



Municipalities for Sustainable Seas

KIMO International
Annual Report
2019/20

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Healthy seas for a healthy future

This year, we had hoped to host a celebration of our 30th anniversary and reflect on the fantastic things we have achieved together while looking forward to the hard work ahead. That was of course before the Coronavirus pandemic changed the face of the world as we knew it.

With the KIMO family having grown to more than eighty municipalities in eight countries – and now representing more than five million citizens – plans for our international anniversary celebration were of course put on hold.

As the initial shock and horror of pandemic passed, people all over Europe have started to get used to new ways of living. While the potentially disastrous impact of single-use plastic gloves and masks presents a new challenge to our environment, there are also reasons for hope emerging from a 'new normal'.

During the darkest days of the pandemic, local communities pulled together. As we emerge from the worst of times, we have all become acutely aware of the need to ensure a 'healthy future'.

Leaders all over Europe want to 'build back better' and the EU has put its European Green Deal at the heart of its recovery plan. Support is growing for a strong and sustainable 'Blue Economy'. And with many of us holidaying closer to home this year, the public has developed a renewed appreciation for the natural world and for visits to our stunning coastlines.

The last twelve months have been tumultuous but the course ahead is now clearer – and for KIMO that means weathering this storm so we can continue to grow our voice and achieve our mission of preventing pollution and protecting, preserving, and enhancing our seas and coastal waters for future generations. A healthy future depends on healthy seas.

In 2020 we are delighted to have welcomed KIMO Norway as a new national member group. We have continued to exchange knowledge and experience, most notably with our landmark report on best practice in the disposal of net cuttings. This year has also seen our continued presence at crucial international decision-making bodies, representing our members at the UN, OSPAR, HELCOM and the EU. We have also started work to improve our website and brand and develop a plan to grow our social media followings. Such efforts will be essential as we continue to reach out to more people and grow our membership in the months and years to come.

I hope that you enjoy reading this report about our activities and those of our national member groups in Denmark, the Netherlands and Belgium, Norway, Sweden, and the UK. I also hope that it will not be too long before it is once again safe for us to meet in person and to celebrate our 30th Anniversary together.



Jerry Ahlström
President
KIMO International

Our vision

Seas and coastal waters around northern Europe that are clean, healthy, safe and free from pollution and are preserved and enhanced for future generations.

Sustainable coastal communities that are fully protected from the impacts of marine pollution.



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A breakthrough year

2019 was a breakthrough year for KIMO's work on marine litter. The European Union's revised Port Reception Facilities Directive entered into force in July 2019, marking the successful conclusion of KIMO's lobbying work to ensure that passively-fished waste, including from KIMO's Fishing for Litter initiative, may be landed in port by any vessel for no special fee.



Fishing for Litter waste can now be landed for free

The new law will also mean that more marine litter is brought ashore and not left in the oceans to become a hazard to our beaches and shorelines, tourism and recreation, shipping and marine wildlife.

Calling for action on paraffin

Pollution from paraffin on beaches and coastlines remained a problem for coastal communities this year. KIMO continues to lobby the IMO, the EU and the OSPAR Regional Seas Convention on this issue.

We also contributed to the IMO's decision for mandatory prewash of tanks carrying paraffin and positively influenced the EU to include in the PRF Directive regulations that mandate discharge of tanks washings water at port. In 2019, we also successfully lobbied OSPAR to consider proposals to improve control and enforcement measures around discharges of paraffin.

Tackling net cutting waste

2019 also saw work begin to directly address waste from fishing net repairs. Sponsored by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, we wrote a report created a best practices guide on net cuttings waste to help reduce the amount of fishing net cuttings, cords and ropes from entering our seas. Read more on the next page.

Access and influence at OSPAR

KIMO also successfully tendered for the contract to facilitate work done by the OSPAR Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Litter – marine litter experts from across Europe who work to promote and take action on marine litter issues. KIMO's work with OSPAR provides direct access to policy makers and allows us to contribute to legislative changes that protect our marine environment. *See page 9.*

Net cuttings

KIMO International published new research into waste net cuttings from the fishing industry in April 2020.

Net cuttings are defined as pieces of waste cord and rope, as well as pieces of net that are dropped or lost while repairing fishing gear. This kind of marine litter has a significant impact on our marine environment and tackling it is essential to achieve healthy seas and cleaner beaches.

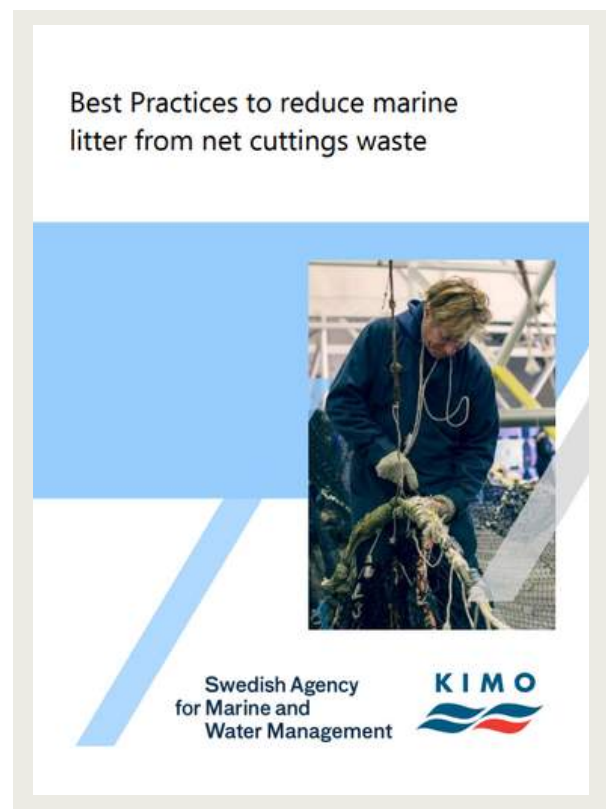
The 2019 Marine Conservation Society Great British Beach Clean found string, cord and small pieces of fishing net even more often than cigarette butts, and twice as frequently as plastic bottle tops and caps. On average, some form of fishing waste was found every 1.4 meters on UK beaches.

KIMO Members have reported similar figures elsewhere.

To learn more about why net cuttings end up in the sea, and what can be done to stop it from happening, we spoke to fishers and harbour staff in Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden and the UK.

The research was made possible thanks to the support of the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, recognising the unique position and expertise of KIMO to produce such a report. Surveys were conducted by KIMO staff and the final report written by Ryan Metcalfe and Arabelle Bentley.

The report found that simple, effective solutions can be implemented by fishers and port authorities to collect and contain pieces of net, rope and cord before they are washed to sea. However, mitigation requires awareness raising within the industry and engagement by fishers and harbour authorities to modify existing work practices and use methods and tools to better manage cuttings waste.



Our Net Cuttings report, published in April 2020

Easy answers first?

Some of the solutions shared by the fishermen are incredibly simple.

Fixing nets indoors (or below deck) when

possible, always having a suitable container nearby to collect waste, and making sure that brooms and other tools were always available to clean up were all common recommendations.

These kinds of practices can be included in waste management plans, which all harbours and some boats will have.

We also discovered high and low-tech innovations being used in different ports around Europe.

Different ports, different solutions

The port of Thyborøn in Jutland, Denmark has a dedicated net mending area and the edge of the quay has a raised concrete bevel, which prevents cuttings from washing into the sea.

In Västra Götaland, western Sweden, Öckerö harbour has an equipment building where fishers can borrow tools that can help them with clean-up activities on the quay. Clear signage and the provision of brooms, dustpans, shovels and pails or old fish boxes to collect cuttings are all useful.

In Lerwick Harbour in the Shetland Islands, UK, the port authority has invested in a backpack vacuum cleaner, which, while more expensive than a broom, has proven to be a quick and efficient means to clean up lost pieces of net and rope cuttings.



Net cuttings are often accidentally washed into the sea.

In all of the ports surveyed in the Netherlands, extra effort is made to ensure signage is clear and intelligible even for fishermen who cannot speak Dutch. Bins that are suitable for net waste have a recognisable symbol to make sorting waste straightforward.

While there is no single one-size-fits-all answer, it is clear that fishermen and harbour staff all over Europe are already thinking about the challenge of stopping net cuttings and have come up with a range of solutions that could be copied and implemented elsewhere.

Find out more:

kimointernational.org/net-cuttings/



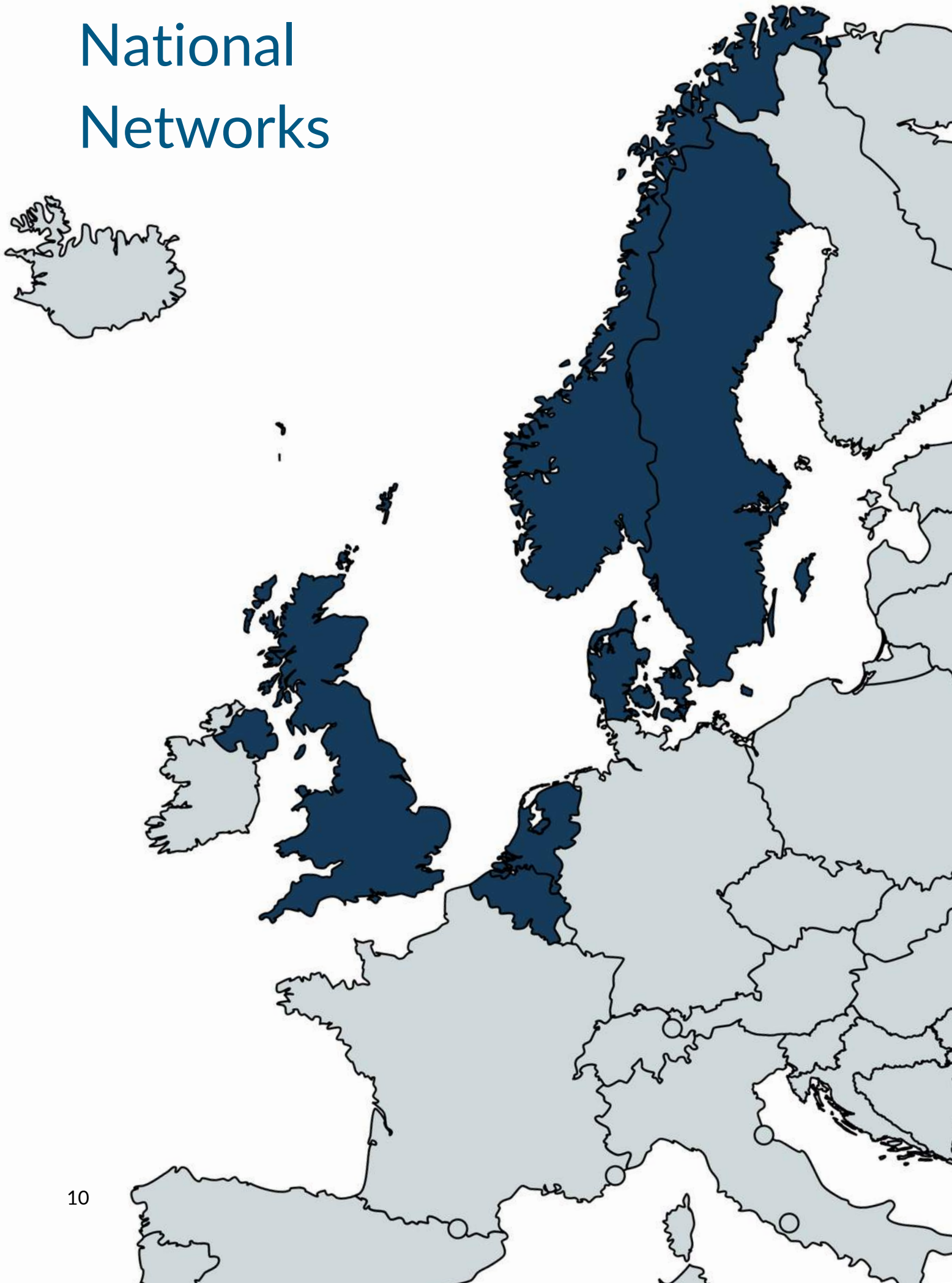
OSPAR & HELCOM

KIMO continues to raise members' issues of concern to the OSPAR & HELCOM Regional Seas Conventions (RSCs). This year the International Secretariat has participated in the Environmental Impacts of Human Activities Committee (EIHA) and the Intercessional Group on Marine Litter (ICGML) meetings, and given presentations on KIMO's work on reducing microplastic emissions from artificial sports pitches, on the Fishing for Litter hub and on KIMO's report and best practices guide to reduce waste from net cuttings from entering the oceans.

Marine litter remains high on the policy and regulatory agenda. OSPAR and HELCOM are each reviewing and renewing their Regional Action Plans on Marine Litter (RAP) for the next ten years, ensuring they are fully synergetic with EU and UN legislation. KIMO is part of a working group looking at operational objectives, and the Secretariat has represented members' interests as new marine litter objectives are developed. KIMO continues to work closely with OSPAR, HELCOM and their Contracting Parties on national and international implementation of RAP actions.

There remains much to be done and KIMO has an important role to play. Growing the organisation, setting clear targets and working together to achieve these will maximise our effectiveness and our ability to make a difference.

National Networks



Denmark



Ryan Metcalfe
Network Coordinator

KIMO Denmark's main focus is on the upcoming national maritime spatial plan, lobbying for the clean up of historical chemical waste dumps from the coastline and coordination and further development of the coastal lottery in Denmark.

Current projects focus on reducing marine litter through data collection, awareness raising, and efforts to target items at source.

Project and campaign updates

Beach monitoring for the Danish Ministry of the Environment will now also take into account personal protective equipment found on beaches.

A study was conducted as part of KIMO's Net Cuttings report and cooperation with KIMO International continued to prepare the minutes for OSPAR's expert group on marine litter.



Awareness raising at Race for Oceans 2020

Events

A beach cleaning event for 60 grade 9 students in Varde was held using funds from national beach cleaning grants.

KIMO spoke to the public at the 'Race for Oceans' clean beach relay event, in August.





Netherlands and Belgium



Mike Mannaart
Network Coordinator

It has been another busy period for KIMO Netherlands and Belgium.

Alongside local successes, we have represented KIMO internationally and delivered an major assignment in Georgia.

Fishing for Litter

2019 was an intense year with the loss of 342 containers in the Dutch North Sea. Fishermen collected over 550 tonnes of marine litter, which is much more compared to the annual average of 300 tonnes. For 2020 more than 500 tonnes is to be expected to be collected by our fishermen.

The national FFL scheme has increased participation to 137 vessels and has hope for a transition to structural funding.

Successful FFL award ceremonies were held in Den Helder, Velsen, Harlingen and Hollands Kroon. Participating fishermen were presented with certificates by KIMO board members/Aldermen. Further ceremonies are planned for later this year.

Meanwhile, we developed a hard copy overview of the port reception facilities of 13 Dutch fishing ports.

A cleaner Scheldt

In 2019 a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) was signed with stakeholders to clean up the Scheldt river and estuary. Three KIMO members and two potential future members signed the MoC.

Green Deals

After six years of successful work, our Green Deal Clean Beaches and Green Deal Fishing for a Clean Sea will wrap up this year. Long-lasting networks have been established and we are looking at options for a continues role after 2020.

Georgia

In September, our proposal for a National Marine Environment Strategy and Action Programme was approved by both the EU and the Georgian government.



Presenting a Fishing for Litter certificate to the crew of boat GO47 in Stellendam

Norway



Ragnhild Hammer
Network Coordinator

In May 2020 five Norwegian municipalities agreed to move from being independent members of KIMO International to form KIMO Norway. Arendal has taken the responsibility for coordinating this new national group for this first period.

Local beach cleaning actions have been carried out in the member municipalities.

The members have participated in cleaning up after the plastic pellet spill from MV Trans Carrier in February.

Bergen and Arendal have adopted a plan against plastic and marine litter.



Volunteers clear waste as part of a Våre Strender ('Our Beaches') action.

Looking ahead

Plastic pollution will remain a big issue in Norway this year as it has been chosen for the country's biggest fundraising and information campaign - the national broadcaster's NRK Telethon 2020.





Sweden



Karin Meyer
Network Coordinator



Evelina Norlin won KIMO Sweden's SEK 10,000 scholarship

KIMO Sweden has launched a SEK 10,000 scholarship for a student to produce a report. This year, the subject was how microplastic from textiles reaches the sea and the problems it causes. Evelina Norlin, a student at Gothenburg university, won the scholarship.

For KIMO's net cuttings project Kristina Fermskog, environmental analyst from Gothenburg, interviewed the fishermen and reported to the coordinator in Denmark who was project leader.

A communication agency is helping us to find a good strategy to progress our work to get KIMO Sweden more well known. In autumn a new brochure will be produced.

Hot topics

Microplastics from textiles and the legislation about scrubbers, membership recruitment.

Projects and campaigns

Information was sent to high schools to encourage them not to use plastic confetti at graduation. We want to address the problems we see with confetti and encourage them to choose other options, as petals or soap bubbles.

United Kingdom



Faron McLellan
Network Coordinator

The last year has presented some major challenges for KIMO UK with Covid-19 restrictions and unforeseen changes to project funding.

However, the reporting year ends on a positive note with the recruitment of a new member of staff, new interim funding and a plan to re-start membership recruitment soon.

Fishing for Litter

The two UK projects - Scotland and Southwest England - both saw impressive growth over the past year.



Fishing for Litter at Lochinver, Scotland.

FFL Scotland brought in 217.5 tonnes of litter this last year and new harbours are eager to join the scheme.

In Southwest England, FFL has taken 39 tonnes of waste out of the oceans - a record year.



Financial Statement

Income

In 2019 KIMO International received income from income from member local authorities, group members and for consultancy work.

The total income for the financial year 2019/20 was **£114,131**, of which **£97,481** came from membership fees and **£16,650** from consultancy work.



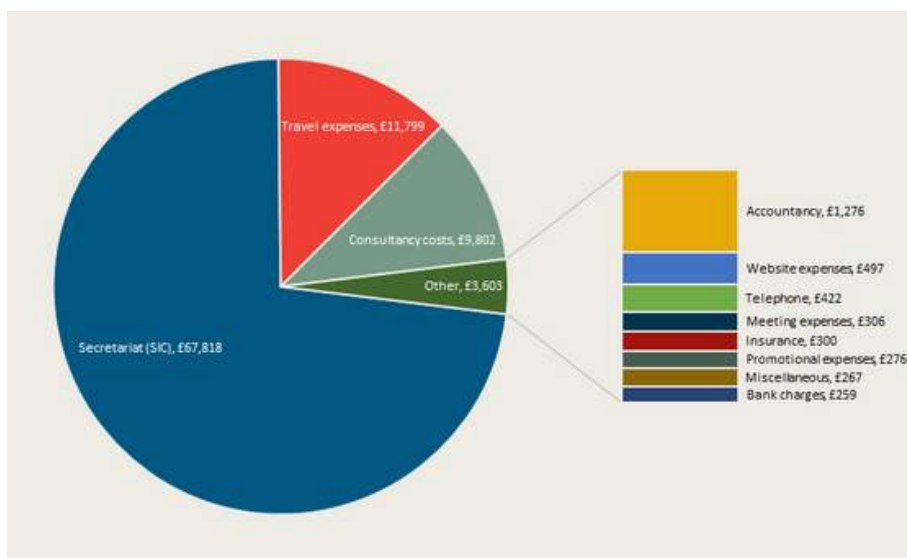
KIMO International Income 2019/20

Expenditure

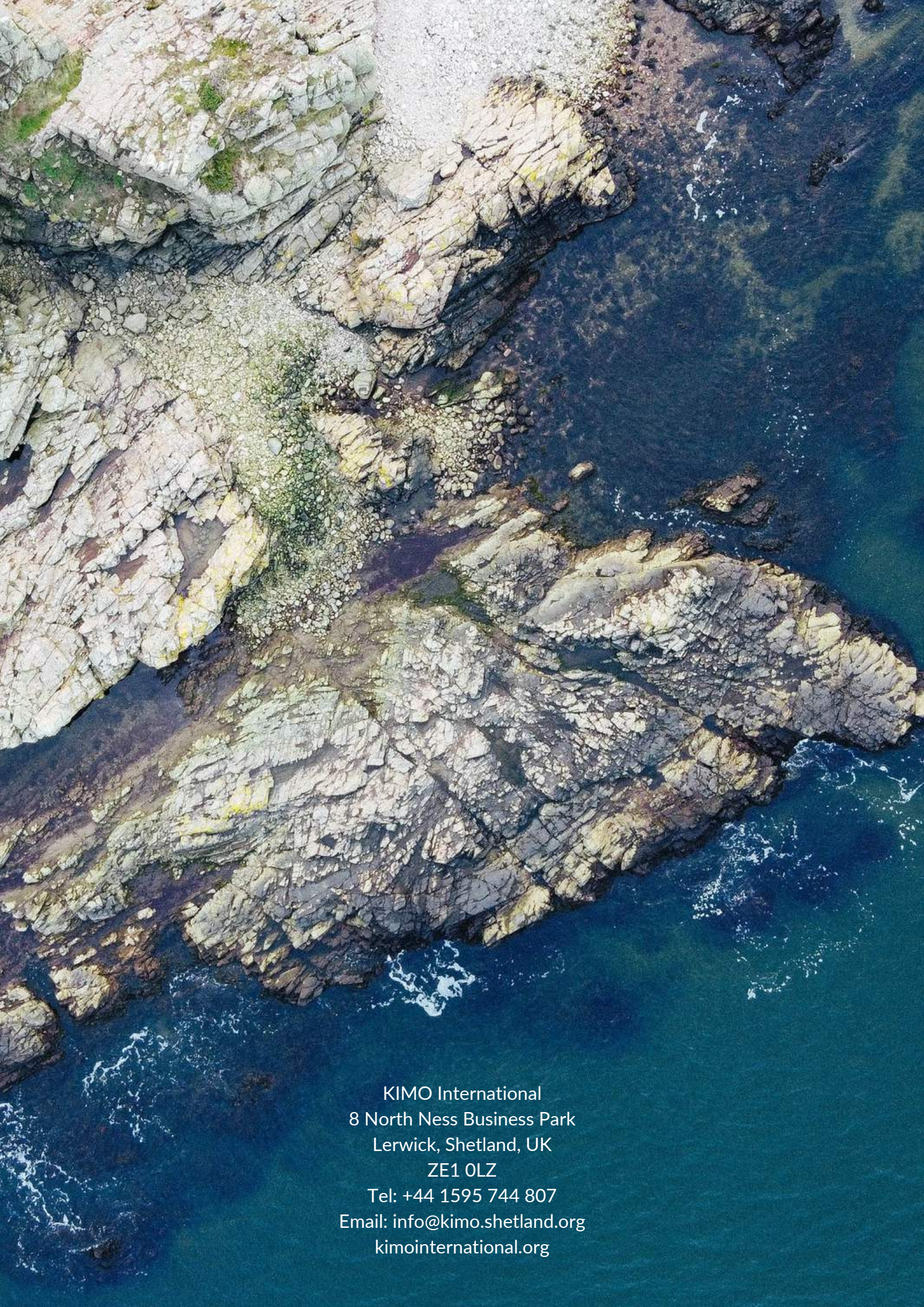
Total expenditure for the financial year 2019/20 was **£93,022**.

73% of which was spent on staff costs with **£11,799** for travel. **£9,802** was spent on consultancy costs, and **£3,603** on other costs - see breakdown below.

The 2019/20 Accounts include a surplus of **£21,109**.



KIMO International Expenditure 2019/20



KIMO International
8 North Ness Business Park
Lerwick, Shetland, UK
ZE1 0LZ
Tel: +44 1595 744 807
Email: info@kimo.shetland.org
kimointernational.org