

## NSC April 2008 Report-Marine Resources Group

**This report aims to update the Executive Committee as to the work of the NSCMRG.**

We have had one meeting since the Executive Committee, which took place in Bergen on 21/22 January 2008.

We had a presentation from Inge Doskeland on Coastal Development and planning which focused on Aquaculture in Hordaland Region the presentation is available on the web site.

### IUU

The issue of Illegal Unregulated Unreported (IUU) landings was again discussed, things have improved but there are still major concerns. The NSC paper was one of the papers discussed at the NSRAC Control & Compliance conference, which was moderated by Ichiro Nomura, Assistant Director General of the UN Food and Agriculture Committee in Rome, Mr Nomura is leading the UN response to IUU. Commissioner Borg also attended and was given a copy of our paper.

### Closed Areas

The ongoing debate on Closed and Marine Protected Areas was discussed at an Inter-RAC Conference held at the Scottish Parliament, the EU Commission has agreed along the lines of Resolution that Consultation and stakeholder involvement is vital. Harry Jensen, will represent the NSC at a hearing on closed areas titled "**Natura 2000 - an opportunity for or an obstacle to development**" in the European Parliament on 16 April 2008.

### Maritime Policy

Martine Brebner prepared a discussion North Sea Maritime Policy projects for discussion. After much debate we identified 4 possible project areas:

- Maritime Spatial Planning and integrated coastal zone management.
- Air pollution by ships.
- Safety at sea – The development of the FishSafe initiative, which is a good example of industries working in partnership to bring long term improvements in safety and the management of environmental risks. It also provides the opportunity to expand the capture and dissemination of data relating to hazards in the North Sea other than those in UK waters.
- Work with the Marine Institute in Bergen to develop a project on the marine ecosystem and climate change.



I had a meeting in Brussels on Monday 10 March with the Commission to discuss the best way to fund this project; a further higher-level meeting is to be arranged within the next month.

A debate on discarding of fish was stimulated by a paper prepared by Anders Carlberg. It was agreed that this was something that no one including fishermen liked. It was agreed that Anders would prepare a letter on behalf of the NSC to be sent to Member States, the Commission, The EU Parliament and the UN. A draft letter for the approval of the Executive Committee is attached.

On day two of our meeting we had a meeting at the Marine Institute in Bergen where we were privileged to have presents on Climate Effects on Marine Resources by Svein Sundby and Aquaculture in Warmer, Wetter and Wilder Weather by Oivind Bergh, both presentation were very thought provoking and can be seen on the web site.

I attended an Advisors meeting in Skein on 3-4 March. We each presented our groups to the local politicians, it was a very interesting and very worthwhile, it gave the politicians a better understanding of what the NSC was about, we all thought it was an exercise that should be replicated in other regions.

Our next meeting will take place in Hirtshals, Denmark on 19/20 May 2008 where the agenda will:

- A presentation from the Danish Fishermen's Association
- Technical Measures – discards
- Fish Behaviour
- Aquaculture
- Maritime Policy

Report prepared by Ann Bell – Advisor  
On behalf of Chairman Anders Fasth