



PRESS RELEASE

18 May 2009

New president elected for Danish Fishermen's Association

Svend-Erik Andersen has been elected president of the Danish Fishermen's Association for the next 3 years. He takes the chair after Kim Kær Hansen who has been in charge of the association since November 2008 when the former president Flemming Kristensen suddenly died.

The new president was appointed at a general assembly on 16 May. Kim Kær Hansen will be the first vice president and Jesper Juul Larsen is now the second vice president of the association.

The election was part of the annual general assembly for the national Danish fisheries organisation. Among the main issues raised in the report from the president as well as in the debate afterwards were the national allocation of fishing days (kilowatt days), the lack of proportionality between breaking rules in the fisheries and the sanctions. Also the Danish plans for utilizing the EU fuel package that can be used for improving energy efficiency in the fleet was mentioned. Other problems covered were the large Norwegian influence on the EU fisheries and the economic crisis for the fisheries sector mainly caused by low prices for most species.

Furthermore the Danish minister of fisheries Eva Kjer Hansen - who were present at the AGM - was criticised due to the Danish-Swedish political decision about a major Kattegat closure and because of her lack of consulting the fisheries sector before publishing major decisions with large consequences for the sector.

More of the participants expressed an urgent need for a time-out. The never ending flow of new decisions and new projects doesn't allow the fisheries sector to stabilize. Right now the everyday of the Danish fishermen is influenced by increasing costs as well as by the low and unstable market prices and the many political initiatives from Denmark and from the EU.

Further information: Head of Communications Lone HANSEN, tel + 45 76109662, lh@dkfisk.dk