



# NORDIC MARINE THINK TANK

Copenhagen, 19 December 2025

## Minutes

### 13<sup>th</sup> Ordinary general Assembly of the Nordic Marine Think Tank Monday 1 December. Zoom meeting

**Present:** Board: The NMTT Chair Dorothy Dankel, Vice-chair Carl-Christian Schmidt, Staffan Waldo, Jens Henrik Møller, Hildur Hauksdóttir, Jesper Heldbo, Johan Williams, Marita Rasmussen. From the NMTT Secretariat Lars Clink, Sonja Feldthaus and Alma Sommer.

Following members attended: Asmundur Gudjonsson, Kasper Teilmann, Thomas Vedsmand, Søren Qvist Eliasen, Søren Anker Pedersen.

#### 1. Welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed everybody to the 13<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Assembly.

#### 2. Election of moderator and rapporteur.

Jens Henrik Møller was elected moderator and Sonja Feldthaus rapporteur.

#### 3. Adoption of the agenda and possible mandates

The updated agenda was adopted. It was noted that the invitation to the 13<sup>th</sup> ordinary General Assembly was sent out in accordance with the rules laid down in the statute. Two proposals were submitted on time and included in the updated agenda and will be addressed under item 9. No mandates were received.

#### 4. NMTT Annual report presented by the Chair

The Chair summarized the main NMTT activities taking place in 2025. Three Board meetings were held and a fourth one will be held following today's General Assembly. NMTT hosted in January 2025 the third workshop on Nordic Climate Change Forum for Fisheries and Aquaculture. 55 participants attended. The feedback received was very positive and the report is available at the NMTT home page. Two projects were submitted in 2025 for external funding; one on energy efficiency in fisheries and one on social acceptability of aquaculture, but not accepted for funding. Internal funding will be used for the fourth workshop on Nordic Climate Change Forum for Fisheries and Aquaculture taking place on 29 January 2026. In this context the NMMT has strengthened its secretarial capacity with the assistance of Alma Sommer.

The Chair mentioned the most important topics addressed at the Board meetings. Denmark has reported about electricity supplies in ports for vessels in harbors, postponing of the CO<sub>2</sub> fees on fuel in Danish fisheries for four years, meetings in FAO with focus on the fishing fleet which reveals a significant decline in number of vessels with approximately 25 % in a few years, allocation of 150 million EUR to the fishing sector for mainly energy purposes through the Danish EU fishery program, participation in international seminars and meeting on shrimp and finalization of report about shrimp fishery in Peru. For Norway and Sweden, information on closure of fisheries in inner

waters due to dire condition for a number of fish stocks. Norway has approved a one billion NKK program named Arctic Ocean 2050 to be completed over the next ten years, addressed the pelagic complex and paper prepared on this subject, information about record high export of fish products, participation in UN Ocean conference, meeting with UK on how to fish inshore in offshore wind parks, EU arctic dialogue in Finland, paper published on “Are we ready to be wrong?” – advice on mackerel -, contacted by the Faroe Island and Greenland to assist in preparation of a Nordic Council meeting on the pelagic complex (the agenda has been changed and the pelagic complex is deleted from the program). Sweden has reported about the dire situation for the Baltic Sea herring, through the EU Commission Sweden has asked ICES to improve its advice. In Iceland a new legislation concerning fees on catch values to be based on auction prices in Norway has been adopted and is now disputed by stakeholders and Iceland is exploring EU accession again.

#### **5. Policy Brief presented by the Chair**

The Chair informed that NMTT had planned to write an annual policy brief, which unfortunately did not happen in 2025 as the Board has not yet reached full consensus on the topic to be addressed. The work will be continued next year.

Based on examples from the ICES advice the Chair noted that mackerel fishery is still a challenging aspect in fisheries management and still complicated as the Coastal States in the NEAFC context did not succeed in adopting management measures for the fishery in 2026 which has now been the situation for several years. Mackerel is a difficult species to assess in a comprehensive way whilst applying a methodology which is insufficient to capture the stock situation resulting in many uncertainties. There is an obvious gap between advice and stakeholders' involvement. The chair posed the question whether we are ready to be wrong? It is of utmost importance to ensure credibility with respect to advice given. The presentation was followed by a fruitful discussion where it was pointed out that focus on scientific methodology, the process for leading to the advice, stakeholder involvement and organizational issues and institutional frameworks should be looked upon in order to improve the overall advice and management options.

NMTT will invite to the fourth Nordic Climate Change Forum on 29 January 2026 in Helsingborg. New NMTT projects will be pending possible financing.

#### **6. Presentation of the Board's work**

NMTT will invite to the fourth Nordic Climate Change Forum for Fisheries and Aquaculture on 29 January 2026 in Helsingborg. New NMTT projects will be pending possible financing.

#### **7. Presentation of the Account**

Lars Clink presented the 2024 audited accounts which is signed by the board and includes statements from the auditor stating that the accounts are in accordance with legal requirements as well as accepted accounting principles.

#### **8. Proposed budget for 2025 for NMTT**

The budget for 2025 shows a surplus and part of it will be allocated to arrange the fourth Nordic Climate Change Forum. It was agreed to keep the membership fee for 2026 unchanged at the level of DKK 100.

#### **9. Proposals submitted**

##### *9.1 Communication plan*

With a view to strengthening awareness of the NMTT's activities, NMTT has drawn up an information plan containing information about the organization and its activities as well as the composition of the Board including contact addresses.

**9.2. NMTT strategy paper**

During 2025 NMTT developed a twofold strategy paper, one for internal guidance and one for external purposes aiming at making the NMTT more visible so to attract more people to become members and participate in NMTT activities. The external strategy can be accessed on the NMTT homepage.

**10. Election of Board and auditor**

Four NMTT Board members were up for election. All four, Dorothy Dankel, Staffan Waldo, Jens Henrik Møller and Marita Rasmussen were all re-elected for new two-year period. The current Auditor Alberg/ Lissen Fagerlin Hammer continues as NMTT's auditor in 2026.

**11. Any other business**

No issues were raised.

