

Program 22 October 2009

- 10:00 Registration and coffee
- 10:30 *Opening*
Louwrens Hacquebord, Director of the Willem Barentsz Polar Institute
- 10:40 *CO₂ uptake by the Southern Ocean*
Steven van Heuven, University of Groningen
- 11:00 *Climate warming accelerates CO₂-release from subsurface soil organic carbon in a subarctic peat land*
Ellen Dorrepaal, VU University, Amsterdam
- 11:20 Coffee break
- 11:50 *Frozen Desert Alive, a close look at the Antarctic pack-ice ecosystem*
Hauke Flores, Imares, Wageningen University, Wageningen
- 12:10 *Monitoring the transformation of historic features in Antarctica and Svalbard: Local processes and regional contexts*
Ricardo Roura, University of Groningen
- 12:30 Poster session
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:10 *Introduction*
Louwrens Hacquebord, Director of the Willem Barentsz Polar Institute
- 14:20 *Sustainable Management of Marine Living Resources (fisheries) – A Core Element in the Norwegian Government's High North Strategy*
Odd Gunnar Skagestad, Deputy Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- 14:55 *New approaches to Arctic conservation in times of accelerating climate change*
Gert Polet, WWF Arctic Programme
- 15:30 Tea break and opportunity to visit the Science LinX Exhibition
- 16:00 *Petroleum Activities in the High North*
Representative of the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, Norway
- 16:35
Lecture Geert Greving, GasTerra, Groningen
- 17:10 *Final remarks*
Dag Avango
- 17:30 Reception
hosted by the Norwegian Embassy
- 19:30 Conference dinner at Humphrey's restaurant

Sustainable Management of Marine Living Resources (fisheries) – A Core Element in the Norwegian Government's High North Strategy

Odd Gunnar Skagestad

- * Point of departure: **Sustainable development** - a mantra in world political discourse, combining the twin elements of viz. *environment conservation* and *rational resource management*. Key concept in both is *sustainability* - the **sustainable management** of our environment and its natural resources: Renewable resources should be harvested responsibly, with due regard to the needs of future generations.
- * Renewable resources include marine living resources. Management of these resources refers to fisheries in the broad sense – the catching of fish as well as crustaceans and marine mammals.
- * Norway's dependence on fisheries – a vital part of our national economy. Therefore, sustainable use, based on scientific advice and the ecosystem approach, is the main objective of Norway's fisheries management policies.
- * International cooperation – a network of international legal instruments (e.g. UNCLOS) and cooperation agreements.
- * **The Arctic:** Same basic rules and considerations apply here as elsewhere.
- * A different perspective: **The High North**. As a *political* concept (with certain geographical aspects), the High North is elastically defined in the Norwegian Government's **High North Strategy** (presented in two policy documents). The Strategy is partly a **statement of intents**, partly an **action programme**, including ambitious aims and a broad scope of subject matter.
- * The High North includes i.e. the **Barents Sea** – home to some of the world's richest fish resources, which are also the mainstay of value-creation, employment and livelihood of the population of esp. Northern Norway. These are also core objectives of the High North Strategy.
- * Responsible management of resources and the environment in the High North is also a **trans boundary** consideration, entailing the need for regional and international cooperation. Such cooperation on fisheries management is well developed in the Barents Sea and adjacent seas.
- * Rational management of marine, maritime and coastal issues necessitates a **broad approach**, encompassing and reconciling interests of fisheries, sea transport and petroleum industry. The key-word is **co-existence** within the **parameters of sustainable development**.
- * Norway's **Integrated Management Plan** for the Norwegian part of the Barents Sea aims at facilitating long-term value-creation based on the sustainable use of the marine resources, while preserving the structures and productivity of their ecosystems.
- * The Central Arctic Ocean: No imminent resource management needs, nor a legal void. Such is the position of the 5 coastal states, spelled out in the May 2008 Ilulissat Declaration.