



# pesc*info*



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## Editorial

### CHANGE OF COURSE FOR PESCA INFO

The 20<sup>th</sup> edition of PESCA Info you have before you is the last in the series. Two years after it came into being, we have decided to change the formula of our periodical publication, providing you with a newsletter that is more thorough, complete and – we trust – more in line with your expectations.

As you well know, PESCA Info was a first for the Directorate-General for Fisheries. We launched the newsletter to establish a regular link with the fishing world, particularly as part of the implementation of the PESCA Community Initiative in favour of areas dependent on fishing. From the outset, however, the topics dealt with in PESCA Info were widened to tackle other aspects of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), since we considered it essential to provide the fishing sector with information beyond structural aspects. After all, if the structural actions are to be relevant and effective, they need to enter into the general spirit of the CFP and be in line with other measures, such as those relating to the conservation of fisheries resources and markets.

However, it is difficult to be exhaustive or to deal with issues in depth in a mere four pages. As the PESCA Community Initiative comes to an end, we have decided to redesign our publication to satisfy a readership that has proved more varied and eager to be kept informed than we initially envisaged.

I do not wish to give too much away about our new magazine, which will be delivered to your letterbox in the next few months. Suffice it to say you will find everything that was of interest in PESCA Info, plus what was missing on account of the format, i.e. more wide-ranging information and a more attractive layout.

Thank you for the interest you have shown in PESCA Info throughout its publication. I hope to see you all on board for the launch of our new magazine.

A. Cavaco,  
Director General

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### *Region of the month*

## Hantsholm: host port for foreign trawlers



Located on the north-west coast of Jutland, Hantsholm is Denmark's top landing centre for fishery products for human consumption in terms of value. Unlike most of the country's other ports, pelagic species are of secondary importance here: Hantsholm actually specialises in deep-water fish caught by both Danish and foreign boats.

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The history of this village, built on a headland overlooking a low, sandy windswept coastline, is noteworthy. At the local museum, maps of the model town in the last century are on display; its promoters planned to create a major trading and fishing port close to the main fishing zones of Danish fleets. Cancelled, then remodelled to reflect the style of the early century and further delayed by both World Wars, the project only came into being in 1967. The fishing hamlet dominated by a lighthouse would become a planned village for newcomers rather than a major town.

The port soon aroused interest among the neighbouring fishermen from North Jutland, who were happy to be able to save considerable time at sea. Facilities were developed to house not only local boats, but all those from other ports wishing to land their catches here as well. Danish cutters and distant-water trawlers were soon joined by foreign vessels attracted by the port's strategic location, auction centres, storage facilities and related ship-repair services.

Today, landings from foreign boats account for half of the tonnage and a third of the output value passing through the auction centre. German trawlers are the main contributors, closely followed by Swedish, Norwegian, British and, to a lesser extent, Belgian, Polish and Faeroese vessels.

The port's success has also attracted numerous processing industries, three of which employ over a hundred people each: "Taabel", specialising in packaged fish dishes for the catering industry, and shrimps; "Pandalus", involved in fresh fish (filleting) and frozen fish (in blocks); and "Hesselholt",

processing fish and shrimps in various forms. For the largest firms, Hantsholm is just one source of supply. However, they do appreciate the advantages Denmark's leading auction centre has to offer and the storage facilities available.

Apart from sales at auction, partnerships have emerged between different sectors of the industry, leading to supply contracts being concluded. Landings of fresh fish have been joined by those of frozen products, bringing more foreign vessels to the port from the same countries as those mentioned above, in addition to distant-water trawlers from Iceland and Canada. Finally, while the fish-meal industry is a minor one, it contributes to a diversification of stocks.

#### **Questions put to Jes Holm Sorensen, Director of Hantsholm auction centre**

*Pesca Info (P.I.): How do you explain the attraction of Hantsholm?*

*Jes Holm Sorensen (J.H.S.):* One of the first advantages of Hantsholm is its good location, close to important fishing grounds in the North Sea, but the flexibility of the harbour facilities, the good infrastructure and suitable services are also attractive to both national and foreign fishermen. We can also talk about the effort to promote quality and the goods prices at the fish market.

*Pesca Info (P.I.): Do you hold electronic sales and do you have links with other auctions?*

*(J.H.S.):* No. Here, we use traditional auction sales; the buyers want to see the fish and test the quality of sea-products every day.

We just ask the boats which are coming in to announce the time of arrival and to give information about their catches 24 hours before landing. There are about one hundred buyers here who export 99% of their fish products, mainly to Germany.

#### **Data sheet Hantsholm**

- *Location:* County of Viborg, Denmark
- *Fleet:* 20 distant-water trawlers, 3 seiners, 100 inshore fishing vessels
- *Type of fishing:*
  - industrial: bottom trawls;
  - non-industrial: bottom trawls, nets, pots.
- *Output:*
  - *species:* cod (*Gadus morhua*), saithe (*Pollachius Virens*), plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*), haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*), monkfish (*Lophius sp.*)
  - *volume:* (1997) 160 126 t, including 105 262 t for industry and 54 864 t for human consumption (including 31 120 t under auction)
  - *value:* 520.1 million Danish kroner (**EUR 69.8 million**) including 441.6 million Danish kroner (**EUR 59.2 million**) for human consumption (including: 336 million Danish kroner – **EUR 45 million – at auction**)
- *Employment in fishing:* sea-fishing (approx. 400 full-time jobs)
- *Processing:* 20 companies (between 700 and 800 equivalent full-time jobs)