

The North Sea Regional Advisory Council



**Protocol for Observers
June 27th & 28th 2005, Hamburg, Germany**

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Agreed

Draft Protocol for the Participation of Observers in the work of NSRAC

Relevant Rules of Procedure

- 18. Meetings of the General Assembly shall be open to the public. The meetings of the Executive Committee shall be open to the public unless decided otherwise by a majority of the Executive Committee.*
- 19. Meetings of the General Assembly and Executive Committee shall be open to observers who are additional representatives from the fisheries sector and other interest groups affected by the Common Fisheries in the North Sea.*
- 27. Representatives of the fisheries sector and other interest groups from third countries, including representatives from Regional Fisheries Organisations that have a fishing interest in the area or fisheries covered by NSRAC may be invited to participate in NSRAC as active observers when issues which affect them are discussed, at the discretion of the Executive Committee.*
- 28. Additional representatives of member organisations of the Executive Committee shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the NSRAC as active observers.*
- 29. Representatives of each concerned Member State shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the NSRAC as active observers.*
- 30. Representatives of the European Commission shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the NSRAC as active observers.*
- 31. A representative of the Advisory Committee on Fisheries & Aquaculture shall be able to attend any meeting of the NSRAC as an active observer.*
- 32. The NSRAC shall not be responsible for meeting the costs of attendance of observers. Observers shall not be entitled to vote.*

33 *Members of the Executive Committee shall be assisted at Executive Committee Meetings by scientists from institutes of the Member States concerned or international bodies and other qualified scientists, invited by the Executive Committee to provide scientific, technical, economic, legal or other relevant advice. Experts shall not be entitled to vote.*

Thus, there are two distinct kinds of Observer attending NSRAC Meetings:

Active Observers

These include;

1. Representatives of the fisheries sector and other interest groups from third countries, including representatives from Regional Fisheries Organisations that have a fishing interest in the area or fisheries covered by NSRAC;
2. Additional representatives of member organisations of the Executive Committee;
3. Representatives of each concerned Member State;
4. Representatives of the European Commission; and
5. A representative of the Advisory Committee on Fisheries & Aquaculture
6. The North Sea Commission and OSPAR are not clearly defined as active observers in the existing Rules of Procedure and a new paragraph is being suggested to clarify this point, viz:

Representatives of other European organisations that have an interest in the area or fisheries covered by the NSRAC (for example the North Sea Commission and OSPAR) shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the NSRAC as active observers.

Active observers shall be allowed to speak and participate fully in discussions at the discretion of the Chair

Other Observers

These include;

1. Individual stakeholders, including fishers and others with an interest in North Sea fisheries
2. Members of the General Public, including the Press and other Media Representatives;

Other observers are allowed to speak and participate in discussions only by prior arrangement with the Secretariat, and at the discretion of the Chair

All observers are expected to observe the media protocol laid down for full NSRAC Members, viz:

1. Observers at NSRAC meetings may express in public ***their own*** opinions on the work of NSRAC. If a comment is required from the NSRAC itself a request must be forwarded to the Secretariat
2. Observers of the NSRAC shall not claim to present the views of the NSRAC itself, or the views of its members.
3. Observers of the NSRAC are encouraged to disseminate, in their own language, any material issued from the NSRAC which already has the approval of the Secretariat. However, if any material is added to the translation it must be made clear that the additional material is not from the NSRAC.
4. Statements regarding NSRAC activities may be issued by observers provided it is made clear that the material issued does not represent the views of the NSRAC itself but only those of the observer issuing it. They must be ***about*** the NSRAC, rather than ***from*** the NSRAC.