



## NORA Advisory Board Meeting, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Participants:** Kruno Bonačić, Alison Debney, Tristan Hugh-Jones, Henning von Nordheim, Hein Sas, Bill Sanderson, Bernadette Pogoda, Jo Preston

**Apologies received from:**

Cass Bromley, Philine zu Ermgassen, Pierre Boudry

**Meeting chaired by:** Jo Preston

**Agenda**

1. Minutes from last meeting
2. Update on NORA-3 Online, program and preparation to Nov.
3. Confirmation of dates for NORA-4.
4. Update on Expert Database.
5. Update on Biosecurity Guidelines (brief.
6. Funding discussion- EU DG Environment.  
Preparing a Green Deal proposal using NORA.

1) Minutes from 10<sup>th</sup> June approved

2) NORA 3:

- No extra budget required for NORA 3, largely thanks to TNC providing software license, The NORA Secretariat providing supporting technical capacity and logistics support (German funding), plus voluntary support from the Netherlands (Sas Consultancy).
- Programme
  - Constraints imposed by the online format and advice from the AB: brief and concise programme, just 2 mornings, presentations and discussions therefore also brief and concise.
  - Programme includes NORA/working group progress, as well as 2 keynotes and New projects/Important results.
  - Concerns were raised about tight time management and a possible mitigation for this (e.g. longer tea breaks as buffers, or pre-recorded talks) as suggestions for PzE to consider with the OC.
  - Presentations: Guidelines for speakers have been prepared. Dry-runs are being planned for the last week of October. Presentations will be pre-recorded during these sessions with recordings to be available in case of technical/band width issues during presentations. It was suggested that all presentations should be the pre-recorded version and presenters can answer questions live in Chat. To be considered by the OC.
  - Chairpersons to be briefed.
  - Separate briefing to prepare a closing statement.
  - It was suggested that time for working group meetings be scheduled in the afternoons following the conference session. WG meetings are being arranged in connection to NORA-3 online and WG leads will be contacted to arrange the most suitable times.
- Information on participants (as of 24<sup>th</sup> Sep.): 120 participants, from 13 countries. UK most, overall North Sea countries dominant. Future NORA engagement focus should be on participation of persons from Scandinavia, France, Iberian Peninsula & Mediterranean.

3) NORA 4:

- planned for 4-6 May 2021, Middelburg, NL (moved from Rotterdam)
- Sponsoring by the Rich North Sea and ARK/WWF transferred to NORA 4, with appreciation from the organising committee. Dutch Environment Ministry is yet to include sponsorship in the 2021 budget (indications are positive)

4) The Expert Database



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- has been constructed and is being tested as a Beta-version that is not public yet facing.
  - Early testing indicates the site is working smoothly
  - The link and password will be distributed to the AB next week. The secretariat would appreciate AB members registering as experts and providing feedback.
- 5) Biosecurity Guidelines
- The guidelines have been completed to draft stage
  - The draft has been distributed for consultation and the AB should have received instructions.
  - An editor's meeting is planned for 25<sup>th</sup> Sept.
  - It was commented that care should be taken to ensure the guidelines are practical/workable.
  - The editors plan to submit the guidelines to the designer in early October.
- 6) Funding discussion
- EU DG Environment
    - The topic of future funding for future development of restoration capacity and NORA secretariat as a coordinating body is yet to be explored.
  - Horizon 2020 Green Deal
    - Horizon 2020- Green Deal funding opportunity, Call Area 7 was identified as a very close match for the NORA mission and direction.
    - NORA has already identified the barriers to scale-up of oyster reef restoration, so a call to the network members for interest in leading/collaboration to submit a bid was suggested
    - It was agreed that NORA was the appropriate entity to generate a call to identify a lead agency for a proposal and interest in developing a proposal.
    - Institutions with capacity and experience in working with EU funding and compiling proposals should be involved
    - AB agreed upon pursuing both funding opportunities, DG Mare and Green Deal. Each opportunity requires partners and collaboration within the network. If partners are willing to engage, and if funding opportunities become clearer, the specific focus can be set later.
    - Deadline for submission of proposal for the Green Deal call is end of January 2021, so time is short. Follow-up actions: Informing NORA network about exploring different options for further funding, call for expressions of interest, setting up European cooperation
  - EMFF
    - Funding by EMFF (European Marine Fisheries Fund) may be possible in some countries, options have to be checked out.