

**Minutes of the North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council  
Executive Committee Meeting**

*Dublin Castle*

*30<sup>th</sup> of September 2005*

*4pm-6pm*

**1. Welcome**

Michael Keatinge of the Secretariat opened the meeting by congratulating the Executive Committee on their establishment and by welcoming all members and observers to the first meeting.

**2. Nomination and Election of the Executive Committee Officers**

Mr Keatinge opened this item by asking for nominations of suitable Chairpersons from the floor. Jacques Pichon nominated Sam Lambourn of the Cornish Fishermens Producer Organisation for the position of Chair. This nomination was seconded by Sean O'Donoghue. The Executive Committee accepted the nomination by consensus. Mr Lambourn thanked the Executive Committee for their support and accepted his seat as Chairman of the Executive Committee and the RAC.

Mr Lambourn proceeded with this item and requested that vice Chairpersons may be nominated from the floor. Barrie Deas suggested that given the nature of the RAC and the extent of work that needed to be achieved, three vice Chairs should be elected. Mr Deas nominated Jacques Pichon, Hugo Cristanto Garcia and Helen McLaughlin. These nominations were accepted by consensus with the understanding that Jacques Pichon will be the one who is considered Vice Chair when it comes to dealing with the Commission.

With regards to the position of Rapporteur it was agreed that the secretariat would fill this function for the foreseeable future.

**3. Work timetable and Programme of the Working Groups**

Rules of Procedures for the Working Groups

The Secretariat informed the meeting that as requested they had drafted suggested rules and procedures for the working groups, based on the discussions in Glasgow in May and the results of the questionnaire that had been circulated in April. The Rules and Procedures were re-circulated for consideration by the meeting and members were given a few minutes to reconsider them.

A number of amendments were made to these rules and procedures and the amended version can be found in Annex 2 of this document. The following are the changes made to the draft Rules of Procedure:

- Article 10 which stated '*Nominations to the Working Groups will be forwarded to the Member States for consultation*' was amended to read '*Nominations to the Working Groups will be forwarded to the Member States for information*'.
- Article 18 which stated, '*Working Groups will, under normal circumstances conduct their meetings in private*' was deleted.
- Article 19 which stated, '*Working Group meetings will **not** take place on the same day as the Executive Committee meetings but will meet consecutively over a number of days in advance*'

*of Executive Committee meetings’ was amended to read ‘Working Group meetings will **not** take place at the same time as the Executive Committee but will meet consecutively over a number of days in advance of Executive Committee meetings’.*

- Article 21 which stated ‘These Rules of procedure shall be agreed by the General Assembly. Any amendments must be presented to members for comment at the Annual General Assembly and agreed by a two-thirds majority of members of the Executive Committee’ was amended to read ‘These Rules of procedure shall be agreed by the Executive Committee’.

#### Nominations of Chairs for the Working Groups

The positions of the chairs for the Working Group was raised from the floor. It was agreed that the Working Groups should retain autonomy and should elect their own Chairpersons, however the following candidates would be nominated by the Executive Committee and would ask each of the working groups to give these nominations strong consideration taking into account the balance which needs to be achieved within the RAC.

- West of Scotland Working Group; ICES areas Vb (EC) VIa, Vib:  
**Chairman: Bertie Armstrong; Vice Chairman: Victor Badiola**
- Western Approaches, West of Ireland & Celtic Sea Working Group; ICES areas VII (except d, e & a):  
**Chairman: Hugo Cristanto Garcia; Vice Chairman: Andre Guegen.**
- English Channel Working Group; ICES areas VIId & VIIe:  
**Chairman: Daniel Lefebre; Vice Chairman: Jim Portus.**
- Irish Sea Working Group; ICES area VIIa:  
**Chairman: Lorcan O’Ceinnede; Vice Chairman: Alan McCulla**

#### Work Time Table

With regards to work timetable it was suggested that meetings of the RAC within the months of October and December should take place in a central European locations. This would greatly facilitate members of the RAC who already have busy meeting schedules for these months which are largely based in Brussels. In the months outside of these, (ie January to September) meetings can be held in different Member States. This was agreed upon by consensus.

For the first set of working group meetings, Jacques Pichon suggested that the Committee National de Peches in France could co-host a meeting in Paris. It was requested from the floor that the working group meetings should not take place until ACFM released its advice in late October. It was agreed that the first set of Working Group meetings would take place 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of November in Paris.

#### Membership of the Working Groups

It was agreed that the secretariat would circulate an email requesting expression of interest of membership to the working groups from the members of the General Assembly. This list will be forwarded to the Executive Committee members two weeks before the meeting of the working groups for approval.

### **4. Work timetable and Programme of the Executive Committee**

The Secretariat informed the meeting of a number of papers which the Commission had asked for responses from the North western Waters on by the end of November. These included the:

- Paper on Simplification;
- Non-Paper on Annex IV and effort management;
- Paper on Technical Conservation measures

**It was agreed** that as some of these issues were very complicated, more time was needed by the NWWRAC to respond to these issues. It was agreed that the Secretariat would get clarification

from the Commission regarding the deadlines for responses to these papers, based on this, appropriate papers would be revisited at the next Executive Committee meeting.

The Secretariat also informed the meeting that the Commission had invited all the established RACs to a co-ordination meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October. The secretariat agreed to get clarification on Commission deadlines at this meeting and to draft a note on the outcome of the meeting for the Executive Committee

Next Meeting of the Executive Committee

It was agreed that the next Executive Committee would take place in Brussels on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November to co-incide with the November Fisheries Council.

**5. Any Other Business**

The Chairman thanked the members for attending and closed the meeting.

## **Annex 1**

### **Members of the Executive Committee who attended the Meeting**

<b>Sam Lambourn</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>Andre Guegen</b>	(Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des élevages Marins)
<b>Jacques Pichon</b>	(Association Nationale des Organisations de Producteurs)
<b>Sean O'Donoghue</b>	(Killybegs Fishermens Organisation)
<b>Mike Fitzpatrick</b>	(Irish South and West Fishermens Organisation)
<b>Hugo Crisanto González García</b>	(Federacion Espanola de Organizaciones Pesqueras)
<b>Victor Badiola</b>	(Organización de Productores de Pesca)
<b>Barrie Deas</b>	(National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations)
<b>Bertie Armstrong</b>	(Scottish Fishermen's Federation)
<b>Luc Mellaerts</b>	(Flemish Fishery Committee/Foundation for Sustainable Fishing (SDVO))
<b>Anton Dekker</b>	(Nederlandse Vissersbond)
<b>Jesus A Lourido</b>	(European Ports and Auctions)
<b>Steve Park</b>	(E.U. Federation of National Organisations of Importers and Exporters of Fish, AIPCE)
<b>Margaret Downey Harrington</b>	(Mna na Mara)
<b>Jacques Bigot</b>	(European Transport Workers Federation )
<b>Kara Brydson</b>	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, representing Birdlife International)
<b>Bernadette Clarke</b>	(Marine Conservation Society representing Seas at Risk)
<b>Despina Symons</b>	(European Bureau for Conservation and Development)
<b>John Crudden</b>	(European Anglers Association)
<b>Claire Pescod</b>	(World Wildlife Fund)
<b>Brendan Price</b>	(Irish Seal Sanctuary)
<b>John Coleman</b>	(AquaTT)
<b>David Wall</b>	(Irish Whale and Dolphin Group)
<b>Michael Keating</b>	(Secretariat)
<b>Conor Nolan</b>	(Secretariat)
<b>Patricia Comiskey</b>	(Secretariat)

## **Annex 2**

### **RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE NORTH WESTERN WATERS REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL SUB-AREA WORKING GROUPS**

#### **Introduction**

1. The Regional Advisory Council for the North Western Waters will concern itself with fisheries issues within the EC waters of ICES Area V, VI & VII. Given the size of the area, the fisheries specific areas and the individual ecosystems within this coverage it proposed that four working groups be established based on clearly defined, sub-areas.
  - i. ICES areas Vb (EC) VIa, VIb;
  - ii. ICES areas VII (except d, e & a);
  - iii. ICES areas VIIId & VIIe;
  - iv. ICES area VIIa.

#### **Names**

2. Based on these Sub-Areas the Working Groups shall be named respectively:
  - i. West of Scotland Working Group;
  - ii. Western Approaches, West of Ireland & Celtic Sea Working Group;
  - iii. English Channel Working Group;
  - iv. Irish Sea Working Group;

#### **Objectives**

3. The objectives of the working groups shall be to assist the Executive Committee in developing fishing-area-specific proposals and advice within the overall objectives of the North Western Waters RAC.

#### **Remit**

4. The Working Groups will work through the Executive Committee to:
  - i. *Submit suggestions, of their own accord or at the request of the Commission or a Member State, on matters relating to fisheries management;*
  - ii. *Give an opinion on Commission or Member State proposals on conservation and management dealing with a fishery relevant for the region concerned;*
  - iii. *Comment on and recommend improvements in the implementation of the Community legislation in the region concerned;*
  - iv. *Conduct any other activities which are necessary to fulfill their functions.*

#### **Powers**

5. The Executive Committee of the RAC will coordinate the day-to-day activities of the RAC and its Working Groups and will be the final arbitrator of all advice and opinion issued by the RAC. Working Groups will report directly to the Executive Committee and will operate within prescribed rules and procedures established by the RAC. Working Groups may exercise latitude appropriate to the diversity of characteristics and fisheries that fall within their remit, when undertaking their work programme.
6. These groups shall not preclude any changes to the area coverage of the Working Groups, the establishment of additional issue-focused Working Groups, or any other sub-groups, at the determination and direction of the Executive Committee.

#### **Membership**

7. To ensure that Working Groups are sufficiently large to include all those with an appropriate interest, yet small enough to provide an appropriate working environment.
8. Voting members of Working Groups must be members of the NWWRAC.
9. The Executive Committee will be responsible for the appointment of members of Working Groups.

10. Nominations to Working Groups will be forwarded to the Member States for information.
11. Member organisations of the NWWRAC that nominate members to a Working Group, should so far as is practicable, ensure that there is appropriate continuity of membership.
12. Working Groups will actively encourage the participation of relevant observers in their work.

#### **Chairpersons of Working Groups**

13. Working Groups will select, by consensus or by a vote as appropriate, a Chairperson from amongst their members.
14. A Chairperson of a Working Group who is also an elected member of the Executive Committee will retain the right to vote on all matters at all meetings of the Executive Committee.
15. A Chairperson of a Working Group who is not also an elected member of the Executive Committee will attend Executive Committee meetings as an active (non-voting) observer.
16. Working Groups will submit recommendations in writing to the Executive Committee for consideration. The Chairperson of a Working Group will speak for the Working Group and will be responsible for liaison with the Executive Committee on all matters relevant to the Working Group.

#### **The Secretariat**

17. The Secretariat to the North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council shall be Secretariat to the Working Groups and shall perform all duties as outlined in the Rules and Procedures of the North Western Waters RAC.

#### **Organisation of Meetings**

18. Working Group meetings will **not** take place at the same time as the Executive Committee but will meet consecutively over a number of days in advance of Executive Committee meetings.
19. Working Group meetings will be simultaneously conducted in French, Spanish and English where necessary.

#### **Amendments to the Rules of Procedure**

20. These Rules of procedure shall be agreed by the Executive Committee.

#### **Dissolution**

21. Dissolution of any Working Group shall require a two-thirds majority of the members of the Executive Committee.