



**Working Group 1
West of Scotland and Western Approaches (ICES EC Vb and VIa)**

**Wednesday 13th April 2011
09.00 – 11.00**

Summary of Recommendations and Actions

Chairman: Bertie Armstrong
Rapporteur: Kara Brydson

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the members, and the Commission representative Jan Lindemann.

Apologies were noted from Jane Sandell on behalf of Scottish Fishermen's Organisation. The full list of participants is available for consultation in Annex I.

The agenda was adopted, although it was decided that item 2.2 (Fishing Opportunities for Deep Sea Species) should be taken after item 6 (Management Measures for Blue Ling).

The report of the last meeting (Paris, 6th July 2010) was adopted without comment.

2. Follow up of Commission Responses to NWWRAC advice

It was decided that it was now irrelevant to discuss correspondence with the Commission regarding fishing opportunities for 2011, but that the NWWRAC should instead focus on the process to set opportunities for 2012 (Commission's "Policy Statement"). Commission representative Jan Lindemann advised that the document outlining principles for 2012 opportunities will include a number of changes, and the consultation on this will be launched in mid May.

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The Secretariat advised that the time given for consultation responses will be shorter this year and so the NWWRAC must be prepared to respond quickly. Members expressed concern that in previous years it has not been obvious that the consultation process has resulted in any changes to the EC document.

Recommendation to the Executive Committee that the NWWRAC writes to the Commission regarding Fishing Opportunities for 2012:

- (i) Expressing the NWWRAC's dissatisfaction with the process undertaken to set Fishing Opportunities for 2011; and
- (ii) Seeking assurance that this year's process will be much improved, and that the timing and length of consultation period will allow the NWWRAC to make its views clear and that these will be fully considered by the Commission. The fact that this will be a public consultation raised questions on the hierarchy of advice that will be submitted by individuals, private organisations and advisory bodies.

The Secretariat advised that the Commission has not yet issued a Communication containing a summary report of responses from contributions received to its public consultation on an EU Action Plan for Reducing Incidental Catches of Seabirds, but that this is in the pipeline and will be available soon.

3. Review of Cod Recovery Plan for West of Scotland

Members expressed their concerns regarding the review of the Cod Recovery Plan, and discussed how to engage with the STECF meeting in Hamburg to take this forward scheduled for June. The idea is to provide a formal NWWRAC position that might be included as Annex to the STECF report. Members felt that the NWWRAC must focus more on this issue, due to the impacts the plan is having on fishing fleets working in the West of Scotland and elsewhere, and that the NWWRAC must think of new ways to approach cod recovery measures in areas VIa (West of Scotland), VIIa (Irish Sea) and VIId (Eastern Channel). Furthermore, a budget of 5,000 euros (15 days of a scientist time) has been made available to stakeholders to gather evidence and provide examples on how different vessels and fleets are responding to the measures contained in the Cod Recovery Plan.



Recommendation to the Executive Committee: that the NWWRAC Secretariat writes to the North Sea RAC to register our interest and support the North Sea RACs' proposal on availing of the budget allocated for hiring a scientist to carry out a project that illustrates how the industry is responding to the Cod Recovery Plan in the different circumstances of some of the NWWRAC areas.

Recommendation to the Executive Committee: that the NWWRAC establishes a focus group on cod recovery to look at the special circumstances in areas VIa, VIIa and VIId. The aim of the Focus Group will be to develop a NWWRAC position in time to feed the STECF discussions in the Hamburg meeting (20-25 June). A steering group composed of a balanced number of key representatives from each fishery/area must be set up prior to the meeting to initiate works, define terms of reference and draft a position paper that can be discussed in detail at the meeting.

4. West of Scotland Haddock; and 5. Transitional Arrangements for Technical Conservation Measures in Area VI

The Commission representative Jan Lindemann indicated that the Long Term Management Plan for West of Scotland Haddock features in the Commission's work plan for the second half of this year, but that this was competing with many other priorities.

The Working Group expressed dismay regarding LTMPs being delayed by the disagreement between the European institutions over interpretation of the extent of co-decision powers in the field of fisheries management (i.e. LTMPs and TCMs). The Commission representative stated that this issue is linked to the reform of the CFP and has to be resolved through this mechanism.

Recommendation to the Executive Committee: that the NWWRAC writes to the Commission and Director General for Fisheries regarding our concerns on the catch composition rules, and requesting a pilot project or scientific trial under the auspices of the CFP funding to investigate the impacts of these rules on the West of Scotland fleets. This has the objective to tackle what the sources of discarding of haddock are.



6. Management Measures for Blue Ling

Members highlighted their disappointment that while they had supported seasonal closures for protecting spawning aggregations of blue ling, there has not been an assessment of the efficacy of these measures to conserve the stock, despite the Commission's assurance that this would be carried out periodically.

Recommendation to Executive Committee: That the NWWRAC writes to the Commission requesting an update on the assessment of the impacts of the seasonal closures on the stock, and that ICES/STECF assesses the effectiveness of these measures in conserving the spawning population.

7. Information points

Barrie Deas reported briefly on the outcomes of the ICES-NSRAC-NWWRAC Data Deficiency meeting held in Copenhagen the 31st of March and 1st of April. Mr. Deas encouraged members of the WG1 to maintain the momentum and work in addressing the data deficiencies existing for key species in the area such as haddock or whiting in forthcoming WG meetings.

Regarding the CFP reform process, the DG MARE representative confirmed that the 13th of July the Commission will launch the CFP basic regulatory package. It will be available in all EU languages at the same time and published in the DG MARE website. The EU Financial Regulation will be available by the end of 2011, but in any case it will not entry into force until 2013.

Meeting was adjourned at 11.00 h

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ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<u>MEMBERS</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname/s</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Bertie	Armstrong	SFF
Kara	Brydson	RSPB – Birdlife International
Víctor	Badiola	OPPAO-CEPESCA
Alan	Coghill	SFF / Orkney FPO
Juan Carlos	Corrás Arias	Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco
John	Crudden	European Anglers Association
Barrie	Deas	NFFO
Caroline	Gamblin	CNPMEM
Marc	Ghiglia	UAPF
Hugo	González	ANASOL
Jesús A.	Lourido García	Puerto de Celeiro S.A.
Joe	Maddock	Irish Fishermen Organisation
Lorcan	O’Cinnéide	Irish Fish PO
Sean	O’Donoghue	Kyllibegs FO

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<u>MEMBERS</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname/s</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Eibhlin	O'Sullivan	Irish South West FPO
José Luis	Otero	Lonja de la Coruña S.A.
Jacques	Pichon	ANOP-PMA
Mercedes	R. Moreda	OPP-07-LUGO

<u>OBSERVERS</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname/s</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Alain	Biseau	IFREMER
Louise	Cunningham	Marine Scotland
José Manuel	Fernández Beltrán	OPP-07-LUGO
Sam	Lambourn	NWWAC Chairman
Daniel	Lefèvre	CRPMEM Basse-Normandie
Jan	Lindemann	European Commission
Eamon	Mangan	DPMAM - France
Marina	Santurtun	AZTI-Tecnalia

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OBSERVERS		
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish Fish PO
Héctor	Villa	SEGEPESCA – MMARM Spain

NWWRAC SECRETARIAT		
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Alexandre	Rodríguez	Executive Assistant, Policy Coordinator
Joanna	McGrath	Executive Assistant, Administration and Finances

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