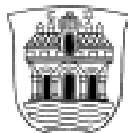


III. Member Cities in Action



FISHERIES EXHIBITION IN AALBORG



Aalborg's triennial fisheries exhibition was set to take on a more international flavour. The exhibition will take place under the new title of DanFish International on October 7-10, 1999.

The main organisers are DanFish and Nexus Media, which had responsibility for the former World Fishing Exhibition in Copenhagen.

DanFish International is the 16th fisheries exhibition to be staged at the Aalborg Congress & Culture Centre. Since 1992 the Aalborg organisers have been working in close cooperation with the Danish Export Group Association's Fisheries Section and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on attracting international visitors. The 1993 show attracted visitors from more than 16 nations, and the 1996 show attracted delegations from no less than 22 nations.

Former exhibitions have been complete sell-outs, and in order to house international exhibitors, the Aalborg show - which is now the only fisheries exhibition in Denmark - is extending into the next door park area. An exhibition hall in the park will be reserved primarily for international exhibitors. In addition DanFish International and its partners will be organising courses and seminars on subjects of specific interest to the business.

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CONFERENCES IN GOTLAND



A Telemedicine conference was held at Visby County hospital on 27-28 July 1998. The conference was a part of the common effort and desire for stability and security in the Baltic Sea Region. The aim of the conference was to establish a platform for telemedical cooperation within the Baltic region. The modern information technology and the ever increasing speed of data - and telecommunication are starting point for improved confidence and cooperation among people.

In 1998 the delegates of the CPMR Island Commission met on Sicily where they held their 18th conference. The theme of the conference was the islands' EU-situation during the next programme period, 2000-2006. Foremost amongst discussions was how the islands will be affected by the new rules that have been proposed for the use of the financial resources in the structural funds.

The meeting resulted in the creation of working groups. Each group has a delegate from three areas, the Baltic Sea, North Sea and the Mediterranean. In September all groups will submit their detailed suggestions concerning the different areas. Next year, Island Commission will hold its conference on Gotland, June 23-24. Directly after the Island Commission meeting, the NatWest Island Games will take place on Gotland, 26 June - 2 July 1999.

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BERNET PROJECT

Representatives of Estonia, Russia, Poland, Finland, Sweden, Germany and Denmark had a joint meeting in Odense, in March, 1998 to discuss the state of pollution for the respective coastal waters and a status for measures taken to reduce emissions to the Baltic Sea.

The researches show that the Baltic Sea and especially coastal waters are suffering from severe eutrophication and there is an urgent need to reduce pollutants from industries, agriculture and cities. There is also need to improve monitoring programmes in the coastal waters. The participants stressed that subregions should play an important role in addressing the eutrophication problems of the Baltic Sea and the BERNET project should become a frame for a future network and partnership.

Kaliningrad region was considered to be the priority area for the project. The municipal wastewaters are not properly treated due to over-loaded city sewerage system, and are discharged into the Pregol

river, which runs to Vistula Bay, connected to the Baltic Sea. Kaliningrad does not have biological treatment facilities so industrial wastewaters are also discharged into the harbour with a minimum treatment. The seasonal and monthly eutrophication processes have been studied in the Kursky Bay, based on 13 monitoring stations. Agricultural discharge and municipal wastes are the sources of organic matters that flow into the Baltic basin: The agricultural activity has decreased since 1991, but in the coming years, it can increase again. The BERNET project is quite urgent for the region, taking into consideration the economic difficulties which the country is facing at the moment.

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