

North Sea Commission Environment Group (NSCEG)
Work Programme 2003

This Work Programme follows the priorities established following the Porsgrunn Challenge (PC) Review 2001, with amendments and additions decided by the Annual Meeting 2002 and the Project Working Group meeting on Nov. 8, 2002.

(The compilation of conclusions from the above meetings by the co-ordinator has been delayed due to illness during Spring 2003.)

Area of responsibility	Activities	Responsible/Contact person(s)	Comments	Outputs
Training on sustainability for staff and members.	Contact all members who expressed interest in this field in the 2001 sustainability questionnaire. Ask for their experience and plans and, possibly, about their interest in environmental management systems.	Per Hörberg, Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland, Sweden per.horberg@vgregion.se	Co-operation should be sought with the NSC Education & Research Group. There is potential interest; parts of the NSCE&RG participated in Conference 2002.	Contact between members with an interest in sustainability training
Green purchasing	Exchange of experience; Develop regional purchasing policies, try these in pilot projects in phase 2 of Interreg project.	Lennart Blank WESTMA, Västra Götaland, Sweden lennart.blank@vgregion.se	Interreg IIIB application under preparation; lead partner Västra Götaland region, Sweden, through its purchasing branch WESTMA.	Interreg IIIB application for September '03(?) deadline.

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Member Profiles update	The Members Profiles for the NSCEG are updated twice a year in Spring and Autumn. This gives members the opportunity to provide updated information on contact persons, project interests, etc, frequently enough to keep this information truly useful.	Per Hörberg, Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland, Sweden per.horberg@vgregion.se NSC secretariat, nsc@northsea.org	There is great need for more active involvement of more NSC members in the NSCEG. Improved Member Profiles would facilitate the work of the PWG Country Reps. Consultant assistance is needed for this activity – in contact with PWG.	NSCEG Member Profiles updated two times a year and put on NSC website.
Sustainability questionnaire to NSC members	The NSC should carry out a review in 2004 of the progress being made by its members on the Porsgrunn Challenge. In 2003 members should be reminded of the Porsgrunn Challenge through a letter from the co-ordinator. This letter should go to NSCEG members as well as to political leaders.	Per Hörberg Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland, Sweden per.horberg@vgregion.se	Consultant assistance is needed for this activity. The mailing list should be selected in close contact with PWG. Focus should be on what has “been improved” or “been initiated” since last questionnaire – and on what is planned for the future.	Updated knowledge about sustainability work among NSC members. Results to be presented at NSC General Assembly 2004?
Wind energy	Arrange joint meeting with NSC Fisheries Group on April 3 rd in Esbjerg Denmark, where a.o. a report on the legislative framework for offshore wind energy, by Belgian consultant 3E, was presented by Per Toppenberg of North Jutland.	Susy Lauesen, North Jutland sl@nja.dk Per Hörberg, Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland, Sweden per.horberg@vgregion.se	Per Toppenberg’s PowerPoint presentation will be sent to PWG members.	Continued discussion of about involvement of various stakeholders in giving permits to establishment of off shore wind energy. Possible joint conference early 2004.

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De-commissioning of obsolete oil installations		Per Hörberg, Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland, Sweden per.horberg@vgregion.se	This should be a topic for the NSCEG <u>only</u> if the NSC Business Development Group gets involved.	
Water Framework Directive	The new Interreg project NOLIMP-WFD is a practical WFD consequences project supported by the EC. The project can support other regions, in addition to present partners, over the next years.	Hans van Meerendonk, Provincie Fryslân j.h.vanmeerendonk@fryslan.nl	Hans v M will inform the PWG of important events and developments. Each country representative should follow up this work at home.	
Integrated Coastal Zone Management	Kathy B will investigate possibilities to promote a North Sea wide “political forum” for ICZM, in connection with newly started SAIL project, late 2003.	Kathy Belpaeme Provincie West-Vlaanderen kathy.belpaeme@west-vlaanderen.be	Highly relevant topic for all NSC members and the focus of much attention and work within the EU – and not least the CPMR.	
Radioactive discharges from Sellafield:	Develop an “action plan” against discharges, as proposed by Gunn Marit H at the CPMR General Assembly, with as many interested partners as possible.	Councillor Gunn Marit Helgesen Telemark Fylkeskommune, Norway E-mail: gma-hel@online.no Sverre Fosse Aust-Agder fylkeskommune sverre.fosse@aa-f.kommune.no	A national partnership is established in Norway. There has been discussions with Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA), UK, to use their secretariat for an international network.	Continued pressure on governments of countries responsible for radioactive discharges.

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Acidification	Follow development in North Sea Conferences process, through NSC observership in the preparations for Ministerial Meeting 2005 or -06. The NSC could consider contacting all North Sea states except Norway, Sweden and Denmark to enquire about their reasons for not having ratified IMO's MARPOL Annex VI, designating the North Sea as a sulphur emission control area.	Per Hörberg, Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland, Sweden per.horberg@vgregion.se Sverre Fosse Aust-Agder fylkeskommune sverre.fosse@aa-f.kommune.no	Topic very much connected to "Pollution from shipping". NSC is represented through two experts from Region Västra Götaland, Sweden, in the Issue Group for Sustainable Shipping in the preparations for the North Sea Ministerial Meeting in Sweden 2005 or -06.	Possible statement by North Sea Environmental Ministers at Min. Meeting.
Outstanding from Work Programme 2002:				
Active involvement of politicians in steering the work of the NSCEG.	Special activities for politicians at NSCEG Conference 2003. The co-ordinator should give feedback to those politicians who participated in Conference 2002.	Project Working Group!	The PWG should continue the active involvement of politicians in steering the work of the NSCEG.	At least as many politicians participating in Conference 2003 as in 2002.
Achieve (continued and increased) involvement of the NSC Executive Committee in implementation of Porsgrunn Challenge.	Raise issues in Executive Committee. Possibly: have politicians from each country who report (to General Assembly?) about Porsgrunn Challenge work in their country.	Councillor Gunn Marit Helgesen Telemark Fylkeskommune, Norway E-mail: gma-hel@online.no		Continuing activity by the NSC Executive Committee to actively promote the adoption and the implementation of the Porsgrunn Challenge across all its members.

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“Good Practice Compendium”	A comprehensive “compendium” is beyond the capacity of the NSCEG to compile. The co-ordinator is to contact all regions who, in the PC Review 2001, expressed a will to co-operate on various topics, and provide them with appropriate contact names, to be able to initiate co-operation.	Per Hörberg Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland, Sweden per.horberg@vgregion.se	This activity could be used as the content for letter in 2003 reminding members of the Porsgrunn Challenge.	Active contacts between members who have declared a will to co-operate.
Sustainable Development in Rural Areas [including agriculture]	Interreg IIIB project proposal is being developed by the Viborg Amt, Denmark.	Trine Sumborg, Viborg Amt crbts@vibamt.dk Project Working Group Per Hörberg Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland, Sweden per.horberg@vgregion.se	This topic was the theme of “Political Visioning” workshop at Conf. 2001. There was agreement, later confirmed by the Executive Committee, that the NSC should promote this theme across all (relevant) thematic groups.	Applications for project support from Interreg IIIB.
North Sea Agenda 21 Network	Prepare contacts with partners known to be interested in this project. Potentially arrange a preparatory meeting.	Gert Erlandsson, Region Halland, Sweden gert.erlandsson@regionhalland.se Per Hörberg Co-ordinator NSCEG Västra Götaland, Sweden per.horberg@vgregion.se	List of partners provided by co-ordinator Oct. 2000. Preparatory meeting may be co-financed by NSCEG, using funds available to co-ordinator.	Application for project support from Interreg IIIB – or other available EU Programme.

June 16, 2003, Per Hörberg, Co-ordinator, North Sea Commission Environment Group, e-mail: per.horberg@vgregion.se