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*Draft resolution for the Annual Business Meeting 22 June 2007, proposed by Troms fylkeskommune,, Norway and support by NSC Marine Resources Group*

*The North Sea Commission Marine Resources Group, fully supports the following resolution. It agrees that although the problem seems to be mainly in the Barent Sea, the repercussion can be felt around the North Sea. Where for example some of the illegal fish end up being processed, unknowingly by local companies and then can end up in the retail sector causing real problems, with the markets and with consumers at local at National level.*

## **Illegal Unregulated Unreported Fishing Activities**

The North Sea Commission (NSC) will work together at both at Political and technical level, to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU-fishing), in cooperation with the member regions, and in accordance with national and international legislation and best practice.

Acknowledging that control of IUU-fishing is a battle for all European Maritime Regions, and each State must take preventive measures. Cooperation between port states is one of the most efficient measures to combat the problem.

The Troms County Government, on the basis of the Norwegian policies regarding IUU-fishing, is of the opinion that greater attention on IUU-fishing is needed on the European agenda. Regional authorities should strongly support national agreements to curb IUU-fishing, and actively take part in the development of new frameworks.

The NSC and CPMR is a natural forum for working towards this aim as IUU-fishing affects all European fishing/ coastal regions. National authorities can execute reporting duty on all landings of fish, but only active control mechanisms at each landing site can ensure actual implementation of the rules at all times. If the European regions can agree to a common effort on this issue, and help make the existing regulations binding, it will be a substantial leap forwards a better common future.

We urge all member states of the North Sea and CPMR to take part in an active campaign against IUU-fishing, and to actively support all international measures taken to combat the problem. With reference to the CPMR project "Europe of the Seas" and the current focus on the EU-green paper on maritime policies, we recommend all members to acknowledge a common responsibility to actively combat IUU-fishing in order to protect the marine environment and the people living by and of the sea.