

# NOTES per session

organised by:



## Workshop: Coastal Communities How can the “blue” transition contribute to local jobs & businesses?

**Date:** Tuesday, November 14th, 2023

**Theme:** Business

*The objective of the workshop was to define 5 key policy recommendations to support the blue transition in NO/SE/DK/DE as input for of a “Blue Transition Strategy” in the BlueMissionBANOS Mission: Ocean Regional Deployment Roadmaps.*

### Welcome & Introduction

**Moderator:** Lena Holmberg, Viable Cities | **Co-host:** Frederick Bruce, SUBMARINER Network

**Speakers:** Ann Ruddy, Redrose Developments Ltd, Kajsa Olsson, Nordic Seafarm, Stina Gottlieb, Sotenäs Kommun, Joachim Hjerl, Havhøst - Ocean Harvest, Daniel Krång & Martin Odell, Lysekils Kommun

The session was introduced by Lena who asked Frederick about the motivation for this workshop and what the expected outcomes should be. Frederick answered that the workshop provides 5 perspectives from 5 stakeholder representatives, and that the outcome should be increased awareness of the various stakeholder needs, while highlighting opportunities for collaboration and crossover between sectors.

### Policy Pitches: Infrastructure, Business, Governance, Community & Educational Needs for the Blue Transition in NO/SE/DK/DE

**Infrastructure Speaker:** Ann Ruddy, Redrose Developments Ltd

Ann presented the C-FAARER Horizon Europe CSA (Coordination & Support) project and indicated that the main infrastructure needs for the blue transition are in reducing the cost of production and access to processing facilities, and that in the project they are developing small-scale nearshore processing units for seaweed biomass. Via slido, the audience indicated a need for multi-purpose spaces, local co-ownership and obligatory requirements for coastal development projects to include infrastructure for local communities.

**Business Speaker:** Kajsa Olsson, Nordic Seafarm

Kajsa presented Nordic Seafarm and their “MySeaFarm” initiative, a sponsorship model which gives local businesses ( such as restaurants) early bird access to fresh seaweed. The audience responded that such schemes can leave producers vulnerable to “bluwashing”, and that business partners should actually use the biomass, not just sponsor it.

**Governance Speaker:** Stina Gottlieb, Sotenäs Kommun

Stina gave her pitch, calling for more communication more between promotive and regulatory sides of the public sector. The audience responded that authorities need to update their legislation for progressive businesses, and to work more closely with other departments as well as local communities, not just with big business. There should be policy innovation “sandboxes” for testing new policies, and new, custom licensing processes for local sea farmers.

**Communities Speaker:** Joachim Hjerl, Havhøst - Ocean Harvest

Joachim spoke about the Havhøst network in Denmark, and that people need access to new opportunities, funding, space as well as knowledge and like-minded peers. The audience responded saying that communities and authorities should work on these opportunities together, and to push the authorities to accommodate change.

**Education Speaker:** Daniel Krång & Martin Odell, Lysekils Kommun

Daniel and Martin presented the Bridges project, promoting Vocational Educational Training (VET) in the finfish aquaculture industry, emphasising that education is the most important aspect to consider in the blue transition. The audience responded that education should start sooner (primary level) and be more available to coastal communities, as well as re-education for authorities and professionals about new blue economy opportunities.

### Wrap-up

**Moderator:** Lena Holmberg, Viable Cities | **Co-host:** Frederick Bruce, SUBMARINER Network

Lena then wrapped up the session by asking participants to summarise their priorities in a word cloud format via slido. The most popular words were education and regulation (assumed regulatory reform) as the key drivers of the blue transition.