller Kontraktpartner der Europäischen Kommission auftreten kann, haben NSC-Sekretariat und beide amtierende NSC-Präsidenten in den vergangenen Monaten **gemeinsam mit der Mutterorganisation KPKR/CPMR die Diskussion mit der Europäischen Kommission** gesucht. Zwischenzeitig war die Zuständigkeit für die Umsetzung der Haushaltszeile von

der DG REGIO auf die DG MARE übertragen worden, die allerdings nicht – wie von der NSC gegenüber der DG REGIO erhofft – einen Weg hin zur Vorbereitung einer potenziellen makro-regionalen EU-Struktur für den Nordseeraum verfolgen darf.

Gestützt auf eine Aussprache der NSC-Jahresversammlung zum aktuellen Status Quo hat der neu gewählte NSC-Präsident mittlerweile in einem Schreiben an die DG MARE Vorschläge und Prioritäten der NSC zur Umsetzung der Haushaltszeile unterbreitet.

Weiteres Verfahren:

Erörterung mit der DG MARE und der KPKR/CPMR bei der nächsten Vorstandssitzung in Brüssel (21.10.2014).

• **Weitere Punkte der Tagesordnung:**

Ohne größere Aussprache angenommen wurden in der Jahresversammlung zwei von der NSC-Arbeitsgruppe „Marine Resources“ erarbeitete **NSC-Positionspapiere** zu den Themen „Maritime Raumordnung“ und „Aquakultur“. Damit hat diese Arbeitsgruppe eine Vorreiterrolle bei der Umsetzung des Auftrags des NSC-Vorstands gemacht, verstärkt NSC-Positionspapiere zur Beschlussfassung durch den Vorstand vorzulegen.⁷

Ausblick, nächste Termine:

- **21.10.2014:** NSC Executive Committee, Brüssel (Norwegen-Haus)
- **Frühjahr 2015:** NSC Executive Committee (Ort und Termin noch zu bestimmen)
- **09.-10.06.2015:** gemeinsame „North Sea Conference 2015“ der NSC und des INTERREG Nordseeprogramms, Assen (Niederland)
- **11.06.2015:** NSC Annual Business Meeting und Executive Committee, ebda.

MJKE, Thomas Pfannkuch, II 503 (i.V. für II 513)

⁷ Vgl. **Anlagen 7 und 8** zu diesem Bericht.

Anlagen:

- 1) Programm der „North Sea Conference“ (25.-27.06.2014, Aberdeen, Schottland/UK)
- 2) Tagesordnung des 23. NSC Annual Business Meeting, 27.06.2014
- 3) Tagesordnung der 65. Sitzung des NSC Executive Committee, 27.06.2014
- 4) “North Sea Region 2020 – Action Plan 2014-2015”
(am 27.06.2014 beschlossene Fassung)
- 5) NSC-Papier „Code of conduct for the Executive Committee“
(am 27.06.2014 beschlossene Fassung)
- 6) Alternative Finanzierungsmodelle für das NSC-Sekretariat
(Informationsvorlage zur NSC-Jahresversammlung am 27.06.2014)
- 7) NSC-Positionspapier zu „Maritime Raumordnung“
(am 27.06.2014 beschlossene Fassung)
- 8) NSC-Positionspapier zu „Aquakultur“
(am 27.06.2014 beschlossene Fassung)

Anlage 1:

Konferenzprogramm „North Sea Conference 2014“ (Aberdeen, 25.-27.06.2014)



THE NORTH SEA
Conference 2014

57° 9' N
2° 6' W

25 – 27 June 2014
Aberdeen City and Shire,
Scotland / UK

     

DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE

Venue: Aberdeen Exhibition & Conference Centre (AECC)
Bridge of Don | AB23 8BL, Aberdeen | <http://aecc.co.uk/>

- 11:00 Registration opens
- 12:00 Lunch
- 13:00 WELCOME – THE NEW PROGRAMME AND THE NORTH SEA**
+ 2014-2020 presentation
+ Welcome from Aberdeenshire and to the North Sea Conference
+ Three generations of Aberdonians
- 13:45 INTERACTIVE SESSIONS – THE FRAMEWORK FOR NSRP 2014-2020**
+ A number of sessions focused on explaining and discussing the framework for the 2014-2020 NSR Programme and the Cooperation Programme of the same, as well as the role of the North Sea Commission
- Thematic workshops:**
+ Priority Axis 1 - Thinking Growth
+ Priority Axis 2 - Eco-Innovation
+ Priority Axis 3 - Sustainable North Sea Region
+ Priority Axis 4 - Green Transport and Mobility
+ North Sea Commission and CPMR
- Teas and coffees will be available in the sessions. Attendance by first-come first-served principle, no separate registration for workshops.
- 16:50 CLOSING PLENARY – DAY 1**
+ Moderated session with questions and reflections on sessions and issues discussed during the first day of the conference, related to 2014-2020.
- 17:30 End of Day 1
- 17:45 Bus transfer to hotels and dinner venue (schedule available online: www.northsearegion.eu)
- 19:30 Dinner at Ardoe House Hotel Entertainment
- 23:00 Bus transfer to City Centre/Hotels

BY INVITE ONLY

DAY 3 – FRIDAY 27 JUNE

Venue: Ardoe House, Aberdeen, Scotland / UK

- 08:30 – 10:30 NSC GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PART 1**
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00 – 13:00 NSC GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PART 2**
- 13:00 – 14:00 Lunch
- 14:00 – 15:00 NSC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

DAY 2 – THURSDAY 26 JUNE

Venue: Aberdeen Exhibition & Conference Centre (AECC)
Bridge of Don | AB23 8BL, Aberdeen | <http://aecc.co.uk/>

- 09:00 STUDY TOURS (LUNCH SERVED)**
Please note: Pick up from major hotels will be arranged (schedule available online: www.northsearegion.eu)
1. Culture and Tourism – Coastal Heritage
 2. Economic Development – The Subsea Cluster
 3. Energy & Climate Change – Sustainable Heating
 4. Marine Resources – Sustainable Maritime Industries
 5. Transport – Sustainable Mobility
- 13:30 Teas and coffees will be served in the workshops area upon return from study tours
- 13:50 STAKEHOLDER SESSIONS**
See separate menu for titles and summaries of the sessions.
- + A number of 20 minute sessions structured around themes and topics for the 2014-2020 programming period, with the aim to share ideas, partner search and forward networking in order to pave the way for project ideas and future projects applications.
- Attendance by first-come first-served principle, no separate registration for workshops.
- 16:10 OPEN CAFÉ**
Exhibition area: Refreshments served at thematic stations where participants can further elaborate on initiated discussions from the stakeholder sessions earlier in the afternoon.
- 17:00 CLOSING PLENARY**
- 17:30 Closing plenary ends
- 17:45 Bus transfer to hotels
- 19:30 Dinner at AECC Conference Centre Conference highlights video
- 22:30 Bus transfer to City Centre/Hotels (schedule available online: www.northsearegion.eu)

MORE INFORMATION

About the programme for the conference and practicalities: www.northsearegion.eu
About the North Sea Region Programme: www.northsearegion.eu
About the North Sea Commission: www.northsea.org
About Aberdeen City: www.aberdeencity.gov.uk
About Aberdeenshire: www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk
About the venue: <http://aecc.co.uk/>

Anlage 2:

Tagesordnung des 23. NSC Annual Business Meeting (Aberdeen, 27.06.2014)



23rd NSC Annual Business Meeting

27th June 2014

8.30-13.00

Ardoe House, Aberdeenshire, Scotland

Draft Agenda

FORMALITIES	
	Welcome
	1. Approval of the agenda
	2. Approval of the minutes of 13 th June 2013
REPORTS	
	3. President's Report
	4. Status of the 25 th Anniversary celebrations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stakeholder conference• Anniversary video• European Maritime Day
	5. Annual Reports from the Thematic Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Culture & Tourismb. Economic Developmentc. Marine Resourcesd. Energy and Climate Changee. Transport
	6. Report from the NSC secretariat
	7. Report from the Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme
	8. Report from CPMR
PRESENTATION	
	9. Presentation by DG Mare (TBC)
STRATEGIC ISSUES	
	10. Status on the preparatory action for the North Sea Region
	11. NSR2020 Action Plan 2014-2015
	12. Code of Conduct for the Executive Committee
	13. Resolution on maritime spatial planning – from the Marine Resources group

	14. Resolution on aquaculture
	15. 25 th Anniversary declaration
FINANCES	
	16. Accounts 2013
	17. Audited report of accounts 2013
	18. Financial status as of 23 rd May 2014
	19. Proposed Budget 2015
NSC ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES	
	20. Scenarios for an independent NSC Secretariat
	21. Election of NSC President
	22. Election of NSC Vice-President
	23. Confirmation of Members and Substitute Members to the NSC Executive Committee 2013-2015
AOB	
	24. Meeting plan 2014-2015
	25. Invitation to the 24 th General Assembly hosted by the Province of Groningen

Anlage 3:

Tagesordnung der 65. Sitzung des NSC Executive Committee, 27.06.2014

NORTH SEA COMMISSION



63rd NSC Executive Committee meeting

14.00-15.00 on 27th June 2014

Ardoe House Hotel

Aberdeenshire, Scotland

Draft Agenda

FORMALITIES

Welcome by the NSC President (newly elected at the ABM)

1. Approval of the agenda

2. Approval of the minutes

NSC ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES

3. Follow-up on decisions made by ABM 27th June 2014

4. Election of Vice-Chairs of thematic groups 2014-2016

5. Status on the preparatory action for the North Sea region

6. Status on the Thematic Group's work plans

AOB

7. Next meeting

8. Additional issues

Anlage 4:

“North Sea Region 2020 – Action Plan 2014-2015” (am 27.06.2014 beschlossene Fassung)

<p style="text-align: center;">North Sea Region 2020 Draft action plan</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Proposed key measures June 2014 – June 2015</p>					
NSR 2020 Priority 1: Managing Maritime Space					
NSR 2020 key measures	Key activities	Expected results/outcomes	Instrument	Lead	
Exchange best practice on Maritime Spatial Planning(MSP)/ Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)	Follow up the analysis of existing MSP policies and strategies around the North Sea, focusing on fisheries and aquaculture. Influence the development and implementation of the EU MSP/ICZM- directive	Analysis of the role of fisheries and aquaculture in different MSP policies and strategies around the North Sea. Common MSP position on MSP/ICZM Dialogue with member states on NSC position on MSP/ICZM	Lobbying Policy generation Collection and compilation of data Stakeholder involvement	Primary: MRG	
Promote sustainable and innovative exploitation of marine resources	Carry out/commission a study on the potential impact on coastal communities of the landing obligations <i>Best practice exchange of implementation of Common Fisheries Policy reform on mixed fisheries.</i> <i>Support innovation and development of selective fishing gear through etc. European Fisheries Technology Centre</i> Support establishment of a scientific working group on aquaculture	Analysis of the impact of the landing obligations around the North Sea. Exchange of best practice, etc from the Skagerrak pilot project. Exchange of information with relevant Research & Development institutions	Lobbying Policy generation Collection and compilation of data Stakeholder involvement	Primary: MRG	

<p>Promote dialogue between all users of the North Sea to facilitate policy integration</p>	<p>Promote the establishment of a North Sea Stakeholder Forum</p> <p>Active participation in the stakeholder conference as part of the NSC 25th anniversary</p> <p>Encourage member regions to facilitate for local stakeholder involvement</p>	<p>Better dialogue between users of the North sea</p>	<p>Stakeholder involvement</p>	<p>Primary: MRG</p>
<p>NSR 2020 Priority 2: Increasing accessibility and clean transport</p>				
<p>NSR 2020 key measures</p> <p>Ensure good access to TEN-T Core for peripheral and maritime regions</p>	<p>Key activities</p> <p><i>Provide arguments and data in support of a coordinated transnational development of transport connections and ports of peripheral and maritime regions through statements to consultations on relevant EU policy papers & instruments, and through the CPMR Intercom Working group on transport.</i></p> <p><i>Work to ensure that the NSC is represented in corridor forums to be established for the implementation of relevant Core Network Corridors (NS-Baltic, Scandinavian-Mediterranean and NS-Mediterranean).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provide input to the work plans of the corridor forums</i> • <i>Promote the regional and maritime dimensions of relevant corridors</i> <p><i>Explore funding opportunities supporting the development of relevant corridors</i></p>	<p>Expected results/outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>NSC participation in Core Network Corridor forums</i> • <i>Funding decisions at EU and national levels (more long-term) in support of projects</i> • <i>Input (arguments and data) submitted to the CPMR Transport group</i> 	<p>Instrument</p> <p>Collection and compilation of data</p> <p>Policy generation</p> <p>Lobbying</p> <p>Project development</p>	<p>Lead</p> <p>Primary: TR</p>

Support measures and incentives to promote clean transport incl. clean shipping	<p>Compile and disseminate existing good practice.</p> <p>Explore the option of developing or capitalizing on results from relevant EU-funded projects.</p> <p>Explore the conditions for and consequences of implementing the IMO & EU Sulphur Directive in the NSR</p>	Improved conditions for reducing emissions and other negative impacts from surface transport and shipping	<p>Collection and compilation of data</p> <p>Projects</p> <p>Policy generation</p> <p>Lobbying</p>	Primary: TR Secondary: MRG, ECCG, EDG
Counteract uneven playing field between modes favouring maritime transport	<p>Provide arguments to the EC based on input from the maritime transport industry on the need to improve the framework conditions of maritime transport, incl. arguments for providing investments and start-up and operational support to sea-based services in relevant EU instruments</p>	<p>The administrative framework for maritime transport is equivalent to/not inferior to land-based transport modes.</p> <p>Improved conditions for starting up and operating sea-based services</p>	<p>Collection and compilation of data</p> <p>Policy generation</p> <p>Lobbying</p>	Primary: TR Secondary: MRG
NSR 2020 Priority 3: Tackling climate change				
NSR 2020 key measures	Key activities	Expected results/outcomes	Instrument	Lead
Develop catalogue and action plan for climate adaptation	Work with members in developing the action plan	A Catalogue of actions for members to take forward	Collection of Data from Members	Primary: ECCG Secondary: MRG, TG, EDG, CTG
Promote innovations and growth in low-carbon tech. in various sectors	Work with members to promote new innovations in their respective authorities, in the field of Gas in transition (biogas, LNG, Power to Gas), Tidal and Blue Energy, Smart Cities and Communities.	New take ups	Collection of Data Projects	Primary: ECCG Secondary: MRG, TG, EDG, CTG
Develop a Hydrogen Strategy for the North Sea Region	Work closely with the HyTRC Project and develop a strategy for Hydrogen within the North Sea Region and Develop a Hydrogen Corridor	A Strategy Document	A strategy Document with projects ideas for future funding rounds	Primary: ECCG Secondary: MRG, EDG
Policy recommendations on Energy for the new 2014 to	Develop Energy related Project idea for the new funding call.	A document pulling together results from various Energy related projects	Document of new Project ideas, a Joint Action Plan.	Primary: ECCG Secondary: MRG, EDG

2020 North Sea Programme	Working together with the European North Sea Energy Alliance, ENSEA consortium	with an outcome for new project ideas	Within the ENSEA consortium	
North Sea Grid	Work in partnership with the CPMR Energy Group	To Lobby the EU to ensure that the industry could not put extra charges on peripheral areas concerning transmission fees once the North Sea Grid is developed.	Policy recommendation Document with the CPMR	Primary: ECCCG Secondary: MRG, EDG
NSR 2020 Priority 4: Attractive and sustainable communities				
NSR 2020 key measures	Key activities	Expected results/outcomes	Instrument	Lead
Cluster development in various sectors (maritime, tourism, energy, food, biotech)	Promote innovation, excellence and sustainability through seminars, project development, meetings, ICT and competition. Develop a joint NSC cooperative scheme, involving all Thematic Groups.	Innovative clusters Economic growth More competitive North Sea Region Be able to employ more people and to sell more products and services This can be achieved through knowledge sharing, sharing best practice, "doing things" (exploring) and innovations.	Policy recommendations Projects Financing from Interreg, national, regional and local budgets, private sector and/or other EU programmes.	Primary: EDG Secondary: MRG, ECCCG, CTG
Address urban-rural divides and immigration	Seminars, meetings and project development. Cooperation with the Energy and Climate Change Group. Development of a political framework for future cooperation.	North Sea Region being recognized as a major economic entity based on attractive and knowledge based sustainable communities Active healthy ageing. Innovation as a driver for better results achieved with less money Plans for youth on the move. European Platform against poverty	Policy recommendations Projects Financing from Interreg, national, regional and local budgets, private sector and/or other EU programmes.	Primary: EDG Secondary: ECCCG
Foster stakeholder cooperation in labour market, education and research policy	Strengthen cooperation with research institutions and universities. Capitalization of the region's excellence. Promote innovation in existing and upcoming sectors.	Resource efficient Europe Maintain supply of teachers in changing demography's Inspiring school leadership	Policy recommendations Projects Financing from Interreg, national, regional and local budgets, private sector and/or	Primary: EDG

Explore Life Long Learning to improve skills and employability	Joint conference on innovative processes in cooperation with the other NSC Thematic Groups.	An agenda for new skills and jobs A digital agenda/platform for Europe	other EU programmes. Policy recommendations Projects Financing from Interreg, national, regional and local budgets, private sector and/or other EU programmes.	Primary: EDG Secondary: MRG, ECCG, CTG, TG
Development of sustainable North Sea tourism	Route development: North Sea Seafood Route, North Sea Coastal Experience Visit Your Neighbours And others Presentation at tourism day and similar events	General acceptance and adherence to these products; Recognition by CoR, funding by EU. <i>Establishment of independent organisations for each route project.</i> A North Sea Tourism branding Increased tourism in the North Sea coastal areas.	Lobbying Project Application development Stakeholder conference/seminar	Primary: CTG Secondary:
Identify opportunities for culture and tourism and provide coop framework	<i>Mapping/identification of issues where inter-regional co-operation is of benefit for the member regions in the fields of culture and tourism.</i>	<i>NSC action plans for specific issues where intensified co-operation adds value and perspectives to the regional development.</i>	Policy generation <i>Policy recommendation(s)</i> Project development.	Primary: CTG Secondary:
NSR 2020 Priority 5: Promoting innovation, excellence and sustainability				
The priority promoting innovation, excellence and sustainability is a horizontal priority and is therefore included in all the other priorities.				

Cross cutting initiatives

Initiative	Key activities	Expected results/outcomes	Instrument	Lead
<i>Preparatory Action for the North Sea Region</i>	<i>Stakeholder conferences In-depth analysis of the five priorities identified in the NSR2020 strategy paper Follow-up dialogue with all stakeholders</i>	<i>Analysis of the NSR's growth potential Investigation of the added value of having a future macro-regional strategy for the NSR</i>	<i>Research Stakeholder activities Dialogue/lobbying</i>	<i>New NSC Secretariat</i>

Anlage 5:

NSC-Papier „Code of conduct for the Executive Committee“ (beschlossene Fassung)

NORTH SEA COMMISSION



Appendix 12a

Code of conduct for the Executive Committee of the North Sea Commission

During the Danish presidency in 2012-2013 work has been undertaken to make the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the North Sea Commission more political and to streamline procedures. This note is part of this process as it lists the code of conduct of a national representative on ExCom, as this has not always been apparent, and it also lists recommendation for improving the work of ExCom.

Code of conduct of a national representative

A national representative on ExCom is obliged to be in close contact with the national government and national stakeholders in his/her own country. A national representative on ExCom must also work with the other member regions in her/his country and it is important to stress that they represent the whole country and do not just speak as an individual person. In order to do that, it is recommended that he/she sets up a system of consulting the other NSC member regions in that country on NSC issues, such as f. ex. getting their views on the ExCom agenda.

The national representative is also encouraged to ask for input to ExCom meetings from the other NSC members so it becomes a two-way process. There may f. ex. be some issues which other member regions think the ExCom should deal with and it is the role of the national representative to make sure these issues are brought to the attention of ExCom. After ExCom meetings and when other important decisions are made and developments happen in the NSC, the national representative is obliged to make sure all member regions in that country receive the information.

In order to efficiently deal with this contact to the other NSC member regions in his/her country, and to disseminate NSC information, it is recommended to set up a network of competent staff in all regions and to encourage good interaction between politicians and officers.

A more political ExCom

The NSC ExCom must be more proactive and have an opinion on current topics of relevance to the North Sea Commission. It is in addition also necessary for ExCom to become more political and to foster stronger links between ExCom and the thematic groups. This can be done by either ExCom scanning the EU agendas and identifying topics which can be discussed at ExCom meetings or by the thematic groups bringing up topics which are relevant to the work of their groups. This can be done by them f. ex. taking it in turn to present position papers, bearing in mind that not all groups operate in a similar political sphere and therefore will not be able to present the same number of position papers.

When time and circumstances permit, a presentation should be given to ExCom on a current topic. This can be topics which the NSC thematic groups work on or topics from a broader European agenda.

NSC politicians are furthermore encouraged to attend the meetings of the thematic groups whenever possible. Political attendance at groups meetings is not restricted to chairs and vice-chairs.

Stronger links should also be fostered to the CPMR. They have staff dedicated to specialists working areas and therefore good knowledge of what is happening on the EU agenda and where and how topics can be influenced. One way of doing this would be to have topics from the agenda of the CPMR Political Bureau on the NSC ExCom agenda. The NSC president, who is a member of the CPMR Political Bureau, could invite comments and input to the agenda items and present recommendations. Other ExCom members who are also members of the CPMR Political Bureau should assist in this task. The current situation with the report from the CPMR at NSC ExCom meetings merely being nodded to does not help giving the ExCom a stronger political profile. The same can be said about the Committee of the Regions, where the NSC ought to exploit this link more and to get an overview of the overlap between NSC members and CoR members.

Participating in the CPMR working groups is also a way of becoming more involved and making the NSC voice heard and the NSC thematic groups should be encouraged to participate in the corresponding CPMR group, if it exists and systematically report back to ExCom.

Stronger links between the Thematic Groups and ExCom

By becoming more political as mentioned above, a result will also be that ExCom and the Thematic Groups become stronger linked. As the chairs of the thematic groups attend ExCom meetings they are an important link between the groups and ExCom but also the link between the more political aspects in ExCom and the more operational and practical angle to the topics in the thematic groups. Most groups do also have a political focus, but the link to ExCom is very important, as it is the political body of the NSC.

It is important that both ExCom and the Thematic Groups are aware of issues which could be brought up in the groups or in ExCom and where NSC can voice its opinion on relevant topics. As listed above, the thematic groups should be encouraged to present resolutions and give presentations on topics from their groups to ExCom. This is also a way of heightening the knowledge of all ExCom members.

Organisational issues

In order to strengthen the political profile of the NSC and to foster new and stronger links with representatives from the EU institutions, an ExCom meeting will each year be located in Brussels. This is like in other areas also a two-way process, as the NSC will be able to talk to EU politicians and officers and tell them about our concerns for the North Sea Region and to lobby for the views of the NSC and on the other hand it is an opportunity to obtain first-hand knowledge of developments in Brussels.

Together all the NSC member regions' Brussels offices make up a huge pool of expertise, which the NSC ought to use in a more efficient manner. It makes sense for the NSC president and the NSC Secretariat to act as "antenna" and co-ordinate the group of Brussels offices. It is important to involve as many NSC officers in this pool to mobilize and exploit combined resources.

The more ExCom members know of the issues which the NSC deals with and the more people who are involved the better. It is therefore recommended that also vice-chairs of the thematic groups should be allowed to attend ExCom meetings. Everybody is encouraged to speak at ExCom meetings, but only the presidency and the national representatives can vote.

Anlage 6:

Alternative Finanzierungsmodelle für das NSC-Sekretariat (Informationsvorlage)



23rd NSC Annual Business Meeting
27th June 2014

20. Alternative models for the NSC secretariat

In November 2013 the NSC lost its President in mid-term and after only 18 months in the seat. This situation triggered a discussion in the Executive Committee about the funding and organisation of the NSC Secretariat and the question was raised whether the time had come to consider alternative models for funding and organising the Secretariat.

At its meeting on 13th March 2014 the Executive Committee discussed the issue and were presented with a briefing note giving an overview of how the other CPMR geographical commissions are set up. This briefing note is found in appendix 20a. At the meeting the Executive Committee concluded that the Secretariat should look into different models for a Secretariat to be presented at the Annual Business meeting 27th June 2014.

Current model

The NSC Secretariat has so far been hosted and funded by the President's region and therefore moves location and changes staff with the election of a new president. This set-up has its strong points but the ExCom discussion also pointed to two underlying weaknesses of the model.

Strengths

1. The president and the secretariat are closely connected both organisationally and physically which facilitates a very close and direct dialogue and division of competence and leadership between the president and the secretariat.
2. The secretariat is funded by the president's region and is therefore a financially cheap model for other member regions.

Weaknesses

1. There is a loss of competence and lack of continuity when the secretariat transfers from one region to another. It involves a transition period where a new Secretariat gets up to speed and builds up competences.

Solution: One solution would be to create a secretariat that is independent of the president and therefore can continue to operate at normal capacity and level regardless of who is elected president.

2. The model is somewhat undemocratic because the opportunity for a regional political representative to take on the NSC presidency depends on his/her region's ability and willingness to fund the secretariat which requires 1½ to 2 full time staff.

Solution: One solution would be to increase membership fees to partly or fully fund the secretariat

Alternative models

There are different ways of overcoming these weaknesses and below is a presentation of four models that in various ways differ from the current model and try to address one or both of the weaknesses expressed by the ExCom. They do not represent an exhaustive list but should merely be seen as four alternative ways of organising and funding the secretariat. More models could be developed, for example, by choosing a different funding mix between membership fees and contributions from a host region.

23rd NSC Annual Business Meeting
27th June 2014

Model 1

Decentralised membership funded Secretariat	Hosting	Funding mix	Addresses weaknesses
Same organisational set-up as today but the costs of running the secretariat is paid for by membership fees	President's region	100% by membership fees	Does not address weakness no. 1 Fully addresses weakness no. 2

Model 2

Decentralised part-membership funded Secretariat	Hosting	Funding mix	Addresses weaknesses
Same organisational set-up as today but the costs of running the secretariat is partly paid for by membership fees.	President's region	50% by hosting region	Does not address weakness no. 1
		50% by membership fees	
		40% by hosting region	Partly addresses weakness no. 2
		60% by membership fees	
		30% by hosting region	
70% by membership fees			

Model 3

Centralised Secretariat	Hosting	Funding mix	Addresses weaknesses
Full-time Executive secretary recruited by the CPMR and part-time CPMR assistant – both located in the CPMR offices in Brussels and working in close collaboration with the president's region	CPMR general secretariat	100% by membership fees	Fully addresses weakness no. 1 Fully addresses weakness no. 2

Model 4

Semi-centralised Secretariat	Hosting	Funding mix	Addresses weaknesses
Full-time executive secretary recruited by the CPMR and located in the CPMR offices in Brussels Part- or full-time administrative officer in the president's region	CPMR general secretariat	100% by membership fees	Partly addresses weakness no. 1
	President's region	100% by membership fees	Fully addresses weakness no. 2



Financial implications

These are four alternative models for organising and funding the secretariat. However, common to all of them is that the level of funding from NSC member regions will have to increase and this is a key question that the Annual Business Meeting will have to discuss.

The financial implications of the different models depend on the salary level in the country where the secretariat staff is employed and are therefore difficult to assess accurately. However, a calculation based on yearly salary expenses of €100.000, covering 1½ to 2 full time positions, will mean an increase of up to 70,6% in membership fees if the secretariat is fully funded by membership fees. A different funding mix would of course result in a lesser increase in fees.

An overview of current membership fees per NSC region is attached in appendix 20b.

Recommendation:

The Secretariat recommends that the Annual Business Meeting

- 1. Discusses the issue of increasing membership fees and decides whether a membership fee increase to partly or fully fund the NSC secretariat should be pursued***
- 2. Discusses the four alternative models for organising and funding the secretariat***
- 3. Decides on future action and mandates the Executive Committee to progress the work***

Anlage 7:

NSC-Positionspapier zu „Maritime Raumordnung“ (beschlossene Fassung)

NORTH SEA COMMISSION



Appendix 13a

Maritime Spatial Planning

Marine Resource Group

The European Commission proposed a directive on a framework for maritime spatial planning & integrated coastal zone management in 2013. The main purpose of the proposed directive is to promote the sustainable growth of maritime and coastal activities and the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources by establishing a framework for the effective implementation of maritime spatial planning in EU waters and integrated coastal management in the coastal areas of Member States. The North Sea Commission agrees in principal that a directive on this matter is needed. The following resolution gives recommendations from the North Sea Commission on implementation of the directive when adopted.

The North Sea Commission recommends:

- The North Sea is one of the most intensively used sea basins in the world. A cross-country approach is needed to address the competition between different users of the sea.
- The core element is to find a sustainable balance between blue growth and environmental protection.
- Regions can be new platforms for innovation. Regional authorities have knowledge about local conditions and challenges, in addition to close dialogue with stakeholders.
- Predictable, long term planning is important to boost regional attractiveness.
- The link between terrestrial planning and sea planning needs to be addressed.

North Sea Region – an engine for blue growth

The North Sea Region includes a number of strong economies and is one of the most successful regions in Europe. The North Sea Region has the potential to act as an engine for growth in Europe. Being a complex and open marine ecosystem, the North Sea is a nursery for fish and a migratory and wintering area for many species of birds. It is also one of the most heavily used seas, supporting fishing, shipping, trade, energy, sand mining, defense and recreation. Increasing and to a large extent uncoordinated use of the sea leads to competition between the different users of the sea. A key challenge in the North Sea is the management of conflicts between competing users of the sea basin.

The sea and the coasts are drivers of the economy. If we count all economic activities that depend on the sea, then the EU's blue economy represents 5.4 million jobs and a gross added value of just under €500 billion per year. Because of their outward-looking geography, ports and coastal communities have traditionally been centres for new ideas and innovation. Growth in the blue economy offers new and innovative ways to help steer the EU out of its current economic crisis. It represents the maritime dimension of the Europe 2020 strategy. Blue growth can contribute to the EU's international competitiveness, resource efficiency, job creation and new sources of growth whilst safeguarding biodiversity and protecting the marine environment.

Regions – new platforms for innovation

North Sea Commission was founded in 1989 to facilitate and enhance partnership between regions around the North Sea. It has grown to be an important organization for policy making and regional influence at the European level. Regions can become new platforms for innovation in Europe. The mentioned draft directive states that "the relevant authorities" shall be consulted on the draft plans and strategies. This point may facilitate taking specific consideration of the regions. This consideration is essential to the success of any new EU initiative.

Even around the North Sea, it differs quite a lot from country to country whether competence on coastal and maritime spatial planning are to be found at local, regional or national level. The Marine Resource Group of the NSC has conducted a comparative analysis of the management systems in the different North Sea countries. Despite the differences, all NSC members have an interest of regional development and good environmental standard.

The core challenge for marine planning is to find a balance between blue growth and environmental protection. The North Sea Commission believes that management of maritime

space must be built on the principles of sustainable development; a balance between good environmental standard, economic growth and social concerns. In the North Sea Commission we are all maritime regions. For maritime regions regional development is very much connected to the notion of blue growth. Coastal regions have the advantage of proximity and interaction with stakeholders and the actual opportunities and challenges they face relating to blue growth.

The draft directive provides for the need for member states to cooperate across borders as well as with third countries, to develop plans and strategies. This is a key added value of the directive. The North Sea Commission stresses that regions should also be involved in this dialogue. The organization has long traditions of successful cooperation between North Sea regions, including regions in Norway.

Predictable planning to boost regional attractiveness

A key challenge to maritime spatial planning is to prioritize between competing users of the sea, and between economic growth and environmental protection. The neutral character of the balance between the different uses of coastal and maritime areas is a central element of the approach put forward by the European Commission. It is necessary to define the relationship between an ecosystem-approach and blue growth. Although managing maritime space is a difficult exercise, clear and predictable plans will make coastal regions more attractive.

Furthermore, stakeholder involvement at an early stage is a success factor for marine planning. A number of concerns can be met by dialogue and involvement in the process. Relevant stakeholders will also possess important knowledge which can prove important for the planning process. Stakeholder involvement can also foster opportunities on co-existence between different sectorial uses.

The North Sea Commission believes that knowledge about the marine conditions is vital to achieve a sustainable management of the sea basins. It depends upon knowledge of the state of the sea now, how it was in the past and how it might change in the future. North Sea regions have already conducted projects, showing the importance of marine data and stakeholder involvement. More importantly is also the need for coherent and shared information and knowledge about the marine environment in a cross-country approach. Harmonized plans and policies would contribute to a more effective use of space and available resources.

Sea/land planning

Several models exist in Europe on the organisation of the links between MSP and ICZM and on how to organise consistency of the actions concerning coastal areas with those concerning maritime areas. It is therefore important that the MSP and ICZM are addressed together at European level, whilst allowing national authorities and regions maximum flexibility to organise the relationship between MSP and ICZM at their levels. The North Sea Commission believes that MSP and ICZM should be addressed together in the directive, but is missing the link between coastal and terrestrial planning.

Follow up for the North Sea Commission:

- ExCom members are requested to bring the adopted resolution forward to the respective national level representatives. The MSP/ICZM directive is currently being negotiated between the European Parliament and the Council. Timing requests dialogue with the member state level.
- Maritime Spatial Planning is an overarching theme, important for future prosperity of the North Sea region. The Marine Resource Group suggests that maritime spatial planning should be considered as an area for investigating added value of increased macro-regional cooperation.

Anlage 8:

NSC-Positionspapier zu „Aquakultur“ (am 27.06.2014 beschlossene Fassung)

Aquaculture – Resolution - May 26 2014

Marine Resource Group



Aquaculture – potential of blue growth

The blue economy is playing an important part in the development and economic recovery in Europe. At current the maritime sector employs 5, 4 million people in the EU area, with a potential to employ 7 million by 2020. The European Commission has published a communication on blue growth, which identifies aquaculture as one of the areas with highest growth potential. Development of sustainable aquaculture activities can contribute to food security, growth and employment¹. The following position document gives recommendations from the North Sea Commission on how the European aquaculture sector can grow in a sustainable manner.

The North Sea Commission recommends:

- The North Sea region has the potential to act as engine for growth in Europe, and has great potential to increase EU aquaculture production and competitiveness
- Aquaculture is important for employment and value creation in rural areas. The North Sea Commission wants to facilitate for aquaculture growth to take place in maritime peripheral regions in Europe.
- Aquaculture needs to find its space and grow in coordination with other users of the sea.
- Knowledge about the marine conditions is essential to achieve a sustainable management of the sea basins.
- Dialogue with stakeholders is vital for aquaculture development, and to foster opportunities on co-existence with other maritime sectors

¹ [REGULATION \(EU\) No 1380/2013](#) OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1954/2003 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulations (EC) and Council Decision 2004/585/EC No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004

Food production

Aquaculture is the fastest-growing animal-food-producing sector worldwide. Wild fish alone cannot meet the global demand of healthy seafood. Sustainable aquaculture production can thus be a vital part of global food production. Farmed fish accounts for half of the fish consumed globally, and have still growth potential. The situation is different in the EU-area, where by contrast aquaculture only supplies one quarter of the market. The industry is facing challenges concerning lack of space, public awareness and cumbersome licensing rules. Yet, with targeted measures the sector could easily expand.²

The Common Fisheries Policy reform promotes aquaculture on equal terms as fisheries. Expansion of the aquaculture sector will however need to find a balance between blue growth and good environmental standard. There is an added value for Europe to find fruitful ways to cooperate on environmental and health issues within aquaculture.

The European Commission presented strategic guidelines for sustainable development of EU aquaculture in 2013³. The Commission states that aquaculture can contribute to the overall objective of filling the gap between EU consumption and production in a way that is environmentally, socially and economically sustainable. The North Sea region has the potential to act as an engine for growth in Europe. The North Sea Commission wants to highlight how the North Sea region can contribute to increase EU aquaculture production and competitiveness. Meanwhile, the North Sea Commission also wants to underline the added value of cooperation between relevant stakeholders in and around the North Sea basin on this topic.

Employment

Although aquaculture represents a small part of the EU economy today, it has the potential to boost growth and jobs in both coastal and inland areas. The North Sea Commission acknowledges the importance aquaculture plays in many rural areas for value creation and

² COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS Blue Growth opportunities for marine and maritime sustainable growth /* COM/2012/0494 final */

³ [COM/2013/229](#) Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (29/04/2013)

employment. This is the case in many of the member regions of the organisation. For maritime regions regional development is very much connected to the notion of blue growth. The North Sea Commission wants to facilitate for aquaculture growth to take place in maritime peripheral regions in Europe.

Maritime Spatial Planning

The North Sea and its coastal areas are characterized by intensive and to a large extent uncoordinated use. A key challenge to maritime spatial planning is to prioritize between competing users of the sea, and between economic growth and environmental protection. Maritime Spatial Planning is an important tool to facilitate for co-existence. Aquaculture needs to find its space and grow in coordination with other users of the sea. The strategic guidelines for EU aquaculture cite lack of space as a hindering factor for expansion of marine aquaculture. The North Sea Commission believes that the needs of the aquaculture sector needs to be weighed on equal terms with other users when planning maritime space. Moreover, it is also important to acknowledge the need to plan for the right species at the right place and to the right market. Different part of Europe should take advantage of their competitive advantages.

Marine Knowledge and research cooperation

Furthermore priority of space and management of maritime space needs to be based on marine knowledge. The North Sea Commission believes that knowledge about the marine conditions is vital to achieve a sustainable management of the sea basins. It depends upon knowledge of the state of the sea now, how it was in the past and how it might change in the future. North Sea regions have already conducted projects, showing the importance of marine data and stakeholder involvement. More importantly is also the need for coherent and shared information and knowledge about the marine environment in a cross-country approach. Harmonized plans and policies would contribute to a more effective use of space and available resources.

The North Sea Commission shares the concern of the effect from aquaculture on the environment. Cross border research cooperation and exchange of knowledge can help overcome the challenges. Research and innovation can also contribute to see new opportunities and developing cross-sectorial solutions, such as renewable energy, cosmetics and medicine.

The North Sea Commission has initiated meeting points for aquaculture researchers in the member regions. This is an area which we want to follow up and continue to engage with researchers. Innovation and R&D are core elements to see more jobs and growth in the aquaculture sector.

Stakeholder involvement

The strategic guidelines for EU aquaculture highlight the need for stakeholder involvement at an early stage. An Aquaculture Advisory Council has been proposed to make sure that all relevant actors should be engaged. The advisory council should enable the Commission and Member States to benefit from the knowledge and experience of all stakeholders.

This is a view the North Sea Commission shares. A number of concerns can be met by dialogue and involvement in the process. Relevant stakeholders will also possess important knowledge which can prove important for the development. Stakeholder involvement can also foster opportunities on co-existence with other maritime sectors.

An associated topic is exchange of best practice. This is an area where the North Sea Commission can play a role. Regions can become new platforms for innovation in Europe. Regional authorities have knowledge about local conditions and challenges, in addition to close dialogue with stakeholders.

Licensing and administrative procedures are mentioned as a bottleneck for growth. A fair share of the member regions in the North Sea Commission are from Norway. Norway is the world's leading producer of Atlantic salmon and the second largest seafood exporter in the world. Aquaculture is a mature industry, and reforms have made the licensing procedure more efficient. This is one example where exchange of best practice should be further developed.