

NSC Fisheries Group 2005/2006 Work Plan

Activity	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Staffing/resources	Output
Continue to improve relations between fishers and scientists relations	Form small steering group to discuss the future of NSCFP	Co-ordinator – Chair NSCFP	2005	Co-ordinators and NSCFP Chair time	New NSCFP which would include Control Agencies
Improve Stakeholder participation and stewardship	Establish North Sea Commission Inshore Fisheries Forum Consult with Member State Administrations Search for funding	Co-ordinator – Vastra Gotaland Region & Shetland Islands Council	2005 / 2006	Establishing secretariat - Chair for Forum	Establishment of NSC Fisheries Forum Agreement has been reached to form an NSC Inshore Fisheries Network. Consultation has taken place with, Swedish Fishermen & Scientists, Scottish Executive, Scottish Inshore Fisheries Action Group and EU Parliament Fish Committee, all have shown Support. A funding source has been identified and the first Seminar should take place APRIL /May 2006. Assist with organisation of CPMR Coastal Seminar
Resolve controversy over the advantages of selling or leasing fishing rights to fishers	Arrange a seminar on the advantages & disadvantages of different fishing rights systems	Co-ordinator + group members	2005 -2006	Co-ordinator + 2 others time. Funding for small seminar	Promote the greater use of economic and social impact assessments in management decisions. Organise small seminar on the commercialisation of fishing quotas – rights NSRAC has commissioned a Focus group to carry out a scoping study into gathering social and economic data a small community level, this has been funded by DEFRA and will assist in providing data which will help the NSCFG prepare for its planned Seminar.
Safety on, around and in the North Sea	Invite the Scottish Fishermen's Federation Services to attend the next meeting of NSCFG to identify areas of co-operation and to highlight their work.	Co-ordinator + one	September 2005	Travel costs for speaker – Co-ordinators budget	Prepare a report on Maritime safety (relating to fisheries and oil & gas sectors) Michael Sutherland SFF Services gave a presentation at the joint NSCFG/CMPRFIG meeting in Brest. He highlighted the importance of working in Partnership with the oil& gas sector to ensure safety in the North Sea. It was agreed at the meeting that CPMR/NSCFG would organise a seminar, in conjunction with the OIL & Gas sector, which look at the user of the North Sea working together to ensure safety, both for the industry and the environment. Rogaland County has offered to host this seminar.

CPMR Fisheries INTERCOM GROUP	Support CPMR FIG Chair & Secretariat with future work	Co-ordinator, Shetland Islands Council, CPMR, NSC Secretariat	Meeting with CPMR – 30/31 March. CPMR FUG Meeting BRUSSELS 28 April - ongoing	Co-ordinator, Shetland Islands Council, CPMR & NSC Secretariat	Closer working between NSCFG – CPMR FIG to encourage more effective and efficient use of time and resources. This is ongoing; we are working closely with our colleagues in Shetland to provide the support necessary. Cllr. Michael Cook has been playing an active role, on behalf of the NSC, on the CPMRFIG. Cllr Cook and I will take part in an expert working group to look at the Maritime aspects of the new Interreg Programme.
Take forward actions from NSC Conference "The North Sea – Today and Tomorrow"	Analyse final conference report	Co-ordinator	June 2005	Co-ordinator's time	
OSPAR observership	Take part in relevant meetings and working groups	NSC Secretariat and co-ordinator	Ongoing	Time of staff from relevant NSC member regions	Contributions to OSPAR policies and decisions
CONSSO	Take part in meetings of CONSSO issue group on fisheries	NSC Secretariat and co-ordinator	Ongoing	Co-ordinator's time	Preparation of North Sea Ministerial Declaration Declaration has been prepared.

The NSCFG had a joint meeting with the CPMRFIG, on 16 February 2006, in Brest. This meeting, which was well attended, proved to be very constructive with the following actions being agreed:

Safety at Sea through Partnership, a seminar is to be held in Stavanger later this year. It will be jointly organized by CPMR and NSCFG with support from the Oil & Gas sector and SFF Services. Rogaland County has agreed to host this important seminar. It will address the need to develop close links with fisheries and the energy sectors, further develop existing safety equipment (FishSafe). Ensure that all North Sea fleets have access to the safety equipment. A meeting with the energy sector is to be arranged.

Fishing Vessel Fuel Costs – our French colleagues highlighted the high fuel costs and fuel consumption incurred by fishing vessels. It was thought necessary to look into the possible development of fuel-efficient engines, which could also use bio-fuels. A joint ad hoc working group, which will include representatives of the Renewable Energy Group, is to set in place to investigate further.

EU Fisheries Training Standard – it was agreed by all that fisheries training is vital to future sustainability of the fisheries sector. Recruitment to the sector, across Europe, is very low. This is believed to be due to a number of factors e.g. lack of perceived future in the sector, poor image, lack of understanding, this is particularly important as more people from the new accession countries are working within the EU Fishing fleets. If

the sector is to attract young people, who can be trained as professionals and can be mobilised across Europe, it was agreed by both Groups, that a EU Standard in Fisheries Training has to be developed. An ad hoc joint working group is to look at the development on such a standard, which would include:

- Safety
- Quality
- Conservation
- Navigation
- Communications
- Biology
- Stock assessment

Representatives from the geographic Commissions, Colleges, Scientists, Fishermen, EU Commission and environmental organizations will be invited to form the working group.

It was also agreed that the Chairs of the NSCFG and CPMRFIG will write to the EU Commission to seek a seat on new European Control Agency Advisory Board to ensure that local and regional authorities views are taken account of in the setting up of this new agency.

A letter to Commissioner Borg regarding the decisions that are taken by EU Fisheries Ministers at the December Council is to be sent. This letter will highlight the importance of fisheries to the coastal communities of Europe and the need for a more holistic approach to be taken. The Council needs to take account of not only biological assessments, but also the social and economic consequences of the decisions they take. Local and Regional Authorities are often left to deal with such consequences.

It was agreed that the joint meeting had been successful and that joint working was definitely the way forward.