



NORA Advisory Board Meeting, 10th June 2020

Apologies received from:

Cass Bromley, Pierre Boudry, Bernadette Pogoda

Agenda

- 1) Moving NORA 3 to an online event. Open discussion of proposed format. (Hein Sas/Philine zu Ermgassen)
- 2) NORA 4- Confirmation of preferred date. Proposed is 4-6 or 11-13 May 2021. (Hein Sas)
- 3) NORA 4 Sponsorship: update (Hein Sas)
- 4) Current progress on NORA Working Groups (Philine zu Ermgassen)
- 5) Production Working Group (Bernadette Pogoda)
- 6) Future funding for the NORA Network. Scoping opportunities (Bernadette Pogoda /Boze Hancock)
- 7) AOB

- 1) Moving NORA 3 to an online event (Hein Sas/Philine zu Ermgassen)
 - The Advisory Board agreed that we should postpone the in-person conference planned for November 2020 to May 2021.
 - The Advisory Board supports naming the next meeting “NORA 3 Online” and hosting it on the same November dates as originally planned.
 - It was agreed that, given that there are ~6 months between the meetings, NORA 4 needs to be complementary to NORA 3 Online. This will be achieved by focusing NORA 3 Online on NORA Working Group efforts and launching network and UK-Ireland Network reports, which the NORA community would benefit from learning about sooner than May 2021.
 - The general format of two hour sessions over two days was agreed. The sessions will include presentations and then more interactive, but pre-planned, opportunities. There will be an open call for “exceptional results” and “collaborative opportunities”.
 - This can be followed up with planned online meetings of the Working Groups in the week or so after the conference to allow for discussion and project progress.
 - Hein Sas has kindly volunteered to be on the Organising Committee for NORA 3 Online. The invitation is open to all AB members and they may also propose others to be on the committee. The Organising Committee will seek the support of early career researchers in running the conference.
 - Call for abstracts to be delayed for NORA 4. An updated timeline will be developed by the NORA 4 Organising Committee.

- 2) NORA 4- Confirmation of preferred date (Hein Sas)

A major international event will be taking place in Rotterdam in May. There are therefore issues regarding hotel price and availability. It was therefore agreed that the NORA 4 Organising Committee will seek an alternative venue in Middelburg for the preferred dates of 4-6 or 11-13th May.

There will be a new registration and abstract call for NORA 4, but all existing applications will be carried over unless cancelled by the participant.

- 3) NORA 4 Sponsorship: update (Hein Sas)

Sponsors for NORA 3 (now 4) have been confirmed and the contracts have been drafted. They have all excepted the NORA criteria. Hein will translate the Dutch text in the contracts and send these to the AB.

Hein has already approached the sponsors regarding moving their sponsorship to NORA 4 and there is agreement. The Rich North Sea may also provide support for NORA 3 Online.

4) Current progress on NORA Working Groups (Philine zu Ermgassen)

The following was noted:

- Biosecurity Working Group: Progress is being made towards a full draft of the joint NORA/UK-Ireland Native Oyster Network Biosecurity Guidelines. It is intended that a draft will be opened to consultation this summer and that the report will be launched at NORA 3 Online in November 2020.
- Monitoring Working Group: Progress in drafting the guidelines has been slow due to other commitments, but it is planned that this working group will become more active later in the summer and will complete a draft of the guidelines to be presented at NORA 3 Online.
- Production Working Group: Numerous collaborative opportunities have been identified through the Production Working Group and opportunities for collaboration. Of particular note is the planned Production Working Group meeting to be held at Aquaculture Europe in Cork in April 2021 (postponed from October 2020), where a policy brief will be prepared addressing the need for sustainable supplies of oyster spat and exploring potential funding mechanisms. Secondly, an Aquavita-led initiative to test spatting ponds has involved NORA network participants.
- Site Selection Working Group. There has been modest interest in this working group so far and due to limited capacity, planned work will be advertised and taken forward later in the year.
- NEW: Outreach Working Group. Acknowledging the confirmation of outreach as a Working Group topic. The first bimonthly online meeting which focused on engagement with school children, was a successful event. Thanking Corina Peter of AWI, Germany for taking on the position of chair of the group. Looking forward to the next bimonthly meeting on June 23rd in which Ian MacLeod will present on his experiences in outreach.
- NEW: Historical Ecology Working Group. Acknowledging the confirmation of historical ecology as a Working Group topic. Thanking Dr. Ruth Thurstan (UK) for chairing the Working Group. A project plan is currently being drafted and an announcement and call for NORA collaborators is planned for June 2020.

5) Production Working Group (Bernadette Pogoda)

The proposal to have an AWI-led Production discussion forum was welcomed by the Advisory Board.

6) Future funding for the NORA Network (Boze Hancock)

- A number of potential future routes to support the NORA Secretariat at the end of the current funding (June 30th 2021) were explored and will be investigated further by members of the Advisory Board and the NORA Secretariat.

7) AOB

- It was agreed that the chairperson for future meetings of the Advisory Board should rotate between Advisory Board members. The secretariat will propose a rotation scheme.



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- The Advisory Board was notified that AB member, Cass Bromley (NS) and Stéphane Pouvreau (IFREMER) are leading a project to determine the current extent and locations of native oyster habitats in Europe. It was noted that this was a much needed and useful venture, but that the exact locations of aggregations of oysters should be protected in any outputs.
- Alison Debney provided a brief update on the UK-Ireland network efforts. The Network is currently completing the European Native Oyster Managers Guide- UK and Ireland. The UK-Ireland Network look forward to sharing this completed document with the NORA community at the NORA 3 Online.
- Alison Debney also informed the AB that the UK-Ireland Network are planning on an online network meeting in September in hosted by the Bangor Shellfish Association, Wales.
- It was proposed and agreed that the AB convene again ~2 months prior to the November NORA 3 Online conference.