

# **The North Sea Regional Advisory Council (NSRAC)**

## **WG Skagerrak and Kattegat (1<sup>st</sup> meeting)**

### **Minutes**

**April 7 2006, Hållö (Smögen), Sweden**

#### Attending:

Svend Erik Andersen (chairman), Fredrik Lindberg (rapporteur), Niels Wichmann, Bengt-Olof Eliasson, Sonny Front, Peter Hagberg, Peter Olsson, Henrik Svenberg and Espen Nordberg

#### Attending observers:

August Fjeldskår, Mia Dahlström, Joakim Hjelm, Malin Karlsson, Bengt Kåmark and Katja Ringdahl

## **1. Opening and introduction**

The meeting was opened by the chairman Svend Erik Andersen with introduction of members and observers.

## **2. Agenda**

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

## **3. Non-paper from the Commission Services – “A Fishing Effort Management Scheme for the Kattegat”**

The non-paper from the Commission Services – “A Fishing Effort Management Scheme for the Kattegat” was presented by Niels Wichmann.

The presentation included i.a. the issue what is for the Community vice versa for the national competent authorities to decide and also a perspective as to the NSRAC original proposal from June 2005.

From the wording in the non-paper and from a total view, and also after discussion as to which fisheries shall be included in the trial, the WG established as its opinion that pelagic fisheries shall be excluded.

The WG concluded, after discussion, that some questions are solely for the national competent authorities to solve, e.g. how the allotment of fishing days practically shall take place. However, criteria for this shall in the near future seriously be discussed by the WG.

In the discussions the WG further touched upon e.g. how the fisheries shall be segmented/split up; and the question as to the time perspective (periods of three months) – how these shall be added and the relationship to other fisheries in other areas.

As to collecting data on the fishery the WG concluded that the question is of outmost importance; DFU and the Swedish Institute of Marine Research are at present working with this and will compile their data as soon as possible. The WG expressed that it is expecting a conclusion from the work done by DFU and the Swedish Institute of Marine Research to be presented at the meeting of the WG early June 2006. It was also concluded that the results from the said collecting of data ought to be communicated to the national fishermen's organisations before the meeting of the WG in early June, i.e. DFU informs the Danish Fishermen's Association and the Swedish Institute of Marine Research informs the Swedish Fishermen's Federation.

The WG furthermore concluded the objective that the trial, in spite of the initial time frame of five years, shall be possible to evaluate after one or two years and that the trial thereafter can serve as an important contribution in the discussions on how the resource management policy ought to/shall be reformed in connection with the next overview of the CFP.

The WG discussed the question as to legal basis for the trial and concluded, i.a. from what is said in the non-paper and from a general view, that the trial appropriately ought to be regulated in an annex to the TAC- and quota regulation. In analyzing the situation, the WG could not see it as a problem in relation to the cod recovery plan to do it in such a way, if the Council finds it appropriate to insert a special regulation as to the Kattegat in the said legal act.

The WG concluded as its opinion that the wording in the non-paper on p. 6 – “Reversing the overall downward trend of stocks concerned” seriously can be questioned; the formulation does not objectively express the real situation in the Kattegat, i.e. the status of the majority of stocks is not correctly depict with this wording.

As to and from the perspective of the cod recovery plan and its intentions, the question of weighting of days depending on when in time during the year these are used from a coefficient perspective was discussed. In the discussion it was concluded that this could be an economical incitement that possibly can be used with success (so also from a market perspective). On the other hand, it was concluded that the intention is to create a system that is not more complicated then it need to be (from the perspective of the fishermen), and this leads to the conclusion that such a regulation perhaps not is wanted. An opinion expressed was that before year two, when an initial analysis has been made, it may be wise to have the possibility to use such a method. In relation to the discussions on the said the WG concluded that the preparedness after the first year of the trial must be very good. The WG concluded furthermore the appropriateness of creating a smaller group which shall work with the question and also with the question of RTC (p. 4.4.1, 4.4.2 and 4.4.3 in the non-paper); this smaller group shall consist of representatives from the Danish Fishermen's Association and the Swedish Fishermen's Federation (that the organisations appoint) - this work shall be ready

before the next meeting in the WG (the smaller group will meet in Gothenburg the 4<sup>th</sup> of May).

As to the wording in the non-paper in p. 4.5, it was concluded by the WG that the last sentence – “Here, their possible use for the fishmeal production should be addressed” – ought to be deleted. Furthermore, and from a discard perspective, it was the opinion of the WG that there is a need to work a lot more with these questions.

The wording in the non-paper in p. 4.6 (Type of Management Scheme), caused the WG to conclude a recommendation of the kilowatt-days system (p. 4.6.2). The said smaller group, consisting of representatives from the Danish Fishermen’s Association and the Swedish Fishermen’s Federation, are to work further with these questions before the next meeting of the WG (the smaller group will, as said above, meet in Gothenburg the 4<sup>th</sup> of May).

From a control perspective (p. 4.7 in the non-paper) it was concluded by the WG the appropriateness and desirability to receive from the national control authorities their views on these aspects before the next meeting of the WG.

#### **4. Time and place for next WG-meeting**

The WG decided that the next meeting shall take place the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of June; the Danish Fishermen’s Association will arrange the meeting.

#### **5. Terms of Reference**

After discussion, the WG adopted the following Terms of Reference:

- To prepare advice on immediate questions posed by the European Commission on fish-, prawn- and Norway lobster fisheries in the Skagerrak and the Kattegatt
- To develop medium term management proposals for the management of the said fisheries in the said areas
- To develop a long term approach to the management of the said fisheries in the said areas to fulfil the commitment to sustainable development by the European Commission and the Member States
- To prepare advice on any issues relating to the said fisheries in the said areas that are referred to the WG by the NSRAC Executive Committee

The Chair of the Skagerrak/Kattegatt WG is Mr Svend Erik Andersen

The Skagerrak/Kattegatt WG will report to the Executive Committee of the NSRAC

The WG will prepare an Agreed Record of each of its meeting

The WG will abide by the Protocol for the Preparation of Advice of the NSRAC

The WG will liaise with other WGs of the NSRAC and other RACs to address issues of common interest

## **6. Language, minutes**

The WG decided that the minutes from the meetings of the WG shall be in Swedish. The minutes shall be circulated within the WG. Niels Wichmann informed the WG that there is money perhaps available for the translation of the minutes from the meetings of the WG from Swedish to English, this shall be investigated by the WG.

## **7. Seminar the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May arranged by the Swedish National Board of Fisheries and the NSRAC**

The WG discussed the arrangements behind the seminar that is to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, arranged by the Swedish National Board of Fisheries and the NSRAC – “Towards Fishing Effort Systems in the North Sea” – and concluded that the chairman of the NSRAC Hugo Andersson shall be sent the minutes from this meeting and that the chairman of the WG Svend Erik Andersen shall discuss with Hugo Andersson how the work in the future shall be organized and done.

## **8. The Skagerrak**

Following a general discussion as to the specific situation for the Skagerrak the WG concluded that the situation shall be more thoroughly discussed at the next meeting of the WG.

## **9. Closing**

The chairman of the WG thanked the attendants for the fruitful meeting and declared the meeting for closed.

Hällö the 7<sup>th</sup> of April 2006

Svend Erik Andersen  
Chairman

Fredrik Lindberg  
Rapporteur

## **Summary:**

- 1. The WG has concluded that pelagic fisheries shall be excluded from the trial.**
- 2. The WG anticipates data from the DFU and the Swedish Institute of Marine Research to be presented at the next meeting of the WG; these data shall be communicated nationally before the meeting.**

- 3. The WG has concluded that the trial legally ought to be regulated in an annex to the TAC- and quota regulation.**
- 4. The WG has concluded that the wording in the non-paper, p. 6, as to the status of the stocks concerned seriously can be questioned.**
- 5. The WG has concluded that a smaller group shall work further with the questions in the non-paper, particularly p. 4.4.1, 4.4.2, 4.4.3 and p. 4.6.**
- 6. The WG has concluded that the wording as to fishmeal in the non-paper, p. 4.5, seriously can be questioned.**
- 7. The WG has concluded the appropriateness of the national control authorities to give the WG its views on the wording in the non-paper as to what is said in p. 4.7.**
- 8. The WG has adopted a Terms of Reference as said above.**
- 9. The minutes from the meetings of the WG shall be written in Swedish, however, the possibilities to receive help with translation into English shall be investigated; the minutes shall be circulated within the WG.**
- 10. The WG has concluded that the minutes from the first meeting of the WG shall be sent to Hugo Andersson; that the chairman of the WG shall discuss with Hugo Andersson how the arrangements for the seminar arranged by the Swedish National Board of Fisheries and the NSRAC the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May have been made and on how the WG's further work shall be done.**