

**GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR OCEANS (GPO)
BLUE RIBBON PANEL**

MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES



Jóhán H Williams

Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs (Norway)

Jóhán H. Williams is Specialist Director, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Management, Royal Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs. Mr. Williams has extensive experience in the fishing industry, which started with his family's fish-processing and fishing vessel company. He spent two years as a fisherman and fish factory worker before becoming a research assistant with the Norwegian College of Fisheries. From 1980–1988 he served in three different positions with NORAD and was Fisheries Counsellor to the Nordic Council of Ministers in Copenhagen, Denmark from 1988-1994. In 1994 Mr. Williams rejoined the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Fisheries as advisor in the Department of Resource Management and Planning and thereupon was the Director General of the Department for Resource and Ocean Management from 1997–2011 with the responsibility for the Norwegian fisheries resource management and fishing fleet structure policy. Since 1995 he has led the Norwegian delegations to FAO/COFI as well as numerous quota negotiations. He is currently President of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) and Chair of FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Committee (COFI). He has been a consultant to many organizations and countries, including the World Bank and from 1995 to 2012 was adviser to the Government of Vietnam in their implementation of their new fisheries legislation. Mr. Williams received his M.Sc. in Fisheries from the Norwegian Fisheries College, University of Tromsø. His honors include Grand Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau (Dutch Royal Honors).