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For many years, fishmeal and fish oil have been of central importance to the feed industry for use in animal feed.

However, an increasing demand from the aquaculture feed as well as pharmaceutical sectors, coupled with constant or stagnating global supplies of raw material, has led to some concern about future supply conditions. At the same time, in some countries concerns have been raised about the use of pelagic resources for animal feed.

Worldwide the aquaculture industry is the fastest growing food production segment. Due to supply conditions for fishmeal and fish oil there is an increasing interest in substituting these ingredients in aquaculture feeds. However, the extent to which fishmeal and fish oil can be substituted, without compromising fish health and quality, is a challenge. Innovation efforts to substitute traditional fishmeal with novel meal products with Omega3 content are ongoing.

You will also note that the fishmeal and fish oil industry plays a central role in the fishing communities of Northern European countries for both forage fisheries and for processing.

Against this background there is a need for a better mapping and understanding of fishmeal and fish oil's economic, biological and social interaction with the marine environment and the sector's economic and social contribution.

With support from the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Nordic Marine Think Tank and EUfishmeal invite central stakeholders to a Symposium to discuss the role of fishmeal and fish oil and to chart a course for the future. The Symposium "Perspectives for fishmeal and fish oil in light of management of forage fisheries, alternative uses of meal and oil and the development of new feeds and technologies" will take place at the North Sea Centre (Hirtshals, Denmark) on 29-30 August 2016.

We hope that you will find time to attend and share with stakeholders your informed views on how the fishmeal and fish oil value chain might evolve in the coming years.

Please see preliminary agenda and register at www.nmtt.org or www.eufishmeal.org.

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