
North Western Waters RAC Summary Report on Review of Cooperation with ICES in 2011

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General Conclusions - Pros

- + Increasing participation of scientific input and expertise:
 - > Development of Mixed Fisheries LTMPs (Celtic Sea, Irish Sea)
 - > Review of existing LTMPs (Cod recovery plan, Sole VIIe)
 - > Reduction of data deficiencies / uncertainties
 - > Streamlining of both informal and formal cooperation.



- + Better understanding by stakeholders of how ICES works
 - > Internal procedure for the development of advice
 - > Basis and elements for advice (MSY, PA)
 - > Participation of stakeholders at ICES meetings (ADG, WK...)
 - > More transparent decision-making process

+ Stable participation of NWWRAC representatives at relevant ICES meetings in 2011

Suggestions for improvement

- Extent of representation: dichotomy ICES/national scientists to be resolved in a meeting-per-meeting basis?
- Improved access to science – Review of MoU between EC-ICES
 - > Reflection on direct formal interaction ICES-RACs?
 - > Review of role and “weight” of scientists in the RAC in the light of new regional structures as a result of a reformed CFP and IMP/MSFD
 - > Coordination and pooling of resources:
 - Organisation of common events of shared interest for all RACs
 - Idea of “RAC weeks” as expressed by SWWRAC
 - Tailored training courses, coordination meetings...
 - > Secure budget for annual presentation of ICES Advice
 - > RAC funding for scientific coordinator



Data Deficiencies (I)

■ Chronology

- **WKDDRAC1** - January 26-27 2011

“Brainstorming session” – Open discussions on core objectives, types of data needs and allocation of responsibilities

- **WKDDRAC2** – March 31 – April 1 2011

Adoption of broad principles, framework and ToR for RTFs

Data poor stocks – Identification of priority stocks (22 out of 60)

- **NWWRAC Working Group meetings (April-July 2011)**

Appointment of fishing industry representatives as Data Stock Coordinators to maintain dialogue with ICES coordinators

- **Letter to ICES reporting on Work Progress (July 2011)**



Data Deficiencies (II)

□ Main outcomes

- Establishment of Regional Task Forces (RTF) aimed to tackle “weak” assessments in Western Waters:
 - Foundations established for collaborative work between ICES scientists, NSRAC-NWWRAC and Member States
 - WKDDRAC1 (26-27 Jan) and WKDDRAC2 (31 March-1 April)
- Coordinated actions to look at benchmarked stocks in 2012/13 (anglerfish, megrim, cod, sole, nephrops, haddock and hake)
- Identification of priority stocks and data needs (no duplication)
- Understanding uncertainties and quality/robustness of advice

□ Next steps / way forward

- Allocation of responsibilities is clear: now active participation and commitment required from all parties to provide required data

WKDDRAC3 in 2012 to evaluate progress achieved?



Benchmarking Workshops (I)

- Need to consider dedicating 1-2 days (preferably at the beginning of the meeting) for presenting framework and allowing stakeholders to provide input

- Main constraints observed:

 - Language (no resources for interpretation);

 - Time (duration of meetings);

 - Terminology (scientific jargon).

Benchmarking Workshops (II)

❑ Involvement of Fishers' Data and Knowledge:

- Need for the industry to provide any new data time series –effort, catches, landings, discards...- in due time prior to ICES benchmarking meetings (at least 2-3 months in advance);
- Data coordinators will liaise with ICES stock coordinators and report back to the RAC at each respective sub-regional Working Group;
- Manage excess of expectations → industry-science partnership projects will need some time to deliver “sound data” → objectives and timelines to be agreed from the outset among all parties involved;
- Advice on format and type of data required for assessment models.
 - > Indicate which non-conventional data is acceptable and valid;
 - > Highlight acceptable, existing data collection practices ;
 - > Report back on the use of data to the providers.



More info: www.nwwrac.org



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