

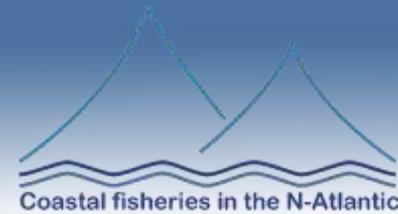


By
Arne Hole



Mr. Arne Hole came down with the flu yesterday and could therefore unfortunately not be with us today. But he sends his regards... and this presentation

Purpose of NCFU



Norges Kystfiskarlag or the Norwegian Coastal Fishermen`s Union (NCFU) was founded back in 1989 as a reaction on the authorities and the fishery organizations neglecting the interests of the small and coastal bound fishing vessels.

At present the NCFU counts about 1000 members located from Rogaland in the south to the Russian border in northeast - though mostly of the members are situated in the northern counties Nordland , Troms and Finnmark. Among the 1000 members are roughly 600 vessel-members, mainly vessels less than 15 meters and just a few more than 15 meters. Our members are mainly occupied in traditionally fisheries with nets and angels, with cod-fisheries as the main occupation.

NCFU task is to support the members in professional and social issues.

Transferable quotas

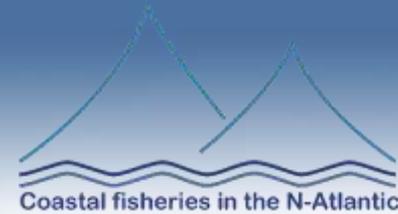
The discussion around the system of transferable quotas in Norway goes on. The last government was to decide whether to open for transferable quotas also in the coastal fleet below 11 meters.

The NCFU has warned against the negative impact this possible could have on the many smaller coastal communities around the coast and on the future structure of the fleet due to the number of smaller vessels. The NCFU played an important part when transferable quotas for the smallest fleet once again were stopped.

Our position is that the fish in our seas is a national property and should be managed by our authorities.

The NCFU will keep up the effort to hold the smaller fleet out of this system. Ten years experience with transferable quotas in Norway has only convinced the NCFU that the organization's skepticism towards the impact of this system on coastal communities and the structure of the coastal fleet was right.

Transferable quotas



The new conservative government - including the party that introduced the system of transferable quotas in Norway ten years ago - has started to prepare for a more liberal system for the fleet involved in the transferable quota system, and the NCFU will watch the further process closely.

A peculiar arrangement in the Norwegian system of transferable quotas, is the so-called "hjemmels-kvoter" and the so-called "big coast vessels". You may buy a quota from a small vessel and transfer it to a 30 meter vessel (or longer - only limited by a cargo-capassity less than 500 tons). These vessels are allowed to catch in the small vessel-area - while they in fact are deep sea vessels. The NCFU has argued loudly against this.

Future prospects?

So - are there hope in the near future for the coastal sector?

Some of the bigger fish companies are now trying out modern fillet processing equipment and systems for capture-based aquaculture. Both these projects will include the coastal fishing fleet, because of the optimal quality the small scale fisheries may obtain.

One of the larger companies has already made agreements on delivery with both coastal fishing vessels and local fishmongers. This is a development the NCFU follows with great interest and have some expectancy of.

In 2014 authorities for the first time since the quota system were introduced in 1990 allowed coastal vessels less than 11 meters to fish freely for cod from the beginning of the quota year (01.01. 2014).

A free regulation for traditional coastal vessels has been an important demand from the NCFU for many years and at the moment there are big excitement related to the results of this regulation in 2014.