

KIMO Annual Report 2010







Note from the President

This year in our continued development of the organisation we have decided to change the way we report back to the AGM on our work over the year. Gone are the Presidents and Secretariats Report and instead we have a single Annual Report that will highlight the main achievements over the year in a more coordinated and professional manner.

I feel it is important that we continue with these small changes to increase the professionalism of the organisation and to present ourselves not as an NGO or protest organisation but as a sister organisation to national government. This is an important distinction that we need to continue to highlight both at the national and International level to ensure that the door to our ministerial colleagues in government is always open.

This is what the Secretariat and I have done over the past year, particularly when highlighting pollution from containerships and marine litter in Brussels, with the aim of developing stronger links with the European Parliament and raising the profile of the organisation with MEP's.

The following sections of the report will highlight the KIMO's key work areas and where we have been able to influence the environmental debate at a national and international level. I would like to thank all those who have worked tirelessly over the last year to ensure that as an organisation we continue to punch above our weight and provide value for money to our members.



Albert De Hoop KIMO President

Key Work Areas

Containership Pollution

A recent accident involving the containership MSC Chitra, which shed 300 containers and leaked 800 tonnes of oil after a collision with bulk carrier off Mumbai, has highlighted the need for KIMO's ongoing campaign on lost containers and pollution from containerships. Following from the development of a campaign pack for all members last year KIMO has continued to raise the profile of this issue by holding meetings both with MEP's from the Transport Committee and officials from the Commission to highlight our position. Vice Chair of the Transport Committee Peter van Dalen will present an Oral Question to the Parliament this autumn incorporating the main elements of the KIMO resolutions and asking the Commission how it plans to address them. Pressure from KIMO, amongst others, also resulted in the Dutch Government undertaking one-month intensive survey of container lashings in Rotterdam where approximately 50% of ships surveyed were found not to comply with the regulations.

Marine Strategy Framework Directive

In July this year the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) reached one of its major milestones with the publication of the Commission Communication on Criteria and Methodological Standards for the descriptors of good environmental status (GES). This document outlines to member states what aspects of the marine environment they should monitor and what methods they should use for the 11 different components of GES. Whilst this is highly technical it is also important as it decides what aspects member states focus on and where they place resources to develop measures that will improve the quality of the marine environment.

The Secretariat was a member of the expert group that developed the guidance for the Commission on the litter descriptor and, along with Dr Richard Thompson from Plymouth University, was able to ensure that microplastics were included as one of the criteria. The Secretariat will continue to participate in a new expert group, which is being established to provide advice to EU member states on implementation.



OSPAR

The last year has been particularly important for OSPAR, as it has seen the revision of its core thematic strategies before the Ministerial Meeting in Bergen, Norway, in September. The structure of the organisation has also changed with the Biodiversity Committee being split in two and an Environmental Impacts of Human Activities Committee (EIHA) established. Also as OSPAR will be one of the key for a for the implementation of the MSFD a Coordination Group has been establish to oversee this process and ensure it is done inline with the ecosystem approach.

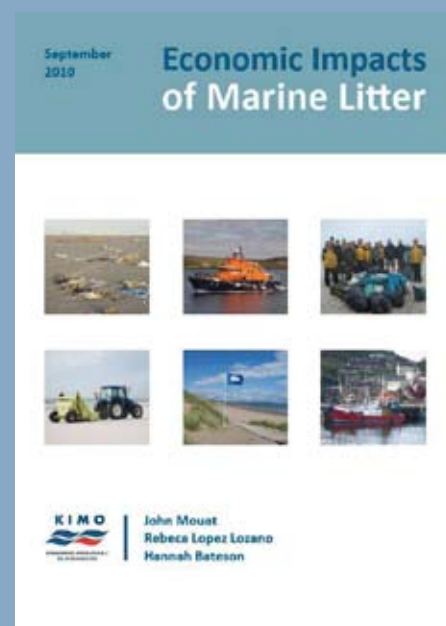
KIMO has been actively involved in all these discussions and have managed to influence the strategies and the development of the ministerial statement for Bergen. More importantly OSPAR has agreed KIMO's a recommendation requiring all Contracting Parties to promote Fishing for Litter as a measure to reduce marine litter, which will hopefully see the development of scheme's in all OSPAR Countries.

At the Ministerial Meeting KIMO held a side event called "A Plastic Breakfast" to highlight the economic and ecological impact of marine litter. After an introduction by the KIMO President Dr Jan van Franeker dissected a Fulmars stomach showing the plastic in its contents and Ministers were presented with the human equivalent on a breakfast plate in order to highlight the need to set strong litter reduction targets.



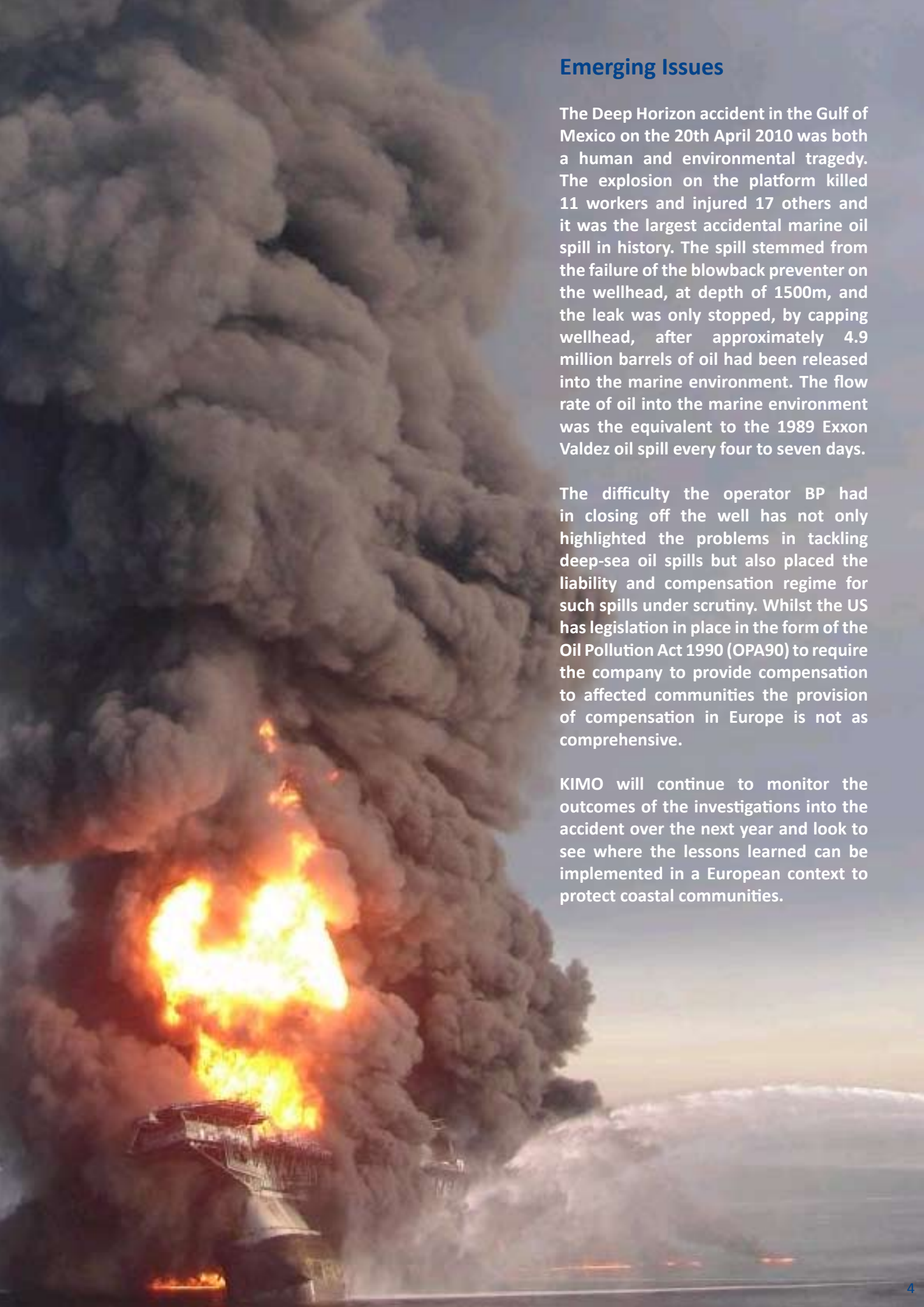
Economic Impacts of Marine Litter Report

In 2000 KIMO produced one of the first pieces of major research into the economic cost of marine litter to coastal communities and industries. Since then the report has been widely quoted and in 2007 it was decided to update the report with new figures. The report, which shows that the cost of marine litter to municipalities has increased by 37% in the last ten years, has recently been completed and was presented to OSPAR Ministers at Bergen, in September. We hope this excellent report, which was produced by Hannah Bateson and Rebeca Lopez members of the Shetland Islands Council Graduate Placement Scheme, will have the same impact as it predecessor and will form the basis of the socio-economic analysis for the marine litter descriptor under the MSFD.



Projects

Projects are a key part of KIMO commitment to improving regional environments. This year KIMO has been asked to participate in a research project investigating the environmental impacts of microplastics. The project, which is currently being submitted by Plymouth University, is in response to a UK research call. The Secretariat will sit on the steering group of the project and utilise KIMO's observer status at international conventions to disseminate the project results. Applications are currently being considered and a final decision will be made soon.



Emerging Issues

The Deep Horizon accident in the Gulf of Mexico on the 20th April 2010 was both a human and environmental tragedy. The explosion on the platform killed 11 workers and injured 17 others and it was the largest accidental marine oil spill in history. The spill stemmed from the failure of the blowback preventer on the wellhead, at depth of 1500m, and the leak was only stopped, by capping wellhead, after approximately 4.9 million barrels of oil had been released into the marine environment. The flow rate of oil into the marine environment was the equivalent to the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill every four to seven days.

The difficulty the operator BP had in closing off the well has not only highlighted the problems in tackling deep-sea oil spills but also placed the liability and compensation regime for such spills under scrutiny. Whilst the US has legislation in place in the form of the Oil Pollution Act 1990 (OPA90) to require the company to provide compensation to affected communities the provision of compensation in Europe is not as comprehensive.

KIMO will continue to monitor the outcomes of the investigations into the accident over the next year and look to see where the lessons learned can be implemented in a European context to protect coastal communities.

International Secretariat

This year has highlighted that sometimes good things come to those who wait and demonstrated that in lobbying sometimes you have to play the long game.

At a time when finances are tight it is not always easy to show the value of lobbying we are undertaken at OSPAR or with the EU in terms of immediate results but this year we can demonstrate the results of many years of hard work. Marine litter is now in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and must be addressed by all EU Countries thanks to consistent lobbying by KIMO dating back to 2002. A Recommendation for Fishing for Litter is being agreed by OSPAR contracting Parties and hopefully will now be standard practice in the Northeast Atlantic based on the evidence from KIMO projects also dating back to 2002.

This type of success cannot be achieved through a single event or by a single person but requires years of raising the issues, highlighting new research and undertaking projects both at the national and international level. Therefore I would to thank the other members of the Secretariat, the National coordinators, Board members and the President for the efforts and support over the years.



John Mouat
KIMO Secretariat

Meetings Attended

This year has been particularly busy for the Secretariat with the main strands of work relating to OSPAR and the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive. With OSPAR holding a Ministerial Meeting this year there have been numerous preparatory meetings in relation to the review of the thematic strategies and preparing the ministerial meeting and statement. The implementation of the MSFD has also gathered pace where the Secretariat has attended the working groups on Good Environmental Status and has participated in the technical working group on the marine litter descriptor. This has obviously been combined with the normal meeting schedule and a complete list has been included in annex 1.

Staff

The Secretariat staffing levels have remained constant over the year with a small change in staff. Hannah Bateson the KIMO graduate placement has left the organisation to be replaced by Craig Baxter. Craig a recent graduate from Dundee University with a Masters in Spatial Planning with Environmental Assessment will join the Secretariat for 6 months to develop a Good Practice Guide on reducing nutrient inputs from municipalities to the marine environment. Paul Gaffney another graduate, who has just completed a degree in Environmental Chemistry, will join the Secretariat in February to undertake an investigation into shipments of radioactive materials within European waters, also for a 6 month period.

Consultancy

KIMO continues to implement and seek out new consultancy projects, which fit within the strategic aims of the organisation, and that will provide supplementary income. This year KIMO has continued to coordinate and chair the OSPAR Intercessional Group on Marine Litter on behalf of the Dutch Government. Mr Rick Nickerson has been contracted to undertake the work and this will continue until the end of 2010 at least.

Networks and Forums

Key to the success of the organisation is the work done at national and regional level by the KIMO Networks and Forums. Not only do they act on local issues but support the work of the International Secretariat. Some of the key actions they have undertaken over the last year are outlined below.

Netherlands and Belgium

In the Netherlands and Belgium the Network has been involved in several national stakeholder processes on issues such as the EU MSFD implementation and the Port Waste Reception Directive representing the views of municipalities. Fishing for litter has continued to expand in the Netherlands with the addition of another harbour and the funding is being sought to extend the Wandering along the Sea project, which aims to reduce marine litter inputs from tourism. Finally a new KIMO Netherlands and Belgium website has been developed at www.kimonederlandbelgie.nl.

United Kingdom

The UK network has continued to implement Fishing for Litter projects in both Scotland and the South West of England involving over 200 vessels and which have collected nearly 200 tonnes of waste over the project period. Funding is now being sought to extend the projects for another 3 years to 2014. The Clean Ship Approach was also promoted through a national conference that highlighted ways to reduce pollution from shipping.

Sweden

KIMO Sweden has investigated coastal zone management projects on the Skagerrak coast and a possible campaign to reduce the number of plastic pull-tabs used in the marine environment. The chair has also been appointed to the Board of the Keep Sweden Tidy Foundation.

Denmark

Denmark has a review of strategic planning to take into consideration the expanded Baltic region based on the KIMO Netherlands and Belgium model. The network has also established its first thematic group on coastal issues and written to the Danish environment Minister in relation to pollution from containerships. Finally a report on the amount of litter collected by fishermen and municipalities on the west coast and associated costs has been finalised.

Baltic Forum

The Baltic Forum applied as part of a larger Baltic Marine Litter project to implement Fishing for litter in the Baltic. Unfortunately this was not granted funding in the current round although further funding streams are being investigated and another project looking at testing innovative solutions to coastal erosion is in the development phase.

Other Members

KIMO Faeroes have undertaken the preparatory work for a full scale Fishing for Litter project in Toftir and have started a campaign to increase emergency response vessel cover for maritime accidents in the North Atlantic.

Financial Statement

Membership

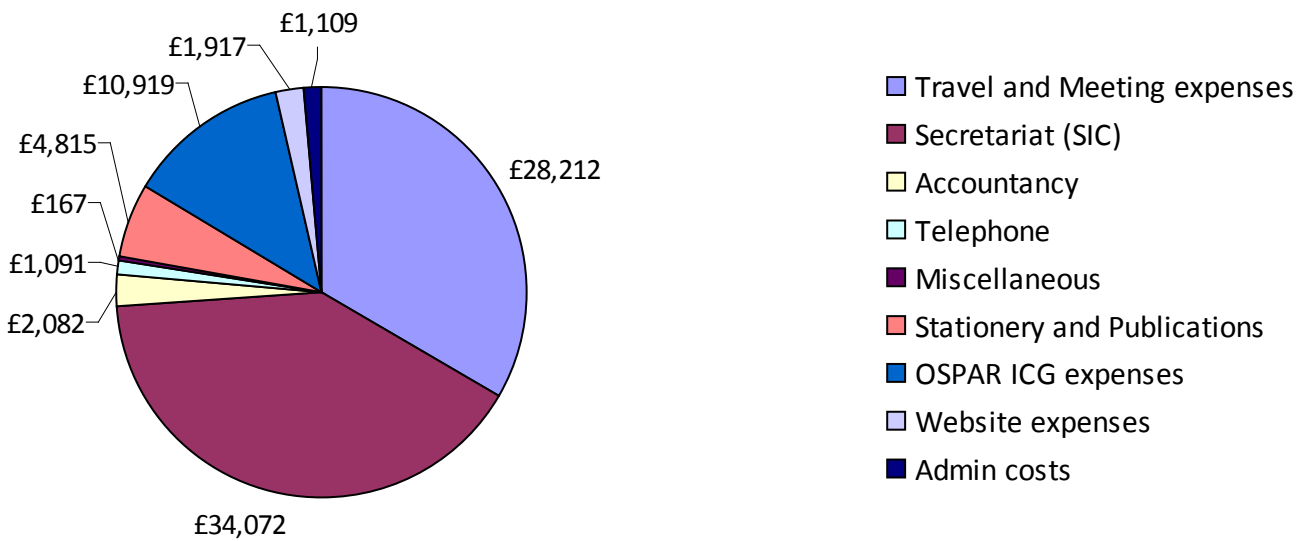
The current difficult financial climate has meant that KIMO membership has reduced slightly over the last year. The new members we have gained in the some networks have been offset by a reduction in numbers in others resulting a total membership of 148 with 81 full members, and 2 Associate members representing 67 municipalities. Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) have also joined as an associate member this year as part of the cooperation with KIMO, to increase representation at OSPAR Radioactive Substances Committee, which was agreed last year.

Income and Expenditure

The income and expenditure for the year is outlined below. Expenditure grew ahead of income this year due to additional travel costs associated with the preparation for OSPAR Ministerial Meeting and the EU MSFD stakeholder process as well additional costs in relation to the redevelopment of the KIMO website and leaflet.

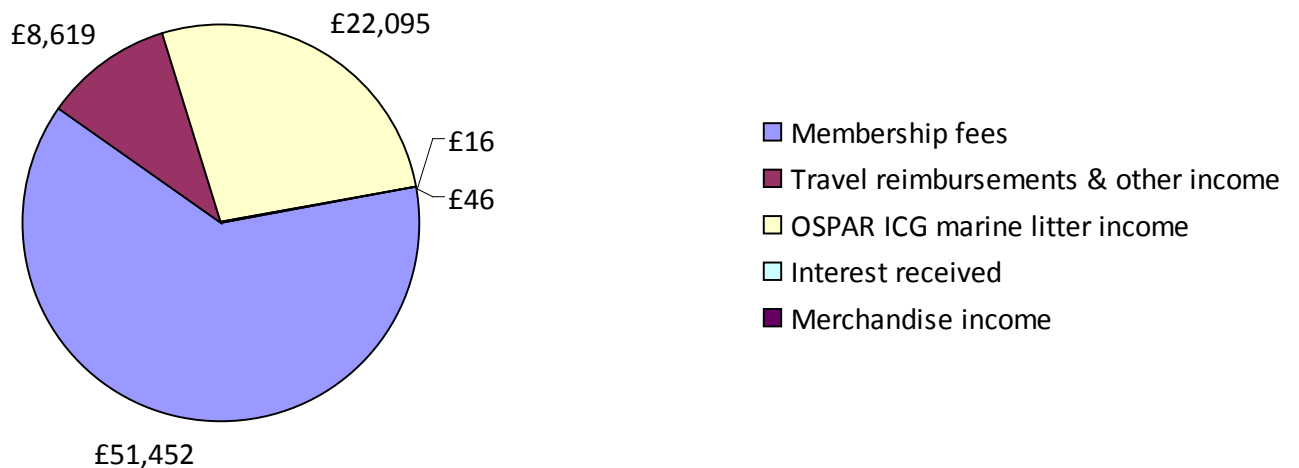
EXPENDITURE

£84,384



INCOME

£82,228



ANNEX 1: KIMO INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS ATTENDED 2009/2010:

October 2009:

19th KIMO Annual General Meeting & Conference –Den Haag
KIMO International Board Meeting- Den Haag
KIMO National Co-ordinators Meeting – Den Haag
KIMO International Baltic Forum – Den Haag
OSPAR EHIA Working Group – Brest, France

November 2009:

OSPAR ICG Bergen (Strategic Group)- London
EU MSFD Working group on GES- Brussels
KIMO Netherlands and Belgium AGM – Ijmuiden
HELCOM Maritime Meeting – Lubeck, Germany

December 2009:

KIMO Baltic Meeting, Kaliningrad, Russia
OSPAR ICG Marine Litter - Dublin

January 2010:

EU MSFD Litter Task Group – Athens

February 2010:

OSPAR ICG Bergen (Strategic Group)- London
EU MSFD Working group on GES- Brussels

March 2010:

KIMO Baltic FFL Meeting – Tallinn, Estonia
Containership Meeting with MEP's, European Parliament - Brussels
EU MSFD Working group on GES- Brussels

April 2010:

OSPAR AdHoc BDC Strategy Meeting – London
Containership Meeting with DG MOVE European Commission - Brussels

May 2010:

KIMO International Board Meeting – Shetland
OSPAR ICG Marine Litter – Goteborg

June 2010:

OSPAR Biodiversity Committee - Bonn
OSPAR ICG Bergen (Strategic Group)- London

July 2010:

OSPAR Radioactive Substances Committee - Stockholm

September 2010:

OSPAR Ministerial Meeting - Bergen