

## 2025 Ringer i vannet

Peter Arbo, June 2011

<b>1. Project/publication</b>	ECON (2006): <i>2025 Ringer i vannet</i> [Rippling water]. Oslo: ECON, 29 pages. <a href="http://www.nho.no/files/ECON_Ringer_i_vannet.pdf">http://www.nho.no/files/ECON_Ringer_i_vannet.pdf</a>
<b>2. Initiator</b>	The project was carried out on behalf of the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise (NHO) and was part of their “Mission North” (“Oppdrag Nord”) campaign. The report was presented by Kjell Roland at NHO’s annual conference in Oslo in January 2006. See also: <a href="http://www.nho.no/files/NHO_strategier.pdf">http://www.nho.no/files/NHO_strategier.pdf</a> and <a href="http://www.nho.no/nord">http://www.nho.no/nord</a>
<b>3. Objective</b>	The objective of the report is to depict a scenario of what could happen if there are significant oil and gas resources off the coast of northern Norway, and if Norway as a nation acts in the right way.
<b>4. Geographical delimitation</b>	The Barents Gulf, with focus on the area from the islands of Lofoten and Vesterålen to the Kola Peninsula.
<b>5. Time horizon</b>	The historical perspective goes ten years back in time, while the report’s outlook is the year 2025.
<b>6. Thematic focus</b>	The emphasis is on oil and gas resources. The report discusses the importance that a comprehensive development of petroleum activity can have on northern Norway.
<b>7. Images of the future</b>	The report only sketches one possible future. “The assignment was to describe one positive scenario, in which we succeed, and not necessarily the most plausible one”, it is argued. In this story, the Barents Sea in 2025 has become Europe’s most important petroleum province. The map of Norway has been turned upside down as the northern periphery has become the country’s most important economic region. Gone are the days of depopulation, higher rates of unemployment than the national average, and government crisis measures. Instead, northern Norway stands out as an attractive region with in-migration and a strong commercial sector that is dynamic and internationally oriented. Technological breakthroughs have enabled safe operations under Arctic conditions. Russia and Norway have signed a deal on their maritime border, and Shtokman and a number of other fields have been developed. Furthermore, the Norwegian supplier industry is operating in Russia. The regional ripple effects are large.
<b>8. Key driving forces</b>	A high demand for oil and gas resources and strong national efforts to move the oil industry northwards.
<b>9. Uncertainties / wildcards</b>	There is no discussion of uncertainties in the report. The story is based on the assumption that resources are available and will be exploited. The report is also premised on the idea that there will be a system for sustainable natural resource management in the north, and that there will be close energy cooperation between Norway and Russia as well as with the large energy users in the EU and the USA.
<b>10. Accomplishment and collaboration</b>	The report is a somewhat hasty product delivered by a consultancy firm.
<b>11. Method</b>	The study is primarily qualitative and consists of one narrative.
<b>12. Sources of information</b>	Some information has been provided by the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise (NHO) and Statoil, but otherwise the work is based on general knowledge about the area.

<b>13. Strengths</b>	The study is an attempt at creating a vision. It is an interesting example of the use of scenarios as a part of a political rhetoric of mobilization.
<b>14. Weaknesses</b>	The story can be considered to be the result of speculative wishful thinking.
<b>15. Attention and significance</b>	The report was presented as an important event at the annual conference of the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise (NHO), and it enhanced the High North hallelujah-mood that characterized this period: the construction of the Snøhvit field outside Hammerfest was about to be completed; the Shtokman project was expected to be realized soon; the red-green coalition government had declared the High North to be its most important strategic area; and the management plan for the Barents Sea-Lofoten area was in the works. The main message of the Mission North campaign of the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise was that Norway's next wave of industrialization would take place in the High North.
<b>16. Relevance for the Fram Centre</b>	The report is not of special relevance to the Fram Centre.