

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



AGENDA PAPERS

**Friday 11 October 2024
09:00 - 12:30 CEST**

**Venue – Entrepot Building, Dokkade,
8862 NZ Harlingen, Netherlands**

**Hosted by
Gemeente Harlingen**



KIMO International

Annual General Meeting

Harlingen (Netherlands): 11 October 2024 – 09.00-12.30 CEST

Agenda

Welcome and introduction

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Adoption of the agenda | AGM 24/1 |
| 2. Draft minutes of the 33rd AGM – 5 October 2023 | AGM 24/2 |
| 3. International Activities Report 2023-24 | AGM 24/3 |
| 4. President's Report | Verbal |
| 5. Report from International Board meeting April 2024 | Verbal |
| 6. Action Plan 2024-25 | AGM 24/4 |
| 7. Finance | |
| • Financial report 2023-24 | AGM 24/5 |
| • Provisional budget 2025-26 | AGM 24/6 |
| 8. Reports from the Networks 2023-24 | AGM 24/7 |
| 9. Blue Schools Initiative – Mayor of Den Helder | Verbal |

10:30 – 11.30

Coffee and workshop on the role of the Secretariat

- | | |
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| 10. Changes to the Constitution | AGM 24/8 |
| 11. Election | AGM 24/9 |
| 12. Honorary Member Proposal | AGM 24/10 |
| 13. Blue Manifesto | AGM 24/11 |
| 14. Secretariat Transfer | Verbal |
| 15. AGM 2025 in Highland | Verbal |
| 16. Update from KIMO Netherlands and Belgium | Verbal |
| 17. AOB | |

Concluding remarks – Trish Robertson, KIMO President

KIMO International

Annual General Meeting

Harlingen (Netherlands): 11 October 2024 – 09.00-12.30 CEST

Minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Falkenberg & Online: 5 October 2023

The list of members and guests registered for the AGM can be found in Annex 1.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted by members.

2. Draft minutes of the 32nd AGM on 7 October 2022

The minutes were approved by members.

3. International Activities Report 2022-23

Ms Bentley encouraged the members and guests to use the hashtag **#KIMO2023** for any social media posts to help promote the event. Ms Bentley opens the report with KIMO's contributions and impact over the past 18 months:

Mandatory reporting of lost containers – entry into force 1 January 2026 – Ms Bentley says that KIMO's lobbying for legislation for over 12 years has contributed to the IMO putting the legislation into force.

Measurable decrease in emissions and discharges from the offshore oil and gas industry – Ms Bentley says that it has been shown through KIMO's OSPAR work has impacted this. Ms Bentley says this is always changing due to moving to greener energy sources but also due to the UK's approval for a new oil field near Shetland, where there is still work to be done in relation to this.

Measurable decrease in paraffin washing up on Danish shores since legislation implemented – Ms Bentley says that a lot of lobbying in relation to paraffin has been taking place in both KIMO Denmark and International, and has been taken to the Regional Seas Convention and the EU. KIMO Denmark has reported that paraffin on Danish shores have decreased dramatically after a change in legislation related to tank washings where ships are prohibited to dump their tanks in the sea.

National agreement for Vessel Traffic Management in Wadden Sea area – Ms Bentley says that it has taken a long time, but there is now legislation preventing ships from going close to shore.

Regional Seas Conventions – Marine Litter Actions – Ms Bentley says KIMO has been working with OSPAR and HELCOM Contracting Parties to develop a number of Marine Litter Actions. KIMO has Observer status and an active seat at the table for these discussions. KIMO has had direct input and influence to the revision of the Regional Action Plans for Marine Litter for OSPAR and HELCOM and the impact of this is reflected in the fact that these Conventions are addressing issues including balloons, confetti, net cuttings, artificial turf, plastic pellets, riverine litter, littering from cargo loss, sustainability education programmes from fishers and microplastics.

Ms Bentley provides an update on projects this year:

A report forx HELCOM and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency on mass balloon releases and confetti in Baltic Sea countries has been produced, which will be used for guidelines, as well as an online toolkit containing communications material. Ms Bentley says it will be released soon and is being translated into several of the HELCOM languages.

A report for the Nordic Council on acute plastic pollution (pellets) in Nordic countries has been produced, with the goal to increase collaboration across borders and unify a stance on the issue. Ms Bentley says this is also currently being translated in Nordic languages.

Ms Bentley says KIMO continues its contract with OSPAR ICG-ML to facilitate meetings and progress of tasks.

Ms Bentley says that KIMO's work as a partner in the CLEANATLANTIC Interreg Project was looking at sustainable waste management (including recycling) of marine litter by facilitating pilot projects within the UK. Ms Bentley says this only took place in the UK due to Atlantic funding but the results will be replicable in other countries. Ms Bentley says that the report is being finalised, but the biggest finding is the lack of recycling/reuse/repurposing that currently takes place, owing to a lack of suitable large scale facilities that can manage marine waste, which involves stripping down nets and pots/creels into their component parts. Ms Bentley says this does not take place regularly in the ports due to a lack of staffing and that many recyclers, due to them being small scale, are not doing it either.

Ms Bentley provides the project income summary:

Project title	Income	Expenditure	Retained
Balloons/Confetti - HELCOM	£24,347	£21,163	£4,184
ICG-ML Facilitation – OSPAR	£14,832	£10,570	£4,262
CLEANATLANTIC – EU Interreg	£39,747	£52,995	£-13,249
Acute Plastic Pollution – Nordic Council	£36,924	£15,239	£21,684
Total	£115,850	£99,967	£16,881

Ms Bentley said that due to KIMO International being insufficiently staffed, a lot of work had to be contracted out to consultants, which increased expenditure costs. Ms Bentley says this summary shows that KIMO is capable of continuing to produce these kinds of reports and that the International Board and Secretariat are working to increase staffing levels, as outsourcing to consultants is not sustainable.

Ms Bentley presents slides showing an increase in social media communications. Ms Bentley provides the following information:

- 14.4% increase in posts across social media networks
- 6.9% increase in fans & followers across networks
- 13.6% increase in page & profile impressions across networks (the number of times content was displayed on a person's screen)
- 36.6% increase in post reactions and likes
- 36.1% increase in average post engagement rate
- 7.6% increase of unique visitors per month to KIMO International website

Ms Bentley encourages members to like and share any posts that KIMO makes as it will raise our visibility. Ms Bentley also provides the KIMO International website's top downloaded documents, which the most downloaded are the practical documents including "PITCH IN" guidelines, best practises for reducing marine litter from net cuttings waste and KIMO Sweden's microplastics report.

Mr Metcalfe clarified that some external consultants are in-house such as KIMO Denmark and KIMO Netherlands. Ms Bentley agrees and mentions that this is stated in the International Activities report. Ms Bentley clarifies that KIMO Denmark handle all ICG-ML work.

Ms Eckelt asks if the money used for consultancy could be used to hire a person into KIMO. Ms Bentley says that it would be enough, but only for short term. Mr Ahlström says that this has been an issue for several years and the solution is to have a separate entity for in-house experts to do the consultant work, and that plans were progressing to address this. Mr Ahlström mentions he discussed the issue with Ms Bentley earlier and that money would stretch a lot further in-house, which would be beneficial for the organisation.

Ms Bentley notes that KIMO has a memorandum of understanding with the North Seas Commission (NSC) which is an association of regional governments, and that there are advantages to have a closer relationship with them. Ms Bentley goes on to say that KIMO and the NSC help each other, and that the NSC have a large part in the five Norway municipality memberships that KIMO have. Ms Bentley says that KIMO will be moving forward with their relationship with the NSC and work together on projects in the future, which will make KIMO's voice stronger at both levels.

The International Activities report was noted.

4. President's Report

Mr Ahlström says he represented KIMO International in Brest, France during May, where he signed a joint paper with the North Sea Commission on PFAS. Mr Ahlström goes on to say that he was approached many times by organisations who wanted to know more about KIMO, or to praise KIMO, as well as to receive KIMO's resolution on PFAS. Mr Ahlström also says he met a Finnish delegation of regional representatives whilst in France, who were very interested in KIMO's work, and planned to pass on information about KIMO to their municipalities.

Action: Secretariat will follow up with Finland.

Mr Ahlström reported that KIMO Sweden held a promotional event for interested municipalities on the day prior where five municipalities attended online. KIMO Sweden's presentation was received well by the municipalities, with one participant saying he will bring forward the idea of joining KIMO to their appropriate people. Mr Ahlström says that it was a disappointment that more municipalities viewed the presentation online, but that the event was worthwhile and he is hopeful that KIMO may receive new members because of it.

Mr Ahlström closes the report by saying that he is proud of the work that KIMO is doing.

The President's Report was noted.

5. Report from International Board meeting on 6th October 2023

Ms Bentley says that it was agreed that KIMO would like to intensify their work on PFAS. Ms Bentley says that the workshop that was to take place during the AGM was created to form best practices, and that the output would be turned into a document that will provide helpful information to KIMO municipalities.

Ms Bentley says that there was a discussion about the future of the KIMO Secretariat provision and a proposal to make the secretariat "virtual" so it can become truly international, and build resilience into the organisation. Time was insufficient for a full discussion or for any decision to be reached, but that an additional meeting of the International Board will be held to take the issue forward.

Mr Ahlström notes that it is important to know "who are we?" in relation to KIMO and that having an "elevator pitch" would be a useful tool to help politicians promote our organisation amongst their own contacts.

Action: Secretariat will coordinate development of one-page briefs for assisting politicians to promote and inform about KIMO and its work.

The report from International Board meeting on 6th October 2023 was noted.

6. Action Plan 2023-2024

No questions regarding the action plan.

The International Action Plan 2022-2023 was approved.

7. Finance

Mr Ahlström starts by saying the financial report to be shown is from a snapshot in March 2023, so some payments to KIMO or to consultants may not be accounted for in the particular snapshot.

- **Financial Report 2022-2023**

Ms Bentley clarifies that in the payment to Shetland Islands Council for the provision of Secretariat services is less than the agreed amount due to one of the two Secretariat posts being vacant for a prolonged period.

Ms Bentley goes on to say that a graduate intern was hired to assist with projects work including CleanAtlantic and development of the Fishing for Litter hub online.

Ms Bentley says that the meeting expenses were higher than expected due to KIMO paying a contribution to Tórshavn for the costs of hosting the AGM in 2022, which Tórshavn had kindly taken on at short notice.

Ms Bentley clarifies that the section “Provision for doubtful debts” cover non-receipt of membership fees from certain municipalities that the Secretariat has been unable to contact. Ms Bentley says that if the fees are not retrievable then the difference will have to be written off for next year.

Ms Bentley says that the consultancy fee is higher than usual, which has already been discussed (due to lack of staffing) and the Secretariat is awaiting reimbursements for the money that has already been paid out to consultants.

The financial report for 2022-2023 was approved.

- **Provisional Budget 2024-2025**

Mr Ahlström says that the provisional budget shows a deficit of around £5,500. He says this may be significantly more if KIMO does not receive membership fees from all member municipalities.

Mr Friis-Hauge asks for members of municipalities who have the power to convince other municipalities to join, to do so. He says that telling them what Ms Bentley has said about what KIMO is capable of achieving will convince other municipalities to join. Mr Ahlström adds that KIMO has received a new member in Denmark.

The provisional budget for 2024-2025 was approved.

- **Proposal**

Mr Ahlström says that at the International Board had acknowledged that a deficit such as the current one cannot continue to happen. He says the budget for 2024-2025 was already approved last year, and that this will be the third year that a deficit budget has been approved. He says that all cuts and savings to expenditure have been taken that does not compromise the work and influence of the organisation. Mr Ahlström goes on to say that KIMO’s healthy financial reserve has been dwindling due to using it to cover the deficits, which is not sustainable. He says the International Board agreed to make the following proposal to the AGM:

that for the financial year 2025-2026, membership fees will be increased by 10%, in addition to the adjustment for inflation.

Mr Ahlström says that if membership stays the same as it is currently, then this would generate an increase in funds of £12,000. He says this will address the shortfall in income and that the budget will be in balance for the following year. Mr Ahlström asks for questions.

Mr Friis-Hauge thanks Mr Ahlström for using a timeframe in the proposal that gives an opportunity to members and municipalities to review the changes, and go through the necessary process with plenty of time.

Mr Filsø agrees with the proposal with the board.

Action: members agreed to the proposal to increase membership fees by 10%, in addition to correcting for inflation, for the financial year 2025-2026.

8. Reports from the Networks 2022-2023

KIMO Denmark

Mr Friis-Hauge says that KIMO Denmark has gained a new member, Nyborg kommun, with a population of 32,000. Denmark has also gained a new partner, the Ocean Institute, an independent and knowledge based think-tank.

Mr Metcalfe says KIMO Denmark is excited to start two new Interreg projects, after the finalisation of the previous two projects. One of these projects is Source to Sea, which is looking at how litter from cities is finding its way into the seas. The second is the TREASURE project, which spans multiple countries including Belgium, Denmark, Holland and Germany. The TREASURE project will look at different watersheds, and different methods to prevent litter making its way to sea. If the project is successful, the outcomes can be replicated on a larger scale for other municipalities. Mr Metcalfe says KIMO Denmark is also working on a project that will look at how seaweed may become part of the circular economy. Mr Metcalfe says this will be achieved by creating a bio-economical framework for re-use for seaweed washed up on shores.

KIMO Netherlands and Belgium

Mr Mannaart says KIMO Netherlands & Belgium (NL/B) has retained its members this year. He goes on to say they are only lacking in members around the Wadden Sea area due to the lack of sandy beaches. Mr Mannaart says that after three years of negotiations, KIMO NL/B was successful in securing a new budget to continue the Dutch Fishing for Litter scheme from January 2023. Mr Mannaart says that KIMO NL/B has maintained communications with fishermen despite complications. Mr Mannaart also says that KIMO NL/B held their national AGM in January which included the topic of pharmaceuticals and pollution of freshwater environments. Mr Mannaart commented that the discussions were very good and lively. Mr Mannaart says that looking forward, KIMO NL/B has two green deals, clean beaches and general waste in the sea, that have run from 2014 will conclude at the end of the year. He says they are currently trying to find new funding and projects with a hands-on / local focus. Mr Mannaart says that an assessment will be conducted with an external consultant about the added value of the national KIMO network and how best members can be supported. He says that KIMO NL/B is establishing a working group with very broad dialogue about how to proceed and improve the national network.

KIMO Norway

Ms Bentley provides an update on behalf of KIMO Norway, due to no delegates being present. Ms Bentley says that continued membership with some municipalities are uncertain, but there are plans to arrange a trip to Norway to reach out to the new mayors, once elected, to maintain and hopefully expand membership. Ms Bentley says that KIMO Norway has focused on beach cleans on both a local and regional scale. Ms Bentley also says that KIMO Norway is involved in a project called SOS Skagerrak (Together for Skagerrak), which aims to preserve 30% and restore 30% of Southern Norway's marine areas by 2030.

KIMO Sweden

Ms Pleijel introduces herself as the new chair of KIMO Sweden and passes onto Ms Meyer for the report.

Ms Meyer says that KIMO Sweden has spent a lot of time on the exhibition for the AGM and on the promotional event for Swedish municipalities. Ms Meyer also says that KIMO Sweden has developed an action plan against marine litter.

KIMO UK

Ms Bentley says that KIMO UK has recently concluded elections, with Heather Woodbridge from Orkney Islands Council appointed as the new chair. Ms Bentley says that KIMO UK has been working with the CleanAtlantic project, as well as recycling projects. She also says that KIMO UK has been lobbying for UK legislation for the fitting of microfibre filters in washing machines. Ms Bentley says this has been pushed back on the Westminster Government's agenda with an unclear date for resolution. KIMO UK has been focused on the issue of PFAS and have put through Freedom of Information (FOI) requests to find out about the monitoring of PFAS, including how much, and what types are being monitored in water. Ms Bentley also mentions that sewage discharge into rivers is a big topic, and will be looked at in the future.

Ms Cant reports that Fishing for Litter in the UK (FfL UK) has been successful, with doubling the number of harbours participating. Ms Cant says that they have been awarded a large grant from the Scottish Government, and are searching for the best way to use this money. Ms Cant goes on to say that they are running two projects for Ørsted, which provide additional private funding, and has helped joined projects on the north and south ends of the country. FfL UK have also been piloting recycling projects across the UK. Ms Cant says they have also attended several events, produced merchandise and promoted through the harbours. She says they have been looking into the possibility for employing liaison staff to help increase communications. Ms Cant finishes with saying FfL UK has collected over 100 tonnes of litter so far this year (up to July 2023).

Ms Bentley adds that KIMO UK have been reliant on the grants that come from the UK government and that the previous year had £18,000,000 available for funding these types of projects, but for the coming years it is expected that this would be significantly reduced. She says that this will be a concern for funding in the future.

Germany

Ms Eckelt explains that KIMO Germany is built of two organisations, Insel- und Halligkonferenz and Schutzgemeinschaft Deutsche Nordseeküste, that focus on both the North Sea and the Wadden Sea. She goes on to say that the Wadden Sea is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is important to take into consideration. Ms Eckelt says that one of KIMO Germany's main concerns is the push for a German coastguard, or even broader, an international coastguard, which would include Denmark. Ms Eckelt says another concern is dumping of mud into the North Sea, which comes from the harbour of Hamburg, and gets dumped near the island of Helgoland. She says KIMO members in Germany want to focus on protecting fishing areas and national park areas.

Mr Ahlström encourages members to communicate between networks to collaborate on issues. Mr Ahlström then asks for questions.

Ms Björn asks for a delegates list to be circulated, so members can communicate. Mr Ahlström and Ms Bentley agree that this will be distributed.

Mr Ahlström thanks the coordinators for their reports.

Action: The Secretariat will make the delegates list available to download.

The network reports were noted.

9. Resolution – Black Carbon

Mr Ahlström says that black carbon has been an issue KIMO has been aware of over the past year and now has a resolution on.

The resolution was unanimously agreed.

10. Changes to the Presidency Team

Mr Ahlström says that once he leaves the presidency that he wants to see the next person have a high level of independence on the role. Mr Ahlström proposes that to achieve this, the Senior Vice President role should be eliminated, and for the junior president role to be renamed as Vice President.

The meeting agreed to eliminate the Senior Vice President role should be eliminated, and to rename the junior president to Vice President.

Action: The Secretariat will make the appropriate changes to the Constitution and present these to the AGM 2024 for approval by members.

11. Election

Mr Ahlström asked the meeting to approve the election of the President and Vice President as follows:

KIMO President – Trish Robertson

KIMO Vice President – Preben Friis-Hauge

Mr Friis-Hauge thanks the president and all delegates at the AGM and hopes that he can fill the role for Vice President at KIMO International. He says he is looking forward to his current work as a member of the International Board and Chairman of KIMO Denmark. Mr Friis-Hauge hopes KIMO can continue to have impact and to stay a sustainable, solid and robust organisation in the future. Mr Friis-Hauge says he is positive about the way ahead with KIMO's partnership with the North Sea Commission.

Ms Robertson says Covid-19's lockdown showed KIMO that due to inaction, a huge change can happen in a short span of time. She says that action can be taken by every KIMO member by making the public aware of what is learned at conferences, as well as what KIMO's resolutions mean for everyone. Ms Robertson adds that we also have responsibility as individuals to take action on what has been learned. Ms Robertson says she is looking forward to her role as International President over the next two years and asked that KIMO members assist in making the public aware of the dangers that are all around us.

The AGM approved the election of the President and Vice President.

Before concluding, Mr Ahlström passes onto Mr Friis-Hauge. Mr Friis-Hauge proposes that Mr Ahlström is appointed an honorary member of KIMO International. Mr Friis-Hauge thanks Mr Ahlström for his role in his presidency and how Mr Ahlström has made it clear that KIMO work together as a family, rather than a political entity.

12. Date/venue for AGM 2024

Mr Mannaart introduces a video that promotes the municipality of Harlingen, where the next AGM will take place. Mr Mannaart says that 2024 is an important year because it marks KIMO Netherlands 25th national anniversary, as well as KIMO Internationals 35th anniversary.

The next KIMO AGM will take place in Harlingen, the Netherlands on 9-11th October 2024.

13. AOB

Ms Björn from Lomma Municipality reports that Lomma will have a bubble barrier in operation within two months.

Mr Ahlström mentions that the morning papers included an article on KIMO.

Mr Ahlström thanks Mr Svensson and presents a gift on behalf of KIMO.

Mr Svensson thanks the delegates for attending the AGM and other events in Falkenberg.

President's concluding remarks

Mr Ahlström thanks everyone for their support during his four year presidency.

Mr Ahlström says that running an organisation where you seldom meet anyone had its hardships. He says that it has been a privilege that he would like every politician to experience, as well as every officer to work alongside Ms Bentley to have an idea of the broad scale that KIMO works within.

Mr Ahlström said that running KIMO was a struggle during Covid-19, and had worries that memberships would be lost, and he is thankful for the members that stayed with KIMO.

Mr Ahlström mentioned that one of his goals during his presidency was to increase KIMO's social media presence, appreciates how it has grown, and encourages members to continue to grow its presence.

Mr Ahlström mentions the importance of KIMO's projects, including Fishing for Litter and our work on addressing riverine litter. He says that riverine litter still needs progress to be stable and that this will be achieved by gaining membership from inland municipalities, which will prevent litter and pollution reaching seas.

Mr Ahlström says his third vision as president would be that Ms Bentley would gain assistance in her role as secretariat, and while she has had occasional help from other members, it has not been as much as he

hoped. He said his goal was for Ms Bentley to get five or six staff to assist the international secretariat but has only achieved the equivalent of one and a half staff.

Ms Ahlström says that during his presidency, the membership rates have almost stayed the same, with only one total loss of membership. He says that there are more possible memberships coming in the future. He says that KIMO will have to find future funding through new memberships and projects.

Mr Ahlström notes the high level of engagement in the PFAS workshop and will be relaying the information to a board meeting he will be attending in Sweden.

Mr Ahlström says it has been an honour to represent KIMO International, and that it would have been impossible without Ms Bentley's assistance.

Ms Bentley thanks Mr Ahlström for his role as president and is thankful that he will stay on as part of KIMO Sweden.

Mr Ahlström thanks all members for their support.

Ms Robertson presents Mr Ahlström with a trophy and thanks him for all his work in KIMO.

The meeting was closed.

Annex 1 - Registrants

First Name	Last Name	Municipality/Organisation
Mats	Abrahamson	Sotenäs
Jerry	Ahlström	Lommar/KIMO International
Lars-Olof	Axelsson	Uddevalla kommun
Katy	Beaton	Orkney Islands Council
Arabelle	Bentley	KIMO Secretariat
Pia	Bergenholtz	Sotenäs kommun
Stina	Bertillsson Vuksan	City of Helsingborg, Environment Office
Helena	Björn	Lomma municipality
Julian	Bor	Gemeente Den Helder
Daniel	Borup	City of Aalborg
Julia	Cant	KIMO UK/Fishing for Litter
Graeme	Cant	N/A
Björg	Dam	Tórshavnar kommuna
Ingela	Danielsson	Falkenberg municipality
Natalie	Eckelt	Insel- under Halligkonferenz e.V.
Annelie	Eckeskog	City of Helsingborg
Maire	Feser	Kungälv kommun
Karsten	Filsø	Holstebro Kommune
Preben	Friis-Hauge	KIMO Denmark, Varde Municipality
Birgit	Friis-Hauge	Varde/KIMO Denmark
Ken	Gowans	The Highland Council
Lilja	Gunnarsson	Tanum Kommunufelagið - The Association of Faroese Municipalities
Janus	Haraldsen	
Åsa	Holmqvist	Helsingborg Miljönämnden
Daniel	Irvold	Vordingborg
Theresa	Jákupsdóttir	Tórshavnar kommuna
Anders	Kjellgren	Öckerö
Nina	Knol	North Sea Commission
Barbara	Krarup Hansen	Tønder
Søren Hjortsø	Kristensen	Esbjerg Kommune
Kristopher	Leask	N/A
Thomas	Lomholt	Hjørring Kommune
Jakob	Lysholdt	Guldborgsund Kommune
Michael	Mannaart	KIMO Netherlands/Belgium
Erik	Martinsson	Kungälv kommun
Ryan	Metcalfe	KIMO Denmark
Karin	Meyer	KIMO Sweden and Gothenburg municipality
Jim	Moore	Wexford County Council
Phil	Murphy	Wexford County Council
Karin	Pleijel	Göteborgs stad

Trish	Robertson	Highland Council
Martin	Robertson	Highland Council
Mikael	Salomonsgård	Environment & Health
Hans	Schub	Tanums kommun
Sofia	Stengavel	Uddevalla kommun
Per-Ola	Svensson	Falkenberg municipality
Peter	van Diepen	Gemeente Den Helder
Hendrick	van Putten	KIMO Netherlands/Belgium
Lorna	Wallace	KIMO UK/Fishing for Litter
Ewan	Wallace	N/A
Inger	Wessel	Kungälv municipality
Heather	Woodbridge	Orkney island Council

Apologies

Bengt Arne Andersson

Elisabet Babic

Anders Debel

Ann-Brit Jansson Bensköld

Emma Johansson

Linnea Rösiö

KIMO International

Annual General Meeting

Harlingen (Netherlands): 11 October 2024 – 09.00-12.30 CEST

International Activities 2023-24

Recommendation:

To note the International Activities report.

Background

The purpose of the KIMO International Annual Activities Report is to inform about activities since the last Annual General Meeting. In this report you will find:

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Report on the KIMO Action Plan 2023-2024 key action areas:
 - a. Increase the influence of the organisation nationally and internationally
 - b. Ensure members’ voices are heard on issues affecting the marine environment
 - c. Promote a cross border coordinated approach to the protection of coastal and maritime areas
 - d. Lead by example in improving the marine environment
 - e. Provide members with a viable, supported and fully sustainable organisation
- 3. External projects and income

1. Introduction

The total number of individual KIMO member municipalities at the end of September 2024 was 77, plus 3 group members – Kommunufelagið (Association of Faroese Municipalities), Insel- und Halligkonferenz (Association of municipalities working together in the Frisian Islands, Halligen and Helgoland) , and Schutzgemeinschaft Deutsche Nordseeküste (Association for the Protection of the German North Sea Coast). Since the last AGM KIMO International lost four municipalities - Aberdeen City Council and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar from the UK and Arendal and Farsund Kommunes from Norway. We have gained new members in Fife (UK) and Nyborg (Denmark). However the status of Kommunufelagið and individual members Bergen, Grimstad and Lillesand (from Norway) may be described as uncertain as there has been no contact with them in recent months and fees for 2024-25 have not yet been paid.

KIMO UK	7
KIMO Denmark	19
KIMO Sweden	12
KIMO NL_BE	33
KIMO Norway	2
Independent	4
Group	3

The 2023 AGM was held in Falkenberg (Sweden) and online on 6th October 2023 and was attended by 52 delegates from 25 member municipalities. There was a focus on the issue of PFAS, with a workshop following up on the resolution passed in 2022. A further resolution on phasing out Black Carbon was adopted.

The International Board meeting took place on 16th May 2024 at Wexford (Ireland) and online. The main focus of the meeting was the future of the KIMO International Secretariat, following Shetland Islands Council providing six months notice to cease providing the service. The Board agreed to end SIC involvement with KIMO Secretariat with the goal of 31st December 2024. There was no further discussion of the creation of a separate financial entity to manage KIMO's external work and income.

Members of the International Board in 2023-24 – in addition to the President Trish Robertson (KIMO UK) and Vice President Preben Friise-Hauge (KIMO Denmark) – were Heather Woodbridge (KIMO UK), Karen Pleijel (KIMO Sweden), Jacco Knappe (KIMO Netherlands and Belgium), Einar Holmer-Hoven (KIMO Norway) Councillor Andrea Manson (Shetland Islands Council, UK) and Jim Moore (Wexford County Council) The National Coordinators attend as Observers and the International Secretariat facilitates the meetings. The Secretariat and National Coordinators hold monthly meetings online to exchange information and progress the work of KIMO.

In April 2024 Arabelle Bentley stepped down from the Executive Secretary post to move to new employment after ten years in the role. The post is currently being undertaken by Robina Barton, who has been seconded from another role within Shetland Islands Council and will provide cover until the Secretariat relocates. The Secretariat wishes to acknowledge Arabelle's commitment to and valuable work for the organisation.

2. Report on the KIMO Action Plan 2023-24 key action areas

KIMO strategy is implemented through the Action Plan that is revised each year and approved by delegates at the AGM. The following report contains some of the activities and successes of 2023-24.

a. Increase the influence of the organisation both nationally and internationally

The Secretariat has continued to work to increase KIMO's visibility and influence, with a robust social media presence used daily to promote KIMO regionally and globally, cascading information regularly to a large number of contacts and stakeholders. Our message is that KIMO is the 'go to' organisation for comments and expert opinion on marine environmental matters.

ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

KIMO International President Trish Robertson and Secretariat Robina Barton attended the North Sea Commission Annual Board Meeting held in Bergen (Norway) in June 2024 and participated in its Marine Resources Group. Trish gave a presentation on KIMO International to the Board, particularly highlighting our focus on PFAS, in the light of KIMO Resolution 22/1 and the joint statement on PFAS signed with the North Sea Commission. The event provided a good opportunity for networking, and particularly to explore ways of re-engaging Norwegian municipalities with the Network. There was also discussion of a joint webinar in relation to the new EU Nature Restoration Law, which was adopted by the EU Environment Council on 17 June 2024 and came into force on 18 August.

We have been contacted by Seas at Risk and several partner organisations regarding their new Blue Manifesto, launched on 1st October 2024, which we are invited to endorse. We have also re-engaged with FIDRA to discuss future development of the Pitch-In project in the light of the EC Regulation (EU) 2023/2555 restricting the sale of microplastics that are intentionally added to products.

ATTENDANCE AT EVENTS

President Trish Robertson attended the EU Ocean Days in Brussels in March at which a KIMO International poster was displayed. Organised for the first time in 2024, the Ocean Days focussed on the future priorities for Europe's Seas, blue innovation and investment opportunities and ocean literacy activities.

KIMO Denmark Coordinator Ryan Metcalfe attended the 2nd International Symposium on Plastics in the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Region in Reykjavik on 22-23 November 2023. The Symposium created a platform for experts to gather and work towards effective action against the threats that plastic pollution poses to the Arctic environment and to support a change towards a more sustainable future. There were many interesting presentations from researchers, especially about microplastics, and the list of presentations can be found in the conference programme. A symposium summary and conclusions as well as PDF versions of the presentations and conclusions from the symposium can be found on: www.arcticplastics.is

Ryan also attended the European Maritime Day 2024 in May. He had a booth at the event and made some useful contacts, particularly learning more about the Blue Schools Initiative, which will be highlighted at our forthcoming AGM.

CAMPAIGNS

KIMO International was commissioned to write a report and develop social media resources for HELCOM for a 'Celebrate Better' campaign. We created a series of videos, social media cards and messages to encourage the public to think twice about releasing balloons or throwing confetti outdoors.

For two weeks in March we ran a social media campaign to raise awareness about PFAS pollution. The response was positive and the campaign generated new followers. The North Sea Commission (with whom we have a joint statement on PFAS) shared KIMO's posts about PFAS thereby extending our reach.

We also ran a social media campaign on lost shipping containers. Following the spill of Maersk containers in Denmark earlier in the year, Maersk have now cleaned all they're going to, which is about half of what was spilled. This has caused some debate about how much they should be expected to do.

b. Ensure members' voices are heard on issues affecting the marine environment

OSPAR EIHA (Environmental Impacts of Human Activities)

The Secretariat has continued to work closely with the OSPAR Regional Seas Convention, making use of KIMO's Observer status to contribute and influence marine policy of the 15 European countries and the EU that are contracting parties to the OSPAR Convention.

In November 2023 EIHA agreed to forward the OSPAR Background Document on reducing microplastic contamination from performance infill in artificial grass pitches written by KIMO with UK and Sweden for publication.

KIMO International is supporting delivery of the new Marine Litter Regional Action Plans for OSPAR. It is leading delivery of Action A.5.2 from the OSPAR ML RAP (North East Atlantic Environment Strategy S4.01.T6) with support from Norway and Sweden:

A.5.2 Reduce microplastic contamination from artificial grass

This is the first time an Observer organisation has taken the lead in action delivery. KIMO is also supporting delivery of the following actions:

A.3.1 Monitor, prevent and reduce riverine inputs of macro litter to the marine environment and share knowledge on micro litter monitoring

B.1.1 Harmonise practises related to the provision and use of Port Reception Facilities

B.4.3 Promote practical solutions for reducing the impact of certain specific fishing related items such as net cuttings and dolly rope

B.4.5 Raise awareness and improve education in the fishing sector, including the strengthening of the OSPAR recommendations on Fishing for Litter and on Sustainability Education Programmes for fishers.

C.1.1 Prevent micoroplastic pollution resulting from plastic pellet, powder and flake loss.

KIMO International was represented at two meetings of the OSPAR Environmental Impacts of Human Activities Committee (EIHA), which is fed into by the IC-GML.

Marine litter targets

In November 2023 there was a discussion of options for additional regionally coordinated quantitative reduction targets for marine litter on beaches. In June 24 EIHA agreed to establish a reduction target of 70% for all marine litter items as applied to the whole of the OSPAR Maritime Area.

Deep sea mining task group

In November 2023 there was some doubt as to the future of the Deep Sea Mining Task Group, particularly in the absence of a Group Lead. In June 2024 Ireland and Seas at Risk offered to co-lead the group, and revised Terms of Reference were presented, which were agreed. However, Norway questioned the role of observers as co-leads of OSPAR ICGs and working groups and ask that it be referred to OSPAR Heads of Delegation. The outcome of this query could impact on other areas of KIMO's work. KIMO International may wish to consider joining the DSM Task Group.

Ship scrubber managment

In June 2024 Sweden updated on task S7.05.T1 on ship scrubber management. A workshop had been held in order to put together a draft OSPAR Recommendation. The main proposal was a ban on scrubber discharge water within territorial waters, while continuing to work on banning discharges across a wider OSPAR area. A meeting of the task group would be held to review comments on the draft and agree on a formulation to send to Secretariat before Christmas, along with a background document

OSPAR ICG ML

The Secretariat attended two meetings of the OSPAR Intersessional Group on Marine Litter (ICGML). KIMO has a contract to help facilitate these meetings and is responsible for the production of the summary record. The contract benefits KIMO both by providing an income and by keeping its profile raised amongst the 15 Contracting Parties and the EU that cooperate through OSPAR.

Net cuttings and dolly rope

At ICG ML (3) 2023 Contracting parties were asked to indicate their ambition for developing national strategies to achieve a phase out and support an EU wide ban on dolly rope by 2027. Phasing out dolly ropes with a transition period was seen as feasible and the suggestion was to have a clear OSPAR position and make a Recommendation for an EU wide phase out referring to alternative solutions.

KIMO International proposed a best practice guidance on the prevention and mitigation of net cuttings that could be implemented nationally by Contracting Parties. Another suggestion was to produce a background document to form the basis for measures. Monitoring of net cuttings could provide information on sources and how it contributes to trans-boundary pollution. Recognizing pieces of net can be challenging so it is important to harmonize monitoring and better prepare beach litter monitors to receive more accurate data on net cuttings from OSPAR beaches.

In 2020, KIMO International were supported by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, to develop best practices to reduce marine litter from net cuttings waste. It was agreed that the Netherlands would help develop the KIMO net cuttings best practices document into an OSPAR best practice document with assistance from The RAP ML Coordination Team. Contracting parties were asked to contribute information on existing initiatives and best practices for net cuttings and indicate if they could help support this work and an eventual workshop.

Plastic pellets

At ICG ML (3) 2023 there was an update on the progress on action C.1.1 preventing microplastic pollution resulting from plastic pellet, powder and flake lost. ICG-ML was invited review and provide comments on the draft background document on plastic pellet pollution and clean-ups. It was noted that the background report for the Nordic Council of Ministers on Acute Plastic Pollution written by KIMO International could provide input to the guidelines. The focus on clean-ups and guidance has been overlapped by work by the IMO. A circular from the IMO containing guidance for the carriage of plastic pellets by sea has been agreed and published. This includes packaging, labelling and stowage advice. IMO has agreed on guidelines for pellet spill clean-up with a focus on emergency maritime spill response to be published 2024/2025.

At ICG ML 2024/1 OSPAR Recommendation 2021/06 on the reduction of plastic pellet loss into the marine environment was compared to the EC proposal of mandatory requirements to prevent pellet losses and related compliance system. The proposal does not align with the OSPAR Recommendation and guidelines, but the draft is still being negotiated. Contracting Parties are encouraged to raise awareness about the discrepancies.

There is a proposal for a new ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation) work item on 'pellet loss prevention – pellet handling requirements' which has been proposed by America and based on the requirements of Operation Clean Sweep Blue. The UK is working with the proposal owners to improve the scope and a draft outline for a working document to reflect the requirements agreed within OSPAR. The proposal text will be shared with ICG-ML when drafted.

KIMO international informed that a robot for cleaning up pellets on beaches was being developed in Denmark through the Race for Oceans organization. It was noted that the pellets issue is very complex and an OSPAR briefing document will be developed by the task group with the most recent information and positions that could be used by Contracting Parties to better argue and support action C.1.1.

IMO MEPC

Sub committee on pollution, prevention and response

KIMO Denmark Coordinator Ryan Metcalfe participated in a Danish pre-meeting in preparation for the MEPC (MEPC82) to be held from 30 Sept – 4th Oct 2024. The MEPC will be considering outcomes of the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response regarding the development of amendments to mandatory instruments to address the environmental risk associated with the maritime transport of plastic pellets. There will also be an update on the status of the actions in the Action Plan to address marine plastic litter from ships (resolution MEPC.310(73)).

Sub committee on the carriage of cargoes and containers

Ryan attended a pre-met of the Sub-Committee on the Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC10) with a focus on preventing the loss of containers at sea. He noted that Denmark submitted well documented material to help the Sub-Committee commence its work on the "development of measures to prevent the loss of containers at sea", notably:

possible amendments and updates to the IMO framework concerting measures to prevent the loss of containers at sea.

a summary and ranking of issues contributing to container loss and a review of current and future work of the Organization to prevent the loss of containers at sea and to mitigate the impacts of such incidents.

RESOLUTIONS

No further resolutions have been proposed since the AGM 2023 but this may be a good opportunity to reflect on past Resolutions and record progress.

- c. Promote a cross border coordinated approach to the protection of coastal and maritime areas

CAPonLITTER project

At ICG ML 2024/1 and update was provided on the CAPonLITTER Interreg project that aims at improving policies and practices that can help in preventing marine litter that results from coastal tourism and recreational activities. Timelines for the action were amended and two guidance documents were being finalised and translated. The CAPonLITTER green book was also available. It summarizes Phase 1 of the Project and good practice identified and presented by the stakeholders from the seven countries involved relating to zero-waste beaches and beach facilities; zero-waste coastal communities; and zero-waste beach communities. Regional workshops will be held both in HELCOM and OSPAR areas. KIMO International asked to be kept informed about the action and offered to help with networking for regional workshops.

GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY

Progress can be noted on the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution including in the marine environment. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC3) met in November 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya with the goal to advance the treaty using the zero draft text. Between September and November, countries reviewed the draft text and policy positions. INC4 was held in Ottawa, Canada in April 2024. It saw the completion of some work, including developing a list of products and chemicals of concern, and standard design requirements to improve recycling capabilities. However, despite calls by several nations, talks did not address the need to reduce production of primary plastic polymers (new plastics). Intersessional work is ongoing, and INC5 is due to be held in Busan, Korea in November 2024.

CIRCULAR DESIGN OF FISHING GEAR

In the second OSPAR Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter, the UK and the Netherlands, with the support of Denmark and Iceland, are leading Action B.4.2 on Stimulating circular design and developments in waste management of fishing and aquaculture gear. OSPAR Contracting Parties will work together to exchange information and good practice relevant to the circular design and waste management of fishing and aquaculture gear, including the requirements of the SUP Directive, and in future, consider measures to support the implementation of published circular design gear standards and other regional and global obligations. A joint workshop with the EC took place in March 2024 and included presentations from the Commission, the Regional Action Plan coordination team and the co-chair of the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) developing the circular gear design standard. OSPAR requested that KIMO International help promote the standard when it is published.

d. Lead by example in improving the marine environment

Fishing for Litter continues to be one of KIMO's most successful projects. It has been incorporated into OSPAR policy and has generated a great deal of interest at EU level with its inclusion in revised Port Reception Facilities Directive.

Under the CleanAtlantic project, KIMO worked with local organisations and SMEs to set up a series of pilot projects in the UK that focus on collection, recycling and upcycling of end of life fishing gear and ghost gear, to establish best practices and report on barriers and challenges to sustainable, targeted collection of fisheries waste. Project funding was used to develop the Fishing for Litter hub and some new FfL schemes that will pilot more sustainable waste management.

KIMO Denmark is involved in the European Union funded Treasure project (Toolbox to Reduce Plastic Outflow into the North Sea). The project has a scope across several North Sea countries with a focus on riverine litter inputs from urban sources, monitoring and prevention activities.

e. Provide members with a viable, supported, sustainable organisation

The Secretariat is currently hosted by Shetland Islands Council (UK) and is located in the Shetland Islands. The Secretariat consists of Interim Executive Secretary **Robina Barton** and Business Support Officer **Innis Johnston** with support from the Executive Manager of Planning **Iain McDiarmid**. The Secretariat has been further supported since April 2021 by part-time communications officer, **Grioghair McCord**, who is subcontracted by KIMO International.

Under the terms of the contract between KIMO International and Shetland Islands, the Secretariat has continued to address the contractual obligations. It works to meet the administrative and strategic needs of the organisation and to further improve and enhance the service provided, based on feedback from network colleagues and members.

The Secretariat has facilitated the work of the organisation through preparation for the Annual General Meeting 2024, two International Board meetings and several National Coordinator meetings. The Secretariat has continued to carry out the activities agreed at these meetings and has continued to develop and implement initiatives to facilitate the organisation's work. The Secretariat works together with the Presidency Team to implement KIMO policy and to promote KIMO's work to a wide and diverse audience. The Presidency Team continues to meet regularly with the Secretariat on issues of KIMO policy and organisation.

This year KIMO International has welcomed two new members – Fife Council in the UK, and Nyborg Municipality in Denmark. During the IB held in Wexford, Ireland in April, several coastal Irish Local Authorities were invited to an event to learn more about KIMO and there has been some interest in joining expressed.

3. External projects and income

KIMO International has worked hard over the past 4 years to attract opportunities to win contracts for external projects, in order to boost income and to make the organization more financially resilient. This strategy has been successful - we have implemented sustained high-level promotion of our organization that has led to successful outcomes in terms of projects won which are closely aligned with many of KIMO's own goals.

HELCOM ALDFG (Abandoned, Lost, Discarded Fishing Gear)

KIMO Denmark has, on behalf of KIMO International, been tasked to complete a project to advance work on HELCOM Regional Action Plan (RAP) actions related to ALDFG and recreational fisheries gear. The project is contracted by HELCOM and coordinated by Sweden. KIMO Denmark has put together a small team to address the 5 RAP actions and is currently undertaking desktop research, interview and a survey of recreational fishers. They will deliver these reports to HELCOM in 2025.

Robina Barton

Interim Executive Secretary

September 2024

KIMO International

Annual General Meeting

Harlingen (Netherlands): 11 October 2024 – 09.00-12.30 CEST

International Action Plan 2024-25

Recommendation:

The AGM is asked to approve the International Action Plan 2025-26.

This action plan is based on the priorities identified by KIMO members and sets out the new and ongoing work for the year ahead.

Where relevant, KIMO priority work is mapped to high-level policy and legislation, in particular those of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, G7 marine litter action plan, EU legislation (including MSFD) and the work areas of the Regional Seas Conventions, OSPAR and HELCOM. The purpose of this is to demonstrate how KIMO's work impacts on the mandatory legislation that binds our member countries.

KIMO International Action Plan 2024-2025				
Action area	Objectives	Key activities	Timeline	Legislation/Policy
Increase the influence of the organisation both nationally and internationally	Ensure promotion of KIMO's priorities to relevant EU institutions, organisations and members states	Maintain and build new contacts with officers at DGs, Committee of the Regions, national offices, other organisations	Continuous – regular contact with relevant officials and stakeholders to keep them informed of KIMO activities – 2-3 times per year	
		Establish partnerships and identify areas for cooperation with other international organisations	Continuous – includes North Sea Commission (& Marine Resources Group), FIDRA, Seas-at-Risk, Surfrider EU, Odyssey Innovation, Coalition Clean Baltic, Ørsted/other offshore energy businesses	
	Influence strategy and policy of EU, OSPAR, HELCOM, making clear we represent local authorities & communities	Ensure decision makers are informed about KIMO's position	Continuous – lobbying, resolutions, campaigns, consultations	
	Raise KIMO's profile with stakeholders	Participate in international and national conferences and stakeholder events	Continuous	
	Influence IMO strategy	Follow marine litter developments at MEPC	Follow developments on lost containers and marine litter action plan	
	Ensure visible support to other stakeholders and campaigns	Promote campaigns that prevent/reduce marine pollution	Continuous	SDG 14.1
	Increase membership in KIMO countries	Establish new contacts, participate in events	Continuous – consider promotional events in Norway, Brussels possibly the HELCOM region.	

Action area	Objectives	Key activities	Timeline	Legislation/Policy
Ensure members' voices are heard on issues affecting the marine environment	Lobby UN, EU, RSCs, IMO, other organisations to take effective action on marine pollution and maritime safety issues	Attend relevant meetings; submit papers & resolutions, participate in consultation and technical groups; campaign & raise issues on KIMO resolutions	Continuous – EU, UN, OSPAR, HELCOM, IMO, SEARICA, GGGI, NFLA, NSC	
		Lobby for a ban on discharge of paraffin from ships tankers and pipes	Ongoing	SDG 14.1 EU PRF Directive IMO MARPOL
		Lobby for a ban on PFAS	Convene PFAS Working Group	SDG 12.4, 14.1 EU Persistent Organic Pollution Regulation OSPAR HASEC HELCOM BSAP
		Lobby IMO and EU for mandatory reductions in Black Carbon emissions	Ongoing – ensure resolution submitted to all National Governments, the European Commission, the International Maritime Organisation and other relevant organisations.	SDG 14.1 FuelEU Maritime Regulation IMO MARPOL
		Monitoring of 'no fee' for delivery of passively-fished waste in EU ports	Ongoing – work with FfL international coordinators on effects to FfL of the PRF Directive implementation act	SDG 14.1, 14.2 OSPAR + HELCOM RAP ML 30, 31, RS3, RS4 EU PRF & SUP Directives
		Promote net cuttings report/ best practice guide	Work with the Netherlands to develop KIMO net cuttings best practices document into an OSPAR best practice document with assistance from The RAP ML	OSPAR RAP ML 36, G7

			Coordination Team.	
		Promote balloons/confetti report	Request that report be distributed to OSPAR CPs	SDG 14.1 OSPAR & HELCOM RAP ML 48
		Promote acute plastic pollution report	Feed into OSPAR guidelines on preventing microplastic pollution resulting from plastic pellet, powder and flake loss.	SDG 14.1 OSPAR & HELCOM RAP ML
		Monitor/lobby on Extended Producer Responsibility	Ongoing	EU SUP Directive, G7 RAP ML
		Develop political resolutions on relevant subjects	Review progress on all resolutions to date and identify priority actions	

Action area	Objectives	Key activities	Timeline	Legislation/Policy
Promote a cross-border coordinated approach to the protection of coastal and maritime areas	Develop best practice on marine pollution issues, exchange and disseminate information on effective pollution prevention, clean-up operations and on sustainable development	Develop resource on limiting microplastics emissions	Re-evaluate in light of impact of REACH decision	SDG 11.6, 14.1 RAP ML 46, 55 G7, EU
		Campaign/lobby on pollution by lost containers from shipping	Ongoing	SDG 11.6, 14.1 HELCOM RAP ML EU
		Develop best practice guidelines for using artificial turf (collaboration with FIDRA)	Assess impacts of EU ECHA legislation on intentionally added microplastics	SDG 11.6, 12.4, 12.5, 14.1 G7, EU OSPAR RAP ML
		Review of issues – offshore wind farms	On hold – International Board decision not to progress - May 2022	SDG 14.2 EU, OSPAR, HELCOM Bonn Agreement
	Make joint representations against threatening proposals	Campaign and raise issues on existing resolutions; react and respond to situations as they arise	Ongoing	SDG 11.6, 14.3 EU, IMO, OSPAR HELCOM

Action area	Objectives	Key activities	Timeline	Legislation/Policy
Lead by example in improving the marine environment of the NE Atlantic and Baltic Sea regions	Undertake demonstrative projects	Increase participation in Fishing for Litter	Ongoing – OSPAR target, KIMO FfL Hub, Intl FfL Coordinators, promotion of KIMO deliverables - EU CleanAtlantic project	SDG 11.6, 14.1 G7, EU RAP ML 53, RS12
		Work towards a ban of mass balloon releases in municipalities	Ongoing	SDG 14.1 OSPAR & HELCOM RAP ML 48
		Promote river cleaning projects	Ongoing – TREASURE project	SDG 11.6, 14.1, RAP ML RL15

Action area	Objectives	Key activities	Timeline	Legislation/Policy
Provide members with a viable, supported and financially sustainable organisation	Provide to members a controlled and balanced budget	Produce financial reports, outline financial economies and priorities	AGM 2025 International Board 2025	
	Increase income	Increase members in KIMO countries	Convene Membership Working Group	
		Undertake consultancy for HELCOM – outputs to address fisheries litter	Project completion December 2024	
		Develop consultancy tender for OSPAR ICGML contract	Completed for 2024, tender for 2025	
		Seek funding to develop net cuttings campaign materials	2025	
		Seek funding for staffing/progress of Fishing for Litter Hub	Funding for development from EU Interreg CleanAtlantic, no further action planned in 2025	
	Communicate developments, progress, achievements,	Keep members & stakeholders informed of KIMO activities, events,	Continuous – website, social media, reports, guidance docs, newsletter	

	participation in projects	consultations and projects		
		Inform decision makers at all levels about KIMO strategy & policy positions	Attend events and workshops; inform MEPs and CoR, relevant DGs and officials in EC, RSCs, UN	

NOTES

1. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals



The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are universally recognised and addressed in strategies at all levels, from local to global. The goals and sub-goals of particular relevance to KIMOs work are given here and cross-referenced in the Action Plan:

SDG 11.6

By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

SDG 12.4

By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

SDG 12.5

By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse

SDG 12.7

Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities

SDG 14.1

By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

SDG 14.2

By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

SDG 14.3

Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels

2. EU priorities/legislation

- Water protection and management - Marine Strategy Framework Directive, marine pollution, Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, storm water
- Circular economy
- Waste management – Single Use Plastics Directive, Port Reception Facilities Directive, packaging waste, sewage sludge, port reception facilities, radioactive waste and substances, industrial emissions, ship source pollution
- Blue Growth
- Maritime Spatial Planning
- Reduction of CO₂ and other emissions
- Maritime safety
- Climate change mitigation

3. Organisations working at sea basin regional level

North Sea region:

OSPAR - Oslo Paris Convention for the marine environment of the North-east Atlantic

- Biological diversity & Ecosystems (Species & Habitats, Marine Protected Areas, Biodiversity monitoring & Assessment)
- Hazardous substances & Eutrophication
- Human Activities (Offshore renewables, Marine litter, Underwater noise, Fisheries and Mariculture, Shipping and ballast water, Dredging and dumping, Dumped Chemical & Conventional munitions)
- Offshore industry (Offshore installations, Discharges, Carbon Capture and Storage, Offshore Chemicals)
- Radioactive substances

Baltic Sea region:

HELCOM – Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission - Helsinki Commission

- Agriculture
- Fisheries
- Industrial and municipal releases – air emissions, riverine inputs, soil contamination
- Marine litter and noise
- Marine protected areas – protection from human activities of marine and coastal habitats
- Maritime Spatial Planning
- Monitoring and assessment – to assess state of pressures and long term trends on marine environment
- Response to spills
- Shipping – emissions, illegal discharges, sewage, invasive species, eutrophication
- Species and biotopes

KIMO International

Annual General Meeting

Harlingen (Netherlands): 11 October 2024 – 09.00-12.30 CEST

Financial Report 2023-24

Recommendation:

The AGM is asked to approve the financial statement for the financial year 2023-24.

This document provides:

1. A summary of the accountants' report for 2023-24;
2. A comparison of actual income and expenditure compared with the agreed budget;
3. A comparison of income and expenditure with the previous financial year;
4. A report from the accountant on the unaudited financial information of KIMO International for the year ended 31 March 2024.

A list of all financial transactions can be shown on request.

1. Summary:

	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
Total income	£250,231	£155,119	£121,984	£124,286
Total expenditure	£239,307	£190,806	£100,103	£98,238
Total spent on travel	£10,527	£15,807	£1,018	£0
Surplus/(Deficit)	£10,924	(-£35,687)	£21,881	£26,046
Reserve at year end	£94,952	£84,028	£119,715	£97,834

2. Budget vs Actual 2023-24

	Actual 23/24 £	Budget 23/24 £
INCOME		
Membership fees	111,792	111,820
OSPAR ICGML	16,165	0
KIMO UK	5,000	0
Other income	117,274	0
	250,231	111,820
EXPENDITURE		
Secretariat (SIC)	72,689	72,689
Travel Expenses	10,527	16,000
OSPAR ICG ML	19,669	0
Graduate Intern	-	-
Promotional Expenses	21,282	24,000
Consultancy Costs	95,704	20,000
Accountancy	9,048	2,000
Meeting expenses	154	1,000
Telephone	110	200
Miscellaneous	1,506	1,000
Website and online platforms	1,073	4,000
Insurance	259	350
Bank charges	322	200
Provision for doubtful debts	6,964	
	239,307	121,439
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR BEFORE TAXATION	£10,924	(-9,619)
Taxation	-	-
RETAINED SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR AFTER TAXATION	£10,924	(-9,619)

3. Year-on-year comparison

	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
INCOME		
Membership fees	111,792	103,967
OSPAR ICG ML	16,165	14,831
KIMO UK	5,000	11,016
Other income	138,440	51,152
Total	244,090	155,119
EXPENDITURE		
Secretariat (SIC)	72,689	46,435
Travel expenses	10,527	15,807
OSPAR ICG expenses	19,669	5,570
Graduate intern	0	9,433
Promotional expenses	21,282	1,975
Consultancy	95,704	91,630
Accountancy	9,048	3,480
Meeting expenses	154	6,888
Telephone	110	787
Miscellaneous	1506	1,986
Website expenses	1,073	1,494
Insurance	259	254
Bank charges	322	485
Provision for doubtful debts	6,964	4,582
Total	239,307	190,806
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR BEFORE TAXATION	£10,924	(-35,687)
Taxation	-	-
RETAINED SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR AFTER TAXATION	£10,924	(-35,687)

KIMO International
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended
31 March 2024

KIMO International

OFFICERS AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

MEMBERS

Denmark
Faroe Islands
Netherlands/Belgium
Norway
Sweden
United Kingdom
Klaipeda, Lithuania
Wexford, Ireland
Insel-und Halligkonferenz (IHK)
Schutzgemeinschaft Deutsche Noordseeküste (SDN)

PRESIDENT

Trish Robertson

SECRETARIAT

Robina Barton

BANKERS

Bank of Scotland
117 Commercial Street
Lerwick
Shetland
ZE1 0DL

ACCOUNTANTS

RSM UK Tax & Accounting Limited
Chartered Accountants
St Olaf's Hall
Church Road
Lerwick
Shetland
ZE1 0FD

KIMO International

SECRETARIAT'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

We are required by the constitution of KIMO International to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the organisation, and of the surplus or deficit of the organisation for that period.

In preparing these financial statements we are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the organisation will continue to operate.

We are also responsible for:

- keeping proper accounting records
- safeguarding the organisation's assets
- taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the members

Secretariat

Date:

KIMO International

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF KIMO INTERNATIONAL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

In accordance with the engagement letter dated 04 May 2023 we have prepared for your approval the financial information of KIMO International for the year which comprises the Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and the Related Notes from KIMO International's accounting records and information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member firm of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed at <http://www.icaew.com/en/members/regulations-standards-and-guidance>.

This report is made solely to you, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 04 May 2023. Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the financial information of KIMO International and state those matters that we have agreed to state to them in accordance with the guidance of ICAEW as detailed at icaew.com/compilation. This report should not therefore be regarded as suitable to be used or relied on by any party wishing to acquire any rights against RSM UK Tax & Accounting Limited for any purpose or in any context. Any party other than you which obtains access to this report or a copy and chooses to rely on this report (or any part of it) will do so at its own risk. To the fullest extent permitted by law, RSM UK Tax & Accounting Limited accept no responsibility or liability in respect of this report to any other party and shall not be liable for any loss, damage or expense of whatsoever nature which is caused by any person's reliance on representations in this report.

You have approved the financial information for the year and have acknowledged your responsibility for it, for the appropriateness of the financial reporting framework adopted and for providing all information and explanations necessary for its compilation.

We have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the financial information.

RSM UK TAX AND ACCOUNTING LIMITED

Chartered Accountants
St Olaf's Hall
Church Road
Lerwick
Shetland
ZE1 0FD

MEMBERS CONFIRMATION

ACCOUNTS OF KIMO INTERNATIONAL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

In accordance with the engagement letter dated 04 May 2023, we approve the financial information which comprises the Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and Related Notes. We acknowledge our responsibility for the financial information, including the appropriateness of the applicable financial reporting framework as set out in note 1, and for providing RSM UK Tax and Accounting Limited with all information and explanations necessary for its compilation.

On behalf of the members:

President

Date:

KIMO International

UNAUDITED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	£	23/24 £	£	22/23 £
INCOME					
Membership fees	2		111,792		103,967
OSPAR ICG marine litter income			16,165		14,831
KIMO UK recharge			5,000		11,016
Other income			117,274		25,305
			<u> </u>		<u> </u>
			250,231		155,119
EXPENDITURE					
Consultancy costs		95,704		91,630	
Secretariat (SIC)		72,689		46,435	
Travel expenses	3	10,527		15,807	
OSPAR ICG expenses		19,669		5,570	
Graduate Intern		-		9,433	
Accountancy		9,048		3,480	
Meeting expenses		154		6,888	
Telephone		110		787	
Miscellaneous		1,506		1,986	
Website expenses		1,073		1,494	
Promotional expenses		21,282		1,975	
Insurance		259		254	
Bank charges		322		485	
Bad debt write off		6,964		4,582	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
			239,307		190,806
SURPLUS(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR BEFORE TAXATION			<u> </u>		<u> </u>
			10,924		(35,687)
Taxation			-		-
RETAINED SURPLUS(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR AFTER TAXATION			<u> </u>		<u> </u>
			10,924		(35,687)
			=====		=====

There were no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus/(deficit) shown for the years above. All of the organisation's activities are considered to be continuing.

KIMO International

UNAUDITED BALANCE SHEET

31 March 2024

	Notes	£	23/24 £	£	22/23 £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	4	31,954		10,109	
Cash at bank and in hand		110,184		145,902	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
		142,138		156,011	
CREDITORS:					
Amounts falling due within one year	5	(47,186)		(71,983)	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			94,952		84,028
			<u> </u>		<u> </u>
NET ASSETS			94,952		84,028
			=====		=====
RESERVES					
31 March 2023			84,028		119,715
Retained surplus(deficit) for the year			10,924		(35,687)
			<u> </u>		<u> </u>
31 March 2024			94,952		84,028
			=====		=====

The financial statements on pages 4 to 8 were approved by the Assembly of Delegates on

Board Member

KIMO International

UNAUDITED NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31 March 2024

1 PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

STATUS

The organisation is a voluntary body whose objectives are to control pollution and any environmental threats to northern seas.

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention under FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102").

INCOME

Income is recognised when due at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for services, memberships and other income.

GOING CONCERN

No material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the ability of the organisation to continue as a going concern have been identified by the members. As a result, they have adopted the going concern basis of accounting.

FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Transactions expressed in foreign currencies are translated into sterling and recorded at rates of exchange approximating to those ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities are translated at rates ruling at the balance sheet date. All differences are taken to the income and expenditure account.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

The organisation has taken advantage of the exemption from preparing a cash flow statement conferred by Financial Reporting Standard No 102 on the grounds that it would have been entitled to the exemptions available in the Companies Act 2006 for small companies.

ACCOUNTING CONVENTION

The accounts are prepared for the year ended 31 March 2024. Within the financial statements and notes this is shown as 23/24. The same format has been applied to the comparative year.

TAXATION

No taxation is due on mutual trading.

KIMO International

UNAUDITED NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31 March 2024

2	INCOME	23/24	22/23
		£	£
	Membership fees		
	Denmark	28,309	26,261
	Faroe Islands	1,211	1,223
	Faroe Islands (Torshavn)	899	828
	Netherlands/Belgium	41,005	38,039
	Norway	6,142	5,698
	Sweden	16,531	15,329
	United Kingdom	11,668	10,822
	Lithuania	1,798	1,668
	Ireland	1,798	1,668
	Insel-und Halligkonferenz (IHK)	1,208	1,208
	SDN – Association for Protection of the German North Sea Coast	1,223	1,223
		-----	-----
		111,792	103,967
		=====	=====

Membership fees are received net of expenses.

3	TRAVEL EXPENSES	23/24	22/23
		£	£
	OSPAR	1,654	-
	President	-	3,139
	OSPAR/EU	-	1,529
	EU	1,699	3,843
	KIMO	3,831	6,297
	Conferences	3,343	-
	UN	-	999
		-----	-----
		10,527	15,807
		=====	=====

4	DEBTORS	23/24	22/23
		£	£
	Amounts falling due within one year		
	Prepayments and accrued income	31,954	10,109
		-----	-----
		31,954	10,109
		=====	=====

There were no debtors falling due after more than one year.

KIMO International

UNAUDITED NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31 March 2024

5	CREDITORS:	23/24	22/23
		£	£
	Amounts falling due within one year		
	Accruals and deferred income	46,114	71,494
	Other creditors	1,072	489
		47,186	71,983
		=====	=====

There were no creditors falling due after more than one year.

KIMO International

Annual General Meeting

Harlingen (Netherlands): 11 October 2024 – 09.00-12.30 CEST

KIMO International Budget 2025-26

Recommendation:

The AGM is asked to consider and approve the KIMO International budget for 2025-26.

Comments from the Secretariat:

Please note the following points with regard to the preparation of this provisional budget.

- Budget does not take account of movement of Secretariat and associated cost changes. It also does not reflect the full cost of the Secretariat as is, which would be £38,000 higher if not subsidised by Shetland Islands Council making for a deficit of nearly £44,000.
- Budget includes an increase of 2.3% to membership fees as adjustment for inflation (as agreed by International Board May 2013), as well as an additional one-time 10% increase (as agreed during AGM 2023).
- The budget does not include any provision for lost members nor for non-payment of membership fees.
- This proposed budget shows a deficit; consideration should be given to how to address this.
- Additional costs are expected, for consultancies and contracted staff to take on some of the expanding portfolio of work. Since this is an evolving situation, it is not possible to accurately predict costs but it is certain that these costs cannot currently be met by income from membership fees.
- Predicted expenditure on consultancy includes Communications/Social Media officer, and consultants (reports and website content).

KIMO International Budget

2025-26 (Provisional)

INCOME £

	2025-26	2024-25
Membership Fees		
Sweden	20,180.31	17,970
Netherlands	50,054.36	44,572
Denmark	34,556.96	30,772
UK	14,243.01	12,683
Norway	5,301.68	4,721
Norway - Bergen	2,194.34	1,954
Faroe - Kommunufelagid	1,492.47	1,329
Faroe - Torshavn	1,097.17	977
Germany - IHK	1,492.47	1,329
Germany - SDN	1,492.47	1,329
Lithuania - Klaipeda	2,194.34	1,954
Wexford	2,194.34	1,954
TOTAL INCOME	136,494	121,544

EXPENDITURE £

	2025-26	2024-25
Secretariat	76,961.47	74,144
Meeting Expenses	1,557	1,500
Travel Expenses	16,608	16,000
Consultancy costs	20,760	20,000
Accountancy	3,633	3,500
Office/Administration		
Telephone	259.50	250
Website + Comms	3,114	3,000
Online platforms	1,038	1,000
Promotional expenses	5,190	5,000
Bank charges	415.20	400
Insurance	311.40	300
Miscellaneous Expenses	2,076	2,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	131,923.57	127,094
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	4,570.35	-5,550

KIMO International

Annual General Meeting

Harlingen (Netherlands): 11 October 2024 – 09.00-12.30 CEST

Reports from the Networks 2023-24

Recommendation:

The Annual General Meeting is asked to note the network reports 2023-24

Reports are attached.



KIMO Network Report – AGM 2024

Network Name:

KIMO Denmark

Summary:

There was no change in membership in 2023. The national board held 3 virtual meetings and one physical meeting including a study trip to Køge Municipality.

KIMO Denmark's focus during this period was to support members' concerns especially an incident concerning the loss of over 40 containers off of the Danish west coast. We participated in several events to promote the KIMO organisation, our work and projects. We met with the ministry of the Environment to discuss the network's most important issues.

KIMO Denmark is a partner in two Interreg projects. We are conducting monitoring of beach litter and are contracted to do work for OSPAR and HELCOM.

KIMO Denmark is organizing a National Conference to be held in October 2024 with a focus on how municipalities can contribute and improve the quality and biodiversity in Danish waters.

Membership:

There are 19 member municipalities in Denmark with no gains or losses in membership in 2023-2024.

Meetings:

The National Board held four meetings during the last year. On-line TEAMS meetings were held in November of 2023 and February and September of 2024.

Køge Municipality hosted a two-day meeting in April. A study tour on the first day examined coastal planning and mitigation of flooding. The KIMO Denmark board meeting was held on the second day.

KIMO Denmark's secretariat and chairmanship met with the Ministry of the Environment in January 2024, to discuss PFAS and other topics of interest and concern for KIMO Denmark.

Other Events:

KIMO Denmark had an information tent at the Danish National Meeting for Nature in Hirtshals in May 2024. We highlighted our work for cleaner seas and current projects. We met with school children at the event and provided education about litter in the marine environment.

In May we also participated in European Maritime Days in Svendborg, Denmark with an information stand. We took the opportunity to network with participants from Danish and International municipalities at the event.

KIMO Denmark was invited to give a presentation on KIMO's work for the prevention of net cut at the "Arctic Plastic Summit" in Iceland on 22 - 23 November and represented KIMO International at the event.

On behalf of KIMO International, KIMO Denmark participated in the marine litter group at OSPAR in December of 2023 and May of 2024. KIMO Denmark wrote the summary record for both meetings.

Hot topics:

KIMO Denmark continuously monitors the status and follow the work with a PFAS action plan and the initiation of a PFAS knowledge task force.

Two articles were written for the magazine Teknik og Miljø. The article "Joint efforts for the neglected marine environment" was printed in June 2023, and "Coastal municipalities take action against PFAS in the marine environment" appeared in the magazine in October 2023.

There are many good initiatives in the action plan for the Danish Marine Strategy II. KIMO has for many years worked for stricter rules for the disposal of seabed materials, efforts against marine litter such as lost fishing gear, microplastics, PFAS (chemicals) and coastal pollution.

Marine environment preparedness to combat acute pollution incidents is still lacking in Denmark. In KIMO's consultation response in December 2023, we noted, among other things, that a ban on trawling in inland waters should be maintained and introduced as a concrete effort. Especially when nature national parks are established. The municipalities should be involved as partners in the work around marine natural parks. KIMO also wanted a new strategy for marine nature restoration to be a public process with opportunities for consultation and collaboration.

KIMO Denmark is monitoring the situation of paraffin pollution on our coasts to ascertain whether the change in law which came into force in January 2021 works and reduces pollution incidents. Therefore, we are happy to report that Denmark's coasts have not received significant quantities of paraffin since the change in the law. The Danish Environmental Protection Agency stated that no coastal municipalities have applied for reimbursement for cleaning up paraffin in 2021, 2022 or 2023.

On the night of 22 December 2023, Maersk's cargo ship Mayview Maersk lost 46 containers in Skagerrak. A few containers burst and the cargo washed up and polluted the northern coast. Fortunately, there was a quick response and clean-up with the help of volunteers, the municipalities and contractors. KIMO discussed the matter with representatives from Jammerbugt, Hjørring and Frederikshavn Municipalities, which were affected by washed up goods from the containers. Their experiences were forwarded to the Minister for the Environment.

For years, KIMO has requested international organizations to tighten requirements for container ships. More stringent rules are required.

Project/Campaign updates:

KIMO Denmark and Aarhus University won the tender for national monitoring of marine waste on reference beaches in Denmark to extend the recent three-year contract with the Environment Agency until 2026. KIMO monitors 3 beaches in western Denmark. All waste collected over a 100-meter stretch is sorted, categorized and reported to OSPAR and the Danish Environmental Protection Agency. The new contract extends the scope of monitoring to 4 times a year.

KIMO Denmark and the Danish Environmental Protection Agency have, in collaboration with member municipalities, produced new signage for the beaches. The Danish Environmental Protection Agency recorded a video in connection with the collection and counting and has produced a campaign to inform about the monitoring programme.

In 2023, the Interreg project "Power Bio" was launched. KIMO Denmark is a cooperation partner. The goal of Power Bio is to use residual biomass circularly, for example in energy production from biogas and pyrolysis and/or production of various high-value products. At the same time, the collection must promote biodiversity and citizens' use of natural areas.

KIMO Denmark coordinates the group, which works with methods for collecting and reusing washed-up biological material. The municipalities that are part of Power Bio must start with proposals for experimental projects on the collection and handling of biological material such as seaweed and eel grass.

The Interreg North Sea TREASURE project aims to reduce pollution of the sea by preventing the outflow of plastic waste from streams and rivers to the North Sea. This is done by improving management, policy and data collection and by introducing initiatives that focus on the removal and prevention of waste. KIMO Danmark and Lemvig Water and Wastewater carry out demonstration projects in Varde Municipality and Lemvig Municipality respectively. KIMO Denmark is currently mapping the Varde River watershed, creating a monitoring plan and involving stakeholders in reducing and removing litter.

Looking ahead:

We set up a working group in 2023 and started working on our next KIMO marine environment conference. KIMO's last conference on the state of the environment in inland waters was held in 2021. The conference in 2024 will build on this and gather knowledge and examples of efforts, which coastal municipalities can use to improve the state of the marine environment locally. The conference will be held in Aalborg at the end of October 2024.

KIMO has been given the task of collecting information on lost fishing gear in the Baltic Sea area and documenting best practice and technology that can prevent losses from end-of-life equipment and recreational fishing, best practices for marking fishing gear and reducing the loss of fishing nets. KIMO Denmark will produce a final report in February 2025.

NewSea is a 3-year project financed by the Velux Foundation with Aarhus University (AU) and the Technology Council (TR) as partners. The project aims to develop a new concept for integrated environmental assessment of pollution sources in the sea by combining the latest methods for measurement and modelling of environmentally hazardous substances in the marine environment. The project will assess the distribution and effects from various point sources along our coastal areas. KIMO Danmark participates in the project's advisory board.

KIMO Denmark's secretariat continued to work with marketing, internal and external communication. The Danish part of KIMO's website was improved. Using a strategy for the development of KIMO Denmark's social media profile on LinkedIn, it was possible to increase activity with more effective postings. Through targeted efforts and direct invitations, the number of followers has grown from 50 in January 2023 to over 700 as of August 2024.



KIMO Network Report – AGM 2024

Network Name:

KIMO Sweden

Summary:

- Four meetings in our network.
- Information campaign on social media.
- Trainee from Gothenburg University.

Membership:

KIMO Sweden has 12 members. Malmö, Lomma, Helsingborg, Falkenberg, Varberg, Göteborg, Kungälv, Öckerö, Tjörn, Sotenäs, Uddevalla and Tanum. Every member is represented by one political member and one officer.

Meetings:

We usually have four meetings a year. This year two meetings were physical and two digital. Our members take turn to host the meetings. Our meetings are very informative and progressive. A common format of our meetings is that we start with a presentation by the host municipality about a current and local/regional issue. Then the formal meeting begins. News from KIMO International is a standing point on the agenda. The meetings usually last for 3 hours. We have three working groups; biodiversity, plastics and communication.

March 18th. Hosted by Helsingborg. Annual meeting to confirm our budget, action plan and annual report. Helsingborg informed about their work with the catalogue of ideas that describes how to revitalize an urban harbour environment to benefit the biological diversity in the sea.

June 14th. Digital meeting. Decision made that the theme of next KIMO report will be about PFAS and have a focus on sources, risks and impact on the marine environment and the municipalities' responsibilities.

August 29th-30th. Hosted by Uddevalla. Visit Byfjorden in Uddevalla to see the oxygen pumps which hopefully will bring life to dead seabeds and bring back fish and other animal life. Time for discussions in our working groups and learn from each other.

November 15th. Digital meeting. The agenda is not yet decided.

Other Events:

We had an information campaign on Facebook in Mars to June. We informed about local good examples of marine environment work that takes place in our member municipalities. We are proud to see the good work that is ongoing on the Swedish west coast.

During autumn we will have a trainee employed to write a new KIMO report, that will focus on PFAS impact on marine environment.

Hot topics:

Marine litter and marine recycling, PFAS, beach cleaning, biodiversity.

Project/Campaign updates:

KIMO Sweden has not had any campaigns, but we support Västerhavsveckan, which is a week in August when a lot of activities are organised along the west coast. Our members have their own projects and campaigns.

Looking ahead:

Four network meetings and activities that follows our Action plan.



KIMO Network Report – AGM 2024

Network Name:

KIMO UK

Summary:

The Fishing for Litter scheme continues to expand and in May 2024 Fishing for Litter were shortlisted for an award in the Sustainability Award category at the Fishing News awards. Although Julia Cant and her team were not successful in winning, it was a great achievement that they were nominated and it helped to raise awareness of the scheme.

Membership:

Current Members: Aberdeenshire Council, Argyll & Bute Council, Fife Council, Highland Council, Orkney Islands Council, Shetland Council and South Ayrshire Council.

New members: Fife Council have joined, and several other councils have expressed interest in joining.

Members who left: Aberdeen City Council.

Meetings:

Board Meeting 14.05.2024 – online.

AGM 13.09.2024 - online

Other Events:

Fishing for Litter had a joint stand with Shetland Islands Council at the Skipper Expo which took place in Aberdeen in May. The Expo was attended by thousands of visitors, including fishers, harbour staff, members of the public and industry representatives. The response to the scheme was very positive, raising awareness amongst the target audience and the team achieved some new sign ups as well.

Hot topics:

Financial sustainability and finding industry funding for KIMO and Fishing for Litter.

Project/Campaign updates:

The Fishing for Litter scheme continues to be successful with 66 ports across the UK now part of the scheme, up from 32 just over 2 years ago. Since the start of the 2024 period, the Fishing for Litter project in Scotland has collected 149.7 tonnes of marine litter, this brings the total to 2422.5 tonnes since the scheme started in 2005. New ports added recently include Kirkwall, Lossiemouth, and Stromness.

Looking ahead:

Highland Council are hosting the KIMO International AGM in 2025.



KIMO Network Report – AGM 2024

Network Name:

KIMO Germany

Membership:

- Insel- und Halligkonferenz e.V. (IHKo)
- Schutzgemeinschaft Deutsche Nordseeküste e.V. (SDN)

Meetings:

20240131 & 0708: IHKo Board meetings

20240307-08: IHKo AGM in Cuxhaven

20240503 & 0729 & 0821: Working Group Daseinsvorsorge

20240527: Working Group Coastal Protection

20240614: SDN Board meeting

20240614: SDN AGM

Other Events:

[2-3 sentences per event, include event names, dates and approx. number of people attending]

Hot topics:

Insel- und Halligkonferenz:

- Protection and improvement of the medical service on the islands and halligen (medical care centers or other alternatives).
- Handling of the competition between the space for holiday accommodation and housing space.
- Securing durable financing and organising of arrangements for coastal protection.
- Installation of renewable Energy on the islands and halligen.

Schutzgemeinschaft Deutsche Nordseeküste:

Aus dem Bericht 2023

- Accident prevention for maritime traffic off the German coast.
- Emergency tugboats and technical expansion of pollution-accident prevention measures.

- Problems caused by the ongoing industrialisation of the North Sea and the Wadden Sea with regard to their impacts on the environment and habitats.
- Threats to the Wadden Sea World Heritage Site from the effects of industrialisation.
- Sustainability in fisheries using the example of crab fishing.

Project/Campaign updates:

Insel- und Halligkonferenz:

- Continuation of lobby work on the hot topics mentioned above.
- Follow-up of the project “Energynet Uthlande” to gather the basic principles like potential for renewable energy on the northfrisian islands and halligen and from the island Helgoland.

Schutzgemeinschaft Deutsche Nordseeküste:

Aus dem Bericht 2023

- Intensive and issue-oriented public relations work to provide factual information on North Sea issues and to be a competent and factual discussion partner for media representatives on the subject area.
- Critical monitoring of the expansion of offshore wind power plants in the North Sea.
- Critical monitoring of risk reduction in maritime traffic in the North Sea.
- Critical monitoring of current and future construction work in the Wadden Sea.
- Lobbying for better and more detailed information dissemination.

Looking ahead:

Insel- und Halligkonferenz:

- November 2024: IHKo AGM, Dagebüll.
- Getting into a conversation with the federal state government about our projects and issues.

Schutzgemeinschaft Deutsche Nordseeküste:

Aus dem Bericht 2023

- More public and political attention for environmental issues concerning the North Sea.
- Further expansion of own professional competence through increased involvement of professional bodies and persons.



KIMO Network Report – AGM 2024

Network Name:

Ireland

Summary:

Hosting the international IBM in Wexford, and introducing other Irish Local Authorities to KIMO

Membership:

Wexford

Meetings:

IBM Wexford, initial introduction

Other Events:

N/A

Hot topics:

PFAS, FFL, Climate Change

Project/Campaign updates:

N/A

Looking ahead:

To encourage other Irish LA's to become members of KIMO, and building on the initial work done at the IBM in Wexford



KIMO Network Report – AGM 2024

Network Name:

KIMO Norway

Summary:

There will not be any report from the former member municipalities. Ragnhild is no longer coordinating, and does not have any contact with the other municipalities.



KIMO Network Report – AGM 2024

Network Name:

KIMO the Netherlands and Belgium

Summary:

Will provide verbal update.

KIMO International

Annual General Meeting

Harlingen (Netherlands): 11 October 2024 – 09.00-12.30 CEST

Changes to the Constitution

At the AGM 2023 former President Mr Ahlström proposed that the Senior Vice President role should be eliminated, and for the junior president role to be renamed as Vice President. This was to allow future Presidents a higher level of independence in the role.

The meeting agreed to eliminate the Senior Vice President role, and to rename the junior president to Vice President. The Secretariat was tasked with making the appropriate changes to the Constitution for presentation to the AGM 2024 for approval by members.

The Secretariat proposes an additional amendment to take account of gender equality.

Recommendation:

The Secretariat recommends that the AGM approves the proposed changes to the Constitution.

Article 9

Existing text	New text
That the International Board of Directors will consist of 1 (one) member appointed from each "member country" who will be elected for 2 (two) years, a President and two Vice Presidents who will be elected by (The Assembly) and a representative or member from the authority who holds the International Secretariat. The President will be Chairman of the International Board of Directors and (The Assembly). The Senior Vice President will assume these responsibilities in his/her absence. Directors can be re-elected.	That the International Board of Directors will consist of 1 (one) member appointed from each "member country" who will be elected for 2 (two) years, a President and a Vice President who will be elected by (The Assembly) and a representative or member from the authority who holds the International Secretariat. The President will be Chair of the International Board of Directors and (The Assembly). The Vice President will assume these responsibilities in his/her absence. Directors can be re-elected.

Article 10.1

Existing text	New text
(The Assembly) will elect two Vice Presidents for a period of two years. The Senior Vice President should be the retiring President. The Junior Vice President should become President after two years. Both appointments are subject to the agreement of (The Assembly).	(The Assembly) will elect a Vice President for a period of two years. The Vice President should become President after two years. The appointment is subject to the agreement of (The Assembly).

Article 10.2

Existing text	New text
The Vice Presidents should be members of the International Board of Directors.	The Vice President should be a member of the International Board of Directors.

Article 10.3

Existing text	New text
The Vice Presidents can be re-elected but only after an absence of two years, but can be re-elected as a Director.	The Vice President can be re-elected but only after an absence of two years, but can be re-elected as a Director.

Article 14

Existing text	New text
The Assembly of Delegates shall at its annual meeting: (i) Deal with the audited accounts for the last year; (ii) Approve the budget and the international and national membership subscription for the following year; (iii) Appoint an auditor; (iv) Elect the President, Vice Presidents and/or Directors as required; (v) Deal with such other matters as required; (vi) Discuss and approve the Action Plan.	The Assembly of Delegates shall at its annual meeting: (i) Deal with the audited accounts for the last year; (ii) Approve the budget and the international and national membership subscription for the following year; (iii) Appoint an auditor; (iv) Elect the President, Vice President and/or Directors as required; (v) Deal with such other matters as required; (vi) Discuss and approve the Action Plan.

KIMO International

Annual General Meeting

Harlingen (Netherlands): 11 October 2024 – 09.00-12.30 CEST

Election of Directors to the International Board 2022-24

Recommendation:

That the AGM approves election of the 4 nominated Directors to the International Board.

Under Article 9 of the KIMO Constitution, the International Board of Directors should include one representative from each “member country”¹ who will be elected for a two-year term and may be re-elected. This role is usually filled by the Chair of the national network.

Nominations for this year are:

Denmark - Vacant

Netherlands – Jacco Knape

Norway – Einar Holmer-Hoven

Sweden – Karen Pleijel

UK – Heather Woodbridge

Germany - Vacant

Lithuania - Vacant

Ireland - Vacant

¹ Constitution Article 5

Membership will be extended to organisations as outlined in ‘Article 4’ in the following countries (areas hereafter referred to as “member countries”):

Sweden, Denmark, United Kingdom, Federal Republic of Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, France, Norway, Faeroes, Iceland, Republic of Ireland, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Spain, Portugal.

KIMO International

Annual General Meeting

Harlingen (Netherlands): 11 October 2024 – 09.00-12.30 CEST

KIMO Honorary Members 2024

In 2017 the AGM voted to include a new honorary membership category within KIMO's membership structure. The role of honorary member is offered to individuals on whom the organisation wishes to confer this status in consideration of the significant contribution they have made to KIMO. It allows ex-KIMO politicians and officers to be able to continue to advocate on behalf of the organisation.

At the 2023 AGM incoming Vice-President Mr Friis-Hauge proposed that outgoing President Mr Ahlström be appointed an honorary member. Jerry Ahlström was President of KIMO International from October 2019 to October 2023 and prior to that served as Junior Vice-President for two years. He brought his great commitment for clean water and new vision to the role, used his experience to identify key issues and had the personal ability to engage with all levels of governance to ensure councils' views were heard. Undoubtedly, his contribution to KIMO was significant and he led the organization with enthusiasm and great commitment during a difficult time when the world was in the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic. His passion was contagious and his positive attitude that KIMO can make a big difference to the marine environment is admirable. Jerry has always been on the side of the sea and the municipalities and has monitored the important issues and tested new methods for cleaner seas. Jerry has long been and is still vice chairman of KIMO Sweden, where he is a very great asset with his experience and positive drive. He is an expert network builder and tenacious in his persistence to meet KIMO's goals.

Recommendation:

The Secretariat recommends that the AGM approves the proposal.

KIMO International

Annual General Meeting

Harlingen (Netherlands): 11 October 2024 – 09.00-12.30 CEST

Recommendation:

The AGM approve the recommendation of the International Board with regards to signing the Blue Manifesto.

Blue Manifesto

On behalf of the 'European Blue NGOs' - Seas At Risk, Oceana, Birdlife, WWF, Surfrider Europe and ClientEarth – Kimo International has been invited to endorse the new "Blue Manifesto - The roadmap to a healthy Ocean in 2030", which was launched on 1st October 2024. The manifesto proposes the policy agenda they would like the EU to deliver in the next 5 years.

Key to the Blue Manifesto are :

- the adoption and implementation of an **Ocean Deal** to ensure that all policies and legislation that impact the ocean are working in harmony with one another
- an **Ocean Fund** dedicated to the long-term restoration and conservation of the marine environment, and to the just transition to a sustainable, low-impact blue economy for the benefit of all.

**Seas At Risk, ClientEarth, Oceana, BirdLife Europe & Central Asia,
Surfrider Foundation Europe, WWF European Policy Office**

Blue Manifesto

The roadmap to a healthy Ocean
in 2030

We need a healthy ocean and abundant marine life to build a climate-proof future

Imagine a world where the ocean teems with life, marine ecosystems flourish, and where coastal communities thrive in harmony with nature. This vision is not just a dream; it's an achievable reality, and the Blue Manifesto is our urgent call to action to make it happen. Civil society organisations across Europe have united to provide EU decision- and policy-makers with a clear roadmap to a healthy and resilient ocean by 2030, and to a more sustainable and equitable future for generations to come.

Time to add the “blue” to the EU's green transition

The ocean, where life began some 4 billion years ago, is vital to the survival of all life on Earth. It provides half the oxygen on Earth, stabilises our climate, and hosts most of the life on our planet – around 700,000 species. It contributes to food security, delivers renewable energy, connects countries and continents, supports a wide array of blue businesses, and is a source of well-being and happiness.

The EU boasts the world's largest maritime territory with almost half its population living within 50 kilometres of a coastline. In past decades, the EU has adopted a succession of strategies and action plans to protect its seas and ensure the well-being of coastal communities. Yet, while well intended, a lack of policy coherence, poor implementation and fragmented governance have hampered progress. The European Green Deal's goal to secure a climate-neutral EU by 2050 is highly commendable, as well as its commitment to leave no one behind, do no harm, and reduce pollution to zero. However, these ambitious yet achievable objectives are only partially addressed in the EU's existing blue policies.

Europe's seas are at tipping point

Against this backdrop, the relentless pursuit of “blue growth” is pushing European seas to the brink. Member States missed 2020 targets to achieve a good environmental status for Europe's seas, especially in terms of contaminants, eutrophication, invasive alien species, commercial fishing, and marine litter, paving the way for ocean health to deteriorate further. Over 90% of Europe's marine area is over-exploited as a result of intensive fishing, shipping, oil and gas drilling, tourism and other coastal activities, while emerging activities like the large-scale rollout of offshore wind energy add to these multiple pressures.¹ Destructive practices such as bottom trawling continue in 90% of EU offshore marine “protected” areas, and more than 14 million tonnes of plastic still enter the ocean each year.

Climate change is also hitting the ocean hard and fast. Sudden and steep rises in ocean temperature observed in recent years are accelerating de-oxygenation and acidification, which in turn devastate marine biodiversity.

¹ [Multiple pressures and their combined effects in Europe's seas — European Environment Agency \(europa.eu\)](https://europeanenvironment.europa.eu/en/multiple-pressures-and-their-combined-effects-in-europe-s-seas)

We need to reverse the decline of ocean health to protect marine life, public health, and livelihoods for generations to come.²

A three-point plan to turn the tide by 2030

The current policy landscape cannot bring about change at the scale and pace needed. Some EU policies are no longer fit for purpose, others need an urgent injection of funds and political will, and emerging challenges demand new measures. To protect and restore the ocean and its marine life, policy coherence must be strengthened and the transition to a socially just and low-impact blue economy accelerated.

We propose a three-point rescue plan and a step-by-step roadmap of EU policy action:

1. **Adopt an overarching and ambitious EU Ocean Deal** to make sure all policies and legislation that impact the ocean are working in harmony with one another. The Ocean Deal would create a framework to integrate existing and new legislation, guaranteeing that all ocean-related policies are fit for preserving and restoring the ocean and coastal communities. The Ocean Deal should improve compliance with and enforcement of environmental rules at national and international levels, promote transparency in ocean-related activities, and integrate strong reporting and access to justice provisions.
2. **Turn ambition to action with an EU Ocean Fund** dedicated to the long-term restoration and conservation of the marine environment, and to the just transition to a sustainable, low-impact blue economy for the benefit of all. Subsidies that are harmful to the marine environment should be eliminated as soon as possible and no later than 2027, both at the EU and Member State levels. Taxpayers' money should be invested in delivering the objectives of the Ocean Deal; the revision of the EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) in 2027 will be an opportunity to do so, as well as a chance to increase the level of funding dedicated to the ocean overall.
3. **Put the ocean at the heart of EU decision-making**, ensuring coherence between different policies and initiatives that impact the ocean. European Parliament Committees responsible for policies impacting the Ocean Deal and Fund (e.g. Environment, Fisheries, Transport and Tourism, Industry and Energy, and Budget Committees) should hold regular joint sessions to ensure coherence among sectoral policies related to the ocean, including climate and marine protection. An Executive Vice President for the Environment and the Ocean should be appointed in the new European Commission, and joint Council meetings of Environment, Energy, Fisheries and Transport ministers should be held within each Council Presidency to make progress on the implementation of the Ocean Deal.

The step-by-step roadmap to a healthy ocean

The Ocean Deal must serve as the overarching framework for the many policy initiatives that need to be rolled out in coming years, outlined in this Blue Manifesto. Under this umbrella, current ocean-related policies will need to be revised and new policies adopted to ensure robust protection and effective restoration of marine biodiversity by 2030.

² [European Climate Risk Assessment — European Environment Agency \(europa.eu\)](#)

We propose the following timeline for achieving these objectives:

Cross-cutting policy asks

Year	Policy asks
2024	The European Commission establishes an Environment and Ocean Executive Vice-President.
2024	The European Commission publishes an "Ocean Deal" communication, outlining a policy roadmap to achieve healthy, clean and resilient marine ecosystems by 2030. This plan ensures a coherent and balanced framework for reaching the EU's climate, zero pollution, and biodiversity goals, while also guaranteeing a just and socially fair transition.
2024	The European Parliament establishes a forum for all matters related to maritime activities and marine ecosystems, such as an inter-group or a gathering of MEPs from relevant Committees, including Fisheries, Environment, and Transport and Tourism.
2024	Each Presidency of the Council of the EU holds a joint ocean meeting attended by Environment, Climate, Energy, Fisheries and Transport ministries, with stakeholder representation at all meetings.
2025	From 2025 onwards, the European Commission increases resources for compliance and enforcement units to address potential marine-related legislation violations and enhances the capacity of units dealing with international negotiations on the ocean.
2025	The European Commission establishes an EU Ocean and Seas Agency or a cooperation mechanism between Agencies and ocean-related monitoring systems that streamlines ocean data and knowledge collection, ensures open access, and issues regular reports on the environmental and climate status of the ocean.
2025	The European Commission strengthens the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) by tightening the link with the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive (MSPD), establishing legally binding targets and thresholds, introducing criteria for a non-deterioration principle, reinforcing cross-border cooperation, enforcing nature restoration and marine protection measures as well as climate adaptation and resilience targets and measures, and ensuring strong enforcement provisions.
2025	The European Commission presents an action plan for a just transition to a well-being blue economy that respects ecological limits, promotes sufficiency principles over pure economic growth, enables a transition towards low-impact and regenerative activities, supports sustainable livelihoods, fosters social justice, health and well-being, and supports workers and communities affected by the transition.
2025	At UNOC 2025, the European Commission pledges its commitment to the Ocean Deal and Ocean Fund and confirms its strong engagement for international ocean governance, including by presenting a plan for the rapid implementation of the BBNJ High Seas Treaty and a long-term vision for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.

2025	The European Commission adopts a proposal for the Multi-annual Financial Framework for 2028-2034 that transforms the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund into a much more substantial Ocean Fund, removes environmentally harmful subsidies, earmarks funding for the ocean in other related budget programmes, and ensures
	sufficient funding for related EU Agencies such as the Ocean Agency, European Environment Agency and European Fisheries Control Agency. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2027.
2025	The European Commission proposes new legislation on ocean resilience and coastal adaptation emphasising nature-based solutions for better preparedness for climate-related challenges and including an EU-wide and evidence-based monitoring system on carbon sequestration in marine ecosystems (“blue carbon”). For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2027.
2027	The European Commission revises the State aid rules for the fishery and aquaculture sectors to align with the new Ocean Fund and to remove all environmentally harmful subsidies.
2027	The European Commission proposes a revised MSPD that requires ecosystem-based planning aligned with MSFD targets and thresholds, introduces nature-based climate adaptation and resilience measures, incorporates the EU’s protection and restoration targets, ensures coherence with energy, climate, fisheries, sustainable finance and other relevant policies, promotes responsible multi-use, and strengthens the link with land-use planning and coastal management for effective adaptation to climate change. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2028.
2028	The European Commission proposes an EU Strategy for a healthy ocean extending to 2040 that focuses on the regeneration of European seas while charting a path for the EU’s implementation of the new SDGs.

Sectoral policy asks

Year	Policy asks
2024	From 2024 onwards, the Council of the EU establishes sustainable, ecosystem-based and precautionary limits on fishing opportunities in line with the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and the best available scientific advice in an era of climate change.
2024	To tackle Ocean pollution and finalise the work of the 2019-2024 mandate, the European Parliament and Council of the EU adopt the regulations on preventing plastic pellets losses, Packaging and Packaging Waste, the revised Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, and the revised list of surface and groundwater pollutants.
2024	The European Commission advocates for an ambitious Global Plastic Treaty that addresses the full lifecycle of plastics, including single-use plastics, microplastics and fishing gear, as well as hazardous chemical additives and upstream measures focusing on plastic production and reduction.
2025	The European Commission proposes new legislation to restrict the import and trade of aquatic food products that cause harm to endangered species and bycatch of sensitive species. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2027.
2025	The European Commission proposes new legislation with binding 2030 targets for the effective management of at least 30% of EU seas, including at least 10% under strict protection, with a clear definition of “effective” (e.g. banning harmful activities) and “strict protection”. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2027.
2025	The European Commission proposes new legislation to ban destructive activities in all EU Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) including, but not limited to, bottom trawling. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2027.
2025	In line with the EU Deep Sea Access Regulation, the European Commission adopts a delegated act to include seamounts in the list of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) and a revised Implementing Regulation to protect deep sea VMEs in EU waters between 400m and 800m depth.
2025	The European Commission proposes a revised Energy Taxation Directive to phase out fuel tax exemption in fisheries and redirect funds to finance a just and fair transition in the fisheries sector. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2027.
2025	The European Commission adopts delegated and implementing acts to strengthen the EU fisheries control system, including digital traceability of all seafood products, engine power monitoring, and Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) of vessels at high risk of violating EU fisheries rules.
2025	The European Commission introduces a legislative framework for the traceability and labelling of all seafood products in the EU to prevent sourcing from Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities and ensure environmentally and socially responsible practices. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2027.

2025	The European Commission proposes a revised Bathing Water Directive with high standards for safe access and high environmental and health criteria, including additional parameters for monitoring water quality and obligations to address identified pollution at its source. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2027.
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2025	Taking an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, particularly in the context of climate change, the European Commission seeks scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) for setting Total Allowable Catches (TACs) that guarantee food supply for thriving predator populations.
2025	The European Commission ensures full public transparency on the allocation of fisheries opportunities either by publishing annual EU-level reports or by creating a new database with precise catch and effort data in a usable form per Member State.
2025	The European Commission proposes a ban on deep-sea mining in European seas and advocates for the adoption of a moratorium within the International Seabed Authority and other international ocean governance bodies.
2025	The European Commission assesses whether designation of suitable and acceleration areas for offshore renewable energy and permitting regimes fully comply with REDIII requirements, the Habitats and Birds Directives, the MSFD and other nature protection laws, and ensures that such projects are not developed within Natura 2000 sites or other MPAs and takes corrective actions when needed.
2025	The European Commission publishes an implementing act on auction design criteria for offshore renewable energy auctions under the Net Zero Industry Act requiring Member States to introduce mandatory non-price criteria on biodiversity, social aspects and circularity, and conduct annual assessments of those criteria.
2025	The European Commission proposes a ban on all new offshore oil and gas exploration and extraction, and a strategy to phase out offshore oil and gas drilling. For adoption by EP and Council in 2027.
2025	To reduce chemical pollution in our seas, the European Commission proposes revisions to the REACH Regulation and Cosmetic Products Regulation that accelerate the ban on harmful substances. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2027.
2025	On the topic of bycatch of sensitive species and mobile bottom fishing in MPAs, the European Commission oversees implementation of the Marine Action Plan, taking emergency measures if Member States miss deadlines to adopt national measures or submit joint recommendations, and initiating enforcement actions if environmental obligations are not met.
2025	The European Commission sets guidelines for Member States to effectively implement threshold values for all descriptors of Good Environmental Status under the MSFD by 2030, including for example underwater noise pollution.
2025	Instead of reopening the CFP Basic Regulation, the European Commission revises the Multi-Annual Plans of Fisheries Management to include legally binding measures for an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, strengthened provisions to safeguard fish populations, and clear and binding deadlines for the Joint Recommendation process.

2025	The European Commission proposes legislation on unintentionally released microplastics in the environment, notably from textiles, geotextiles, paints, tyres, detergents, construction materials and the shipping industry. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2027.
2026	As requested by citizens in the European Citizens Initiative, the European Commission proposes legislation addressing the international shark fin trade.

2026	The European Commission enforces a ban on Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to prevent further ocean pollution under the REACH Regulation.
2026	The European Commission ensures marine geo-engineering technologies and practices are excluded from the Carbon Dioxide Removal Certification Framework and 2040 EU Climate Target, enforces the moratorium on geo-engineering under the Convention of Biological Diversity and supports efforts to regulate additional marine geo-engineering technologies under the London Convention and Protocol, proposes a ban in European seas, and refrains from funding research on marine geo-engineering.
2026	The European Commission prohibits carbon storage in the water column and at the seabed, halting Carbon Capture and Storage in sub-seabed geological formations until there is proof of no environmental harm.
2026	The European Commission adopts delegated acts establishing ecodesign requirements for textiles, furniture, tyres, and paints, including a zero-emission target for microplastics, in accordance with the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation.
2026	To reduce the risk of IUU fish entering the EU market, the European Commission encourages swift implementation of the mandatory IT CATCH system, taking action against Member States that fail to implement the new requirements.
2026	The European Commission proposes a revised Single-Use Plastics (SUP) Directive, expanding the scope and introducing additional measures to reduce SUP production and consumption. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2028.
2026	To prevent profits from illegal fishing flowing back to the EU and allow more equitable access to marine resources, the European Commission publicly discloses ownership of fishing vessels by EU citizens, both within the EU and worldwide.
2026	The European Commission fully monitors National Restoration Plan implementation by Member States, evaluating effectiveness and using its enforcement powers to ensure the goals of the Nature Restoration Law will be achieved in time.
2026	As a continuation of its Circular Economy Action Plan, the European Commission proposes a Sustainable Resource Management Directive with binding science-based resource reduction targets for land- and sea-based sectors. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2028.
2027	The European Commission includes sector-specific guidance on seafood under the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive.
2027	The European Commission advocates for the inclusion of underwater noise reduction in an International Maritime Organization (IMO) Regulation.

2027	The European Commission proposes an ambitious revision of the Fuel EU Maritime Regulation to reduce ship CO ₂ emissions including via energy efficiency and wind propulsion measures, include black carbon emission factors, and require all ships listed under the EU MRV Maritime Regulation to use distillates or other cleaner fuels when operating in/near the Arctic. For adoption by the European Parliament and Council in 2029.
2027	The European Commission adopts new Strategic Guidelines for the aquaculture sector, setting clear guidelines for Member States to reduce the amount of wild-caught fish used as feed by diversifying the feed supply chain and shifting production to non-fed and low-trophic aquaculture.
2028	The European Commission introduces mandatory ship speed reduction measures and rerouting away from critical habitats to reduce GHG emissions, underwater noise pollution, and ship strikes on marine life and sensitive species.
2029	To prevent seafood linked to human rights or environmental abuse circulating in the EU, the European Commission imposes robust due diligence requirements for seafood trade, and investigates – and where necessary, bans – products linked to forced labour.

A healthy ocean is an achievable reality

This vision for 2030 is not just wishful thinking. Our step-by-step roadmap is a pragmatic, well- researched and science-based plan to guide the EU in restoring marine life by ending overexploitation, destructive practices, and pollution.

And we're not starting from zero; a wealth of ready-to-deploy solutions already exist. Across Europe, innovative initiatives by startups and local communities are making a difference, from wind-powered commercial vessels to nature-inclusive design for wind farms. Restoration initiatives are contributing to climate mitigation and flood protection. Regenerative cooperative farms for seaweed, mussels, and oysters are using farming methods that avoid fertilisers, pesticides and freshwater and help coastal communities thrive. Low-impact fishers are working with local NGOs, scientists, and administrations to co-manage fish resources, resulting in abundant fish populations, fairer prices and very short local supply chains. With EU support, examples like these can be rapidly upscaled.

Nature undeniably has intrinsic value in and of itself, and we are lucky that with the right policies in place, we can also benefit from a healthy ocean. By investing in a blue economy that is nature- positive and promotes social standards, the EU can restore marine life and biodiversity while creating quality employment that enables gender equality, social inclusion, and access to adequate wages.

The time for action is now

Europe has a unique opportunity to become an inspiring global leader by taking bold action to safeguard marine ecosystems. The stakes are high, and with 2030 fast approaching, the coming years will be decisive if the EU institutions are to leave a positive legacy for generations to come.

Public support is undeniably strong: a recent Eurobarometer poll shows that an overwhelming majority of EU citizens see climate change as a serious threat, and agree that tackling climate change should be a priority to improve public health.³

It is therefore up to these leaders to take the urgent actions needed to nurse the ocean back to health and ensure the prosperity and longevity of the communities they represent. With unwavering political commitment and robust implementation, we can achieve the change that the ocean, and all of us, need.
