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**Launch of report from the
International Resource Panel**

**Governing coastal resources:
implications for a sustainable
blue economy**

A Norwegian perspective

Marianne Gjørvi, Senior Adviser, Oslo, 23.06.21

Foto: Marianne Gjørvi

Hello,

Norway would like to congratulate the International Resource Panel with the report about governing coastal resources.

I will present a **Norwegian perspective** on the report and mention some examples on governing coastal resources in Norway.

Offshore **oil and gas, shipping, aquaculture** and **fisheries** represent the most important marine industries in Norway. Some of these sectors are threatened by land-based activities.

The Norwegian coast is also important for the **tourist industry**. Some tourists come to Norway for whale watching. In 2017 a whale was found dead in Norway with 30 plastic bags in the stomach. The so-called **plastic whale** hit the headlines worldwide. It was an eye opener about marine litter and direct impacts of land-based activities on marine resources.



Here you see another unfortunate whale in Norway. You might wonder why it has a yellow ribbon under the eye. By accident, the **whale** has been **caught by a sea cable**.

The photo is taken by the Norwegian nature photographer and biologist Audun Rikardsen. Thanks to him and his team, the whale finally managed to get rid of the cable.

The story of the whale is part of a **photo report** made by the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation, NRK, in cooperation with the Norwegian Environment Agency, where I work.

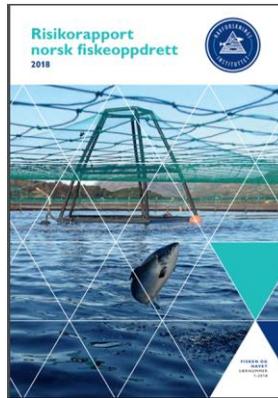
The report is called «Blålys for havet». This might be translated into «**Blue light for the ocean**», like the flashing light on an emergency vehicle.

It illustrates some of the **environmental challenges** along the Norwegian coast, which are also mentioned in the Resource Panel report.

Aquaculture in Norway – salmon



Photo: Marianne Gjørn



Source: The Norwegian Institute of Marine Research

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The report from the Resource Panel has a case study on aquaculture with shrimps. We do not have shrimp farms in Norway.

However, in the last 30 years, **aquaculture with salmon** has become a big industry in Norway. We produce about one half of the world's farmed salmon.

Several impacts from aquaculture are mentioned in the report. The spread of **salmon diseases** and parasites has increased, as production has intensified. This is primarily due to high density of salmon in the sea cages.

The Norwegian Institute of Marine Research makes annual reports about the risks of aquaculture, as you can see on the photo. Our Agency gives input to these reports.

There is a **need for better knowledge** of the environmental impacts of aquaculture.

Challenges: salmon lice, marine litter and impacts of escaped farmed salmon on wild salmon



Photo: Norwegian Association for Hunters and Anglers

Photos: Marianne Gjerv

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One challenge with aquaculture in Norway is **salmon lice**. Another is **escaped salmon** from the **salmon farm industry**. This leads to genetic interaction with the wild salmon. Norway has **international obligations** to protect the wild salmon. Besides, fishing for wild salmon has long traditions as part of tourism.

Another challenge with aquaculture is the use of drugs to control salmon lice. The amount of drugs used in Norway for combatting this parasite, has been reduced over the past years through measures by fish farmers and authorities. However, it is still important to **reduce further chemicals** that can harm the environment.

Marine litter is also mentioned in the report from the Resource Panel. The largest sources of marine litter and micro plastics in Norway are consumer products, and waste from the fisheries and aquaculture industry.

Governance responses Marine protected areas and sustainable use



Photos: Marianne Gjerv



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Marine protected areas are mentioned in the Resource Panel report, as a governance response. This year our Government has launched a plan for protection of marine nature. The photo to the left shows one of the marine protected areas in Norway. This is a national park along parts of the Oslo fjord, which covers both sea and land.

Marine protected areas is an important tool to take care of valuable nature. However, we have a long coast. We also have to focus on **sustainable use** of the environment **outside protected areas**. Runoff from **agriculture** and **waste water** from households and industry, have impacted the water quality in the Oslo fjord. The temperature in the fjord has increased, probably due to **climate change**. Together with **extensive fishing** and **shrimp trawling**, all this has led to a **collapse** in the **cod stock**. It is now forbidden to fish cod in the fjord.

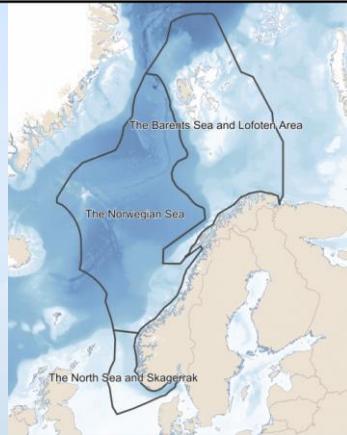
Recently, our Government has also launched an **integrated management plan** to restore the environment in the Oslo fjord, both at sea and at land along the coast. On the photo to the right, you can see my daughter fishing cod, almost 20 years ago. Let's hope future generations will be able to fish cod in the Oslo fjord again.

Governance response for the oceans; integrated management plans

The management plans

- give a political framework for marine management
- are tools for cross-sectoral cooperation

Measures are decided by the Norwegian Parliament and are implemented through the sectors' own laws



Integrated management plans are also mentioned in the Resource Panel report, as a governance response.

In Norway we have integrated management plans for all sea areas, as you see on this map. The plan for the Barents Sea and Lofoten area is mentioned as an example in the report.

The management plans give a political framework for marine management and are tools for cross-sectoral cooperation.

Measures are decided by the Norwegian Parliament and are implemented through the sectors' own laws.

Another important tool mentioned in the report, is the **EU Water Framework Directive**. Norway implements this directive under the European Economic Agreement. This contributes to reduce impacts from land-based activities and improve the water quality of rivers and sea.



The Norwegian experience from the marine management plans is that **cross-sectoral cooperation** promotes sustainable blue growth.

The sectors share the costs of establishing new knowledge. They also share a **common knowledge base** and can develop common tools.

Establishing and **sharing information** is one of the cornerstones in cooperation, both across sectors and across borders.

In Norway, we have two large programs establishing knowledge; one is about the **seabed**, called Mareano ([Home | Mareano - The Sea in Maps and Pictures](#)). Another is about **seabirds**, called Seapop ([SEAPOPOP - About seabirds – for a richer ocean](#)).

We also have **marine spatial management tools**. These contain maps that show natural resources, environmental status, business activities, plans and regulations.

Furthermore, you can find environmental information at the website **State of the Environment Norway** [Marine and coastal waters \(environment.no\)](#).



I hope these examples from Norway can be relevant also for other countries.

Norway plays an active role in the work of the **Ocean Panel**.

We also support the work of the **International Resource Panel**.

We do agree that we need **improved coordination** and a **holistic approach**, to **overcome fragmented governance** of coastal resources.

So, thank you for the Resource Panel report with knowledge about how we can **improve coastal governance** in order to **promote a sustainable blue economy**.

Thank you!

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