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Nordic Council of Ministers



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Nordic cooperation in fisheries and aquaculture

The objective for this cooperation is to contribute to a sustainable and rational development of living marine resources in Nordic seas. The first Nordic Conference on Fisheries was organized in 1949. In the fisheries sector a wide ranging co-operation has since been developed between politicians, administrators, trade organisations, companies and various interest groups. Through Nordic Council of Ministers (The Ministers of Fisheries) there is a financial contribution to activities of cooperation with a broad interest in the Nordic countries. The many common features and the effective cooperation which characterize the Nordic fishery sector are important tools to secure a balanced development of fisheries, and the best possible marine environment in the Nordic region.

The Chairmanship of the Faroe Islands

The Faroe Islands will in 2010 for the first time in history be the Chairman of the Fisheries Cooperation of the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Few nations are as dependent on the oceans and marine resources as the Faroe Islands. It is therefore of considerable importance for the Faroe Islands to influence this aspect of Nordic cooperation.

Under Faroese management the fisheries cooperation will, in 2010, perform a number of projects. In addition to the three main activities described there will be discussions on integrated ocean management, the future of marine research, development of marine innovation, new aquaculture species, revision of the EU fisheries policy etc.

The objective for all the 2010 activities is to focus on significant Nordic and global challenges pertaining to sustainable use of marine resources.

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Store Strandstræde 18
DK-1255 København K
Tel (+45) 3396 0200
Fax (+45) 3396 0202
www.norden.org

Nordic Fisheries Cooperation

<http://www.norden.org/no/samarbeidsomraader/fiskeri>

contact:

senior adviser Ásmundur Guðjónsson
tel (+45) 33960255
e-mail: ag@norden.org

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Production: www.kursiv.no



Cooperation in Fisheries
and Aquaculture
– The Chairmanship
of the Faroe Islands 2010

"The Pelagic Complex"

The Faroe Islands has taken a keen interest in analysing and discussing the "pelagic complex" in the North East Atlantic. In this context "the pelagic complex" is defined as the great pelagic stocks of herring, blue whiting, mackerel, and capelin, and the fleet fishing on these stocks. The distribution of pelagic stocks expresses great dynamics in time and space, and climate changes may have an impact on these dynamics. This in turn represents a considerable challenge to the multinational management regime responsible for fisheries on these stocks.



The objective of this project is to analyse important components in the management regime, and the involvement of this sector. In this way it is anticipated to gain a better understanding of the managerial, economic and technological challenges of the sector.

A report on the issue of resource rent in the pelagic fisheries will be prepared, and presented at the conference.

Conference: The Pelagic Complex
Thorshavn, The Faroe Islands
7-9th September 2010

Contact: Ministry of Fisheries
P.O.Box 347, FO-110 Torshavn
E-mail: fisk@fisk.fo

Marine Ecosystem Management – How to Make It Sustainable?

There are different opinions on how to interpret the concept of sustainable ecosystem management. The perspective is vastly different if one compares the views shared by communities dependent on harvesting from marine ecosystems, with the views of the public far away from such realities, typically dwelling in the metropolises of the large industrialized countries. According to the 2008 Declaration on Seals and Society by the Nordic Council of Ministers governments should strive to achieve a balance between protection and use in the management of marine resources. This view is unfortunately not the same in the EU, which in 2009 laid down a ban on the imports and sale of sealskins.



Photo: Michael Poltermann, Norwegian Institute of Marine Research

A conference will therefore be organized, focusing on the overriding principles of marine ecosystem management and resource management. This conference is to take place in Greenland in 2010, under the auspices of Greenland Self Government.

Conference: Marine Ecosystem Management
– How to Make it Sustainable?
Ilulissat, Greenland
26-27 May 2010

Contact: Ministry of Fisheries,
Hunting and Agriculture
P.O.Box 269, 3900 Nuuk, Greenland.
email: apnn@gh.gl

Right Based Fisheries for the Benefit of Society

The development of Right Based Management (RBM) is on the Nordic and international agenda. Under the chairmanship of the Faroe Islands in 2010 this theme, initially put on the agenda by Iceland in 2009 will be further explored.

A project will be launched in order to look into how allocation of fishing rights best can be organized in order to maximize benefits to the larger society of which fisheries is a part. All fishing licenses will in principle fall back to the Government of the Faroe Islands in 2018. The licenses are subsequently probably to be redistributed. In Iceland the present government is planning to acquire all private fishing rights over a 20 years period. Also, in EU there is, in connection with the proposed revision of the fisheries policy, an ongoing debate on how fishing rights could be managed in the future.

A workshop will be organized to look into methods and experiences on the allocation of fishing rights. It will be discussed how the larger society can benefit from profitable management of marine resources and how this objective can be combined with efforts to shape an optimal political framework for the fisheries sector.



Work-shop: Right Based Fisheries for the Benefit of Society
Torshavn, Faroe Islands
10-11. June 2010

Contact: Ministry of Fisheries
P.O. Box 347, FO-110 Torshavn
E-mail: fisk@fisk.fo