**Title: Fisheries Management system and Transparency - to Promote Sustainable Fisheries**

Your Photo

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***Abstract (****within 300 words****)***

The individually transferable quota shares and catch quotas are the cornerstones of the Icelandic fisheries management system. The system is intended to limit the total catch and to ensure that catches are in line with total allowable catch. The Ministry of Industry and Innovation bases its policy on annual total allowable catch on the recommendations of the Marine Research Institute. Iceland has one of the most sophisticated enforcement regimes in the world, in particular regarding port control and weighing of all catches. According to Icelandic law, discards are prohibited. All catches must be landed.

Transparency is another vital part of the Fisheries management in Iceland and the Directorate of Fisheries publishes information on landed catch on it’s website in real time. Open access to information on individual quotas, catches and the utilization of the marine resources supports the fisheries management. Full transparency in fisheries in Iceland is a matter of public policy and law. Icelandic exploitable marine resources are the common property of the Icelandic nation and allocation of harvesting rights does not confer a right of ownership or control over harvesting rights. The Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland maintains a public central database which can be accessed online, searches on vessel name or registration number or the name of the (corporate) operator or the home port can be undertaken. The information available includes information on the vessel, valid fishing permits held, quota share, any quota share transactions, catch quotas, catch quota transactions, landings data (date, gear used, port landed, species and weight per species) and coastal catches. In addition summary data for catches by species, quota and catches by species by vessel, total catch and quota status by species and data for individual harbours, vessel types and gear are all available.

***Biography (****within 300 words****)***

Eyþór Björnsson, Bachelor in Fisheries and MBA, is a Icelandic citizen, and holds the position as Director General of the Directorate of Fisheries since 2010. The Directorate of Fisheries is an agency of the Ministry of Industry and Innovation. The Directorate’s task is monitoring fisheries and the daily administration of the fisheries management system in Iceland. This involves issuing of fishing permits, distribution of quotas and overseeing the daily operation of the individually transferable quota system. The Directorate has the authority to revoke fishing licenses and impose sanctions in case of overfishing and non-compliance with rules. Before 2010 Mr. Björnsson was head of the Fisheries Management Department which is responsible for surveillance on board fishing vessels and inspection on weighing and recording of landed catch. In his former career he was a fisherman and Master of fishing vessel for fifteen years.