Dear all NAEMO friends

Again, I realise we have been quite quiet for some time (where does time fly…), so we (I, Julie and Alessandro) decided it was time to provide an update about the progress in NAEMO.

Follow up from workshop

We finally completed the notes from the workshop, see the attached document (better late then never). We hope you all agree that this is what we covered during the workshop.

Webpage and logo

The shellfish centre has kindly agreed to host a tab with NAEMO information. This is a great first step towards establishing a more formal webpage for the network. We are currently discussing what information should be included and will be spending the coming weeks with deciding on structure, compiling text and other material to add to the webpage tab. We will let you know as soon as the page is launched.

We have also decided on a logo, please vote for your favorite logo by sending the number of the logo you prefer to me. You can only select one favorite! You can also vote for one logo and suggest minor modifications.

Logo 1.

Logo 2.

Logo 3.

Logo 4.

Dissemination

I hope that all of you have seen that there was an article about the workshop in the grower in January, and in the EAS newsletter in January/February. I´m hoping to continue the discussion with Sandra about also including something in the NSA newsletter during spring and we are exploring the possibilities of getting some information out through WWF. We are thinking of submitting a poster abstract to AE 2020 in Cork. One idea is also to create a short power point presentation and a poster about NAEMO that members can present at suitable occasions to promote the network. Although we are not social media gurus, we will try to use #NAEMO when relevant information occurs.

Network organisation

Regarding the network organisation we have been discussing different groups, members and tasks. We propose the following structure:

Steering Committee
Reference group
Advisory board

Group	Tasks:
Steering committee	Decides on the priorities or order of business of the network and manages the general course of its activities Monthly skype meetings (we can send notes to the other groups after each meeting to maintain a good flow of information)
Working group:	Support steering committee with specific tasks, e.g. text to applications and webpage, logistics for meetings, joint publications and more Joint meetings every 3 months
Advisory board	Provides non-binding strategic advice to the management of the network Welcome to join meetings but not required

We are aware that this description is very rudimentary, but we believe it´s better to get started and figure things out on the way/refine these descriptions when we see how things work than to wait for more detailed descriptions. We are (obviously) struggling to keep this initiative going at the pace we want so bringing more people into the structure is only beneficial at this point. Please let us know what you think about this structure and suggest tasks for each group to refine the description.

Based on the responses from the request in our previous newsletter in December we have appointed people to these specific groups. If you haven´t heard from us already, we will be contacting you shortly to confirm your participation. If you volunteered but don´t hear from us within two weeks, please let us know. We are of course open for change in group composition but want to limit the number of people in the Steering committee for now to maintain an efficient structure. We hope that all network members will act as ambassadors and promote the network when appropriate.

Funding

We are still looking for suitable funding sources to formalize the network. To form an EAS working group is one option to maintain the network, but our top priority is to try to apply for funding to allow us to establish a secretariat and work more intensively with this network. Our current best lead is COST action and we are looking into the details for such an application. If you have experiences from applying for this and/or want to be involved in the application process, please let us know.

Population status/monitoring data

We now have several people offering data and expertise on monitoring data in order to see if we could find any general trends in population development over time. To compile this data and analyze it will require some time, and we therefore suggest to compile this topic into a student project. Please let us know if you have students that may want to engage in such an international project. We will try to produce a short description of the project that you can distribute.

Sharing information

We would like to ask all members to send us new reports/publications/projects/funding calls/information about meetings and other relevant information for the network to begin the process of sharing information. Also short reports or summaries from workshops or conferences are of interest.

Upcoming events

20th International Conference on Shellfish Restoration (ICSR) is heading to Nelson Bay NSW from the 17th – 20th March 2020

National Shellfisheries Association in Baltimore, Maryland March 29-April 2.

Marine data to support aquaculture in the North Atlantic: The European Aquaculture Technology and Innovation Platform (EATIP), EMODnet and Mercator Ocean International

together with DG MARE and DG DEFIS organize in May 5-6 2020 in Trondheim, Norway, an event entitled "Marine data to support aquaculture in the North Atlantic".

Shellfish Restoration and Conservation, a session taking place within Aquaculture Europe September 29 through October 2, 2020 in Cork, Ireland. Dot and Zoë sends this information on behalf of the AE session and the NORA network:

Shellfish (oysters, clams, mussels) have seen a decline in population numbers providing incentive for restoration and conversation efforts. Now, with multiple restoration projects in full swing and knowledge gained, it seems an appropriate time to discuss best management practices. Shellfish restoration requires a thorough understanding of the ecosystem to develop a self-sustaining population. Biosecurity regulations and legal restrictions, in place to provide environmental security and public health protection, may also hinder progress. Concerns about disease causing agents such as Bonamia ostreae can restrict the movement of infected stock. However, there is mounting evidence that shellfish, exposed to disease, can develop resistance, and using 'disease resistant' shellfish as broodstock could provide a solution for long term restoration. The technology used to support shellfish restoration is rapidly advancing, providing new mechanisms with which to build on our knowledge. In this session we will discuss how we can use our understanding of and experience in restoration and conservation to inform best practices. Using good science and progressive policies we can move towards successfully restored self-sustaining shellfish populations. This session will evoke discussion, share experiences, and present cutting edge technology.

You may be aware of the Native Oyster Restoration Alliance (NORA) that was set up in 2017 for more open conversation between Ostrea edulis restoration and conservation projects around Europe. NORA is now an established group involving hundreds of people with projects in at least 7 countries [https://noraeurope.eu]. In addition to the shellfish session, we have been lucky enough to secure a space for a NORA meeting during the Cork AE conference. The official 2020 NORA meeting will be held in The Netherlands in November and we are hoping to use the opportunity in Cork to produce a publication for the NORA meeting. More information about this meeting will be released soon.

Send us a title and abstract online: www.aquaeas.eu before May 1, 2020 if you would like to contribute and speak at this event.

That´s all for now!

Cheers Åsa, Julie and Alessandro