



North Western Waters Advisory Council

West of Ireland and Celtic Sea (WG2)

MINUTES

Budongo Lecture Room - Edinburgh Zoo

Thursday 3 July 2014

11:00 – 12:30 h

Deputy Chairman:

Paul Trebilcock

Rapporteur:

Paul Trebilcock/Alex Rodriguez

1. Welcome

Paul Trebilcock was asked by the Secretariat to act as Deputy Chair in absence of Jesús Lourido.

The meeting was opened and participants welcomed by the Deputy Chairman. The full list of attendees is shown in Annex I.

- Apologies

There were apologies received from Michael Keatinge (NWWAC Director), Alan McCulla (ANIFPO), Debbie Crockard (Seas at Risk), Francis O'Donnell (IFPO represented by John Ward), José Luis Otero (Lonja de la Coruña represented by Severino Ares), Jesús Lourido (Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP-77), Luis Francisco Marín (OPPAO) and Konstantinos Kokosis (EBCD).

- Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

- Adoption of Report of the Last Meeting

The report of the last meeting, held in Paris on 7 November 2013, was approved as a true and correct record.



2. UK scientific trials with pingers and deepwater gillnets

Al Kingston of St Andrews University gave a detailed presentation that covered by-catch monitoring, UK pinger trials and finally some catch composition work from some deep-water gillnet fisheries through an ecosystem approach. The full presentation is available on the NWWAC website for information¹.

WG 2 members thanked Al Kingston for his detailed and interesting presentation.

Any detailed questions or further information requests on these subjects would be welcomed by Al Kingston and should be submitted via the NWW AC secretariat.

3. Celtic Sea Mixed Demersal Fisheries (ICES VIIFG)

- Outcomes of the Celtic Sea Focus Group Meeting (Dublin, 26 March 2014)

Barrie Deas gave a brief verbal summary of the meeting covering the main points discussed. The full and comprehensive report is available on NWWAC website for information².

- Report of DAMARA Project Meeting with Stakeholders Held in Dublin on 11 June 2014

Norman Graham from the Marine Institute had prepared a detailed presentation that was presented to WG2 by Alex Rodriguez (Secretariat) in his absence. The full and comprehensive report is available on NWWAC website for information³.

4. Implementation of landing obligation for demersal stocks

WG 2 felt that the main driver for the development of a regional discard plan for the Celtic Sea would have to be this Working Group.

¹ UK Bycatch Programme – Presentation by Al Kingston (SOI/SMRU):

http://www.nwwac.org/_fileupload/Papers%20and%20Presentations/2014/WG2_Kingston_Bycatch_NWWAC.pdf

² Minutes of NWWAC Celtic Sea Focus Group – Dublin, 26 March 2014

http://www.nwwac.org/_fileupload/Minutes%20and%20Reports/2014/DRAFT_NWWAC_Report_Celtic_Sea_Focus_Group_Dublin_26March2014_EN.pdf

³ DAMARA Project – Report on 1st meeting with stakeholders – BIM Dublin, 11 June 2014

http://www.nwwac.org/_fileupload/Papers%20and%20Presentations/2014/WG2_DAMARA_NWWAC_Stakeholder_Mtg_11June2014_EN.pdf



There would be the necessary coordination at NWWAC level and this specific was to be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting following this WG meeting.

A concern was raised regarding technical measures and their inclusion or not in the regional discard plan. This would be discussed further at the drafting group.

It was recognised that certain elements of DAMARA project outcomes would be useful in the development process.

Following some detailed discussion it was agreed that a drafting group would be established by the NWWAC secretariat. Representatives from each member state would be identified by the NWWAC secretariat.

In the first instance the drafting group should identify the fisheries and fleets involved, define the issue/problems related to discards in each of these fisheries, if possible begin to identify/develop possible solutions and consider how to engage with relevant Member state administrations.

ACTION: The NWWAC Secretariat to establish a regional discard plan drafting group and identify the appropriate members of the group.

5. ICES Advice on West of Ireland / Celtic Sea demersal stocks

Following the advice on EC fishing opportunities for 2015 from ICES it was agreed that WG2 would contribute with comments to a NWWAC position paper on a number of key stocks.

Cod VIIe-k

Very high recruitment was being observed at a level similar than that of 2009 that had not been fully taken into account for TAC advice for next year at this stage. It was acknowledged that the information base was therefore only partial and there was an urgent requirement to put in place a mechanism to allow for the outcomes of scientific surveys carried out later in 2014 to be immediately integrated into advice for the December Council and 2015 TAC setting.

It was agreed that the NWWAC Irish and French members would coordinate a request to the Marine Institute / IFREMER to assess various recruitment scenarios and the subsequent TAC advice associated with them. This could be presented to STECF and might offer a way of integrating the results of the late year survey results.



Haddock VIIb-k

There is a high dependency in the assessment model to identify recruitment levels and it is now clearly recognised that recruitment is difficult to accurately identify/assess. Therefore there is an urgent need to put in place a mechanism that can integrate various recruitment levels into the advisory system.

In addition EAPO are working on assessing various additional technical measures looking specifically at improving juvenile haddock selectivity. EAPO would keep WG2 members updated via the NWWAC secretariat.

Monkfish VII

It would have been useful to have the joint TAC advice rather than the two separate species advice as presented by ICES. It appeared that the combined TAC advice resulted in a decrease based on recent average landings rather than any science (*‘Use it or lose it’*).

However given the positive qualitative trends in this assessment it was felt important that a minimum of a “status quo” TAC should be proposed by the Commission.

Northern Hake

Again despite the positive trends in the stock assessment due to the requirement to give MSY based advice there was likely to be a 4% reduction in the TAC proposed by the Commission.

However based on the ICES catch forecast tables in the advice there could be continued improvement in stock biomass with “status quo” or even up to a 15% increase in the TAC level.

Flatfish (Sole and Plaice)

Given the number of stocks and seriousness of the implications of the ICES advice Emiel Brouckaert requested that his detailed comments could be submitted after further consideration by email.

ACTION: Any further detailed comments should be submitted to the NWWAC secretariat by the end of July. These comments would be subsequently incorporated into a consolidated draft NWWAC position paper for adoption by mid-September.



6. Summary of actions agreed at the meeting and recommendations to be put forward at the Executive Committee

- Implementation of landing obligation: The NWWAC Secretariat to establish a regional discard plan drafting group and identify the appropriate members of the group.
- ICES advice / EC Communication on Fishing Opportunities for 2015: The NWWAC secretariat will compile all comments on each of the relevant stocks submitted by the members by the end of July. These comments will be subsequently incorporated into a consolidated draft NWWAC position paper for adoption by mid-September.

The Deputy Chair thanked all attendees, interpreters and Secretariat.

Meeting was closed at 12:30 h



ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS		
Name	Surname/s	Organization
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish FPO – Deputy WG2 Chair / Rapporteur
André	Gueguen	OPOB / Pecheurs de Bretagne – WG2 Vice-Chair
Bertie	Armstrong	NWWRAC Chairman
Severino	Ares	Lonja de A Coruña
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Luc	Corbisier	SDVO
Juan Carlos	Corrás Arias	Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco
John	Crudden	European Anglers Association
Dave	Cuthbert	NUTFA
Barrie	Deas	NFFO
Purificación	Fernández	ANASOL/ARVI
Caroline	Gamblin	CNPMEM
Marc	Ghiglia	UAPF – NWWRAC Honorary President / GA Chair
Melanie	Gomes	BirdWatch Ireland
Guy	Lemoigne	CDPMEM Finistère
John	Lynch	Irish Fishermen’s Org.
Kevin	McDonnell	West of Scotland FPO



MEMBERS (CONT.)		
Name	Surname/s	Organization
Sean	O'Donoghue	Kyllibegs FO
Eibhlin	O'Sullivan	Irish South West FPO
Miquel	Ortega	Fundació ENT
Mike	Park	Scottish White Fish PO
Jacques	Pichon	ANOP – PMA – Pêcheurs de Bretagne
Mercedes	Rodriguez	OPP-07-LUGO
John	Ward	Irish Fish PO
OBSERVERS / EXPERTS		
Name	Surname/s	Organization
Stéphan	Beaucher	Fisheries Consultant
Richard	Brouzes	OPBN
Kara	Brydson	RSPB Birdlife International
Andrew	Clayton	The Pew Charitable Trusts
Alan	Coghill	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Bruno	Dachicourt	European Transport Federation (ETF)
Ramón	De la Figuera	MAGRAMA - Spanish Administration
Iain	Glasgow	DEFRA
Roy	Griffin	DG MARE - Commission
Allen	Kingston	St. Andrews' University
Daniel	Lefevre	CNPMEM Basse Normandie



OBSERVERS / EXPERTS (CONT.)		
Name	Surname/s	Organization
Laurent	Markovic	DG MARE - Commission
Rémi	Méjécaze	DPMEM France - MS rep.
Eduardo	Míguez	EAFFA
Colm	O'Súilleabháin	DAFM Ireland – MS rep.
Glenn	Quelch	European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)
Cathrine	Schirmer	The Pew Charitable Trusts
Sara	Vandamme	ILVO
Liane	Veitch	Client Earth
Johnny	Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary

NWWAC SECRETARIAT		
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Joanna	McGrath	Administration / Finances
Alexandre	Rodríguez	Policy Coordinator