

The North Sea Regional Advisory Council (NSRAC)

WG Skagerrak and Kattegat (5th meeting)

Minutes

May 8 2007, Kattegat Silo, Frederikshavn, Denmark

Attending members:

Chairman Svend Erik Andersen, Danish Fishermen's Association

Flemming Kristensen, Danish Fishermen's Association

Kim Kær Hansen, Danish Fishermen's Association

Niels Wichmann, Danish Fishermen's Association

Michael Andersen, Danish Fishermen's Association

Lothar Fischer, Deutscher Fischerei Verband

Henrik Svenberg, Swedish Fishermen's Federation

Bertil Andersson, Swedish Fishermen's Federation

Viking Bentsson, Swedish Fishermen's Federation

Kenneth Gustafsson, Swedish Fishermen's Federation

Rapporteur Fredrik Lindberg, Swedish Fishermen's Federation

Attending observers:

Alf-Åke Börjesson, Co-management initiative for sustainable fisheries in Halland

Henrik Karlsson, Co-management initiative for sustainable fisheries in Halland

Per Lundgren, Swedish Fishermen's Federation

Bent Pallisgaard, Danish Directorate of Fisheries

Birgitte Riber Rasmussen, Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries

Katja Ringdahl, Swedish Institute of Marine Research

Mattias Sköld, Swedish Institute of Marine Research

Marie Storr-Paulsen, DTU Aqua

1. Opening and introduction

The meeting of the WG was opened by the chairman Svend Erik Andersen with introduction of participants.

Hereafter the chairman of the WG informed the meeting that Niels Wichmann would chair the rest of the meeting.

2. Adoption of agenda

The WG adopted the agenda for the meeting as follows from these minutes.

3. Minutes from the WG meeting, June 7 2007

The minutes from the WG meeting, June 7 2007, in Copenhagen was approved.

4. Presentation of advice from ICES 2008

Marie Storr-Paulsen, DTU Aqua, presented the yet not final assessments for cod and sole for the Kattegat. The presentation was based on the outcome from the ICES WG.

As to sole and in summary it was expressed that the stock is in a healthy condition.

Regarding cod the situation is not as good as for sole. Marie Storr-Paulsen stated amongst other facts that the relevant statistics as to cod from the Swedish research vessel Argos contains extremely low values in a comparison. Further more she presented a new interesting, however uncertain, stochastic model not yet adopted by ICES. Hereafter she said that there are no signs of stock recovery, that the major decline in mortality has likely not occurred in the last five years, that the recruitment 2007 is amongst the lowest in time series and that there is a mismatch between official landings and landings.

Hereafter the WG discussed what was presented by Marie Storr-Paulsen, *i.a.* from the perspective of the massive effort reduction that has taken place within the Danish fleet, the reduction can be estimated to circa 20 per cent in the Kattegat from 2006 to the year after and furthermore reduced with circa 50 per cent from 2007 to the present year, according to statistics from the Danish Ministry.

5. Effort management scheme for the Kattegat

Niels Wichmann gave the WG a summary of what has occurred in this matter between the NSRAC and the European Commission. The reasons for why the NSRAC decided to withdraw its proposal was again presented. Niels Wichmann also stated that the Danish ministry now is against an effort management scheme.

Henrik Svenberg added that the Swedish fishermen still are of the opinion that it would be a positive breakthrough if such a system could be established. The solution presented by the

WG and the NSRAC is the only one solving discard problems. It was concluded that the thoughts behind the proposal are not dead but resting.

6. Swedish proposal on closed areas in the Kattegat

Mattias Sköld presented the Swedish proposal on closed areas in the Kattegat. The proposal was said to include *i.a.* permanently closed core areas for fishing activities and temporarily closed areas to fishing catching cod.

Niels Wichmann characterized the Swedish proposal as prohibiting fishing where fishing is performed and allowing it where it is not.

The WG discussed the proposal.

7. Proposal for the protection of cod in the Kattegat

Michael Andersen presented the proposal found in appendix 1.

The proposal was received positively by the WG.

Henrik Svenberg stated that he will process and analyze the proposal within the responsible committee within the fishermen's federation; the AIS technology was said to perhaps be something to be used within the framework of the proposal.

Lothar Fischer said that he will bring the proposal with him home where it will be discussed.

The WG concluded that it will continue work with the proposal and that it will be finalized preferably at the next meeting.

8. Skanled – gas pipeline from Norway to Denmark and Sweden

Per Lundgren presented the Skanled project (Gassco and Swedegas) for the WG.

In the presentation he analyzed the project from a conflicts perspective. He also informed the WG on the procedural questions in this matter in mainly Sweden.

Within the following discussion it was *i.a.* stated that perhaps compensation should be applied for during the phase of establishment.

One conclusion following from the discussion was that the spatial WG should be informed of the project and that the Commission in the future ought to take into consideration these kinds of projects when designing the maritime strategy.

The WG concluded the need for a meeting between Danish and Swedish fishermen and representatives from Gassco and Swedegas.

9. Revision of the cod recovery plan (COM(2008) 162 final)

Niels Wichmann presented the basic outlines within the proposal.

He said that the demersal WG is at present drafting a response to the Commission on the proposal.

Svend Erik Andersen claimed that flexibility between the Skagerrak and the Kattegat is necessary and that this viewpoint ought to be incorporated within the response from the demersal WG.

10. Revision of Council Regulation 850/98 (Non-paper)

The status of the revision was said to be that the Commission will probably and eventually adopt a proposal in the end of May.

It was the conclusion of the WG that there is a need to arrange a meeting when the above said proposal is adopted by the Commission.

The situation as to the EU/Norway group discussing technical rules was discussed.

The WG presupposes that the Commission will consult the NSRAC in this matter according to practice.

11. AOB

The WG discussed the non-paper on discards generally and concluded that this has to be discussed thoroughly at the next meeting.

12. Closing

Niels Wichmann thanked the attendants for the constructive meeting and declared it closed.

Frederikshavn, May 8 2008

Svend Erik Andersen
Chairman

Fredrik Lindberg
Rapporteur