

***** DRAFT *** POSSIBLE ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION- NWWRAC (NORTH WESTERN WATERS)**

Nbr.	Issues	Questions <i>[to become actions following the self-assessment by the NWWRAC]</i>	Responsible/ Deadline
1.	The NWWRAC focuses more on issues related to the Western Scotland and Celtic Sea areas and less on the Irish Sea and Channel areas.	<i>Is this appropriate or should the NWWRAC also provide advice on the Irish Sea and Channel areas?</i> <i>[self-assessment by the NWWRAC]</i>	<i>[self-assessment by the NWWRAC]</i>
2.	Members of the NWWRAC are mostly from the UK and IE (little FR and ES).	<i>Does this composition reflect the fisheries reality or should there be a more balanced representation?</i> <i>[self-assessment by the NWWRAC]</i>	<i>[self-assessment by the NWWRAC]</i>
3.	The discussion on the advice of NWWRAC is often initiated during a meeting and finalised later through written procedure. This makes it difficult for members to have a constructive dialogue (more difficult through e-mails than through a face-to-face discussion).	<i>How to better prepare the meetings so as to have a discussion on documents which are almost finalised? How to focus the discussion on the most problematic issues and have the conclusion during the meetings?</i> <i>[self-assessment by the NWWRAC]</i>	<i>[self-assessment by the NWWRAC]</i>
4.	The scientific knowledge of the NWWRAC is sometimes insufficient. This impacts the reliability of the advice.	<i>How to build scientific capacity?</i> <i>[self-assessment by the NWWRAC]</i>	<i>[self-assessment by the NWWRAC]</i>

5.	Financial issues - There is a lack of proactivity (the NWWRAC needs to be reminded to send the relevant documents such as the grant application, grant agreements, annual reports, annual work plans, etc.).	<i>How to improve the proactivity in the communication with the Commission on financial issues?</i> [self-assessment by the NWWRAC]	[self-assessment by the NWWRAC]
6.	Conservation measures - In the context of regionalisation, RACs are invited to start reflecting immediately on management measures preventing discards in pelagic fisheries. Discard plans may have to be established if exemptions for species with high survival rates (and based on the position of the Council, <i>de minimis</i> exemptions) are needed. All this will require input from the relevant RACs, which may formulate recommendations on the basis of scientific advice.	<i>How to organise the work (including with Member States) to deliver this input on time?</i> [self-assessment by the NWWRAC]	[self-assessment by the NWWRAC]
7.	In the frame of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the “ <i>Good Environmental Status (GES)</i> ” should be achieved by 2020, at the level of marine (sub-) regions. Member States are to determine GES on the basis of 11 qualitative descriptors, covering different aspects of the marine ecosystems. The Commission must assess whether the requirements of the Directive are met, and provide information and guidance to MS accordingly.	<i>How can the NWWRAC provide an assessment of indicators and targets associated with the relevant descriptors, especially on (1) Biodiversity, (3) Commercial fish and shellfish; (4) Food webs; and (6) Seafloor integrity?</i> [self-assessment by the NWWRAC]	[self-assessment by the NWWRAC]
8.	FUTURE- In the context of regionalisation, Advisory Councils will have to provide advice to Member States (in addition to the one to the Commission). As this is new it has to be organised.	<i>How can this cooperation with Member States be organised?</i> [self-assessment by the NWWRAC]	[self-assessment by the NWWRAC]

	<i>[Other issues? self-assessment by the NWWRAC]</i>	<i>[self-assessment by the NWWRAC]</i>	<i>[self-assessment by the NWWRAC]</i>
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Mapping of the current composition of the NWWRAC

Fisheries Sector	15	2/3 (68%)
National Fisheries Organisations	11	- BE, FR, IE, NL, ES, UK
Other Fisheries Organisations	2	- Organisation for sustainable fisheries (BE) - France Pêche Durable
Processors Organisations	1	- AIPCE-CEP (European Fish Processors Association, European Federation of National Organisations of Importers and Exporters of Fish)
Marketing Organisations	1	- European Association of Fishing Ports and Auctions (EAFPA)
Other interest groups	7	1/3 (32%)
Environmental NGOs	5	- European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD) - WWF - Seas at Risk - Irish Seal Sanctuary - Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)/ Birdlife international
Consumers Organisations		
Workers Organisations	1	- European Workers' Transport Federation (ETF)
Other	1	- European Anglers' Alliance (EAA)
<i>Vacant seats</i>	2	

