



REPORT

North Western Waters Advisory Council

JOINT NWWAC FOCUS GROUP AND GEPETO CASE STUDY WP3 CELTIC SEA MIXED DEMERSAL FISHERIES (VIIIfg)

Wednesday 26 March 2014

14:00-17:00

Dublin Castle

Deputy Chair:

Barrie Deas

Deputy Rapporteur:

Alex Rodriguez

1. Welcome

Barrie Deas conveyed the apologies from Jacques Pichon and Paul Trebilcock, Chair and Vice Chair of this Focus Group, who were not able to be in Dublin in this occasion due to justified personal and professional commitments. Mr. Deas said that he accepted the request from the Secretariat to act as deputy Chairman for this meeting. He welcomed participants and gave a brief introduction and background to the meeting.

The EU fishing industry through EAPO and the NWWAC have been involved in the last years with developing sensible proposals to achieve a sustainable conservation of the Celtic Sea stocks through the introduction of selectivity measures such as square mesh panels for TR1 fleet or Trevoise Box closure.

1.1. Setting the scene: objectives and aim of the meeting

The fisheries stakeholders are facing a crucial timing with the entry into force of the new Common Fisheries Policy, including immediate challenges and opportunities that will require a whole new thinking on fisheries management. Regionalisation of decision making will allow bottom-up management proposals to develop at regional level in the following areas:

- The implementation of the landing obligation via regional discards plans
- A new framework for technical measures including selectivity
- A multispecies/mixed fisheries approach to fisheries management.



The NWWAC has already agreed and established in early 2011 a framework and set of biological and (socio) economic objectives for developing a mixed demersal fisheries management plan in a defined part of the Celtic Sea (ICES VIIg). It is important to keep momentum and engage with existing EU projects for developing implementing measures to achieve these objectives.

There is also a clear need for industry and other stakeholders to be involved with scientists from the outset in shaping and developing operational mixed fisheries management plans. A good example of collaboration between the NWWAC and the scientific community is reflected in the ongoing work of GEPETO Project. A continuation of this work is ensured via the DAMARA Project funded by the DG MARE of the European Commission.

A steering group composed of 3-5 Focus Group/Working Group members has been identified as a good start to becoming actively involved in EU projects and initiatives that will require regular input and feedback, particularly in helping out scientists to test and focus management tools for assessing scenarios and trade-offs for achieving a sustainable exploitation of resources from a biological, economic and social perspective.

Finally, the Group was called to agree together a work plan for the remainder of the year and allocate tasks and designate a responsible person for accomplishing each.

1.2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Jacques Pichon, Paul Trebilcock, Hugo González, Victor Badiola, Luc Corbisier, André Gueguen and Jesús Lourido.

The full list of participants and apologies is appended to the report.

1.3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by consensus with the deletion of item 3.5. *“Additional sources of funding”* as this topic has already been dealt earlier in the day.

2. Collaborative work between NWWAC and GEPETO Project - Celtic Sea Case Study (WP3)

2.1. Update on GEPETO project – Colm Lordan and Coilin Minto

2.1.1. Overview of work completed in the 2nd half of 2013; 2.1.3. Work plan for 2014

Colm Lordan (Marine Institute)

The idea of this Case Study was to bring forward the high level objectives agreed by the NWWAC as a result of its collaborative work with the scientists from the Marine Institute in Celtic Sea mixed demersal fisheries.



The aim is to report from progress achieved since the last update given at the previous Celtic Sea Focus Group meeting held in September 2013¹.

The key messages to be transmitted about the Celtic Sea case study are:

- It helps improving the information base.
- It is innovative: mixed fisheries data are included in the assessment models and methodologies for first time specifically for the Celtic Sea.
- It seeks to broaden the historical perspective.
- It takes into account economic variables and drivers.
- It is about exploring management options from a bottom-up approach.

It was highlighted that ICES is working in the same direction as well. The WGMIX has come up with a mixed fisheries advice for the North Sea and West of Scotland in 2014.

Dr Lordan announced that the Fisheries Atlas in Ireland has been launched today. This is the main contribution from the Irish partner (the Marine Institute) to the Atlas of Fisheries from GEPETO Project. It is an online interactive tool that will display the types of fisheries.

GEPETO is seeking to complete a review of the different mixed fisheries modeling options available for the Celtic Sea. On the basis of that review, an optimal tool will be designed to be applied on the CS mixed fisheries – this work will be mainly carried out by DAMARA.

In terms of timetable, GEPETO will hold its final meeting in Vigo the 8 and 9 of July 2014.

2.1.2. Ideas for a multispecies / mixed fisheries approach - Coilin Minto (GMIT)

Coilín Minto provided a specific presentation on this topic as well as an update on the review process of a mixed fisheries modelling. The presentation is available on the NWWAC website. The purpose of this exercise of reviewing existing bio-economic models is to see which one/s were suitable for application of the Celtic Sea. There were 3-4 candidate models considered, being one of the main requirements that the new tool be flexible and have the potential to integrate TAC, effort and other approaches to regulatory constraints and management measures in place. Other requirement is that the code should be open source. As a result of these and others indicators, the FIR/FLBEIA model was the selected one.

Other area of work recently developed by this project was the creation of apps to allow the visualisation and communication of information that feeds into scientific process for stakeholders.

¹ Presentation available here:

http://www.nwwac.org/fileupload/Image/GEPETO_Celtic_Sea_Case_Study_Summary_NWWAC_Sept2013.pdf



2.2. Discussion on GEPETO-NWWAC collaboration: deliverables

The DG MARE representative (Laurent Markovic) asked if data from STECF was used in this tool and when it will be ready to go live.

Colm Lordan replied that there were some technical issues with the server, but this tool should be online in a couple of weeks. He noted the importance of linking these software tools and applications with the high level objectives of the management plan.

The DG MARE representative (Dominic Rihan) praised the work carried out by the Marine Institute, but wondered if in the context of MAMPs you must bear in mind what is said in the CFP Basic Regulation. The main focus now of the interinstitutional taskforce is to move away from very complex HCR towards more simple aspects of MSY targets; that's where the reform of CFP is leading to. Hence, it runs the risk to render the tool useless from a policy maker perspective.

Colm Lordan explained that GEPETO research team is trying to condense stock assessment for different 7-8 stocks in one MSY indicator and check if we are progressing towards the MSY indicator with all the groups of species selected. He also noted that single species assessment is still going to be the basis and the resulting information will subsequently be amalgamated in this indicator. There is also scope to run single species HCRs and be less risk averse in terms of stock management.

Miquel Ortega wondered what the quality of information used in the models is and how to compare different quality levels of data/information within a single indicator.

Colm replied that at the moment they are working with ICES data for single species stock assessments already in category 1. However, all such decisions can be made and inserted in the application.

Jacques Pichon questioned the quality and reliability of existing STECF database, and underlined the importance of improving research data.

Emiel Brouckaert asked how the modelers will deal with data deficient stocks and if they will be able to run simulations and show different results for different assumptions.

Coilin replied that it will be indeed possible to run simulations and management scenarios for data limited stocks.

The Deputy Chair said that discussions held were very fruitful and concluded that we have reached a better understanding on how we should jointly use this tool. Within the context of regionalization it is important to do not underestimate the extent of we can achieve.



3. Coordination with scientific work / research initiatives in the Celtic Sea

3.1. Presentation of DAMARA Project - Norman Graham (Marine Institute)

DAMARA - Demersal Mixed fishery Analysis tool for Regional Advice

The project leader, Norman Graham, presented the background and history of this project aimed to build a decision support tool (DST) for the development of a management plan in an area of the Celtic Sea (VIIIfg).

Dr Graham reminded that a small delegation of NWWAC members and scientists have discussed in the last two years how to operationalise fisheries management plans. A number of technical options were presented including TACs, spatial/temporal management, closed areas. However, what was lacking was an objective framework and a tool to assess tradeoffs between different management tools. It was agreed that a bio-economic assessment decision support tool would be a good start. A consortium with the scientific institutes of the concerned Member States was created; the study was awarded and contract signed in mid-November. A kick off meeting took place in December and a partners' coordination one afterwards where the following conclusions were reached.

1. Stakeholders' engagement and dialogue is critical for the success of the project. NWWAC members will be central to the development of the DST.

This tool must:

- Support the development of the CS mixed fisheries plan
 - Be used by the NWWAC, Member States, Commission
 - Be flexible and transferable to other areas
 - Have an accurate resolution of fleet dynamics
 - WP focused on stakeholders liaison
2. Modelling options for the development of a prototype:
 - Selectivity model – adjusting selectivity – develop model to predict impacts of different technical options
 - Bio-economic model – adapt and use existing model developed in AZTI (FLBEIA)
 - Adaptations dependent on stakeholders' views/input as well as technical ability to model options
 - The level of resolution will be dependent on available data, e.g. MS, fleet/métier specific economic data, etc.



3. Work plan: It is proposed to set up a permanent Stakeholder Group with NWWAC members so they can regularly liaise and exchange views with project partners, test the prototype tool and provide feedback and identify limitations.

Exchange of views from the floor

Sean O'Donoghue showed its concern that Commission excluded the NWWAC to apply for funding and become partner for the project, when the original idea and design was initiated at a NWWAC Focus Group. He reiterated to the scientists that he would like to see this project as stakeholders driven.

Norman Graham agreed with Sean and encouraged members to become involved in the stakeholders group. He mentioned that there is an obvious linkage between GEPETO and DAMARA project and we need to build upon the work that has been made to ensure continuity of the project. This work must be seen as part of a process where scientists, stakeholders and policy makers work collaboratively:

- The Celtic Sea Focus Group identified the territorial scope and high level objectives for a management plan
- The GEPETO project showed how to visualize and describe the necessary indicators to implement these objectives
- The DAMARA project will give you a framework and a DST to run simulations of management scenarios for every value (F or whatever indicator) that can match with the plan objectives.

ACTIONS: The members agreed that the NWWAC will continue to engage in a collective approach with GEPETO project. The NWWAC will be also involved from the outset with DAMARA project in identifying the questions to be posed and defining objectives to be input into the development of a decision support tool to present management scenarios and evaluate tradeoffs.

3.2. Horizon 2020 call on landing obligation – Martin Pastoors (IMARES)

Martin Pastoors introduced the INVOLVED candidate project and mention that they are inviting the NWWAC to be part of the consortia since the first stage proposal that is due in April 2014. The idea is to give the Advisory Councils a role as coordinators of area/fisheries based case studies. There might be budget for a dedicated person (officer) at the ACs doing this work.

ACTION: The Secretariat will liaise with project coordinators and inform members regularly on the progress of this candidate project within the correspondent H2020 call.



3.3. EAPO fishing industry proposal on the Celtic Sea – Sean O’Donoghue

The EAPO proposal was channeled through the NWWAC and became a MAMP proposal.

3.4. ICES WKCELT (February 2014) – Eibhlín O’ Sullivan and Colm Lordan

An oral report was given: more information on ICES website.

<http://www.ices.dk/community/groups/Pages/WKCELT-2014.aspx>

4. Summary of actions to be put forward to the Executive Committee

- The NWWAC Celtic Sea Focus Group will continue to engage in a collective approach with GEPETO project.
- The NWWAC Celtic Sea Focus Group will be also involved from the outset with DAMARA project in identifying the questions to be posed and defining objectives to be input into the development of a decision support tool to present management scenarios and evaluate tradeoffs.
- The Secretariat will liaise with INVOLVED project coordinators and inform members regularly on the progress of this candidate project within the correspondent H2020 call.

The Deputy Chair thanked all attendees, interpreters and Secretariat.

Meeting was closed at 15:30 h



ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS		
Name	Surname/s	Organization
Barrie	Deas	NFFO – Deputy CS FG Chair
Bertie	Armstrong	NWWRAC Chairman
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
René-Pierre	Chever	CDPMEM Finistère
Juan Carlos	Corrás Arias	Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco
John	Crudden	European Anglers Association
Siobhán	Egan	BirdWatch Ireland
Purificación	Fernández	ANASOL/ARVI
Caroline	Gamblin	CNPMEM
Julien	Lamothe	ANOP-PMA
John	Lynch	Irish Fishermen’s Org.
Francis	O’Donnell	Irish Fish PO
Sean	O’Donoghue	Kyllibegs FO
Eibhlin	O’Sullivan	Irish South West FPO
Miquel	Ortega	Fundació ENT
José Luis	Otero	Lonja de la Coruña



OBSERVERS / EXPERTS		
Name	Surname/s	Organization
Stéphan	Beaucher	Consultant
Patrick	Berthou	IFREMER France / GEPETO
Isobel	Bloor	Bangor University
José	Castro	IEO Spain / GEPETO
Richard	Curtin	Bord Iascaigh Mhara / DAMARA
John	Daly	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Sarah	Davie	Marine Institute / GEPETO
Paul	Dolder	CEFAS / DAMARA
Ignacio	Fontaneda	MAGRAMA/SGP Spain MS
Miguel	Gaspar	IPMA Portugal / GEPETO
Iain	Glasgow	DEFRA – UK MS
Norman	Graham	Marine Institute / DAMARA
Roy	Griffin	DG MARE - Commission
Daniel	Lefevre	CNPMEM Basse Normandie
Colm	Lordan	Marine Institute / GEPETO
Laurent	Markovic	DG MARE - Commission
Alan	McCulla	ANIFPO
Rémi	Mejecaze	DPMEM France - MS rep.
Coilín	Minto	GMIT / GEPETO / DAMARA



OBSERVERS / EXPERTS		
Name	Surname/s	Organization
Séan	Murray	DAFF – Ireland – MS Rep.
Stephanie	Newman	IEEP
Martin	Pastors	IMARES / INVOLVED
Brendan	Price	Wildlife Consultant
Glenn	Quelch	European Control Fisheries Agency (EFCA)
Dominic	Rihan	DG MARE - Commission
Cathrine	Schrimer	The Pew Charitable Trusts
Cristina	Silva	IPMA Portugal / GEPETO
Sara	Vandamme	ILVO Belgium
Liane	Veitch	Client Earth
Johnny	Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary

NWWAC SECRETARIAT		
Michael	Keatinge	Company Director
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Joanna	McGrath	Administration / Finances
Alexandre	Rodríguez	Policy Coordinator