



MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Coach House, Dublin Castle

Thursday 27 October 2011

13:30 - 15:00

Chairman: Sam Lambourn (To 13:40); Bertie Armstrong (From 13:40)

Rapporteur: Alexandre Rodríguez

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chairman of the NWWRAC, Mr Sam Lambourn, welcomed the Commission representatives, María Fuensanta Candela, Robert Griffin and Sabela Pérez-Máiz, and all attendees to the meeting and invited all members and observers around the table to give a brief introduction of themselves. The list of participants, and the organisations they represent, is detailed in Annex I.

Apologies: The Secretariat notified the meeting of apologies received from: Pat “The Cope” Gallagher (Fisheries Committee - European Parliament), Anton Dekker (DFO), Víctor Badiola (OPPAO-CEPESCA), Iwan Ball (WWF), and André Gueguen (CNPMEM-OPOB).

Agenda: The Chairman proposed to deal with actions at the end of each item rather than waiting until the end of the session to recapitulate. This proposal was accepted by all members.

Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting (Madrid, 16th of September 2011)

No comments were made and the minutes were formally adopted.

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2. Election of NWWRAC Executive Committee Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur

2.1. Report from the Secretariat on the competitive, negotiated tender procedure implemented for the appointment of a new Chairperson

Dr. Conor Nolan, Executive Secretary of the NWWRAC, provided an oral report on the competitive, negotiated tender procedure implemented by the NWWRAC, in accordance with Commission rules, for the appointment of a new Chairperson of the NWWRAC on a fixed-term, service contract for a three-year period (1 October 2011-30 September 2014).

2.1.1. Call of interest for nominations

The Executive Secretary reminded members that a call of interest for nominations had been launched by the NWWRAC Secretariat in December 2011, and had been circulated to all members of the NWWRAC General Assembly with a deadline of 31st of May for nominations to be received. Due to a lack of nominations, this deadline was extended to the 31st of July 2011 and all members informed of this extension, by email. In July 2011, the current Chairman, Sam Lambourn, officially expressed his intention to stand down at the end of his term of office¹. Within the timeframe of the extended deadline, the Secretariat received one formal nomination from Hugo González for Bertie Armstrong, current Chair of NWWRAC Working Group 1 (West of Scotland) which was seconded by Víctor Badiola.

2.1.2. Procurement procedure

Following the deadline for nominations, the NWWRAC Secretariat explained to Mr. Armstrong the requirements of the competitive, negotiated tender procedure and requested the submission of a formal proposal in compliance with the requirements of the tender document produced for this purpose. A proposal containing the required technical and financial components was received by the Secretariat from Mr Armstrong and was subsequently submitted to an Evaluation Committee composed of the following members of the Executive Committee: Barrie Deas and Jacques Pichon, from the fishing industry, and Kara Brydson, from the other interest groups. The evaluation process was assisted and observed by the Executive Secretary on behalf of the Secretariat. The Evaluation Committee assessed the technical and financial elements of the proposal presented by Mr. Armstrong and scored these against pre-determined criteria.

¹ See [minutes of the Executive Committee meeting in Dublin Castle](#) (7 July 2011)

The proposal received an average total score of 97.9 out of 100 and there being no cause for concern or complaint, the candidate received the recommendation of the evaluation committee. On behalf of the Evaluation Committee, Dr Nolan submitted this decision to the Executive Committee, for endorsement.

Action: **The decision of the Evaluation Committee, that Mr. Bertie Armstrong be appointed as the Chairman of the NWWRAC, is submitted to the newly established Executive Committee for endorsement.**

2.2. Appointment of the new Chairman

In accordance with Article 41 of the NWWRAC general rules of procedure, the Chairperson of the Executive Committee shall be elected by consensus of the members of the Executive Committee.

Decision: **The Executive Committee members present endorsed the recommendation made by the Evaluation Committee and elected by consensus Bertie Armstrong as the Chairman of the NWWRAC.**

At this juncture, the out-going Chairman of the NWWRAC, Sam Lambourn, welcomed the decision of the Executive Committee and with words of congratulation invited the new Chairman to take the chair and continue the meeting.

Bertie Armstrong thanked the outgoing chairman and the Executive Committee members and stated his intent to continue the excellent work of his predecessor with the support of the NWWRAC membership. Bertie Armstrong resumed the meeting as Chairman of the NWWRAC.

2.3. Appointment of Vice-Chairs and Rapporteur (Articles 42 and 43 of the Rules of Procedure)

The Executive Secretary informed members that the three current Vice-Chairs: Jacques Pichon and Hugo González from the fishing industry; and Iwan Ball from the other interest groups, had expressed their willingness to remain in their positions for a further term of three-years.

Decision: **Jacques Pichon, Hugo González and Iwan Ball were appointed as Vice-Chairpersons of the NWWRAC by consensus of the Executive Committee;**

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Decision: The Executive Committee endorsed a proposal from the General Assembly to amend the rules of procedure in order to align the term of office of the Vice-Chairmen with that of the NWWRAC Chairman (i.e. 3 years);

Decision: Due to the absence of applications, no rapporteur of the Executive Committee was appointed. The duties of rapporteur will be performed by the NWWRAC Secretariat until such time as a rapporteur is elected.

A presentation on the elections procedure for the Executive Committee officers is available for consultation on the NWWRAC website².

3. Update on the development of a NWWRAC position on CFP reform

Following the action agreed at the last Executive Committee meeting held in Madrid³, Barrie Deas summarised the development of the NWWRAC position paper, which he had drafted in response to the Commission's proposal of a Framework Regulation on the CFP, launched on the 13th of July 2011.

An initial document had been circulated by the Secretariat to all NWWRAC members on the 6th of October 2011. Several comments on this draft had been received from members of the French and Spanish fishing industry and eNGOs representatives. These changes were discussed in depth and referred to the following areas: decision-making architecture; regionalisation/decentralisation; transferability of quotas; multiannual management plans; MSY; discards and the role of the RACs.

The original draft document is available for consultation on the NWWRAC meeting site⁴.

² Direct link

http://www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/Procedures_Election_NWWRAC_Positions_October2011_EN.pdf

³ See item 4.2. of NWWRAC ExCom Minutes (Madrid, 16 September 2011):

http://www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/MINUTES_NWWRAC_EXECUTIVE_COMMITTEE_MARM_MADRID_160911_EN.pdf

⁴

http://www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/FINAL_DRAFT_NWWRAC_Opinion_Proposal_Reform_CFP_BD_ANOP_UAPF_WWF_RSPB_October2011_EN.pdf

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Action: Barrie Deas agreed to work on a revised text in order to reflect all the comments and amendments discussed at the meeting with the aim to find a common wording. The revised paper will be circulated by e-mail procedure by the Secretariat for final comments and endorsement by the Executive Committee with the view of submitting initiative NWWRAC proposal to the Council of Ministers and European Parliament before the end of the year.

4. Decisions required on NWWRAC participation in external meetings

4.1. NSRAC-NWWRAC-BSRAC Conference on Mixed Fisheries

Barrie Deas provided an outline of a proposal from the North Sea RAC to organise a joint conference to address the questions associated with the exploitation and management of mixed fisheries.

Although this meeting was initially planned to take place in Copenhagen in January 2012, it is likely to be deferred to a later date (e.g. Late February/Early March) to allow more time for organisation.

The NSRAC organisers have requested the NWWRAC to appoint 2 or 3 members to participate in the organisation and preparation of this high profile conference. After a brief exchange of views, the Executive Committee members proposed that Jacques Pichon, Sean O'Donoghue and Luc Corbisier would represent the NWWRAC on the Steering Committee. It was also agreed that Barrie Deas would represent both the North Sea and the North Western Waters RAC. The NWWRAC Secretariat will support the process and assist with organisational arrangements, if requested.

Decision: Jacques Pichon, Sean O'Donoghue and Luc Corbisier will represent the NWWRAC on the Steering Committee and will become involved, with the support of the Secretariat, in all discussions and preparation of this joint RAC event.

4.2. Seminar on Control and Compliance in Western Waters

Alexandre Rodríguez outlined the progress, since July 2011, with regard to the organisation of a meeting on Control and Compliance in North Western Waters.

Mr. Rodríguez attended the Advisory Board Meeting (Vigo; 28th September 2011) by video conference, where discussion on this subject took place

A NWWRAC steering group composed of Barrie Deas, Sean O'Donoghue, Jacques Pichon and the Secretariat (Conor Nolan and Alex Rodríguez), with apologies from Hugo González, held a phone conference on the 14 of October and the following recommendations were made:

1. The NWWRAC steering group does not favour a high-profile conference-type event in 2012 unless there is a strong political will from Member States or the Commission;
2. The NWWRAC steering group recommends that a half-day technical meeting be held in 2012 within the ordinary schedule of NWWRAC meetings, where CFCA officials and national control authorities representatives, as well as the Commission, would be invited to attend and provide input to the meeting. It is proposed that the Chairman / Executive Director of the CFCA would co-chair this meeting with a member of the NWWRAC.

Decision: The recommendation of the steering group was endorsed by consensus of the members of the Executive Committee.

Action: The NWWRAC Secretariat will communicate the adopted decision to the CFCA and will keep in contact with the CFCA in order to organise a half-day technical meeting, within the ordinary schedule of NWWRAC meetings, in 2012.

4.3. Formation of an Inter-RAC group of RAC Chairs

The Executive Secretary communicated to the members that the NWWRAC Secretariat had received a letter signed by the Chairmen of the Baltic Sea, North Sea and Long Distance RACs proposing the creation of an inter-RAC group consisting of the Chairmen of the RACs and the Secretariats to deal with policy issues and to address high profile topics such as CFP reform. The NWWRAC Secretariat had requested the terms of reference for this group and an agenda from the proposers, but had been informed that neither were available nor would be available.

Several members of the Executive Committee highlighted the importance of cooperation between the RACs, but disagreed in substance with the method proposed as they did not see the benefit of creating an additional body or layer of complexity. The lack of transparency caused by incomplete sector representation could cause fundamental problems, should a decision be sought or taken, by such a group, that disagreed with or went beyond the mandate of an individual RAC. They expressed their dissatisfaction with the idea of creating an inter-RAC “super structure” and were concerned that the role of the Executive Committee would be removed in such a process.

The Executive Committee members unanimously agreed that this was not a suitable forum for the NWWRAC and it would be better to exchange views and discuss areas of commonality using a broader and more inclusive mechanism. As voiced in the General Assembly, it was the opinion of the members that existing channels of cooperation between the RACs should be reinforced and efforts should be made to find common ground for agreement on topics of common interest that have already been previously discussed at each RAC and where there are clear directions or positions and advice.

Concerns were also raised by joint-RAC members on the apparent lack of internal consultation and dialogue of this proposal in some of the other RACs involved.

Decision: The NWWRAC Executive Committee do not support the proposal to create an inter-RAC group of RAC chairmen to address policy issues.

4.4. AOB – only information points

The representatives of the European Commission, Fuensanta Candela and Robert Griffin, informed the members that an STECF draft advice on technical measures for the “*Celtic Seas (WS, Celtic Sea and IS)*”, (i.e. West of Scotland, Celtic Sea and Irish Sea), was now available.

The Commission requested the Secretariat to upload this document onto the NWWRAC website to make it available to NWWRAC members.

Mr. Griffin informed the meeting that he would make a brief presentation of the paper to the Working Group meetings (WG1, WG2 and WG4), which would be held the following day.



Some members of the NWWRAC made it clear that the NWWRAC had already submitted a proposal on technical measures to reduce discards of haddock and whiting in an area of the Celtic Sea (VIIIfg and part of VIIj) and that the Commission therefore was aware of the NWWRAC position on this area.

Action: The Secretariat to upload the English version of the STECF Draft Advice on the Working Groups areas of the NWWRAC website and add this item to the agendas of WG1, WG2 and WG4, for discussion.

5. Concluding remarks by the Chair

The Chairman, Bertie Armstrong, thanked: all participants for their attendance, Dublin Castle staff and the Irish Government for hosting the event and the interpreters' team for their excellent work.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 15:00.

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ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS		
First Name	Last Name	Organisation
Sam	Lambourn	Outgoing Chairman – Skipper
Bertie	Armstrong	Incoming Chairman - Acting WG1 Chair
Jacques	Bigot	European Transport Federation (ETF)
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Kara	Brydson	RSPB-Birdlife International
Alan	Coghill	SFF (replacing Bertie Armstrong)
Luc	Corbisier	SDVO
John	Crudden	European Angler's Association
Barrie	Deas	NFFO
Cécile	Fouquet	EBCD
Caroline	Gamblin	CNPMEM (replacing André Gueguen)
Hugo C.	González García	ARVI-ANASOL – WG2 Chair
Eduardo	Míguez	EAPA
Sean	O'Donoghue	KFO
Eibhlin	O'Sullivan	Irish South & West FPO
Jacques	Pichon	ANOP
Mireille	Thom	WWF
John	Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary
OBSERVERS		
Richard	Brouzes	OPBN - Copeport
María Fuensanta	Candela	DG MARE - European Commission
Réné-Pierre	Chever	Comité des Pêches Guilvinec
Debbie	Crockard	MCSUK - Seas at Risk
Bruno	Dachicourt	France Pêche Durable et Responsable
John	Daly	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Edward	Fahey	Journalist
José Manuel	Fernández Beltrán	OPP-07-LUGO
Norman	Graham	Marine Institute-STEFC
Robert	Griffin	DG MARE – European Commission
Daniel	Lefèvre	CRPMEM Basse Normandie – WG3 Chair
Jesús A.	Lourido García	Puerto de Celeiro S.A.
Eamon	Mangan	French Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries
Alan	McCulla	ANIFPO Ltd.
Kevin	McDonnell	West of Scotland FPO
Lorcan	O'Cinnéide	Irish Fish PO – WG4 Chair
Sabela	Pérez Máiz	DG MARE – European Commission

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OBSERVERS (Cont.)		
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish FPO
Hector	Villa González	MARM- Spain
SECRETARIAT		
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Alexandre	Rodríguez	Executive Assistant – Policy and Information
Joanna	McGrath	Executive Assistant – Administration and Finances