

K I M O

Municipalities for Sustainable Seas



KIMO International Annual Report 2017/18



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Note from the President.....	4
Highlights.....	6
Current Issues: Port Reception Facilities Directive and fisheries waste	7
Current Issues: Fishing for Litter	8
In the spotlight: KIMO's work to stop pollution from paraffin.....	11
KIMO Denmark	12
KIMO Netherlands and Belgium.....	13
KIMO Sweden.....	14
KIMO UK.....	15
KIMO Faroe Islands	16
KIMO Germany	16
Financial Statement 2017	18
Annex I KIMO International representation at meetings 2017/18.....	19

Note from the President



My first year as President of KIMO International has been an exciting one.

Membership of KIMO is growing, increasing the sustainability of our organization and giving KIMO a stronger, more united voice in Europe. We were delighted this year to welcome new members, including our first new members from Norway for some time. We look forward to working together to minimise the impacts of marine pollution from any source on the people who reside on our coastlines and to leave a legacy for the future by ensuring that our oceans are restored to health.



Fishing For Litter has continued to go from strength to strength. The number of projects in the Netherlands and in the UK is increasing and the scheme is starting up again in Belgium, in Sweden and in Ireland; a unique and succesful concept that gives fishermen an important role in local communities and which needs to be replicated on a global scale.

Our work with OSPAR has continued and this year KIMO has also strengthened its ties with HELCOM. KIMO participated in the HELCOM Ministerial meeting in Brussels in March and delivered a statement urging ministers of the environment in Baltic countries to engage more closely with local authorities when drawing up and implementing legislative change to address ocean pollution.

KIMO has developed a strong partnership with the North Sea Commission during this year and I was proud to attend the North Sea Commission AGM in June to agree a Memorandum of Understanding between our organisations. Working together on mutual goals and supporting each other in areas of common interest will give benefits in the future and creates new opportunities for KIMO to deliver its message and to give stage to our expertise.

I would like to thank the International Secretariat for its excellent work this year and for continued, productive cooperation with the National Coordinators and networks. I also thank Karsten Filsø for his support as Senior Vice President. A lot of good work has been achieved this year, but there is still much more to do and KIMO has an important role in bringing together international municipalities to work for sustainable seas.

Robert te Beest
KIMO International President

Our Vision

- Seas and coastal waters around northern Europe that are clean, healthy, safe and free from pollution and are preserved and enhanced for future generations
- Sustainable coastal communities that are fully protected from the impacts of marine pollution.



Highlights

Conference

KIMO successfully secured an invitation to participate in the Our Ocean Conference in Malta in October and the President and Senior Vice President represented us there. This is a high-level conference giving a platform to governments, organizations and companies to make specific commitments to address marine pollution. KIMO took the opportunity to make a voluntary commitment to expand Fishing for Litter more widely across Europe and to highlight KIMO's work on the international stage. Effective networking with other organisations in the ocean community resulted in the chance to prepare a joint commitment on marine pollution for Our Oceans Conference 2019 in Oslo, within the global framework of the United National Sustainable Development Goals and the EU's MSFD descriptors.

Consultancy

In May 2018, KIMO successfully tendered for a contract from the World Heritage Organisation to work on the significance and effects of marine litter at the 49 World Heritage marine sites, culminating in a report and a workshop in late 2018.

KIMO also successfully tendered for the contract to facilitate the OSPAR Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Litter – a group of marine litter experts from across Europe who work collaboratively to promote marine litter issues on EU, national and regional environmental agendas. KIMO's work with OSPAR allows us to directly lobby decision makers and influence changes to legislation to protect the marine environment.

Collaboration

This year we were delighted to agree a collaboration with CPMR's North Sea Commission (NSC) through the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The partnership between

KIMO and NSC will centre on our joint ambitions to address the issues of plastics and other marine litter in the seas and on the shores of the North Sea Region and to ensure that these seas and coastal waters are clean, healthy, safe, free from pollution and preserved for future generations. KIMO will give its endorsement of the MoU at this year's AGM in the form of a formal signing and we are happy to welcome colleagues from the North Sea Commission to participate in this event.

This year saw KIMO become a member of the UN's Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), a forum that brings together international agencies, governments, NGOs, academia, private sector, civil society and individuals. The main goal of the global partnership is very much in line with our own – to protect the global environment and human health by the reduction and management of marine litter – and relates directly to UN Sustainable Development Goals 12, 13 and 14. We look forward to working towards fulfilment of these SDGs with other international stakeholders.

Guidelines and reports

2018 saw work begin on several sets of guidelines for municipalities, including those on green procurement and reduction of microplastics emissions, as well as the near finalisation of KIMO membership packs for new members and Boards. We have also been working with an environmental charity to produce a package of information to influence positive environmental change, by offering guidance to schools and sports clubs on reducing microplastics emissions from artificial sports turf.

We can all be proud of the achievements KIMO has made this year and should briefly congratulate ourselves before we turn our eyes forward to meet the challenges and opportunities of the coming year as we work to build resilient, sustainable coastal communities that are fully protected from the impacts of marine pollution.

Port Reception Facilities Directive and fisheries

In January 2018 the European Commission published its proposal for the revision of EU Directive 2000/59/EC on Port Reception Facilities. Under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from ships (the 73/78 MARPOL Convention), the disposal of all forms of plastics into the sea is banned but it remains the case that a proportion of marine litter in EU seas comes from ships and fishing vessels. The main objective of the revision is to reduce discharges of waste from ships into the marine environment through a combination of economic incentives, enforcement and exemptions.

One of the key elements of the Directive is the introduction of a framework for fee systems through which Member States are required to ensure that the costs of port reception facilities for ship-generated waste, including the treatment and disposal of the waste, are covered through the collection of a fee from ships. Key to the fee framework is that it should provide no incentive for ships to discharge their waste into the sea.

It is further proposed by the Directive that delivery of garbage from ships, including Fishing-for-Litter waste and derelict fishing gear, will incur a 'no special fee' incentive for delivery of garbage and that the costs of disposal of this waste will be subsumed into an indirect fee, used to cover indirect administration costs as well as a significant part of direct operational costs.

However, inclusion of passively fished waste under the indirect fee is not in line with the polluter pays principle followed by this Directive, since the waste collected by fishers is generated by third parties. KIMO's position is that the delivery of waste collected at sea and not produced by the fishing vessels should not attract any payment of fees, even indirect, as this will discourage fishers to participate in Fishing for Litter and other voluntary waste removal schemes. This year KIMO has lobbied MEPs and national authorities to vote to ensure that the revised Directive does not penalise fishers unfairly.



Fishing For Litter



Fishing for Litter

Projects are a key part of KIMO's commitment to improving our coastal and marine environments and Fishing for Litter is one of KIMO's most successful projects, with schemes now running in at least 10 countries, some facilitated by KIMO and some by other actors. Fishers participating in the projects run by KIMO removed over 406 tonnes of marine litter from the ocean last year, taking the grand total (2011-2017) to a mighty 3390 tonnes! A huge thank you to all those who have contributed to making the oceans a safer and healthier place.

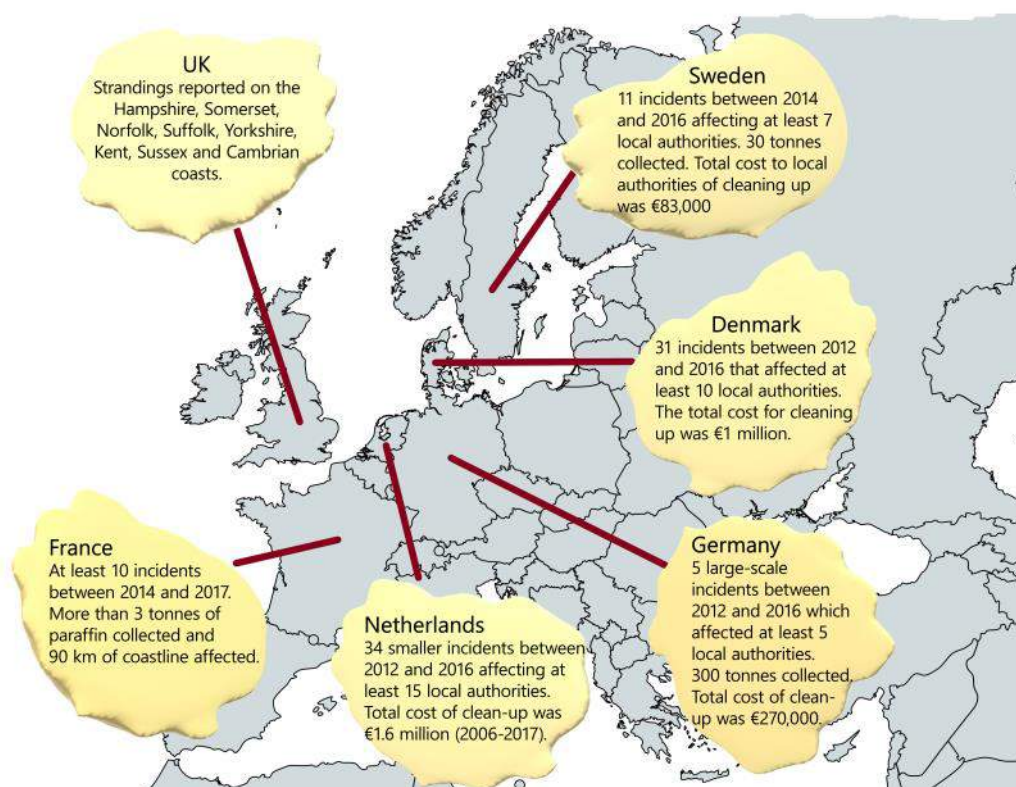


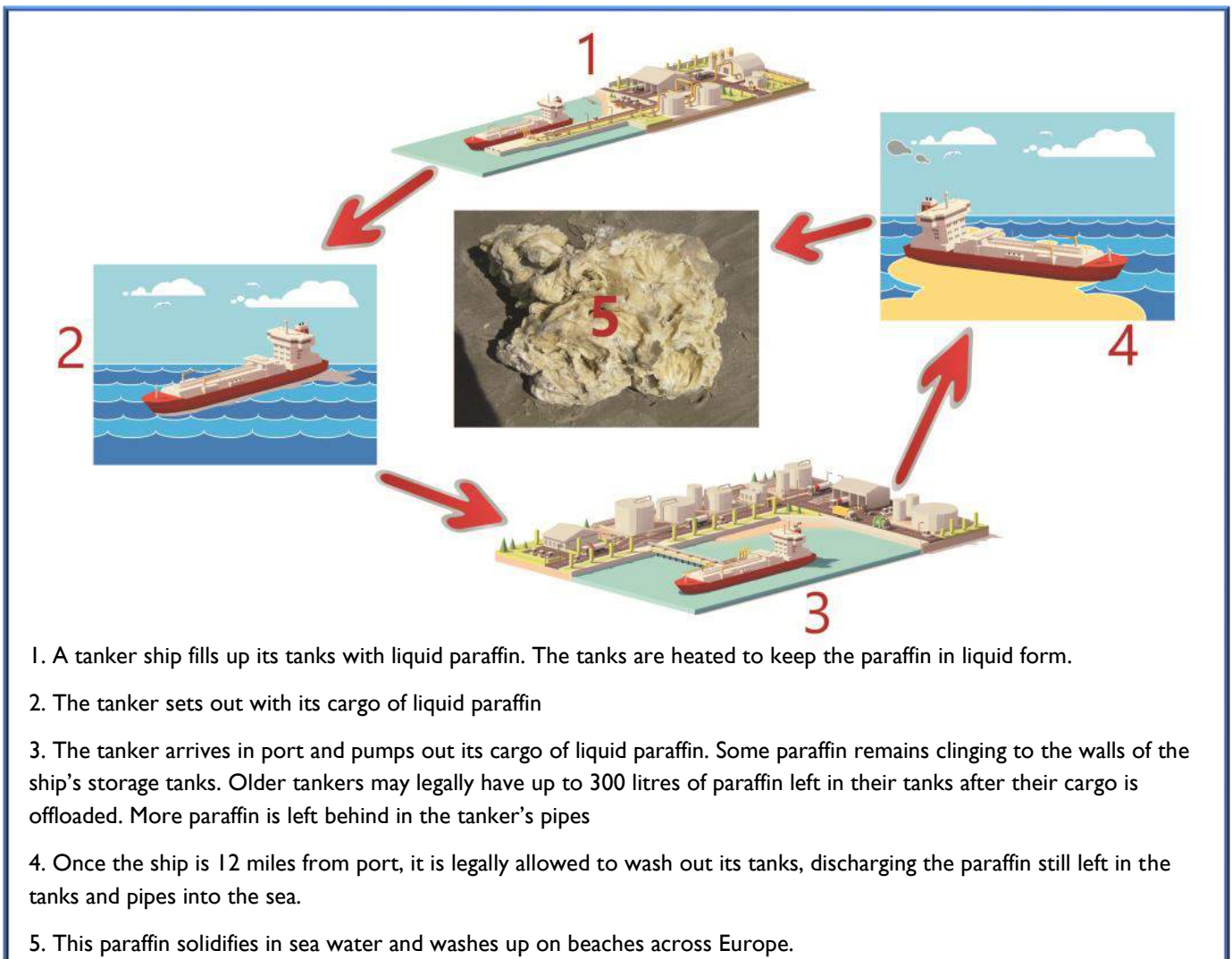
Pollution from paraffin on beaches and coastlines is a recurring issue for coastal communities. While the environmental impact of plastic particles in the marine environment is attracting global attention there has been very little focus on the impact of paraffin waste from shipping and it is likely that the risks have been significantly underestimated. Pollution from paraffin presents a major risk to marine life as paraffin fragments are mistaken for food by marine animals and swallowed. Analysis of the stomach contents of Northern fulmars washed up on German North Sea beaches found paraffin-like substances in around 20% cases. The risk to humans is less clear. Pure paraffin is not considered hazardous but the cargoes of tanker ships are generally formed of industrial paraffins which have a lower level of purity - most will irritate the skin, eyes and respiratory tract and some are considered to be carcinogenic. The clumps of paraffin that are washed up on beaches often also contain toxic solvents used to clean the ships.

Pollution from paraffin is detrimental to the recreation and tourism industries of coastal communities. The impact on local economies can be considerable and income will be lost to local communities when beaches are closed following the incidence of paraffin pollution. Since identification of the source of the pollution is extremely difficult the costs of the consequential beach and shore clean-up and processing of waste are currently borne by coastal communities and national governments.

Between 2012 and 2016, at least 91 incidents occurred in 5 KIMO member countries affecting 300 km of coastline, involving at least 37 municipalities and costing well over €1.4M. As a consequence of poor/inconsistent reporting of data, the number of incidents recorded and the associated costs are likely to be very low estimates. Many countries indicated that this was an issue in their country and that there have been many more unrecorded pollution events.

Paraffin Pollution Incidents around the North Sea





So, what's KIMO been doing about this?

In 2015 KIMO lobbied the International Maritime Organisation's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) to urge them to ban paraffin from being discharged from ships. We also conducted a survey of our members to determine the scale of the problem of paraffin pollution. The subsequent report was submitted to OSPAR in 2016 and we successfully lobbied OSPAR to bring this to the attention of the IMO.

The wheels of progress turn slowly, but finally, in February 2018, the IMO's Pollution, Prevention and Response (PPR) sub committee agreed that the best way to tackle the problem of beaches being fouled by product residues being washed from ships' tanks was to introduce a requirement for prewash of the product deemed to be responsible - primarily waxes and vegetable oils - in the areas affected, which compromise mainly North West Europe and the Baltic region. This recommendation will be put to the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee in October 2018 for approval and adoption. If agreed, the requirement is expected to enter into force in January 2020.

This is a significant development in the fight against paraffin pollution and KIMO has been a key stakeholder in raising this issue up the European agenda and working for a positive outcome; however, there is still more to do to ensure our coastlines and beaches are protected from this type of pollution and we are ready to take the next steps.

Key to the success of the organisation is the work done at national and local levels by the KIMO networks. Not only do they act on local issues but also support the work of the International Secretariat. Some of the key actions they have undertaken over the last year are outlined in the pages that follow.

KIMO Denmark

The Danish board has chosen to work with marine litter, microplastics and historical coastal chemical dumping areas. One of our members, has a site, where there is a current project using methods to neutralize the pollution in situ.

A few of our member municipalities have put in policy to regulate balloon releases. Others are working on policy for procurement of products without microplastics and less plastic.

The west coast of Denmark has been hit by paraffin pollution again this year. We are lobbying nationally, having dialogue with the shipping industry and networking with German and Dutch researchers to find and fill knowledge gaps.

The Danish government has started the process of writing the Danish marine planning strategy. KIMO is a stakeholder in this process and has informed members about the consultation and overall strategy.

KIMO Denmark was consulted for the Danish plastics strategy, which follows the European strategy. We are following the process and plan to comment on the upcoming proposal.

A working group of employees from member municipalities has been created to help with qualified answers to future consultations and changes in legislation.

KIMO's Networks

KIMO Denmark is currently involved in 3 projects.

We are monitoring 3 beaches 3 times a year for the Danish Ministry of the Environment, to collect baseline data for the MSFD. Monitoring for 2017 was carried out as well as spring and summer monitoring 2018.

KIMO Denmark is work package leader in the project "An Ocean of Possibilities". In 2017 we collected and processed 3.000 kg of PP and PE plastics. This was ground down to raw material that was tested. A bench and bin set with 10% marine plastics and 90% recycled plastics was created. These will be placed in some of our municipalities as a way to raise awareness and debate about marine litter and plastics in the environment.

KIMO Denmark is a partner in the Clean Coastline project. This is a Nordic partnership between communities in Norway, Sweden and Denmark. The focus is about the exchange of ideas, innovation and experience for cleaning beaches and management and recycling of marine litter. The project's final conference is in Frederikstad Norway in November 2018.

Ryan Metcalfe
National Coordinator
KIMO Denmark





KIMO's work in the Netherlands and Belgium, mainly focussed on three projects of the strategic level (2 National Green Deals and Fishing for Litter) and one special project (Beach Combers' Delight) during which people with disabilities helped to clean beaches. KIMO received a lot of media attention in the Netherlands, ranging from articles in local papers and two times news items on national television.

As in 2017, important topics are the development of a new strategic direction of the organisation with regard to staff. With regard to contents and projects: cooperation within the Green Deals, the further implementation of Fishing For Litter involving organisational and financial issues, and the enhanced relation with the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment. Cooperation with the Dutch Association of Wadden Sea Municipalities and the Dutch Network of Wadden Sea Islands has started already and will be further extended.

Current issues for our network are waste transport by rivers to the sea, balloons, paraffin, collection and processing of fisheries waste in ports

In the Netherlands, a number of strategic projects have been implemented, aiming specifically at the

cleaning up of marine and coastal litter and participation of the public in addressing the topic.

The projects are:

Green Deal on Clean Beaches & Green Deal for Cleaner Fisheries' Practices. Together with the Dutch Ministry for Infrastructure and the Environment, stakeholders that have interests in beaches and tourism, fisheries activities and waste collection and processing, are contacted and included in this bottom-up initiatives to reduce waste and aim at closing the loop.

Fishing for Litter: together with 12 fisheries ports, local fisherman (123 vessels), municipalities and the Ministry for Infrastructure and the Environment waste from the sea is collected and sustainably processed.

Beach Combers' Happiness: in 28 municipalities (from the Belgian border in the south to the German border in the north) this beach cleaning expedition was held, together with the municipal organisations, health care organisations and the Association Juttersgeluk. A lot of attention by the press was received.

Mike Mannaart
National Coordinator
KIMO Netherlands and Belgium



KIMO Sweden

Our network is growing with Uddevalla municipality being the latest to join. Although we now have 13 members we are still actively working to recruit more. This year we saw the appointment of a new chair, Helena Norin.

Before the schools in Sweden closed for the summer holidays, our network issued a well-timed press-release regarding balloons and confetti. Each year, this period sees a number of celebrations. With balloons and confetti still being seen by many as a conventional way to celebrate, our press release reminded schools of the environmental harm caused by these items and encouraged them to use alternatives such as petals or soap bubbles instead. Each municipality's representatives contacted their communications department, schools as well as the local media resulting in at least 12 different articles in newspapers and the web with a lot of publicity on social media as well.

Addressing microplastic pollution from artificial turf remains one of our key priorities. In order to

KIMO's Networks

address the other issues we're working with, we have created four working groups: Communication, Biodiversity, Environmental Impact, Plastics.

In other news, the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SWAM) are very keen to develop Fishing for Litter initiatives in Sweden as there is a substantial amount of derelict fishing gear present from recreational fishing. SWAM is working with KIMO member Simrishamn municipality to explore setting up Fishing for Litter projects on the west coast of Sweden where there is a relatively robust fishing fleet. Our colleague in SWAM says she hopes that this will improve the reputation of the fishing industry which has had some bad press in recent times for a perceived lack of environmental sensitivity.

Karin Meyer
National Coordinator
KIMO Sweden



KIMO UK is still primarily focussed on the Fishing For Litter project management and expansion with the addition of the net recycling project now starting to take up more time with its development.

Tesco have come forward and expressed keen interest in funding a new harbour on the Fishing For Litter project out with the EMFF grant. The Coordinator put forward a proposal for the funding of Mallaig Harbour which includes waste disposal, trips out to set up the scheme and education packs for local schools in the area. The proposal is now undergoing final approval from senior management at Tesco but initial feedback seems hopeful.

The Coordinator is still in talks with Natural England about setting up FFL in Norfolk but has been put on hold over the summer because of holidays and availability of relevant people. This will hopefully be pursued further in the next quarter. There is potential for Tesco to be involved since their headquarters aren't too far from the harbours Natural England are interested in. Tesco have also expressed an interest in funding a second harbour closer to their locality.

Net recycling

In May, our first load of fishing nets were sent to be recycled at Plastix Global, Denmark. The load was 90 m³ and weighed 12 tonnes.

Work is still ongoing on the net recycling project. We are currently partnering with Fathoms Free to get funding for the project start-up. This is still currently ongoing and we plan to target as many potential funders as possible such as retailers. This project is really important to keep going so it will start to become a priority. There has been lots of press around the subject, including a video made by the BBC on the work that Fathoms Free is doing

In addition, the Coordinator has been spreading the word about our plans for this project and has had interest from other KIMO networks who also want to get involved with Plastix Global. In a recent meeting with KIMO Netherlands & Belgium and the Belgian Government, both parties expressed an interest in participating in the meeting with Plastix Global to see if we can have a collaborative approach to this new project.

Pick up 3 Pieces

This project encourages school children to pick up three pieces of marine litter each time they visit the beach. Education packs are sent to schools. An inventory has been taken and there are still enough supplies for approximately 35 packs in stock. More funding will be sought to take this project forward.

Faron McLellan
National Coordinator
KIMO UK



KIMO Members

This year there has been a lot of focus on clean up schemes, especially beach cleaning, by different interest groups. Most municipalities have one cleaning day a year, where the citizens are invited to participate. The international clean-up of September 15th is already a big event.

Kommunufelagid is an interest partner when the Home Government puts forward new law proposals. This year there have been several proposals regarding the environment, most notably one on restricting small boat traffic from tourist

ships ferrying tourists to land, often to nature areas with restricted access.

Fishing for Litter continues with one boat from Leirvik. There is a limited amount of litter being brought to land, sorted and delivered to the relevant facilities.

Sveiney Sverrisdóttir
Coordinator
KIMO Faroe Islands

Faroe Islands



As in other KIMO member countries, German municipalities have also been badly affected by paraffin stranding incidents. We continue to lobby on two fronts: (1) against paraffin pollution and (2) for a German coast guard with a central responsible organisation. Last year's KIMO AGM passed our resolution, "Spatial Organisation Plan and Maritime

Traffic Control for the North Sea". In 2018, this resolution was distributed to relevant organisations and ministries across Europe

Natalie Eckelt
Coordinator
KIMO Germany

Germany



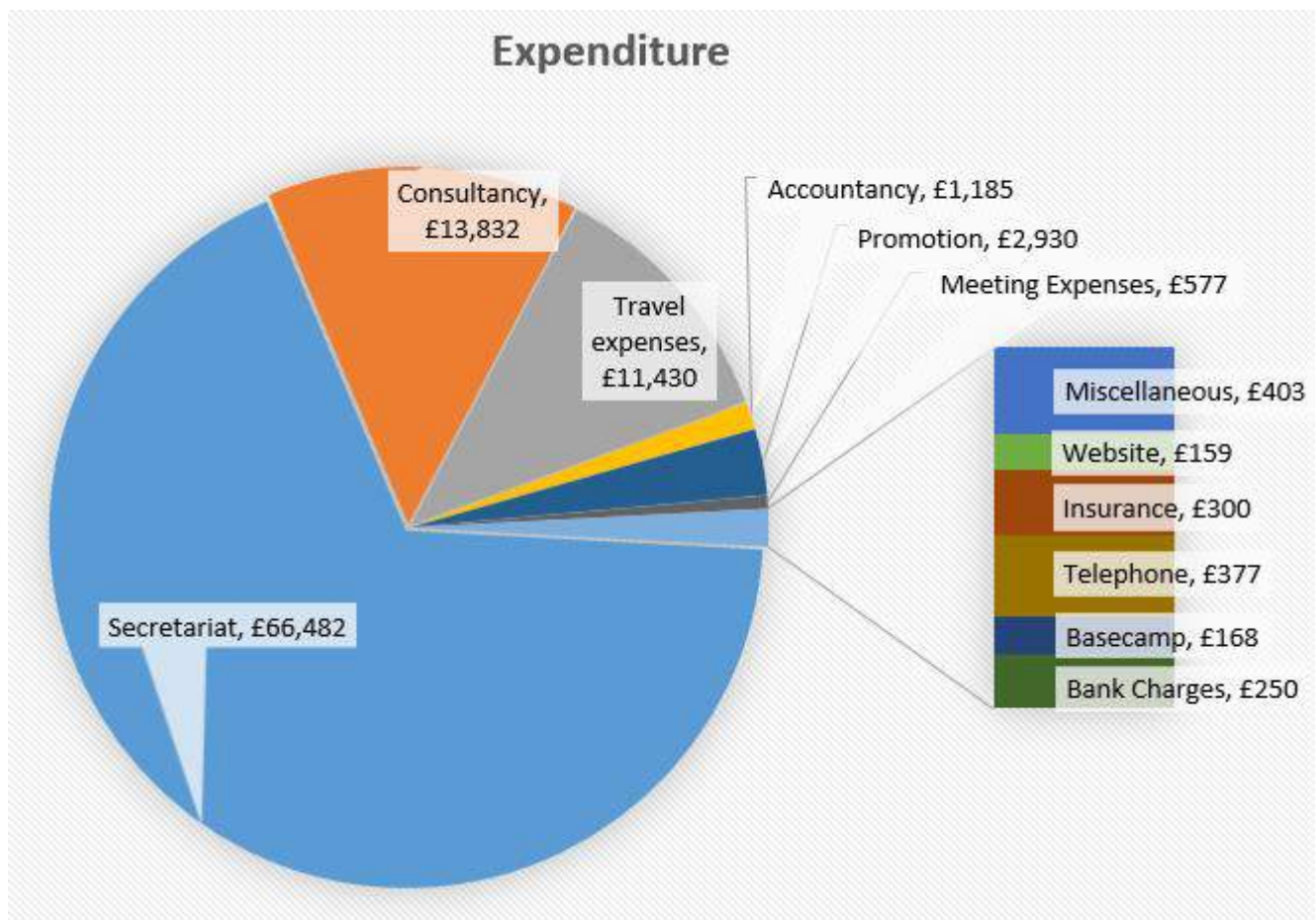
Financial Statement

Membership

In 2017 KIMO International received income from 70 member local authorities and 3 group members

Financial Summary

The 2017 accounts show a surplus of £1,546. Full income and expenditure for the year is summarised here in chart form.



KIMO encourages national representatives to represent the organisation at local meetings

October 2017

KIMO Annual General Meeting and Conference – Malmö, Sweden

KIMO International Board Meeting – Malmö, Sweden

KIMO National Coordinators Meeting – Malmö, Sweden

Our Ocean Conference 2017 – St Julian's, Malta

November 2017

OSPAR Intercessional Group on Marine Litter (ICGML) – Brussels, Belgium

KIMO National Coordinators' Meeting (online)

December 2017

Nuclear Free Local Authorities Meeting – Manchester, UK

Promotional Event for FFL – Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, UK

January 2018

Secretariat Performance Review (online)

Presentation to CPMR Marine Resources Group – Aalborg, Denmark

Scottish Marine Litter Strategy Steering Committee – Edinburgh, UK

Presentation to CPMR members to inform their marine litter strategy – Brussels, Belgium

March 2018

HELCOM Ministerial meeting – Brussels, Belgium

HELCOM Commission meeting – Brussels, Belgium

OSPAR meeting re: RAP/PRF – Brussels, Belgium

Meeting with UK MP to raise awareness of FfL and PRF Directive – Shetland Islands, UK

6th International Marine Debris Conference, San Diego, USA

G7 Plastics Workshop – Brussels, Belgium

April 2018

OSPAR Environmental Impact of Human Activities (EIHA) – Dordrecht, Netherlands

Information meeting with DG MARE & DG COMMS - Brussels, Belgium

MARELITT Recycling of lost fishing gear – Straslund, Germany

May 2018

KIMO National Coordinators' meeting - Brussels, Belgium

KIMO International Board meeting – Brussels, Belgium

Meeting with Europeche - Brussels, Belgium

Information meeting with DG MARE & DG COMMS - Brussels, Belgium

Trilateral Wadden Sea Conference – Harlingen, the Netherlands

June 2018

Presentation to KIMO UK Board meeting – Macduff, UK

OSPAR Intercessional Group on Marine Litter (ICGML) – Berlin, Germany

Presentation at North Sea Region (NSC & Interreg) event – Fredrikstadt, Norway

July 2018

OSPAR meeting on RAP Fisheries waste actions (online)

KIMO National Coordinators' Meeting (online)

August 2018

Asia-Europe (ASEM) meeting – Bangkok, Thailand

September 2018

European Parliament Intergroup Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas SEARICA meeting – Brussels

Ad hoc meeting with MEP to raise awareness of FfL and PRF Directive – Brussels

KIMO National Coordinators' Meeting (online)

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