

Overview of the work developed by the North Western Waters RAC: A Mixed Fisheries Management Plan for the Celtic Sea (ICES VIIfg)

NWWRAC Celtic Sea Focus Group Meeting
BEC Bilbao, 18 April 2013



Fishing resources: a “common good” that needs to be managed



Source: DG MARE Website – Fisheries – Regional Advisory Councils

Goal of the NWWRAC as organisation

Contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the CFP and in particular to advise the Commission on matters of fisheries management in respect of the North Western Waters.

This advice will incorporate the **social, economic and environmental dimensions of fisheries** as well as the Ecosystem Based Approach and Precautionary Approach to management and will be prepared with the general aim of attaining sustainable fisheries management.

Role of RACs in the context of CFP Reform

CO-DECISION PROCEDURE: “TRILOGUE” BETWEEN EU INSTITUTIONS (COMMISSION-COUNCIL-EP)

- The Advisory Councils (ACs) are expected to have an strengthened consultative role to provide evidence-based advice in:
 - a. Multispecies/Mixed fisheries management plans
 - b. Technical measures
- Model or regional structure to be agreed in 2013

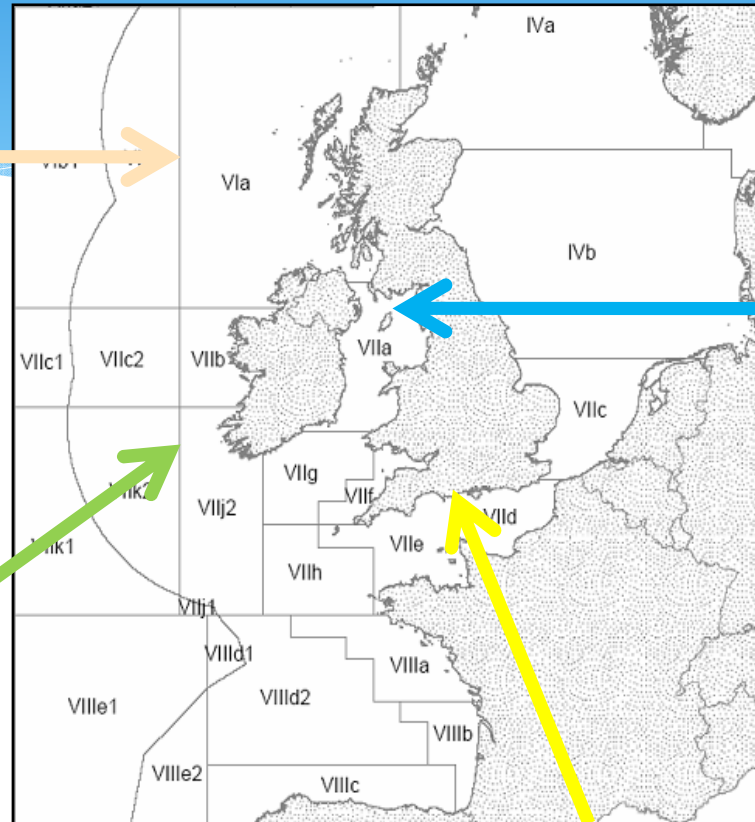
Areas and Stocks of the NWWRAC

West of Scotland (VIa)

- Cod (VIa)
- Haddock (VIa)
- Whiting (VIa)
- Anglerfish (VI)
- Megrin (VIa)
- Nephrops (FU11-12-13)

Celtic Sea & West, Southwest Ireland

- Cod (VIIe-k)
- Haddock (VIIb-k)
- Whiting (VIIe-k)
- Plaice (CS; VIIh-k; VIIbc)
- Sole (CS; VIIh-k; VIIbc)
- Northern hake
- Anglerfish (VIIb-k)
- Megrin (VIIb-k)
- *Nephrops* (FUs16-17-20-22)



Irish Sea (VIIa)

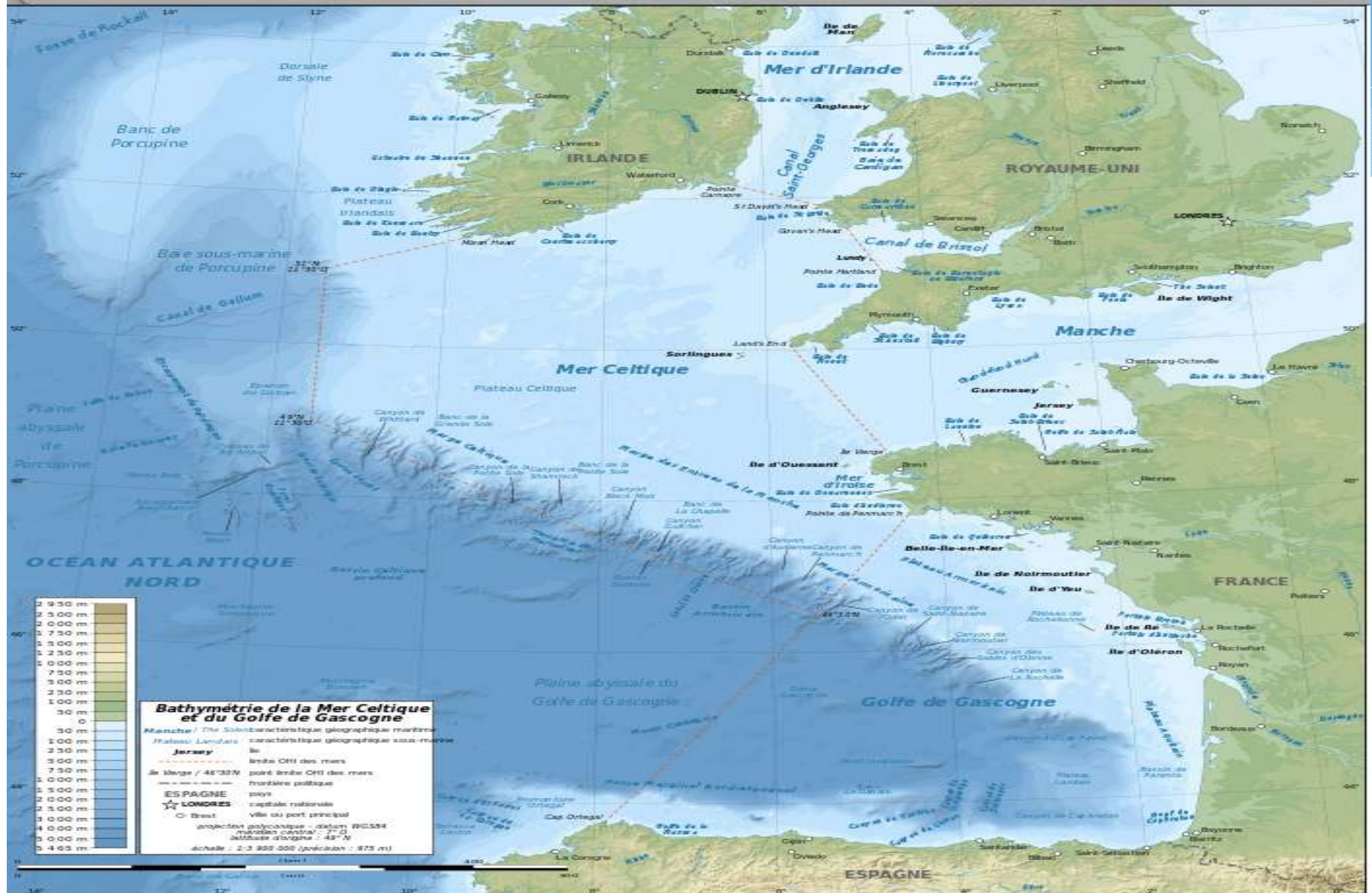
- Cod
- Haddock
- Whiting
- Plaice
- Sole
- *Nephrops* (FUs 14-15-19)

English Channel

- Cod (VIIId)
- Plaice (VIIId)
- Plaice (VIIe)
- Sole (VIIId)
- Sole (VIIe)

Celtic Sea (VIIfg)

702px-Celtic_Sea_and_Bay_of_Biscay_bathymetric_map-fr.svg.png 702x768 pixels



Celtic Sea Meetings

Overview of NWWRAC work in 2011-2012

- * Four technical Focus Groups
 - * Paris (January 2011)
 - * Dublin (July 2011)
 - * Paris (November 2011)
 - * Dublin (March 2012)
- * Steering Committee – ensures continuity of work

Periodical report to members at each Working Group 2

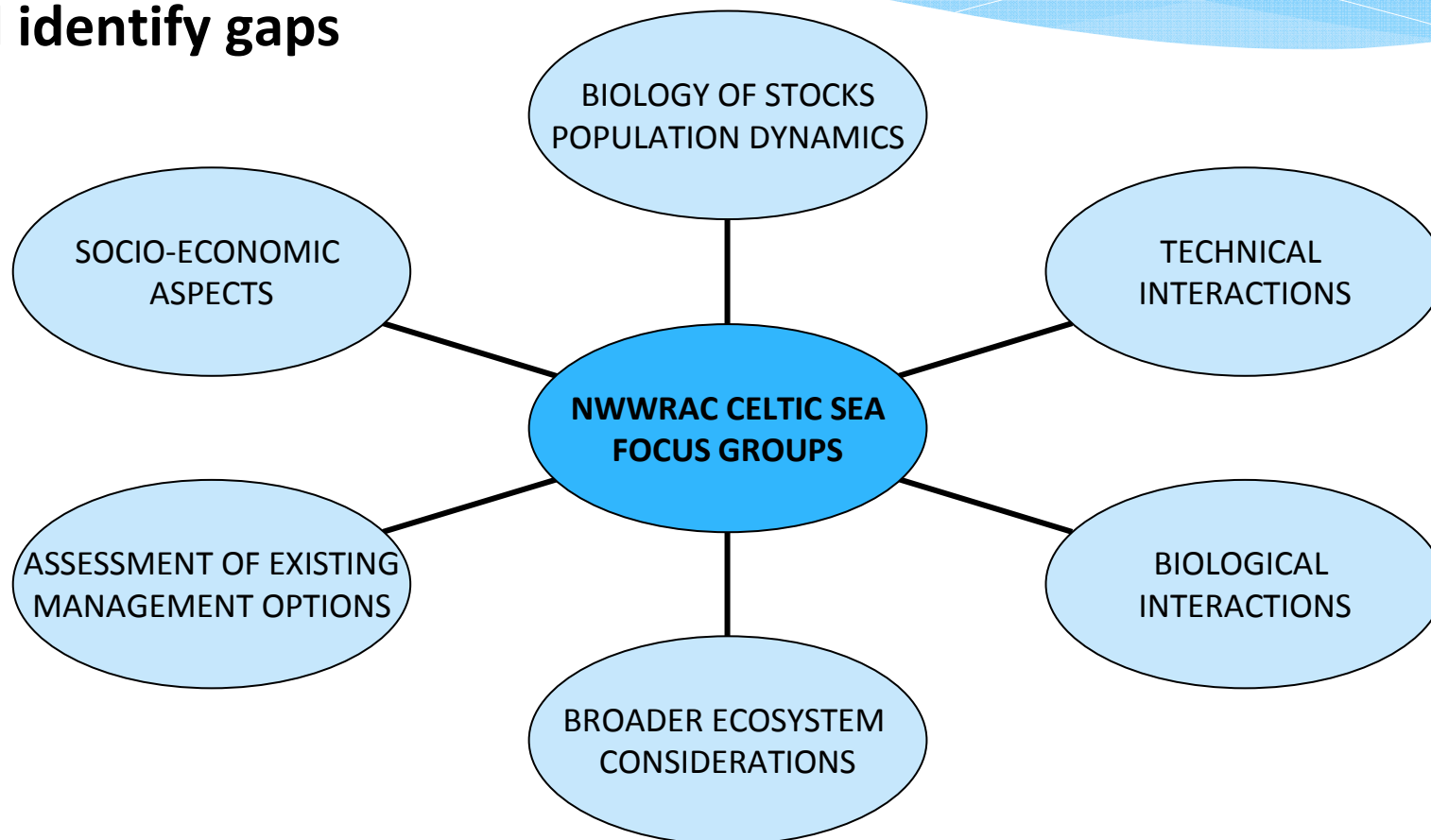
CS - What has been done so far?

Focus Groups – a “good mix of people” that has fostered collaborative work

- RAC Members – Fishing industry reps - ES, FR, IE, UK, BE
- ICES / STECF
- Scientists from national institutes
- Economists
- Other interest groups (eNGOs, anglers...)
- EU Policy Makers / Member States?

CS: What has been done so far?

**Exchange knowledge
and identify gaps**



Principal Barriers (“Weaknesses”)

1. Uncertainty in scientific assessments –
ICES Methodology on Multispecies perspective
2. Micromanagement – Regulatory framework over prescriptive - RBM - Decentralisation – FDF - Self Reg.
3. Need for simulations of management scenarios and (socio) economic IA in the short, medium and long term
4. FSP and initiatives to improve knowledge of stocks –
Annual report submitted to ICES
5. Analysis of the problem of mixed fisheries (discards) and technical interactions between national fleets

Main output to date

The NWWRAC adopted in March 2011 an operational framework to develop a MAMP for the Celtic Sea.

This plan was subsequently updated in Nov 2011.

- * Terms of reference
- * Area of application / Timeframe / Procedure for adoption
- * Description of management toolbox
- * Definition of ST (transitional) and LT (strategic) objectives:
 - Biological
 - Economic
 - Social

Biological (transitional) objectives for the Celtic Sea (VIIfg)

1. Achieve a common understanding of state stocks
2. Concentrate on key commercial species looking at interactions with stocks with wider distribution area
3. Put a discards reduction programme in place
4. Follow scientific advice for MSY transition catch options by 2015 / avail of alternative approach
5. Work with scientists to redress data deficiencies
6. Work with ICES to integrate fishermen's data in scientific assessments (data compilation and WK)
7. Develop a suite of indicators and risk assessment framework for "by-catch" species
8. Identify vulnerable species and habitats impacted

Economic (transitional) objectives for the Celtic Sea (VII fg)

1. Ensure a viable fleet
2. Optimise the economic return to the fishing industry
3. Prevent the expansion of effort in the area through capacity limitation, i.e. manage fleet structure
4. Develop co-management framework (RBM...)
5. Promote efficiencies and reduce carbon footprint
6. Develop an economic model and performance indicators for the fishery

Social (transitional) objectives for the Celtic Sea (VIIIfg)

1. Define an appropriate set of social criteria relevant to mixed demersal fisheries in the CS
2. Define the parameters to be measured based on 1
3. Engage the fishing industry and other stakeholders in defining 1 and 2, and also on data collection, assessment and management process
4. Adopt effective measures to strengthen resilience of the vulnerable fishing dependent coastal communities
5. Develop a social model and performance indicators

Latest Developments - Chronology

- * April 2012: Coordination meeting NWWRAC-DG MARE
- * May-June 2012: Steering Group led by Norman Graham presented a ToR for a Study to develop a bio-economic model that might serve as decision support tool to assess management options and evaluate trade-offs
- * July-September 2012: The DG MARE informed on progress on the possibility of launching a study
- * January 2013: Publication of a call for tenders MARE/2012/22 – LOT 1 - Scientific support for the development of a management plan in the Celtic Sea

Way forward: next steps

- * Continue work at Steering / Focus Group level in 2013
 - * Bilbao, 17 April
 - * Dublin, mid-September
- * Coordinate actions with existing EU Projects/Studies
 - * DG MARE: LOT 1 DG MARE 2012/22
 - * INTERREG: GEPETO
 - * FP7: GAP2/MYFISH
 - * LIFE +: CELTIC SEAS PARTNERSHIP

Significant work ahead: Get ready!



Thank you

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