

**NSCMRG Meeting  
Schleswig-Holstein  
Kiel, Germany  
23-24 February 2009**

**Present:**

Anders Fasth – Chair  
Josie Simpson – Vice-Chair  
Harry Jensen – Vice-Chair  
Tom-Christer Nilsen – Energy and Climate Spokesperson  
Martin Brebner – Aberdeenshire Council  
Anders Carlberg - Region Västra Götaland  
David Goldsborough – Van Hall Lavenstein/Wageningen University & Research Centre  
Lars Haukvik – NSC Secretariat  
Henrick Jensen – Region Midtjylland  
Jesper Jönsson – INTERREG Secretariat  
Stefan Musiolik – Schleswig-Holstein  
Erik Ørskov – Region Syddanmark  
Sina Redlich – INTERREG Secretariat  
Anya Schmid – Schleswig-Holstein  
Roar Solbakken – Møre og Romsdal Fylkeskommune

**Day 1**

1. The Chair thanked the host and remarked that he is very pleased that Schleswig-Holstein is now actively-participating in the Marine Resources Group. Apologies from Ann Bell and Uwe Döring were conveyed to the Group. The Minister was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting due to a crisis meeting relating to a local bank.
2. The minutes of the Politicians' meeting in Hirtshals on 1 and 2 December was approved.
3. Stefan Musiolik updated the Group on the Clean Baltic Shipping strategy which Schleswig-Holstein have developed through the BSSSC. 6 Baltic Sea organisations have supported the idea as a flagship project for the Baltic Sea Strategy. Commissioner Hübner was presented with the plan in December 2008. While the action plan has not yet been formally included in DG Regio's proposals for the Baltic Sea Strategy, some elements have been picked up by DG Mare (e.g. onshore electricity supplies in ports). Schleswig-Holstein would like to see an expert group set up through the Council of Baltic Sea States tasked with the implementation of the strategy.
4. The Group highlighted that competition between ports can be a challenge for clean shipping and that ship-to-ship transfers of oil and waste water were other issues of relevance to the North Sea. The Group was very supportive of the action plan but recognised that there is not the same political will and platform in the North Sea as in the Baltic at present. The group agreed to monitor the implementation of the action plan in the Baltic and see if it could be applied in the North Sea. The Group also agreed to highlight the issues through a report and presentation to the Executive Committee. This would allow other groups with an interest in clean shipping (notably the Sustainable Development and Transport groups) to discuss the follow-up of the issue.

5. Professor Pawlik gave a presentation on the Northern Maritime University (NMU) INTERREG project. The project aims to create a network for education and research in maritime transport. The main concept behind the project was the pooling of resources of different institutions around the North Sea to enhance the European maritime business sector. The network is based on existing partnerships and facilitates student exchanges; joint courses; a virtual competence centre; a travelling lecturer concept (to improve accessibility); and knowledge sharing and creation. The network can provide courses on demand in areas such as maritime economics; transport management; human resource management; ship knowledge for non-engineers; and environmental issues.

6. The Maritime Policy Pilot project idea was discussed, with Jesper and Sina from the North Sea Secretariat able to give their initial thoughts on the Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) proposal. There have been 28 projects approved through the IVB North Sea Programme already, securing 51% of the available grant. A list of thematic gaps is due to be presented to the next Monitoring Committee to highlight areas of the Programme where no projects have been approved. This includes the best fit for the project idea – action 2.1.

7. The Secretariat highlighted that the stronger elements of the project idea are:

- Public and private partners from all levels of governance;
- A focus on key European policies;
- Building on other projects.

Areas which need more work include:

- A lack of named partners;
- The final outcomes of the project;
- Details of material investments (i.e. infrastructure)

A question was also raised regarding whether ‘Action 3.2’ referred to the European Commission’s Blue Book or the INTERREG Operational Programme.

8. Martin Brebner explained that the Action refers to the Blue Book and agreed with the comments from the Secretariat. It was recalled that Västra Götaland had indicated that they might be interested in leading the project and Anders Carlberg agreed to look into this further.

9. The Group highlighted a lack of tools to co-ordinate MSP; co-ordination of national MSP policies (both with each other and EU legislation); and a bottom-up approach as areas which the project could focus on. It was agreed that additional resources and a lead partner would be needed to drive forward the project. A more detailed report will be given to the Executive Committee.

10. An update on Aquamarina was given, highlighting that the last meeting focused on research and clusters and that Schleswig-Holstein was co-ordinating a sub-group in this field. The next meeting is set to focus on MSP. Martin Brebner is due to attend a European Commission kick-off seminar on MSP in place of this meeting and will feed back to the group.

## Day 2

11. On the second day, following an authentic German dinner hosted by the Region, the Group were shown around the IFM-GEOMAR Research facility, which is the leading German marine institute. Professor Hertzog presented to the group, highlighting that the Institute focuses on global ocean issues and complements these with more local projects. Its aim is to understand the physical, chemical, biological and geological processes in the ocean and their interaction with the seabed and the atmosphere. Its main research themes are:

- The role of the ocean in global change (e.g. the Gulf Stream);
- The human impact on marine ecosystems (e.g. acidification);
- Living and non-living marine resources (e.g. gas, minerals and biotechnology);
- Plate tectonic processes and geological hazards (e.g. earthquakes).

A DVD on the 'Sea our Future' initiative was also shown, highlighting the impressive work undertaken in Schleswig-Holstein on developing a cross-sectoral maritime cluster.

12. Continuing with the theme of maritime research, David Goldsborough presented to the group on the Wageningen Centre for Marine Policy. This centre will look to better link marine related sciences, notably social and physical sciences. Areas to be covered include ecology; governance, fisheries, economics and law. The Centre will provide a PHD and post-Doctorate research environment; an education platform; and project organisation. The Centre will have the legal status of a consortium agreement and will be based in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands.

13. Tom-Christer Nielsen spoke to the group about the sunken Second World War submarine containing some 67 metric tonnes of mercury off the coast of Bergen. The Norwegian government has taken on board the views of a number of groups (including the Marine Resources Group) who advocated raising the wreck rather than burying it. The section of the submarine containing the mercury will be raised on a platform and the remaining section will be buried, costing around €100 million. This is a very positive outcome from the group's lobbying.

An update on the Maritime Week event to be held in Aberdeenshire was given. It was also agreed to add this (and the pilot project) to the Group's workplan.

14. The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking the hosts after highlighting upcoming NSC meetings:

26-27 March – NSC Executive (Kristiansand, Norway)

18-19 May – Maritime Week event (Aberdeenshire)

10-11 May – BSC/NSC joint Meeting (Gotland, Sweden)

23-26 June – General Assembly (Egmond an zee/Haarlem, Netherlands)

October – CPMR (Gothenburg)

The next full meeting of the group is scheduled to take place on 23 June during the General Assembly, although there may be opportunities for the group to meet around the above meetings if desired.