



Copenhagen, 1 October 2025

Minutes NMTT Board Meeting QIII

2 September 2025, 14.00-15.30 (CET) Zoom)

Present: The NMTT Chair Dorothy Dankel, Vice-chair Carl-Christian Schmidt, Staffan Waldo, Jens Møller, Johan Williams, Hildur Hauksdóttir. Not present: Jesper Heldbo and Marita Rasmussen. From the NMTT Secretariat: Lars Clink and Sonja Feldthaus

Agenda

1. Welcome.

The chair opened the meeting informing that Victor Hjort, who was one of the founding fathers of the NMTT, passed away in July. Victor was an inspiring Board member to work with. For many years Victor carried out secretarial duties for the NMTT with great skill. May his memory be honored.

The chair also welcomed everybody to the QIII Board meeting. Dorothy will contact Marita to clarify her participation in future meetings.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

3. Approval of Minutes, Board meeting QII, 12 May 2025

The Minutes from Board meeting QII was adopted.

Tour de Table round (short relevant updates from each member/country)

Dorothy informed that parliamentary election in Norway will take place next week. The Norwegian government has recently approved a one billion NKR project on Arctic Ocean aspects to be carried out over the next 10 years. Johan informed that all fisheries including shrimp fisheries in Norwegian inner fjords for the first time will be prohibited due to poor stock situation. Representatives from Faroe Island and Greenland have approached Johan asking him to assist in the preparation of a Nordic Council sponsored meeting on fisheries next year – possible to address the pelagic complex.

Staffan informed that Sweden is discussing similar closures as in Norway and would like clarification on whether the Norwegian prohibitions also include shrimp in the Oslo Fjord. The Swedish government has sent a letter to the EU

Council of Ministers asking the EU to contact ICES with a request to improve and expand the ICES stock advice beyond stock size, to include fishing activity, climate change etc. affecting population structures as the current advice is considered insufficient for appropriate management.

Hildur mentioned that the Icelandic government in July adopted a new law on fees based on fishing values entering into force next year. For the pelagic stocks the value of catches is to be based on average auction prices on the Norwegian market, a model which has been disputed among stakeholders. It is expected that the new fees will considerably worsen the economic situation for fishers.

Jens informed that GEMBA has finalized its report on the Peruvian fish market. At the DANFISH exhibition taking place in Aalborg in October, GEMBA will present its project on electrification of pelagic vessels when staying in ports. The ICWPF on cold water prawns takes place in Ilulissat 24-25 September. 80 persons – producers and processors - have signed up for the event. A similar ICWPF event will take place on 11 November 2026 in London. Carl-Christian referred to a FAO meeting in Rome in June at which it was made clear that the EU fleet is expected to decline considerably. In a few years it can be expected that the fleet will be 25 % lower compared to the current level. This trend will most likely, for some countries, have spillover effects on the aquaculture sector in a positive way.

4. **NMTT Policy Brief for 2025 (Dorothy)**

Dorothy will draft a policy paper which will be presented at the forthcoming Annual General Assembly Meeting.

5. **Strategy paper on the future functioning of the NMTT (Jens Henrik)**

Following up on the previous discussion of the internship Jens Henrik has been in contact with DTU with a view to finding a suitable candidate for the post. In the meantime, NMTT will need to present more detailed plans for its activities and timing of events to take place before concluding the timing for the internship. Clarification on whether the strategy paper should serve as a guiding paper for the NMTT Board or have a broader target group/perspective aiming at spreading awareness of NMTT activities is needed. It was also pointed out that seeking funding from outside should be further explored. It was decided that Jens Henrik submits to the Board the current draft on the strategy for further reflection.

6. **New ideas for NMTT project/workshops (All)**

Deadline for applying for funding of projects by Nordic Council of Ministers is 3 October. It was agreed that Carl-Christian in cooperation with Jens Henrik and Staffan will draft a proposal on social acceptability of aquaculture with a view to submitting it to The Nordic Council of Ministers for possible financing. Carl-Christian asked about the project on the straddling stock/pelagic complex as to whether it should be combined with the Nordic Council meeting on straddling stocks in the Faroe Islands next year.

7. **Timeline for NMTT activities 2025 and 2026 (All)**
Johan's paper on straddling/pelagic stocks complex should be combined with the paper to be present at Nordic Council sponsored workshop in the Faroe Islands on 8-9 June 2026. Johan will contact the Faroe Islands for further information on the workshop.
8. **Status for finalization of reports etc. from the third workshop - Nordic Climate Change Forum for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Helsingborg January 2025 (Carl-Christian)**
Report on the workshop was delivered on time. The report is published on the NMTT website as well as on the NMC's website. Should also be published on the ICES website.
9. **Financial status (Lars)**
Lars informed that the NMTT statute is updated following the adopted amendments at General Assembly in 2024. The revised statute was circulated to the NMTT members along with a reminder to pay membership fee. Payment is lacking from four members, and the Board should at its next meeting decide whether to delete the non-payers or not from the list. The final account from the auditors is received. However, final version is pending one signature. The financial report from the Helsingborg workshop is finalized and closed. Very few expenses have been incurred since finalization of the workshop. The current net assets stand at DKK 565.000.
10. **Date for the General Assembly 2025**
It was decided to hold virtually the 2025 Annual General Assembly on 1 December 2025 at 13.00 hours. At the GA the chair will give a short policy brief followed by a discussion to be moderated by the Vice-chair. It was noted that 10 members must be present at the GA enabling the NMTT to take binding decisions according to the statute. It was decided to inform all members (by copy of the Minutes from Board meeting Q3) of the date of the GA and to encourage members to participate in the GA. The NMTT Board meeting Q4 will take place on the same date at 14.00 hours -also virtually.
11. **Any other business**
Dorothy informed that she on 6 November will be in San Fransico participating in a workshop on sustainable oceans solutions.