

INVITATION

Coexistence at sea: two participatory workshops in Helsingborg, Sweden

Transforming Nordic Ocean Spaces with Skills and Solutions for Sustainable Coexistence

WORKSHOP 1: Elite Hotel Marina Plaza, Helsingborg, Sweden

18–19 November 2026, lunch to lunch
Being Change, Designing Change

WORKSHOP 2

27 January 2027, same venue
Tools for making change happen

Dear colleague,

We would like to invite you to two workshops on coexistence between fisheries, aquaculture and offshore energy in Nordic waters, focusing on good environmental status, pollution control and collaboration across sectors. The first is at the Elite Hotel Marina Plaza in Helsingborg on 18 and 19 November 2026, and the second is at the same venue on 27 January 2027.

Why now?

Mission Ocean, the EU Ocean Pact and the Ocean Act have given us the frameworks, the political backing and the knowledge base. At the same time the Water Framework Directive and the Marine Spatial Planning Directive already oblige us to coordinate across sectors and borders. What is still missing is the harder part, which is **bringing people together from different sectors and countries to work differently**, so that coexistence in marine spatial plans happens **in practice instead of on paper**.

What we will do

We start with what you care about and how you work with people who see things differently, including the conversations that usually happen in the corridor rather than the room. Together we then look at where conflicts are produced, what holds them in place, and where you can make a difference from where you sit. This is a working session, not a conference: you will converse, reflect and practice far more than you listen. No prior training or terminology needed. **Bring one real challenge from your own work**, that is what you will spend the two days on. The aim is not to solve *coexistence*, but to find common ground across sectors and leave with concrete next steps you can take from where you sit.

Who should come?

Anyone whose work calls for coexistence in marine spatial planning: planners, regulators, sector representatives, researchers and civil society. Places are limited so the group can work closely together.

Workshop 2 on 27 January builds directly on Workshop 1 and focuses on tools for making change happen in marine space, so **we encourage you to plan for both**. The day after, the optional Nordic Climate Change Forum takes place at the same venue, with one session on the results of our two workshops. You are very welcome to stay on for it.

Registration (places limited to 30 people)

To register, send your **name**, your **institution/place of work** and **one or two sentences** on why you want to take part to Alma Sommer (aso@gemba.dk) by **Thursday 15 October 2026**. Please also indicate whether you are requesting funding for travel and accommodation, and whether this is for Workshop 1 only or for both workshops. If you are not the right person at your organization, we would be grateful if you would pass this on (and tell us who, so we can follow up).

Best regards,

Dorothy Dankel, PhD · Chair, Nordic Marine Think Tank · SINTEF Ocean

Professor Emerita Karen O'Brien (cChange / Uppsala University)

Practical details

WORKSHOP 1	18–19 November 2026. Day 1: lunch 12.00, workshop 13.00–17.00, then dinner. Day 2: workshop 09.00–12.00, lunch 12.00–13.00.
VENUE	Elite Hotel Marina Plaza, Kungsgatan 6, 252 24 Helsingborg, Sweden. Meeting room Kärnan.
WORKSHOP 2	27 January 2027, same venue. Followed on 28 January by the Nordic Climate Change Forum, also in Helsingborg.
COST	No participation fee. Meals included (tell us about dietary or access needs). Travel and accommodation support can be requested at registration. Language: English.
REGISTER	Alma Sommer, aso@gemba.dk , by Thursday 15 October 2026. Please write a couple of sentences about your work and your motivation to attend and indicate if you would like to apply for travel and accommodation support.

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