



Report

9th Ordinary General Assembly of the Nordic Marine Think Tank, Friday 10 December 2021, Elsinore, Denmark

Agenda for the General Assembly

- (1) Election of moderator and rapporteur
- (2) Adoption of the agenda and possible mandates
- (3) The annual report from the Chair
- (4) Presentation of annual accounts for adoption
- (5) Presentation of the Board's work plan concerning activities planned for the upcoming year
- (6) Presentation of the Board's proposed budget for the coming financial year, including the level of the membership fees, for adoption
- (7) Proposals submitted
- (8) Election of the Board and auditor
- (9) Any other business

Present: The NMTT Chair Carl-Christian Schmidt and Vice Chair Dorothy Dankel, Ásmundur Guðjónsson, Bryndís Björnsdóttir (on line), Hans Lassen, Helge Paulsen (online), Jesper Heldbo, Johan Williams (online), Staffan Waldo (online) and Lars Clink and Odma Johannesen, NMTT Secretariat.

1. **Election of moderator and rapporteur**

The NMTT Chair welcomed the participants to 9th ordinary General Assembly. Odma Johannesen was elected as moderator and rapporteur for the meeting.

2. **Adoption of the agenda and possible mandates**

The Secretariat had received no comments to the agenda and no mandates received. The GA adopted the agenda.

3. **The annual report from the Chair**

The NMTT Chair informed on the preparation of the Joint NMTT-ICES Workshop launching the Nordic Climate Change Forum for Fisheries and Aquaculture 9-10 December 2021. More than 60 were registered for the conference and more than 50 attended in person or online. The corona pandemic has made all activities difficult to carry out including the preparation and participation of this workshop. However the result has been very satisfying and opens for future work on climate change in fisheries and aquaculture including ecosystem aspects on adaptation and mitigation. The workshop has provided new opportunities for networking, one of which to better gauge the need for gear innovation to reduce fossil fuel consumption in fishing fleets.

Helge Paulsen (Nordic Council of Ministers' fisheries research group) was pleased with the workshop. He reminded that on future work in this field should include other stakeholders such as voluntary organizations and traders. He suggested that one possible way forward was to host networking events with NGOs active in the fisheries and aquaculture fields.

Ásmundur Guðjónsson (NORA) mentioned the world wide interest and focus in maritime affairs and the fact that the ocean issues are coming higher up on the agenda. The Nordic cooperation has decided to focus on the sustainable development. The Nordic chairmanship will be chaired by Norway in 2022 and Sweden in 23 as Sweden will chair the EU in 2022 with focus on the youth and on ocean affairs.

Andreas Stokseth informed that the Nordic Council of Ministers will focus on sustainable ocean economy and will be supplemented by Nora as Nora will allocate 18 million Danish Crowns to reduce CO2 emissions.

Johan Williams underlined the need to shed some more light on these issues. There is no need for immediate action, however focus should be on aquaculture which should be put on the NMTT Board agenda.

The Chair thanked for these interventions and informed that the chair and vice chair will provide a brief report on the workshop which will be available on the NMTT web-site. He also highlighted possibilities for continuing work on climate change in 2022.

The "Fisher Pay project" is finalized. An important point is that fisheries are not equally organized or structured in all Nordic countries. There are fewer vessels and they are modernized and efficient with a smaller crew. The fishermen's wages are related to the catch value and wage levels are high compared to comparable land-based jobs. The project continues its finalization of the report in early 2022.

4. **Presentation of annual accounts for adoption**

Lars presented the accounts. The NMTT's assets had increased from the surplus of two older projects. Two new projects were open and to be finished next year.

The accounts were approved.

5. **Presentation of the Board's work plan concerning activities planned for the upcoming year**

This was covered by the chair's report (point 3).

6. **Presentation of the Board's proposed budget for the coming financial year, including the level of the membership fees, for adoption**

Lars presented the budget which was approved by the board 1 March 2021. There were no comments.

7. **Proposals submitted**

The Chair informed that no proposals were submitted.

8. **Election of the Board and auditor**

The Board re-elected

- Ásmundur Guðjónsson (FO)
- Dorothy Dankel (NO)
- Odma Johannesen (FO)
- Staffan Waldo (SE)

to the NMTT Board.

The Board elected Dorothy Dankel to chair the NMTT the next two years. The auditor, Birgitte Gawron/Albjerg Revison, was re-elected.

9. **Any other business**

The Chair thanked for the meeting and was very pleased with the excellent cooperation with the Nordic Council of Minister including Helge Paulsen who will retire. He thanked for the cooperation and wished him all the best in the future.