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Odd Gunnar Skagestad

Deputy Director General, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The 'High North' – A Geographical-Political Concept, with Emphasis on Marine Resources Management

(Delivered with a corresponding PowerPoint presentation)

Ladies & gentlemen!

Let me start with taking you a few years back – not quite to the early Neolithic period, but to the memorable year 1987 AD. That was the year when the so-called *World Commission on Environment and Development* – which quickly became known as the *Brundtland Commission* (thus named after our then prime minister, who chaired the Commission) – submitted a report called "Our Common Future". In this document the Commission introduced the term "**Sustainable Development**". This was defined as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

The term "Sustainable Development" became an instant success. One may say it became a **mantra** in world politics. It was, for instance, the central theme and the guiding doctrine of such seminal and high-profile events as the 1992 *Rio Conference on Environment and Development* (aka UNCED or "the Earth Summit") and the 2002 *Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development* (WSSD), and also the so-called Rio + 20 Summit meeting in June last year.

More specifically for our present context, we should note that the expression gained almost universal acceptance as the **guiding principle** for the management of natural resources. Even those (countries or other actors) who may act contrary to this principle tend to pay lip-service to the concept and the very expression "Sustainable Development".

Next, we should note that the **sustainable development agenda** includes the twin concepts of **environment conservation** and **resource management**. I would like to emphasize that these are actually two aspects of the same issue. The key element in both is **sustainability**: In simple terms, this means that Nature's resources (and renewable resources in particular) should be used, but not be over-exploited to the point of depletion or extinction. The surplus yield of nature's production should be harvested prudently and responsibly (*note the moral element*).

Obviously, **renewable** resources include **marine living resources**. So when we talk about "**management of marine living resources**", we are referring to fisheries in the broad sense – meaning that the term "fisheries" includes not only catching fish, but also the harvesting of crustaceans (shrimps etc.) and marine mammals (whales & seals).

Sustainable management of fisheries is of vital importance for feeding the world's population, so it is a matter of global concern. For a number of countries, like Norway in particular, this is even more important than for the rest.

Let's not forget that in the global context, Norway is an Arctic outpost - a rocky outcrop of two and a half thousand kilometers stretching up towards the North Pole. Lands at similar latitudes elsewhere in the world are almost uninhabited, but we are able to cope thanks to the Gulf Stream and the marine resources.

The marine resources have always provided the basis for our national economy and provided the livelihood for our coastal communities, especially in Northern Norway. Our national well-being is heavily dependent on our access to harvest the surplus of these renewable resources. More than 80 percent of Norway's population live less than 10 km from the coast. The coast is the vital nerve of the Norwegian society and the basis for substantial parts of the value-creation. In the global context, Norway is a medium-sized country, but a major actor when it comes to marine resources. We have jurisdiction over huge marine areas with some of the world's richest fish resources.

To illustrate the importance of the marine resources for our national economy: Norway is the world's second largest exporter of fish and fish products. For many years the export revenues from seafood showed a steady increase, and peaked at 53,8 billion NOK in 2010 (followed by a slight downturn in 2011). Farmed fish amounts to some 60 percent of the fishing industry's export revenues. Every single day 33 million meals of Norwegian seafood are served globally. Today Norway's national economy is dominated by the oil and gas revenues, but the fisheries sector is by a wide margin our second biggest export industry.

Sustainable use is therefore a **main objective** of Norwegian fisheries management policies. In order to attain this objective, our management policies are based on the best available **scientific advice** and incorporate the **ecosystem approach**.

But we are not alone in this world. We are **not** operating in a **legal void** or in a **political vacuum**. We form a part of the wider international community. For Norway, this means that we are an active partner in a broad network of international **cooperation** arrangements concerning the management of fisheries resources. Our management policies are linked to a number of **international legal instruments** and **cooperation agreements**, on the **global** level as well as on the **regional** or **bilateral** levels.

Such international agreements include broad framework agreements such as the **1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea** and the **1995 U.N. Fish Stocks Agreement**. These are

legal instruments which – in addition to defining the **rights** of the coastal states - lay down the guiding principles of **management objectives** as well as the **obligation** of state parties to **cooperate** among themselves in order to attain these objectives.

Among such areas of intergovernmental cooperation, **special mention** should be made of the great efforts carried out during the past few years in order to combat illegal, un-reported and un-regulated fishing – so-called **IUU** fisheries. This is a global problem, which must be addressed at all levels – regionally as well as in a wider international context.

So far, and as a way of introduction, I have attempted to give a very **rough presentation** of the **concept** of the sustainable management of marine living resources, and an equally **rough outline** of **Norway's approach** to these issues. In case anyone wonders or get the wrong idea, I must hurry to point out that this approach is not a uniquely Norwegian phenomenon or invention. In fact it is an approach which is shared by all responsible countries and management bodies of the contemporary world. In this respect – as is so often the case in other areas – Norwegian values and interests tend to coincide with wider universal values and interests (although we think we have good reasons to imagine that we are in the forefront).

I would also like to stress that the principles and objectives that I have described, apply equally to any geographical region or sub-region of the oceans of the world. My point is that, despite the more or less permanent ice-cover in most of the Arctic Ocean, there is – in the legal or political sense - **nothing** unique or special about the **Arctic** or the "**High North**" that would call for a substantially **different or novel approach** to dealing with these issues we are discussing here.

So let's turn to the "**High North**", which is after all the main topic of my lecture here today.

This means that we have to take a hard look at our geographical terminology. What is understood by the "High North"?

Time does not allow me to give you a thorough account of its origin, evolution and usage. Let me just point out that the term "High North" is actually a fairly recent addition to the vocabulary of systematic academic discourse. It was introduced as the English synonym for the Norwegian term "*nordområdene*" in the mid-1980s, but not adopted as the official language of Norwegian authorities until the beginning of the 21st century. The term "*nordområdene*" was introduced in the early 1970s by certain government members (notably Knut Frydenlund, Alv-Jakob Fostervoll) in official policy statements, mainly pertaining to security-political issues in the context of Norway's exposed strategic situation during the Cold War. Perhaps deliberately, the term was conveniently vague with regard to the exact geographical area(s) it was meant to denote. Be that as it may; the term and the concept which it embodies have been with us ever since, in its Norwegian version and in its more recent translation to English as "the High North". During these 4 decades its meaning

and contents have, however, displayed a pattern of elasticity relative to shifting political circumstances and priorities.

Let me also express the observation that we are looking at a uniquely **Norwegian** phenomenon: This vague concept of *the High North = nordområdene* and its usage have no immediate corresponding counterpart in academic or political discourse outside of Norway, and it is not self-explanatory to non-Norwegians (nor to all Norwegians). Accordingly, terminologically and conceptually, there is a distinct lack of shared understanding when Norwegian and non-Norwegian politicians, scholars or journalists exchange views on policy issues related to such areas which could otherwise be referred to as *the Arctic, the Sub-Arctic, the European Arctic, the Far North, the Circumpolar Regions* etc. (Invariably, this also creates problems of definition when attempts are made at analyzing the policies of other countries within a High North perspective).

My main point here is that the High North is a **political** – and **not** a geographical – **concept**. Hence, it is not synonymous with for example "the Arctic". The Arctic is a distinctly geographical concept, which is defined – alternatively but precisely - according to a range of different factors or criteria, such as the Arctic Circle, the tree line or the July isotherm of 10⁰ Celsius.

In discussing this phenomenon or entity, which in contemporary Norwegian political vocabulary and in current governmental vernacular is termed "the High North", we need to adopt a different perspective, with a rather elastic scope.

To illustrate my point with a convenient metaphor: When philosophizing on the phenomenon of the (musical instrument) **accordion**, the fictitious TV comedy series character **Marve Fleksnes** made the following profound observation: "The accordion, well, yes – that is an elastic concept". The same holds true with the concept "The High North": Elastic, and like the accordion capable of being drawn-out as well as being squeezed tightly together. And – one should add – also capable of being used for playing different tunes at different occasions.

The associations and connotations which the term *the High North* invokes today, differ from those of the 1970s or 1980s. But even within shorter spans of time, such as the 10-year period from 2002 to 2012, which we can conveniently call *the epoch of the 'New High North Policy'*, certain nuances in usage have evolved. From 2002 on we could witness an emerging renaissance of the concept of the High North as a main object of attention in Norwegian politics and public discourse. In particular, this would trigger off a scramble among the main contenders in Norwegian domestic politics for the ownership of the High North as a political concept. This caused a surge of "High North-related" activities, especially on the rhetorical level, but also in the shape of the various more or less specific "High North-programmes" laid down in a series of landmark policy documents presented by the former as well as by the present governments (i.e. the Bondevik II and Stoltenberg II cabinets).

On the **rhetorical level**, a high point was reached when the then foreign minister Mr Jonas G. Støre on a well-publicized meeting in Tromsø on 1 December 2006 unveiled his **High North Strategy**. In his speech Mr Støre emphasized the ostensibly epoch-making significance of the new developments in the High North by declaring that (quotation):

"In the course of one year, the High North has become a new dimension of Norwegian foreign policy (...). During the last year the High North has been given a place on the map of Europe. Foreign decision-makers have discovered that the High North has an importance that stretches far beyond Norway's borders".

At the time, and with such lofty words, this seemed like a culmination of a process which had got started in 2002.

So, going back to 2002: A seminal event was the presentation in early 2002 of the Bondevik II government's **White Paper or Report to the Storting no.12 (2001-2002) Protecting the Riches of the Seas** ("Rent og rikt hav"), which announced the plans for preparing an Integrated Management Plan for the Barents Sea. This project was subsequently taken over by the incoming "red-green" government (Stoltenberg II) after the parliamentary elections in 2005 and resulted in the presentation in 2006 of **White Paper or Report to the Storting no.8 (2005-2006) Integrated management of the marine environment of the Barents Sea and the sea areas off the Lofoten Islands**.

This was an extensive and ambitious document aimed at facilitating long-term value-creation through sustainable use of the marine resources while at the same time maintaining the structure, function and productivity of the marine ecosystems.

This management plan was updated in 2011, and was presented as yet another government **Report to the Storting (White Paper) no.10 (2010-2011) First update of the Integrated Management Plan for the Marine Environment of the Barents Sea-Lofoten Area**.

According to this updated plan, the further, long-term intention of the government will be to initiate a new review process, with a view to an overall revision of the management plan in 2020, with a time frame up to 2040.

In parallel with the initial preparation of the management plan, a government-appointed expert committee ("the Orheim committee") as early as in December 2003 submitted a weighty report with the evocative title **Mot nord!** (i.e. "Northwards!" – with an exclamation mark...) and the somewhat more prosaic sub-title "Challenges and possibilities in the High North".

This report formed a part of the groundwork for the subsequent presentation in March 2005 of the government **White Paper no.30 (2004-2005)** – a rather slimmer and less ambitious document titled **Possibilities and challenges in the North**.

Whereas the cover of the Orheim Committee report showed a map which generously included the whole Polar Basin with the surrounding circumpolar Arctic and sub-Arctic, the cover of White Paper no.30 contained a map with a distinctly more modest perspective: At the Centre, Norway depicted with adjacent waters and neighbouring territories, partly embraced by an egg-shaped halo – presumably a symbolism meant to vaguely suggest the approximate geographical location of the otherwise undefined "High North".

However, this White Paper no. 30 meant that the High North was placed squarely on the political agenda for the upcoming parliamentary elections in 2005. It became a high-profiled campaign issue for the opposition as well as for the government coalition to demonstrate their commitment to design, dispense and implement a strengthened and pro-active High North policy. Instead of being just a fleeting fad, this development became further evident after the change of government in October 2005, which brought the so-called red-green coalition into the corridors of power. The joint political platform of the three coalition partners, ***The Soria Moria Declaration***, had explicitly designated the High North as Norway's most important policy priority in the years to come. In a programmatic and vision-presenting speech in Tromsø in November 2005, the incoming minister of foreign affairs Mr Jonas Støre announced that a number of ambitious initiatives would be forthcoming.

These initiatives would subsequently be spelled out in more specific terms in the following 3 main policy documents:

- ***The Norwegian Government's High North Strategy***, which was launched 1 December 2006
- *A follow-up document called **New Building Blocks in the North** (subtitle: **The next step in the Government's High North Strategy**), which was published 12 March 2009*
- **Report to the Storting (White Paper) no.7 (2011-2012) *The High North – Visions and strategies***, which was submitted 18 November 2011.

Before dealing with the substance of the High North policies as presented in these documents, it should be noted how the very concept 'the High North' is defined in these documents.

Interestingly, the 2006 strategy document offers the most comprehensive attempt: ***"The High North is a broad concept both geographically and politically. In geographical terms, it covers the sea and land, including islands and archipelagos, stretching northwards from the southern boundary of Nordland county in Norway and eastwards from the Greenland Sea to the Barents Sea and the Pechora Sea. (... etc.)"***

In contrast, the 2009 follow-up document admits that: ***"No precise definition of 'the High North' has been provided in the Norwegian political debate"***.

And finally, when studying the 2011 White Paper, the reader will not find even an attempt at defining the beast.

Which all show and confirm our suspicions that 'the High North' is in fact a **political concept** – an elastic and fluid or perhaps even a dynamic political concept, rather than a precise geographical entity - area or region.

Switching our attention to the **substance** of the **High North Strategy**, we should note that the 2006 strategy document identified **Seven main political priorities** – and I am afraid I have to read them all out to you:

1. Norway will exercise its authority in the High North in a credible, consistent and predictable way.
2. Norway will be at the forefront of international efforts to develop knowledge in and about the High North.
3. We intend to be the best steward of the environment and natural resources in the High North.
4. We will provide a suitable framework for further development of petroleum activities in the Barents Sea, and will seek to ensure that these activities boost competence in Norway in general and in North Norway in particular, and foster local and regional business development.
5. We intend the High North policy to play a role in safeguarding the livelihoods, traditions and cultures of indigenous peoples in the High North.
6. We will further develop people-to-people cooperation in the High North.
7. We will strengthen our cooperation with Russia.

The 2009 follow-up document presented a series of strategic priority areas which would serve as new building blocks in the Government's High North policy. Here, the government announced its intention to:

1. Develop knowledge about climate and the environment in the High North.
2. Improve monitoring, emergency response and maritime safety systems in northern waters.
3. Promote sustainable development of offshore petroleum and renewable marine resources.
4. Promote onshore business development.
5. Further develop the infrastructure in the north.
6. Continue to exercise sovereignty firmly and strengthen cross-border cooperation in the north.
7. Safeguard the culture and livelihoods of indigenous peoples.

As we can see, the High North Strategy was designed partly as a **declaration of intents**, partly as an **action programme**. As such, it was (1) highly **ambitious**, and (2) encompassed an extremely broad **range or scope** of subject matter.

Among all these priorities which are listed in the Strategy, "**management of marine living resources**" does not – at a first glance – seem to be a particularly prominent topic. But as

we know, appearances may sometimes be misleading. Sustainable management of marine living resources is in fact a **core element** of the High North Strategy.

This is something which becomes progressively clearer as we move on to the most recent of these policy documents, i.e. the **2011 White Paper *The High North***.

This document states that **The High North is Norway's most important strategic foreign policy priority**, and that the **key policy objectives** of Norway's High North Policy are the following:

- to safeguard peace and stability and provide predictability;
- to ensure an integrated, ecosystem-based management regime that safeguards biodiversity and provides a basis for sustainable use of resources;
- to strengthen the basis for employment, value creation and welfare throughout the country by means of a regional and national effort in cooperation with partners from other countries and relevant indigenous groups.

It furthermore stated that the government's High North Strategy can be summed up in three words: ***knowledge, activity*** and ***presence***.

The White Paper furthermore identifies a number of strategic priorities, which are summarized in 15 points, as follows:

1. The Government will seek to ensure that Norway is a leader in the field of knowledge in and about the High North.
2. The Government will ensure that Norway exercises its sovereignty and authority in the High North in a credible, consistent and predictable manner.
3. The Government will seek to ensure that Norway is the best steward of the environment and the natural resources in the High North.
4. The Government will improve monitoring, emergency preparedness and response and maritime safety systems in northern sea areas.
5. The Government will strengthen and further develop cooperation with Russia.
6. The Government will strengthen and further develop cooperation with the other Arctic countries and intensify dialogue with other partners who share our interests in the region.
7. The Government will seek to strengthen cooperation in the Arctic Council and in regional forums such as the Barents Cooperation and the Northern Dimension.
8. The Government will continue to promote implementation of the Law of the Sea and to further develop standards and legislation in relevant areas.
9. The Government will facilitate the further development of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture industry in the High North.
10. The Government will facilitate the sound utilization of the oil and gas resources in the High North.

11. The Government will facilitate safe maritime transport and maritime business activities in the High North.
12. The Government will promote onshore business development in the High North.
13. The Government will further develop infrastructure in the High North, both independently and in cooperation with our neighbouring countries, with a view to supporting business development.
14. The Government will seek to ensure that Norway's High North policy continues to safeguard the culture and livelihood of indigenous peoples.
15. The Government will further develop cultural and people-to-people cooperation in the High North.

Among these 15 priorities, there are 3 which have a **focus on marine resources management**. Those are nos. 3, 8 and 9, respectively.

And among these 3 priorities, no.9 stands out as particularly relevant for our discussion. Under this item, the White Paper provides a list of **results** (i.e. - presumably - achievements reached so far as a consequence of the government's High North Strategy) as well as **future priorities**.

With regard to **results**, we are informed that large-scale IUU fishing has been eliminated in the Barents Sea through successful cooperation with Russia. Also, it is mentioned that a national strategy for marine bioprospecting was launched in 2009.

With regard to **future priorities**, it is noted that the government intends to continue the close Norwegian-Russian cooperation on management of the fish stocks in the Barents Sea, and seek to develop cooperation with other countries and relevant organisations to improve the management regime further.

When considering the elements – including the so-called strategic priorities, initiatives and concrete actions – that make up the totality of the government's High North Policy, they do not really amount to something really spectacular or radically epoch-making.

One may be excused for wondering "What's the big deal?"¹ Aren't all these activities something which would have taken place in any case, also without a specific High North Policy label?

It is the legitimate task of the academic or intellectual community to formulate critical questions, challenging established ideas including political "truths". Thus, a key question begging to be asked concerns the alleged "newness" of the "New High North Policy". How "new" is it really, when stripped of the hyped-up trendy rhetoric? In their book *Den nye nordområdepolitikken* ("The New High North Policy"), the two scholars Geir Hønneland and Leif Christian Jensen (of the Fridtjof Nansen Institute) offered the following answer: "*The*

¹ Or, as Ronald Reagan asked his opponent Walter Mondale in their presidential campaign debates: "Where is the beef?"

real new High North Policy is first and foremost a series of government documents and some new activities that follow from these". Hønneland/Jensen then proceeded to ask, unbiased but guardedly: "Could it, conceivably, be that the High North policy of the 2000's (...) will be remembered more for its domestic than for its foreign-political results?" In their concluding note, the authors put forward the following suggestion: "At the time of writing, the perhaps most interesting question is whether the High North euphoria has passed its peak".

More than five years have passed since the "time of writing" (the book was written late fall 2007), and there are – as of yet – few obvious signs suggesting that "the High North euphoria" has in fact passed its peak. Nevertheless, it is a rather safe bet that this will eventually occur. If past experience is anything to go by, any hyped-up political project will sooner or later run its course, and be superseded by something even more trendy.

But that does not mean that the very issues that we have addressed in this lecture – *i.e. the issues of **sustainable management of marine living resources*** (in general or in the so-called High North in particular) - will lose their importance or become irrelevant.

This follows from the fact that the **Barents Sea** and the **Norwegian Sea** are home to some of the world's most abundant and valuable fish resources. As I mentioned briefly initially, these resources are also the mainstay of **value-creation, employment** and the **very livelihood** of the population in our **northern regions**. These are also core objectives which the High North policy is designed to promote.

In terms of the **Law of the Sea**, Norway has the **right** to exploit the marine living resources in the very extensive waters where it has jurisdiction. Norway has also the **obligation** (morally as well as in terms of international law) to ensure that these resources are managed in a rational, responsible and sustainable manner.

But it is not a responsibility that is ours alone. This is a responsibility which we share with our neighbouring countries as well as with the wider international community. Responsible management of the marine environment and its resources is a **transboundary** consideration, which necessitates a strong dimension of regional and international **cooperation**.

States in the High North have for a long time engaged actively in such cooperation with substantial success. The **Norwegian-Russian** cooperation on the management of fish resources in the Barents Sea – under the auspices of bilateral agreements concluded in 1975 and 1976 – has worked well for many years and formed the basis for a viable and **robust management regime**. Likewise, later agreements signed in the 1980s and 1990s with the EU, the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Iceland have provided for orderly regulated fisheries by vessels from these countries in the Barents Sea. As for fisheries in waters **outside** national jurisdiction, the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (**NEAFC**) is a prime example of a successful **regional** management organization.

Fisheries are important, but in the **broader context** of marine, maritime and coastal issues, other elements must also be taken into account. Rational management of marine, maritime and coastal issues and activities necessitates adopting a **broad approach**, which should encompass and reconcile the sometimes diverging interests of fisheries, sea transport and petroleum industry. In order to address this challenge, the Norwegian government has for a number of years been working on developing **integrated management plans** for our coastal and ocean areas.

The **purpose** of this endeavor has been – and is – to provide clear, predictable and operational frameworks for the existing and new activities – including the exploitation of the resources and the conservation of the environment – in these marine areas. The **aim** is furthermore to facilitate long-term value creation based on the sustainable use of the resources in these sea areas, while at the same time safeguarding the environment and preserving the structures and productivity of their ecosystems.

The key-word of the management plans is **co-existence within the parameters of sustainable development**.

The basic approach of the plans is to provide for what we with a slightly pompous or pretentious term may call **ecosystem-based management**. The plans have a long-term time horizon, and will be subjected to periodic reviews and updates – based on lessons learned, experience gained and whatever new knowledge that has been gathered in the meantime.

Thus, I have already mentioned that an integrated management plan for the **Barents Sea** and the ocean areas off the Lofoten archipelago which was adopted in 2006. This plan was updated in 2011. In the meantime, a corresponding management plan for the **Norwegian Sea** was adopted in 2009, and work is underway aimed at finalizing a management plan for the **North Sea** before summer this year.

The initiative to develop these integrated marine management was taken **before** there had been any talk of producing any such thing as a 'High North Strategy'. Also – and obviously - the integrated marine management plans have a geographical scope that goes well beyond what may be understood as 'The High North'. Nevertheless, the management plans – and the Barents Sea plan in particular – constitute a core element of the overall 'High North policy'. Thus, the aims and purposes of the management plans are also more or less identical with 2 of the 3 aforementioned **key policy objectives** of the 'High North policy', as they were spelled out in the **2011 White Paper *The High North***:

- to ensure an integrated, ecosystem-based management regime that safeguards biodiversity and provides a basis for sustainable use of resources; and
- to strengthen the basis for employment, value creation and welfare throughout the country by means of a regional and national effort in cooperation with partners from other countries and relevant indigenous groups.

In my presentation, I have tried to make a case for the interconnectedness of on the one hand the Norwegian government's 'High North policy' (with all the vagueness and imprecision that go into the 'High North' concept), and on the other hand, the management of marine living resources – on the national/domestic level as well as in the broader regional or international context.

When making this case, it should also be legitimate to raise some frank and outspoken, or even critical questions concerning this interrelation or interconnectedness. To go to the core of the matter: Do we really need a 'High North Policy' or – for that matter – do we really need so-called 'Integrated Marine Management Plans' – in order to achieve our objectives of rational, responsible and sustainable management of our marine living resources?

My candid reply is "Maybe not!": With or without high-flying High North policies or overarching Integrated Management Plans, Norway would in any case have in place a robust and dynamic marine resources management regime, based on comprehensive legislation such as the Marine Resources Act². This being said, it should also be noted that the purpose of launching such initiatives as the High North policy and the Integrated Marine Management Plans was never to reinvent the wheel or bring about a radical change with regard to principles, objectives or the practical implementation of our marine management policies. Rather, it must be seen as a way of consolidating the various policy elements including marine management policies, in a way that would bring about positive synergies, good vibrations, to enhance our awareness and understanding of the relevant issues, and encourage and promote consistency with regard to identifying priorities - on the conceptual level as well as in the practical sense.

I hope I am forgiven if this sounds a bit hazy or metaphysical. And, talking about metaphysics, we might as well take a step into the realm of **poetry**:

In several speeches and lectures on the High North, our former minister of foreign affairs Mr Støre found the occasion to quote a line from Rolf Jacobsen's poem "Nord": "**Det meste er nord**" - unfortunately impossible to translate to English, but I guess you understand the evocative symbolism (showing the whole poem on the screen). In the same vein, and to round off, I think it would be appropriate to add the sentence "**Det meste er hav**", to indicate that the harvesting of the marine resources - in a corresponding and complementary manner – alongside with Norway's northerly characteristics, constitutes an integral part of the country's identity.

(Thank you very much for your kind attention)

² Lov nr.37 av 6. juni 2008 om forvaltning av viltlevende marine ressurser.

Relevant literature:

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- White Paper or Report to the Storting no.30 (2004-2005) *Possibilities and challenges in the North*
- White Paper or Report to the Storting no.8 (2005-2006) *Integrated management of the marine environment of the Barents Sea and the sea areas off the Lofoten Islands*
- *The Norwegian Government’s High North Strategy* (1 December 2006)
- *New Building Blocks in the North: The next step in the Government’s High North Strategy* (12 March 2009)
- Report to the Storting (White Paper) no.10 (2010-2011) *First update of the Integrated Management Plan for the Marine Environment of the Barents Sea-Lofoten Area*
- Report to the Storting (White Paper) no.7 (2011-2012) *The High North – Visions and Strategies*

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