



North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council

Working Group 1 West of Scotland and Western Approaches (ICES Vb and VI)

**Thursday 4th March 2010
14.00-17.30, Madrid**

Summary of Recommendations and Actions

Chairman: Bertie Armstrong
Rapporteur: Rory Crawford

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the members.

No apologies were noted at the meeting.

The report of the last meeting (Paris, 9th of July 2009) was adopted without comments.

Agenda item number 4 (*"Consultation on policy options for deep sea access regime"*) was taken as the first topic for discussion at the meeting to accommodate those who had to leave early.

No ICES representative was present to comment on the outcomes of December Council. Since there were no volunteers, it was agreed that the election of the deputy rapporteur would be postponed till the next WG1 meeting.

2. Consultation on policy options for deep sea access regime: preparation of NWWRAC advice

It was noted that the Commission have extended the consultation to the 9th of April. There was then a discussion regarding the Commission's paper on the 3 policy options for the deep sea access regime, and views were expressed on the policy options, with the overarching themes being:

- a strong desire for clarification on statistical information (Eurostat) and how data has been interpreted and used
- the need to see a clearer definition of deep sea fisheries and deep sea species (and its linkage to the award of fishing permits)
- the inclusion of incentives for good practices and behaviour

Actions:

- The Secretariat will summarize the key points of concern from Working Group 1, and in addition with papers received in advance of the meeting, will formulate a draft response for circulation by e-mail to the Working Groups and Executive Committee members for agreement.

3. Review of Commission's responses and analysis of outcomes of December Council on fishing opportunities for 2010

There was no presentation from ICES/EC, and there were no comments on the outcomes of December Council.

4. Presentation of Anglerfish surveys in the West of Scotland

The Chairman welcomed Dr. Paul G. Fernandes from Marine Scotland Science, and thanked him for presenting 'Industry-Science Anglerfish Surveys on the Northern Shelf'. The presentation summarised the work of Marine Scotland Science, who, in conjunction with the Scottish and Irish fishing industry, have sought to achieve an absolute estimate of abundance for anglerfish along the Northern Shelf (4 regions – Rockall and West, East and North of Scotland) and a survey-based estimate of mortality rates. The presentation is available to view on the NWWRAC website.

In the discussion that followed the presentation, the importance of this stock to a number of fleets was noted. It was also noted that this work would benefit from greater input and collaboration from other Member States. This might help make the anglerfish survey eligible for co-funding under the Data Collection Framework.

Action:

- The Secretariat, in conjunction with Paul Fernandes, will compose a draft letter to send to each relevant Member State seeking their participation in future anglerfish survey work. The Secretariat will then circulate this draft electronically to the Executive Committee for agreement.

5. Analysis of classification of stock by categories as stated in the Policy Statement on fishing opportunities: alternative approaches to data uncertainties

The Chairman brought the focus of this agenda item on to the letter drafted by Barrie Deas on the topic of 'Fish Stock Assessments: Regional Task Force'. This draft letter can be found on the meeting section of the NWWRAC website.

The Commission's representative present noted that there is already an STECF group that reviews data deficiencies, whose next meeting will take place in June. He suggested the RAC apply for observer status on this group. It was agreed that this would be very useful, and that an additional, bespoke meeting on the matter would act to kick-start the process.

Further, the representative of the Commission offered to make available to the NWWRAC the data received from ICES on the sources of data (catches, landings, etc.) on the stocks relevant for North Western Waters. These data are submitted by the Member States to ICES on a yearly basis. They are public and therefore the NWWRAC is welcome to upload the data to its website for the consultation of members and interested parties.

Action:

- Barrie Deas will amend the 'Fish Stock Assessment: Regional Task Force' letter in light of the Commission's comments. The Secretariat will forward the amended version of the letter to the Executive Committee for approval.

6. Summary reports on main outcomes of recent meetings

NWWRAC Executive Committee – Focus Group on LTMP for V1a Haddock

It was decided that a focus group meeting would be useful before the adoption of the impact assessment by STECF. The main aim would be to assess the ICES advice released in February 2010 in response to the EC request on an evaluation of a long term plan for V1a Haddock. The week beginning the 5th of April was suggested for the meeting, in particular the 8th of April, and pending the confirmed attendance of Coby Needle from Marine Scotland Science. Marine Scotland reiterated its willingness to host this event.

The Commission's representative affirmed that they expected to have the impact assessment ready by the end of June; and that a Commission proposal of Regulation would probably be presented in the third quarter of the year. He also clarified that co-decision procedure will apply.

Horizontal Working Group on Marine Spatial Planning – stakeholder engagement and consultation on Marine Protected Areas and Marine Conservation Zones in UK waters

Following the meeting of the horizontal working group, it was clear that WG members thought it essential to participate in this process from as early a stage as possible.

7. AOB

There will be an EU-Russia meeting in early September (most likely), to discuss Rockall Haddock, and Colin Faulkner from Marine Scotland offered to report back on that meeting in due course.

Meeting was adjourned at 16.45 h

ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname/s</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Status</u>
Bertie	Armstrong	Scottish Fishermen's Federation	WG1 Chairman
Juan Carlos	Corrás Arrias	Pescagalicia Arpega	Member
Rory	Crawford	RSPB – Birdlife International	Member – Rapporteur
John	Crudden	European Anglers Association	Member
Barrie	Deas	NFFO	Member
Colin	Faulkner	Marine Scotland - Executive	Observer – Member State
Paul	Fernandes	Marine Scotland – Marine Lab	Scientific Expert
Ian	Gatt	Scottish Fishermen's Federation	Member
Charline	Gaudin	EBCD	Observer
Hugo	González	ANASOL	Member
Sam	Lambourn	NWWRAC Chairman	NWWRAC Chairman
Jesús Angel	Lourido García	Puerto de Celeiro S.A.	Member
Joe	Maddock	Irish Fishermen Organisation	Member
Conor	Nolan	NWWRAC Secretariat	Secretariat
Lorcan	O'Cinnéide	Irish Fishermen PO	Observer
Sean	O'Donoghue	Killybegs Fishermans Organisation	Member
José Luis	Otero	Lonja de la Coruña S.A.	Member
Kenneth	Patterson	European Commission	European Commission
James	Portus	South West FPO	Observer
Alexandre	Rodríguez	NWWRAC Secretariat	Secretariat

<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname/s</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Status</u>
Mercedes	Rodríguez Moreda	OPP-07-LUGO	Member
Stéphanie	Tachoures	CNPMEM	Member
Héctor	Villa	SEGEPEPESCA – Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, Rural y Marino	Member State Rep.