



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN  
WATERS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA  
LAS AGUAS  
NOROCCIDENTALES

## **REPORT**

### **North Western Waters Advisory Council**

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Main Conference Room, Dublin Castle  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2014  
11:30 – 13:00**

**Chairman: Bertie Armstrong  
Rapporteur: Alexandre Rodríguez**

#### **1. Welcome by the Chair**

- Opening remarks by the Chair of the NWWAC

Bertie Armstrong, welcomed members, Commission and Member State representatives, and observers to the meeting.

The Chairman gave the floor to the newly elected Chair of the NWWAC General Assembly, Olivier LeNezet, who introduced himself to the members and explained he is the current CEO of the organization CRPMEM Bretagne as well as Chairman of Bluefish. He expressed his thanks for the confidence vote invested by the General Assembly members and he said that he looked forward to a fruitful working relationship with the members and the Secretariat in the future development of the organization.

The Chairman announced that Victor Badiola has had to retire due to illness. The Chairman mentioned how greatly Víctor will be missed by everyone as a founding and active member of the NWWAC. He also thanked Victor for all his years of work and collaboration.

**ACTION: The members agreed that a thank you letter would be sent to Victor Badiola together with a small gift in recognition of his work with the NWWAC.**



- Apologies / announcements:

Apologies were received from the following members:

- Michael Keatinge (NWWAC Director - Secretariat)
- Barrie Deas (NFFO; represented by Paul Trebilcock)
- Anton Dekker (Nederlandse Visserbond)
- Anne-Marie Kats (AIPCE-CEP)
- Luis Francisco Marín (OPPAO)
- Konstantinos Kokosis (EBCD)
- Jane Sandell (SFO – WG1 Chair)

It was also noted that Ross Dougal had succeeded Alan Coghill as Chairman of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation and NWWAC representative; and that Marc Ghiglia replaced André Gueguen as the main CNPMEM representative.

**The full list of participants (organisations and representatives) is detailed in Annex I.**

- Adoption of the agenda:

The agenda was adopted without any comments or changes.

- Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting (Edinburgh, 3 July 2014):

The minutes of the last meeting were considered to be a true record of the meeting and were formally adopted without comment or change.

## **2. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairs of the Executive Committee**

The Executive Secretary, Dr Conor Nolan, presented the report of the evaluation committee, an ad hoc group composed of three members: Daniel Lefevre, Kara Brydson, Barrie Deas.

The Secretariat only received one application of interest within the deadline, that of the current Chairman, Bertie Armstrong, who was willing to continue and stand for re-election as Chair. Bertie provided a detailed submission containing a technical and economic offer in compliance with the EU procurement rules. The Evaluation Committee verified that Mr. Armstrong met all necessary requirements and conditions to exercise this position and unanimously recommended him as Chairman of the Executive Committee for the next term of mandate, i.e. 1 October 2014 to 30 September 2017.



The Executive Secretary asked the members of the Executive Committee to endorse the recommendation of the Evaluation Committee or provide any reasons they may have for objection.

**DECISION:** In principle, the members unanimously endorsed the recommendation of the Evaluation Committee that Bertie Armstrong continue as Chair of the Executive Committee for a second term of mandate. This decision must be ratified and formally adopted by the new Executive Committee members once the Executive Committee is formally appointed following the entry into force of the EC delegated act in early 2015. In the meantime, it was agreed that Bertie Armstrong would continue to act as Chairman.

Mr. Armstrong thanked the members for their support to his candidacy and mentioned that he felt very motivated to lead the NWWAC at a crucial time with the implementation of the new CFP (and in particular the landing obligation) as a new reality.

**DECISION:** The existing members also supported, *de facto* from 1 October 2014 and pending the constitution of the new Executive Committee, the nominations and secondments received of: Jacques Pichon (fishing sector) and Hugo González (fishing sector) to remain as First and Second Vice-Chair representing the fishing sector; and Liane Veitch to fill the vacant seat of Third Vice-Chair representing the other interest groups.

**DECISION:** In relation to the location of the Secretariat, the members ratified the decision made in the previous Executive Committee in July to accept the offer made by Bord Iascaigh Mhara (The Irish Sea Fisheries Board; BIM) to continue to host the Secretariat for a further period of 3 years.

### **3. Review of the current functioning of the NWWAC**

#### **3.1. Update on the CFP legal framework: EC delegated act – DG MARE**

The DG MARE liaison officer acting as coordinator with the Advisory Councils, Evangelia Georgitsi, informed the meeting that the EC delegated act was in its final stages of completion and should be adopted by the Commission very soon. She reminded the members that, as referred to in Article 46 of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 (henceforth, CFP Regulation), there is a 2-month period for the European Parliament and the Council to effectively oppose or object to the text.



It was noted that the core set of rules for the functioning of the new Advisory Councils are already detailed in Annex III of the CFP Regulation. However, this text does not explain the procedure to be followed for the creation of the new ACs nor does it specify the exact number of seats for the Executive Committee.

Ms Georgitsi anticipated that the EC delegated act will not be particularly innovative as it has a very limited scope as a result of the mandate given to the Commission by the Council and the Parliament. She stressed that the maximum budget for each of the ACs will remain at 250,000 euro per year with the consideration that the overall budget for all ACs will increase as a result of the 4 new ACs to be established.

Regarding the composition of the Executive Committee, the number of seats will likely increase from the existing 24 to 25, ensuring observance of the 60:40 composition rule. This means that the number of members of the other groups of interest will effectively increase from 8 to 10, and that there will be a corresponding reduction in the group of fishing industry members from 16 to 15. In the case of the NWWAC, this will affect the “other (non catching sector) fishing organisations as the stability of National representation within the catching sector organisations would be maintained .

The Secretariat informed the meeting of the following:

- Following the retirement of Victor Badiola, OPPAO has withdrawn its interest in keeping a seat on the Executive Committee but nominated Puerto de Celeiro S.A. as its substitute in the representation of the Spanish catching sector within the Executive Committee, with the support of all Spanish fishing organizations of the NWWAC.
- WWF UK has to date no designated representative and has not expressed any interest in continuing as a member of the Executive Committee.
- An official request had been received from NUTFA (New Under Ten Fishermen’s Association) for the NWWAC to make a request to the Commission to increase the number of seats for the Ex.Com. to allow an increase in the seats from 25 to 26 based on the justified reason of this organization as a genuine representative of small scale fleets.
- FIPS (International Federation of Sport Fishing) made some informal contacts with the Secretariat but the latter never received a formal nomination for this organization to fill a seat of the Executive Committee.



**DECISION:** In view that the EC delegated act has still not been adopted and therefore the number of seats technically remains at 24 for the time being, the Executive Committee members agreed to wait until the delegated act enters into force before proceeding with the election of the new Executive Committee. In the meantime, the existing members of the Executive Committee will remain in position until such time as the delegated act is in force.

### 3.2. Strategic development of the Secretariat

The Chairman explained that, following a meeting of the Board of Directors of the NWWAC held in August (in BIM) a proposal to expand both the administrative and strategic development functions of the Secretariat was developed for the consideration of the Executive Committee. The Board of Directors is a Board required to oversee the day-to-day operation of the Company (NWWAC) established under Irish Law and is currently composed of Michael Keatinge, Bertie Armstrong and Conor Nolan. Secretariat staff are employees of the Company.

With an expected increase in the function and workload of the Secretariat, including the management of a Discard Plan Development officer, it was acknowledged that a well-defined structure was needed for the Secretariat, which had a clear allocation of duties and responsibilities and appropriate acknowledgement and resources.

The work being conducted by the two full-time employees (Alex and Joanna) was acknowledged but it was recognised that an increasing workload would require additional resources if the daily functioning of the NWWAC was not to be disrupted.

It was proposed, therefore, to develop a sensible framework in order to be prepared for the internal expansion of the Secretariat should additional sources of funding such as H2020 calls and similar EU projects be forthcoming.

As part of this framework, it was proposed that a new position of “Deputy Executive Secretary” be created, which would develop the hierarchical structure of the Secretariat and would include the supervision or management of new staff and projects. The primary function of this position would be:

To execute policy and communication tasks, to support and develop the professional function of the NWWAC Secretariat and to deputise for the Executive Secretary of the NWWAC, when required.



The directors indicated that it was their opinion that the current Policy and Communications Officer (Alex Rodriguez) be offered this opportunity in the first instance.

The Chairman asked the members if they agreed with this proposal from the Board of Directors and sought a mandate from them to proceed with the proposal to conduct an internal review of the strategic expansion of the Secretariat.

Hugo González and Daniel Lefevre supported the proposal voiced by the Chair and agreed with the idea of reinforcing and strengthening the capacities of the Secretariat to cope with increasing tasks and challenges in face of the new CFP. All NWWAC members had trust in the work of the Secretariat and the Chair.

Eibhlin O'Sullivan and Sean O'Donoghue also supported the work of the Board of Directors to put in place a hierarchical structure to develop further the policy and administrative functions of the Secretariat due to the growing demand of tasks. They were aware of the huge amount of work required in forthcoming projects, and were strongly of the opinion that it would be necessary to increase the capacity (human resources) of the Secretariat in an organised manner.

#### **4. NWWAC Work plan for October-December 2014**

- Proposals for Working Groups and Focus Groups

Eibhlín O'Sullivan proposed to convene a Focus Group on Nephrops Management for VI and VII once the ICES scientific advice had been released. This meeting would take place in conjunction with the next round of Working Groups planned for November,

The meeting was also informed that a position paper from EAPO on selectivity measures for the Celtic Sea would be presented at the next round of WG meetings.

**ACTION:** The NWWAC will support the recommendation from EAPO to submit a request for information to STECF as to what the impact of mandatory TCMs to reduce discards to Celtic Sea Haddock would be and also to request an IA on the reductions of TACs and quotas for Cod in the Celtic Sea.



**ACTION:** Eibhlin O’Sullivan will submit a draft paper from EAPO on proposed further technical measures to improve selectivity of towed gears in the Celtic Sea (VIIIfg).

**ACTION:** Emiel Brouckaert will produce draft advice on VIId sole in the context of the fishing opportunities for 2015 in advance of the December Council deliberations. This will be discussed at the next WG3 (Channel) meeting in November.

- Cooperation with ICES on data deficiencies

The Secretariat (Alex Rodriguez) encouraged all those appointed as NWWAC stock data coordinators and all members, in general, to keep involved and working with ICES scientists to mitigate data deficiencies in order to improve stock assessments.

He reminded the meeting that the NWWAC will look into producing an annual report on the work done on data limited stocks and it will also participate in future ICES data compilation and benchmark workshops in the last quarter of 2014 and early 2015, as well as ICES WKMARS (subject to invitation) and the annual coordination meeting between ICES and the ACs (MIAC), in January 2015.

- Collaboration with GAP2 Project: Channel Scallops workshop

Most members provided positive feedback from the first Channel Scallop Workshop held in Brixham (UK) in April 2014. The French representatives of the Channel Working Group offered their collaboration and support to host a follow-up meeting in Normandy (Calvados area) to continue with the excellent work initiated on this topic. However, several members of the French delegation of the Channel Working Group (Daniel Lefevre, Jacques Pichon, Caroline Gamblin) made a number of observations in relation to some of the elements and statements made in the final workshop report and asked for it to be revised to accurately reflect the divergence of views amongst participants.

It was noted, in particular, that some points that had been included had not been raised or agreed at the workshop. They also asked that the final version of the report would be made available in French.



**ACTION:** All comments made by the French members of the Channel Working Group will be submitted in writing to the NWWAC Secretariat and the authors of the report, with a view to their incorporation in the final GAP2 report. The final version of the report will be fully translated into French.

## **5. Marine Spatial Planning and Protected Areas: a legal perspective**

Liane Veitch (ClientEarth) made a comprehensive presentation on both the existing international framework (e.g. OSPAR) and EU Legislation (e.g. Natura2000, Birds and Habitats Directive) dealing with Marine Protected Areas.

A detailed analysis of article 11 of the CFP Regulation was presented, which focused on the implementation of conservation measures and linked it with the need to ensure that socio-economic objectives are met as stated in article 2 of the CFP Regulation.

Olivier Le Nezet noted that MPAs are not the only tool or panacea for management. He reiterated the need to consider the three pillars or objectives of the CFP (i.e. sustainability from a biological, social and economic perspective).

The Chairman, Bertie Armstrong, thanked Liane for her excellent presentation. He stated that the purpose of the presentation was to highlight the existing constraints or limitations of the MPA and that they cannot be considered a fisheries management tool but a conservation tool. He also voiced concern on the lack of coordination between Member states in the development of a coherent network of sites even with the guidelines provided by OSPAR. In his opinion, the role of the ACs was to ensure that this network of MPAs is coherent and provide balanced advice on this objective.

He finally noted that the appointment of a new Fisheries Commissioner that will oversee the work of DGMARE and DGENV could help to deliver a more holistic view on this and related topics.

The Commission representative clarified that the two General Directorates will continue to work autonomously and that there will be no impact on the strategy and work planning of each of the DG. They will remain as two separate entities even if they have the same political leader.





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## **6. Summary of actions agreed and concluding remarks by the Chairman**

The Chairman thanked all participants for their attendance, the Irish Government for hosting the NWWAC meetings in such a fantastic and state-of-the-art venue, Dublin Castle staff for their professionalism and efficiency, the Secretariat for all the assistance provided with the logistics, preparation and running of the meetings, and the interpreters for their proficiency.

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 13:00**



## ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

| EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS |            |  |
|-----------------------------|------------|--|
| FIRST NAME                  | LAST NAME  | ORGANISATION   |
| Bertie                      | Armstrong  | NWWAC Chairman   |
| Olivier                     | LeNezet    | NWWAC GA Chair / Honorary President                              |
| Emiel                       | Brouckaert | Rederscentrale   |
| Kara                        | Brydson    | Royal Society for the Protection of Birds / Birdlife             |
| Luc                         | Corbisier  | Stichting voor Duurzame Visserij Ontwikkeling                    |
| Debbie                      | Crockard   | Seas at Risk   |
| John                        | Crudden    | European Anglers' Alliance                                       |
| Bruno                       | Dachicourt | CFTC-ETF   |
| Ross                        | Dougal     | Scottish Fishermen's Federation                                  |
| Hugo                        | González   | ANASOL-ARVI  |
| Marc                        | Ghiglia    | CNPMEM   |
| Konstantinos                | Kokosis    | EBCD   |
| Thierry                     | Leprêtre   | France Pêche Durable et Responsable<br>(replacing Jacques Bigot) |
| Geert                       | Meun       | Dutch Fish Product Board   |
| Eduardo                     | Míguez     | European Association of Ports and Auctions                       |
| Sean                        | O'Donoghue | Kyllibegs Fishermens Organisation                                |
| Eibhlín                     | O'Sullivan | Irish South and West Fish Producers Organisation                 |
| Jacques                     | Pichon     | ANOP / PMA / Pecheurs de Bretagne                                |
| Paul                        | Trebilcock | NFFO (replacing Barrie Deas)                                     |
| Liane                       | Veitch     | ClientEarth  |
| John                        | Woodlock   | Irish Seal Sanctuary   |



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| OBSERVERS   |                 |   |
|-------------|-----------------|---|
| FIRST NAME  | LAST NAME       | ORGANISATION  |
| John        | Anderson        | Seafish UK  |
| Stéphan     | Beaucher        | Fisheries Consultant                                    |
| Richard     | Brouzes         | OPBN  |
| Liam        | Butterfield     | ClientEarth   |
| René-Pierre | Chever          | CDPMEM Finistère  |
| Andrew      | Clayton         | The Pew Charitable Trusts                               |
| Catherine   | Cronin          | DAFM Ireland – <b>Member State</b>                      |
| Dave        | Cuthbert        | New Under Ten Metres Fisheries Association              |
| Gonzague    | De Moncuit      | DPMEM – France – MS                                     |
| Ignacio     | Fontaneda López | Ministerio Agricultura - Gobierno de España – <b>MS</b> |
| Caroline    | Gamblin         | Comité National de Pêches Maritimes (CNPMEM)            |
| Evangelia   | Georgitsi       | DG MARE – European Commission                           |
| Melanie     | Gomes           | BirdWatch Ireland                                       |
| André       | Gueguen         | OPOB / Pêcheurs de Bretagne                             |
| Serge       | Larzabal        | CLPMEM Bayonne  |
| Daniel      | Lefèvre         | CRPMEM Basse Normandie – <b>WG3 Chair</b>               |
| Jesús       | Lourido         | Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP-77                           |
| John        | Lynch           | Irish Fishermen' Organisation                           |
| Laurent     | Markovic        | DG MARE – European Commission                           |
| Kevin       | McDonnell       | West of Scotland FPO                                    |
| Francis     | O'Donnell       | Irish Fish PO – <b>Discards HWG Co-Chair</b>            |
| Miquel      | Ortega          | Fundació ENT  |
| Mike        | Park            | Scottish White Fish Producers' Association Ltd          |

**North Western Waters Advisory Council**

Executive Committee Meeting

Dublin, 17 September 2014



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| OBSERVERS (cont.) |           |   |
|-------------------|-----------|---|
| FIRST NAME        | LAST NAME | ORGANISATION                            |
| Jim               | Portus    | South West Fish Producers' Organisation |
| Sylvie            | Roux      | CDPMEM 22                               |

| SECRETARIAT |           |   |
|-------------|-----------|---|
| Conor       | Nolan     | Executive Secretary                               |
| Alexandre   | Rodríguez | Executive Assistant - Policy and Communications   |
| Joanna      | McGrath   | Executive Assistant – Administration and Finances |