



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

**NORTH WESTERN
WATERS**
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

North Western Waters Advisory Council

Work Programme

Year 13

01 October 2017 to 30 September 2018



1. Introduction

The North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council (NWWAC) was established in accordance with Commission Decision 2005/668/EC on the 22nd of September 2005 as one of the seven Regional Advisory Councils, proposed under Council Decision 2004/585/EC, establishing Regional Advisory Councils under the Common Fisheries Policy.

With the entry into force of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013, on the Common Fisheries Policy (henceforth, “CFP Regulation”), on the 1st of January 2014 the Regional Advisory Councils changed to Advisory Councils (ACs) in order to address a broader range of seafood topics such as migratory species, aquaculture and markets. The advisory role of the ACs was also enhanced as a constituent part of this change.

Now in its thirteenth year of operation, which runs from 01 October 2017 to 30 September 2018, the NWWAC wishes to apply for grant-aid from the EU Commission, in accordance with the relevant provisions in force.

2. Objectives of the NWWAC

The principal aim of the North Western Waters Advisory Council is to bring together European stakeholders, including: fishermen, representatives of producer’s organisations, environmental NGOs, recreational anglers, processors and consumers, amongst others, to provide evidence-based advice to: the EU Commission, Member States and the European Parliament, in order to achieve the sustainable exploitation of the fish stocks within the geographical remit of the EC waters of sub-areas 5.b, 6 and 7.

The advice produced by the NWWAC will be directed by the objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy (e.g. MSY, regionalisation and landing obligation) and will be intended to assist the Commission and policy-makers to effectively implement the principles of Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) in the fisheries of the North Western Waters. The NWWAC will also address the sustainable, biological and economic management of fish stocks in the wider context of the marine biodiversity policy and the integrated maritime policy.

Given the mixed nature of the fisheries within the geographical remit of the NWWAC, an emphasis on the ecosystem and an integrated approach to the development of management options will provide the foundation for advice and will contribute to the goal articulated in the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, of achieving good environmental status of the marine environment by 2020.



3. Main topics for Year 13

3.1. Landing obligation (LO)

During Year 12 the NWWAC worked internally and with the NWW Member State's Group to develop a tool to address the mitigation actions that may be required in fisheries subject to the landing obligation. The resulting Choke Mitigation Tool (CMT) was populated for all the sub-geographical areas of the North Western Waters and the resulting content will provide the basis and direction for much of the NWWAC's work, in Year 13.

The NWWAC will hold dedicated meetings (e.g. horizontal working groups and advice drafting groups) as well as regular meetings and communications with scientists, the Commission and the NWW Member States Group to progress the following elements for consideration in the development of future discard plans for mixed demersal species:

- Experience with the implementation of the Landing Obligation (LO) in 2017;
- Choke species and mitigation measures using the CMT (e.g. quota uplift and swaps, interspecies flexibility, modification of fishing patterns, removal of marginal bycatch stocks from TAC management and increased selectivity);
- Phasing of the Landing Obligation (LO) for demersal species after 2018;
- Proposals for *de minimis* exemptions;
- Proposals for survivability exemptions;
- Improvement in the documentation of catches;
- Minimum conservation reference sizes;

The NWWAC will continue to develop its collaboration with the NWW Member States Control Expert Group in order to provide essential feedback on the implementation of the LO (see section 4.2). The contribution of the Advisory Council to this process will be through the Focus Group on Control and Compliance (FGCC) and will involve engagement with the Commission in a dedicated workshop and any subsequent meetings on the subject.

3.2. Technical measures

The NWWAC will work on technical measures in the context of the Landing Obligation, and will monitor and incorporate relevant research advances, where possible, in its advice in order to improve selectivity and reduce unwanted catches. Additionally, the process of adoption of the revised technical measures regulation will be closely followed and will be the subject of discussion and opinion, as required. The NWWAC will continue to issue opinions and recommendations in relation to the implementation of the new framework of technical measures that will replace EC Regulation 850/1998, once it is in force.

3.3. Development and implementation of multi-annual management plans



The development and implementation of long-term management plans for mixed demersal fisheries in North Western Waters has been one of the main focuses of the NWWAC's work since its establishment. The NWWAC will participate, as it is able and in accordance with available resources and budget, in developing input for existing or newly proposed multi-annual fishery management plans, where stakeholders' input is requested. Specific needs for individual stocks are mentioned under section 3.5.

Relevant scientific experts and representatives from national administrations along with the STECF evaluation of proposals will greatly enhance the structure of such meetings.

3.4. TACs and quotas

As in previous years, the NWWAC will produce advice in September 2018, in response to the EC Consultation on Fishing Opportunities for 2019.

This advice will provide NWWAC opinion on a number of subject areas, such as: the review of the state of the stocks, the application of MSY and the principles for setting TACs and related management measures (e.g. the effort regime). The implications of the introduction of the Landing Obligation for all remaining quota species in 2019 and the implementation of TAC uplifts, will receive significant attention.

The NWWAC advice on TACs and quotas will be submitted in due time to inform the discussions leading to the final adoption of the Regulation on Fishing Opportunities for species in Atlantic waters by the Council of Ministers, in December 2018.

In common with previous years, a number of specific requests may also be submitted to the Commission and concerned Member States prior to the December Council for some stocks as advice directed by the latest scientific assessment.

3.5. Management measures for species

3.5.1. Northern Hake, Anglerfish and Megrim in ICES Divisions 6 and 7

In light of the ICES advice methodology in relation to data limited stocks, the NWWAC may consider the establishment of a dedicated Focus Group, in Year 13, to discuss developments in scientific assessments in relation to: northern hake (*Merluccius merluccius*), anglerfish (*Lophius piscatorius* and *L. budegassa*) and megrims (*Lepidorhombus spp.*), to discuss initiatives (e.g. fisheries-science partnerships or EU projects) and to improve the knowledge of the biology of the stocks and of the fisheries, resulting in the development of concerted actions to address data deficiencies.

The NWWAC has no plans to develop a specific management plan for these species in Year 13 but will discuss management options, such as the implementation of multi-annual management plans, with all stakeholders.



Given their common interest in these stocks, members of the South Western Waters Advisory Council may be invited, as observers, to any future technical or Focus Group meetings to be held in Spain or France. Similarly, the NWWAC will keep informed of developments in other Advisory Councils (e.g. SWWAC) and will follow the progress of discussions on the development of a methodology and procedure for the adoption of management measures in relation to the southern hake stock.

3.5.2. Nephrops (*Nephrops norvegicus*)

Further to the advice issued by the NWWAC on Nephrops in FU16, the NWWAC will work with the Marine Institute (IE) to provide scientific input to the advice. In the interim, the NWWAC will also request the Commission to ask STECF to fully evaluate the FU16 proposal.

Depending these outcomes, the NWWAC may organise a Focus Group (in person or by correspondence) on Nephrops to draft new advice, in time for consideration at the December Council. Any advice drafted will incorporate the ICES advice released in early November, and any relevant results of abundance indexes (e.g. CPUE, UWTV) from the scientific surveys carried out during the summer period.

The NWWAC remains prepared to conduct further work on this species, should the Commission launch a proposal on the management of Nephrops stocks, by area or functional unit, in 2018.

3.5.3. Sole (*Solea solea*) in ICES Divisions 7.d

The NWWAC will develop its advice on sole in 7.d in 2017/2018. A meeting will be held using Webex to discuss management options for sole, developed by French and UK members and their supporting fisheries scientists and incorporating any new and relevant information. The implications of the Landing Obligation will also direct the discussions of this group.

Any advice drafted by this group will be intended to aid the decision making process at the Council in December 2017.

3.5.4. Sole (*Solea solea*) in ICES Divisions 7.f and g

The NWWAC has discussed the potential for sole in 7fg to become a choke species under the landing obligation and is conscious of the need for a management strategy for this species in Divisions 7.fg. The NWWAC will review the STECF and ICES advice on sole in 7.fg and will specifically address the identification of solutions to mitigate the implication of this species choking the fisheries of this area and the requirements of a management strategy.



3.5.5. Skates and rays

The NWWAC is greatly encouraged that the work it has conducted on skates and rays in 2016 and 2017 has informed and assisted the development of a dedicated working group within the Commission on these species. The NWWAC will begin Year 13 by disseminating the results of its work at the European Elasmobranch Association conference in Amsterdam (12 to 14 October) and will use this opportunity to collect relevant information regarding survivability and selectivity, which may add to the development of management options.

With the potential for skates and rays to act as choke species within multiple fisheries in north western waters, the NWWAC has identified that solutions to this potential problem are an important horizontal issue and as a result will be the subject of NWWAC discussion.

3.5.6. Seabass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*)

The NWWAC will participate at relevant meetings and will follow developments from the European Commission, concerned Member States, ICES and STECF regarding the potential adoption of management measures for seabass stocks in the following areas: North Sea, West of Scotland and Celtic Sea.

Upon analysis and reaction to the ICES advice on seabass, the NWWAC may convene a focus group on Seabass either unilaterally or jointly with the NSAC.

Inter-AC dialogue will continue in Year 13 and the work of the NWWAC on seabass will be available to assist the development of recommendations on specific management and technical measures for each of the stocks concerned.

3.5.7. Brown crab (*Cancer pagurus*)

The NWWAC Focus Group on Brown Crab, has identified data deficiency as an issue of major concern in the fisheries for brown crab in North Western Waters. Following a very successful meeting in September 2017, the NWWAC will pursue all avenues available to it to achieve progress in this area.

Much of the criticism levelled, by members and scientific experts at previous initiatives has been the delay in providing data to those engaged in the assessment process in ICES (i.e. WGCRAW). In Year 13, the NWWAC intends to make significant progress in this area with the assistance and support of relevant experts.

3.6. Preparation for the revision of the CFP Regulation in 2022

In order for the NWWAC to be able to provide input to the development of the reform of the CFP, in 2022, the NWWAC will prepare for discussion regarding future targets for fisheries management in the NWW, and the requirement for appropriate management measures to



reach these goals. In order to be able to provide timely and relevant advice, the NWWAC intends to combine information from (ongoing) scientific projects and other relevant sources. A plan will be established for the NWWAC to draft input for the discussion leading to the development of a response by the NWWAC to the anticipated EC Green paper on the revision of the CFP Regulation.

4. General topics

The NWWAC will continue to work, both on its own initiative and in coordination with other Advisory Councils, on providing advice on the implementation of the core aspects of the legislative package of the CFP Regulation, namely: the Basic Framework Regulation on CFP reform, the Commission's delegated act laying out the functioning of the Advisory Councils and the EMFF Regulation.

4.1. Improving the quality of scientific and economic data

In Year 13, the NWWAC will continue its collaboration with ICES and Member States to identify measures to improve scientific assessments. The NWWAC will actively encourage the engagement of active practitioners and NWWAC member in calls for support to ground-truth and tune data series.

4.1.1. Irish Sea benchmark

The Benchmark Workshop on the impact of ecosystem and environmental drivers on Irish Sea fisheries management (WKIrish) is of great interest to the NWWAC because of both the regional and the methodological implications. Next to focussing on the improvement of single species assessments (i.e. principally cod, haddock, whiting and plaice), this benchmark aims to incorporate a mixed fisheries model, develop the integration of ecosystem aspects and work towards an integrated assessment and advice for this region. The Irish Sea will be a test case for the ICES benchmark process that aims to develop assessment methods on an ecosystem basis rather than on single species assessments.

Having engaged in previous workshops, the NWWAC will attend the final workshop (WKIRISH4) in October 2017 which will address progress towards the development of an integrated ecosystem assessment and advice.

The NWWAC is committed to participate in all ICES meetings and benchmark workshops of relevance, subject to invitation.

The NWWAC will also begin dialogue directly with ICES working groups (e.g. FGCRAB) to investigate means to collect and include stakeholder input to assessment processes and to seek input at the design stage of any NWWAC-led initiatives.



The annual meeting between ICES and the Advisory Councils (January 2018) will be used to strengthen the working relationship and confidence in the assessment methodology.

4.1.2. The MareFrame project

The MareFrame project aims to co-create Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management Solutions. The NWWAC is a partner in this project and is committed to assisting the development of an ecosystem-based approach to improve fisheries management. The engagement of the NWWAC is concentrated in a case study in Northern Waters for the West of Scotland.

In this area, the main Ecosystem-based Fisheries Management issues addressed by the case study have been: i) the effect of increased seal predation on gadoid stocks, cod in particular; ii) the impact of the Nephrops fishery on juvenile gadoids; iii) the bottom-up effects of climate change (e.g. Oceanographic changes; changes in currents and nutrient levels) on gadoid stocks and iv) the impact of fisheries on the seafloor (e.g. corals). Although enhanced ecosystem models, in this case study, were intended to understand these fisheries and climate effects and deliver management advice the outcomes have been limited.

The final meeting of the MareFrame project will take place in Brussels on the 13th and 14th of December in Brussels (Policy Day and Scientific Day).

4.2. Control and compliance

The NWWAC will continue to follow the operational activities of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) in Areas 6 and 7 and will participate in Advisory Boards and other fora (e.g. Seminar on Control and Compliance, Seminar on the implementation of the Landing Obligation), when invited. The NWWAC is currently the alternate representative of the Advisory Board for the Administrative Board of EFCA from March 2017 to February 2018.

Having requested a specific meeting on the control regulation with the competent authorities through the Commission, the NWWAC will attend the Fisheries Control System Workshop being held by the Commission on 16th November 2017.

Following this meeting the NWWAC may reconvene the Focus Group on Control to address issues raised, which may require further comment or advice from the NWWAC, particularly in the context of the Landing Obligation and technical measures.

4.3. Regionalisation

The NWWAC is committed to the current structure of the consultation process, which allows the collaborative engagement between the Advisory Councils and the North Western Waters Member States Group and other relevant bodies and institutions under the present regional decision-making framework contained in the CFP Regulation.



The NWWAC has developed strong links with the NWW Member States group and will continue to collaborate and assist this group, however possible.

The NWWAC has welcomed and benefited from the engagement of representatives of the NWW administrations in the joint process of developing and populating the NWWAC Choke Mitigation Tool and will continue to foster and develop this relationship in Year 13.

4.4. Marine Protected Areas and Marine Spatial Planning

The NWWAC will continue to be involved in the consultation process for the designation and management of: Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems, Natura 2000, OSPAR and national marine offshore sites (i.e. MCZ, etc.), where fishing activity by EU vessels takes place in North Western Waters.

The NWWAC will act as a point of contact between national policy makers and AC stakeholders in order to facilitate consultation. The NWWAC shall also take part in the meetings of the North Western Waters Member State subgroup on Article 11, dealing with conservation measures necessary for compliance with obligations under the EU environmental legislation (e.g. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)).

The NWWAC will also provide opinion, as required, in relation to the development of management measures for different marine sites in North Western Waters, that are proposed for adoption under national legislation.

If appropriate, the NWWAC may consider re-convening the Horizontal Working Group on Marine Spatial Planning, which was successfully led by environmental NGO representatives of the NWWAC, in the past, and included a wide representation of experts, including those from appropriate EU projects (e.g. MEFEPO, MAIA, and CHARM III in 2009/2010).

The NWWAC will work with appointed officers, from designated agencies of Member States and the Commission, as follows:

- Participate in national debates and occasional stakeholders' forums;
- Invite relevant experts from national agencies to communicate current status reports and present timetables for consultations, where relevant;
- Distribute newsletters, maps and questionnaires to stakeholders and provide feedback, as appropriate.

5. Working procedures

The NWWAC will continue to refine its working procedures to ensure efficient and effective work practices.



The NWWAC will work closely with the fishing industry, Other Interest Groups, the Commission, Member States, Scientists and other ACs to develop appropriate work programmes to progress issues of common and specific concern.

5.1. Timetable

Appendix I details the NWWAC meetings timetable for Year 13.

5.2. Role, composition and functioning of the ACs

A delegation composed of the Chair and the Secretariat of the NWWAC will actively participate in the coordination meeting to be held on 14th November between the ACs and the Commission.

Having initiated inter-AC discussion on the functioning of the Advisory Councils, the NWWAC will support the continuation of this dialogue within the Advisory Councils and in any forum where this topic is to be discussed.

The NWWAC considers that the implications of the UK leaving the European Union (a.k.a. Brexit), the implementation of the landing obligation for all quota species in 2019 and the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), represents a significant threat to the functioning of the Advisory Councils as currently established and unless addressed, with due rigour, will lead to a perfect storm of administration, which may also be complicated by unintended consequences.

The NWWAC will support the PELAC in the organisation of the second inter-AC meeting on this topic in 2018.

The recruitment of an Executive Assistant (Finances and Administration) and a Deputy Executive Secretary will take place in November 2017.

The Project Development and Communications Manager supported and directed by a small, dedicated Communications Group of members of the NWWAC, to develop proposals for the decision of the Executive Committee, will re-engage with the duties of this post following an extended period of cover for other NWWAC Secretariat duties in Year 12.

5.3. Operational Structure: meeting types and frequency

The largest budgetary expenditure incurred by the NWWAC is associated with meetings. The NWWAC is often liable for costs associated with meeting room hire, interpretation services and technical equipment, in addition to the travel and accommodation costs of members and experts attending NWWAC meetings. On some occasions, public or private sponsorship may be offered to cover part or all of these expenses as contributions-in-kind (a.k.a. Benefit-in-kind). Such arrangements are duly reflected in the NWWAC accounts.



In order to achieve the objectives of the work programme, the operational hierarchy of the NWWAC is organised in the following three-tier structure:

5.3.1. Executive Committee

All decisions relating to the NWWAC are made by an Executive Committee with a maximum of 25 members (i.e. 15 fishing industry, and 10 other interest groups) reflecting the 60/40 balance required. At the start of year 12, there were 22 members of the Executive Committee; 15 from fishing industry organisations and 7 from organisations representing other interest groups. During the year, the General Assembly welcomed the eNGO Oceana to the Executive Committee to take one of the vacant OIG seats.

Executive Committee meetings are held at least three times a year. These meetings normally address high-level policy issues, debate the input from Working Groups, and horizontal items put forward by Focus or Advice Drafting Groups or General Assembly members. The Executive Committee decides on recommendations from Working Groups and Horizontal Groups and aims to reach consensus in the provision of NWWAC advice and opinion. The Executive Committee also decides on the processes and procedures required to improve the efficiency of the NWWAC, including the Communications strategy.

Each member of the Executive Committee, along with the Chairman of each Working Group presenting recommendations to the Executive Committee, is reimbursed for attending Executive Committee meetings and full interpretation is provided in the three working languages of the NWWAC (i.e. English, French and Spanish).

Representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament, European Fisheries Control Agency and Member States, as well as relevant experts or presenters from EU projects or scientific institutes, also attend Executive Committee meetings as observers.

The Executive Committee of the NWWAC instructs Working Groups and Horizontal Groups to address specific topics, as it considers necessary and appropriate, during the course of the year, based on priority and the availability of resources.

5.3.2. Sub-regional Working Groups

There are currently 4 sub-regional Working Groups (Working Groups) in the NWWAC, which are geographically based. Working Group meetings are held up to 3 times each year (depending on budget and agenda items) and are important drivers of the NWWAC. All issues necessary for debate are tabled at these meetings and experts, as well as Commission officials, are normally invited to attend and make presentations.

The four Working Groups are:



1. West of Scotland (6.a);
2. Celtic Sea (7.f and g);
3. Channel (7.d and e);
4. Irish Sea (7.a).

Membership of Working Groups varies from 25 to 50 participants depending on the subject matter and full interpretation is provided as required (i.e. English, French and Spanish). All 4 Working Group meetings are normally held over a period of 1 to 2 days (i.e. half a day each).

In Year 13, Working Groups will continue their work with key stakeholders, scientists and economists to progress the development of management plans, mitigate the effects of the Landing obligation and address sub-geographical objectives in the context of Brexit and the reform of the CFP.

5.3.3. Focus Groups, Horizontal Working Groups and Advice Drafting Groups

Focus Group and Advice Drafting Group meetings are specialist meetings, which are convened when issues of urgent concern require an immediate and technical response from the NWWAC.

Focus groups and Advice Drafting Groups are formed from within the general membership and generally consist of a small group of members (i.e. 8 to 15) with specific professional experience and expertise.

Additionally, Horizontal Working Groups are convened, as required, to discuss issues of common interest to all NWWAC members (e.g. Technical Measures, the Landing Obligation, Choke mitigation, CFP Reform, Marine Spatial Planning, Functioning of the Advisory Councils).

Such meetings have a specific function and objective described in the Terms of Reference, which are endorsed by the Executive Committee upon the establishment of the group. In order to incorporate the flexibility required to accommodate these meetings, the NWWAC has budgeted for 4 Focus Group, Horizontal Working Group or Advice Drafting Group meetings in Year 13, most of which will be held in conjunction with an Executive Committee meeting.

Depending on budget availability and available time at Working Group meetings, additional meetings may be held, if required. Interpretation services for these meetings will be provided, if required, and contributions-in-kind will be sought from Member States and relevant projects to minimise costs and maximise efficiency.

Focus Groups are planned to work on the following topics in Year 13:

- i. Management strategy for Sole in ICES Division 7.d (Webex);
- ii. Management strategy for Sole in ICES Division 7.f and g;



- iii. Skate and Ray management;
- iv. Management measures for Seabass;
- v. Brown crab management;
- vi. Focus Group on Control and Compliance (FGCC)

Additionally, the Horizontal Working Group on the Landing Obligation will respond to requests received from the North Western Member States group. Advice Drafting Groups will be convened in face-to-face meetings or by correspondence, on subjects that require the drafting of specific texts.

6. Communications and Outreach

The Project Development and Communications Manager supported and directed by a small, dedicated Communications Group of members of the NWWAC, to develop proposals for the decision of the Executive Committee, will re-engage with the duties of this post following an extended period of cover for other NWWAC Secretariat duties in Year 12.

Whereas, the resources within the Secretariat have been limited in Year 12, the level of communication and outreach has increased and will continue to do so in Year 13 as the implications of the landing obligation and *Brexit* become evident and of greater cause for concern.

The NWWAC website remains the main communication tool between the NWWAC Secretariat and NWWAC members, European Commission, Member States, European Parliament, scientific observers and the general public. The website contains up-to-date information on membership, legislation, administration, meetings, publications, consultation and advice, and includes all relevant correspondence generated between the NWWAC, the Commission, Member States and other parties.

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Appendix I

The proposed schedule of meetings to achieve the objectives of the NWWAC work programme

Year 13

(1st of October 2017 to the 30th of September 2018)

The information presented below is indicative of NWWAC operations in Year 13 and has been adopted by the members of the General Assembly, which met in Dublin on the 14th of September 2017.

All dates and topics for discussion are subject to change, and will be directed by the requirements of the Commission and proposals originating from NWWAC members and endorsed by the Executive Committee.



SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS (YEAR 13)

NORTH WESTERN WATERS ADVISORY COUNCIL			
Indicative Schedule of meetings in Year 13 (01 October 2017 – 30 September 2018)			
Meeting Type	Proposed dates/duration	Venue	Work Priorities
European Elasmobranch Association Conference	12 to 14 October 2017	Amsterdam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the work of the Focus Group on Skates and Rays
STECF meeting on skate and ray management	16 to 20 October 2017	Brussels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordination with the Focus Group on Skates and Rays
NWW High Level Group	18 October 2017	Madrid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordination of work on the Landing Obligation and Choke Mitigation.
EFCA Administrative Board	18 and 19 October 2017	Vigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of input on behalf of the Advisory Councils
Joint NWWAC/ICES (Chair) Benchmark on the Irish Sea	23 to 27 October 2017	Dublin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input of stakeholders to the advisory process
Focus Group on Sole in 7.d	6 November 2017	Webex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of NWWAC advice
Coordination Meeting between DG MARE and the ACs	14 November 2017	Brussels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-ordination of the Advisory Councils with the EC



NORTH WESTERN WATERS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Indicative Schedule of meetings in Year 13 (01 October 2017 – 30 September 2018)

Meeting Type	Proposed dates/duration	Venue	Work Priorities
EC Workshop on the implementation of the Landing Obligation	15 November 2017	Brussels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting experiences with the Landing Obligation
EC Workshop on the Fisheries Control System	16 November 2017	Brussels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forum to raise control issues identified by the Focus Group on Control and Compliance
Technical Measures in the Irish sea	28 November 2017	Dublin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of technical measures in the Irish sea in the context of the Landing Obligation and choke mitigation.
Mareframe	12 to 14 December 2017	Brussels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final meeting and dissemination of the Mareframe project.
Meeting of the Advisory Councils and ICES (MIACO)	18 and 19 January 2018	Copenhagen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration with ICES on issues relating to the assessment of stocks.
Focus Group on Seabass	Q1 2018	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a detailed response to the advice on Seabass
EFCA Advisory Board meeting	Q1 2018	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EFCA Developments and LO issues Evaluation of control regulation



NORTH WESTERN WATERS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Indicative Schedule of meetings in Year 13 (01 October 2017 – 30 September 2018)

Meeting Type	Proposed dates/duration	Venue	Work Priorities
Focus/Working Groups, Executive Committee	2 days February/March 2018	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant topics based on outstanding actions • Landing Obligation, TCMs
Coordination Meeting between DG MARE and the ACs	1 day Q2 2018	Brussels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFP Regulation and EC delegated acts • Administrative and financial guidelines for the functioning of the ACs
Working / Focus Groups Executive Committee	2 or 3 days July 2018	TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of ICES Advice for 2017 • Fishing Opportunities for 2017 / LO • Development of Focus Group topics
EFCA Advisory Board meeting	1 day September 2018	Vigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EFCA Developments and LO issues • Evaluation of control regulation
General Assembly and Executive Committee	12 th to 14 th September 2018	Dublin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratify Year 13 accounts and budget for Y14 • Report from the Chairman on Y13 / Work Plan Y14 • Focus / Working group topics to be developed