

FUGLAFJØRÐUR INVITES INVESTORS FOR PELAGIC FOOD FISH



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Determined to retain its top pelagic position, the Port of Fuglafjørður looks to foreign investors to fix its long-missing link: a local processing plant for pelagic food fish to complement its giant fishmeal and feed factory.

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF Fuglafjørður, the port authority for the Port of Fuglafjørður, is reintroducing the idea of setting up a local processing plant for pelagic food fish.

According to the mayor, Sigurð S. Simonsen, ongoing efforts since last year



have focused on attracting foreign direct investments for a facility that would complement the existing reduction plant to create “an even more central point” for the pelagic fishing industry.

As a countermeasure to a decline in landings for the giant Havsbrún fishmeal and feed factory, a new processing plant for pelagic food fish could save the Port of Fuglafjørður from losing ground in the future as an international center for the pelagic industry, the mayor said.

“The idea of building a plant for pelagic food fish here is not new,” Mr. Simonsen said.

“Already in the Municipal Council’s letter to promote investments for Havsbrún back in the early 1960s, they referred to the project as a new ‘herring oil factory and freezing plant’ — freezing plant meaning mackerel for human consumption. It turned out to become much more than a herring oil factory, of course, but the freezing plant still hasn’t come. I’m sure they’ve had good reasons to develop the factory for processing fishmeal and marine oil and later fish feed as well; but I think in the years ahead, the way things are going now, we will see less industrial fish and more food fish.”

Clearly, the strategic advantage of placing a processing plant for pelagic food fish at Fuglafjørður is linked to the Faroe Islands’ location with some of the most important North Atlantic pelagic fish species abundantly present. Besides, in addition to the fishmeal and feed factory, the Port of Fuglafjørður already offers an impressive array of services relevant to pelagic fishing vessels: deep-water berths, a leading fishing gear provider, a large cold store, a full range of bunker fuels, mechanical and electrical repairs, provisioning, and more.

Fuglafjørður is also known as an excellent natural harbor, easily accessed from both north and south, well sheltered throughout the year, and by far the deepest in the Faroe Islands.

‘ABOUT TIME’: Since Faroe Bunkers opened a state-of-the-art refueling facility in 2008, a growing number of merchant ships have called at Fuglafjørður.

“For many international vessels, the Faroes is conveniently situated in the middle of the northeast Atlantic,” Mr. Simonsen noted, “and as far as I know, Fuglafjørður is the only port north of Bergen to have heavy fuel oil available.



For the fishing vessels, it means a lot to be able to do most of their business in one port — it saves them steaming time and fuel as well as effort.”

Large numbers of pelagic fishing vessels from e.g. the UK and Ireland pass by the Faroes on their way to and from fishing grounds; stopping at Fuglafjørður makes sense as thereby they won’t have to steam back to their home port or to Norway for landing their catch, refueling, mending their nets, or taking provisions.

That’s all fine, as long as their catch is not processed for human consumption. But this is where things could be about to change, should the Port of Fuglafjørður succeed in its drive to get its processing plant for food fish.

The fact that Kollafjørður is already home to a processing plant for pelagic food fish doesn’t seem to discourage the people of Fuglafjørður, where a large area has been allocated with plans to extend the nearby berths if necessary.

Said Mr. Simonsen: “The site for the processing plant is located at the main harbor between the cold storage facility and the fishmeal and feed factory. We have had several potential investors

Mayor Sigurð S. Simonsen (right); 185m bulk carrier Meteora bunkering (main); pelagic trawler landing (above); vessels receiving services (far left); typical business day at the port (left).

Port of Fuglafjørður

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Leading pelagic fishing industry port with approximately 1000 meters of total quay length; quayside depths up to 14m.

Excellent natural harbor, accessible in all weather conditions.

Facilities include fish meal, oil and feed production plant, cold storage, trawl and purse seine net manufacturing and repairs, mechanical workshops inc. authorized Baader processing machinery maintenance, electrical repairs, hydraulics, provisioning.

Bunkering: MGO, HFO, blends.

from abroad visiting and some of them have shown interest to look further into the opportunity.

“We’ve made clear to them that we cannot guarantee any quantities of fish, but we also believe that if they’re very good at this business they’ll also be able to attract landings. In fact, we believe there is a basis for two such processing plants in this country.”

Mr. Simonsen added: “It’s only natural that we take the next step and turn this port into an even more central point for the pelagic fleets. It’s about time we find the right investors to take a leading role in setting up this processing plant.”

