



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN  
WATERS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA  
LAS AGUAS  
NOROCCIDENTALES

## North Western Waters Advisory Council

### MINUTES

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CNPMEM – 134 Avenue de Malakoff, 75116 Paris

Friday 14 November 2014

11:30 - 13:00

Chairman: Bertie Armstrong  
Rapporteur: Alexandre Rodríguez

#### 1. Welcome

The Chairman of the NWWAC, Bertie Armstrong, welcomed members, Commission and Member States representatives, and observers to the meeting.

- Apologies

Apologies were received from the following members:

- Emiel Brouckaert (Rederscentrale, Belgium)
- Kara Brydson (RSPB Birdlife International, UK)
- Debbie Crockard (MSCUK representing Seas at Risks)
- Ross Dougal (Scottish Fishermen's Federation, UK)
- Anne Marie Kats (AIPCE-CEP, EU)
- Luis Francisco Marín (OPPAO, Spain)
- Eduardo Míguez (EAFPA)
- Eibhlín O'Sullivan (Irish South & West FPO)
- WWF UK (no representative designated)

**The list of participants (organisations and representatives) is appended.**

- Quorum



The Secretariat (Alex Rodriguez) noted that, as a result of the absence of several members, the quorum for making decisions was not reached, i.e. minimum of 15 members out of 23 (2/3 of the total number of members) must be present.

Mr. Rodriguez explained that, in accordance with the governing rules of procedure, the actions presented at the meeting could be adopted in principle by the members present and they would be subsequently forwarded to the missing members for validation and endorsement by electronic (email) fast track procedure, allowing a 48 hours period for any objections.

Sean O'Donoghue noted that some member organisations of the Executive Committee never attended meetings and that this absence affected the operational functioning of this NWWAC. This was considered unsatisfactory as it effectively hindered the work of the NWWAC. Mr O'Donoghue suggested that members reflect on this issue and consider a number of options, including a review of the rules of procedure regarding Executive Committee membership and quorum.

***ACTION: The NWWAC will discuss at the next Executive Committee meeting the possibility of reviewing the rules of procedure to modify the quorum or membership participation in the Executive Committee.***

- Adoption of the agenda:  
The agenda was adopted without any comments or changes.
- Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting (Dublin, 17 September 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. Actions arising from Working Groups

### WG1 – WEST OF SCOTLAND (VIa) AND WESTERN APPROACHES (EC Vb)

Chair: Jane Sandell

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF LANDING OBLIGATION

- Consensus was reached on the need of a phased approach for the implementation of the landing obligation.



- The Secretariat will organise a round of NWWAC Steering Group meetings to scope work and answer all relevant questions from the NWW MS Group. A set of meetings will take place in late January/early February in BIM in Dublin.

#### EC FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2015

- Cod and whiting:  
The NWWAC will wait to receive the pending reply from ICES in terms of mixing of both stocks for Areas IV and VI. This is likely to be relevant for next year for inclusion into the assessment of ICES WGs to give combined advice for VIa and IV.
- Skates and Rays:  
Eibhlin O'Sullivan to prepare a summary note on the state of rays and stocks and the need to review the EC proposal in light of the new ICES advice by single species and individual stocks;

#### **WG2 – WEST OF IRELAND AND CELTIC SEA (VIIb-k, except a-d-e)**

**Chair: Jesús Lourido**

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF LANDING OBLIGATION

- The Group was heading towards the idea of a fisheries approach, subject to seeing the definition of these fisheries and its target species; discard atlas under completion by MS may help to do that; degree of moving to a phased species approach but fisheries is the direction; because of the short timeframe involved, we need as WG2 have an agreed list of these fisheries; desire to go tentatively down the fisheries route;

#### EC FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2015

The NWWAC advice will include the following elements from both the fishing sector and the eNGOs:

##### Fishing Sector

- Opposition to the reduction of 4.1% and ask for a review/increase of at least 15% in TAC of northern hake; This is a singular case of good health of the



stock; do not accept the response from ICES or proposal from the Commission;

- MSY may not be achievable or reasonable in 2015 for some stocks for economic reasons;
- Problems with proposals of reductions/cuts on TACs despite good trends due to Data deficiencies – e.g. Monk, megrim, Pollock
- Need to capture the latest STCEF advice for Cod, Haddock, Whiting;
- VIIfg Sole account taken of implication of strict application of MSY

#### Environmental NGOs:

- If there is scientific quantitative or qualitative information available, the catches must not exceed the scientific advice by ICES.
- If it is decided that it is not possible to reach MSY in 2015, on the basis of disproportionate effects on social and economic sustainability of the fishing fleets, a detailed and thorough impact assessment report must be made publicly available and presented in advance providing case-by-case evidence of the nature and extent of the socio-economic impacts. This must be accompanied by an action plan to achieve this objective as soon as possible after 2015, and by 2020 at latest.

### **WG3 – CHANNEL (VIIde)**

**Chair: Daniel Lefèvre**

#### SCALLOPS – GAP 2 PROJECT

- A Steering Group/Organising committee has been established for organizing a follow up workshop in late January / early February in Normandy. The Group will include all relevant NWWAC fisheries stakeholders from UK, France, Belgium and Ireland. A CNPMEM officer (Delphine Ciolek) will act as liaison between the Steering Committee and the NWWAC Secretariat. The Steering Committee will also coordinate organizational and financial aspects. The outputs and objectives presented at the meeting will serve as basis for the outline of contents (agenda) with the addition of a specific discussion item on Technical Measures.

#### BROWN CRAB - ACRUNET PROJECT

- The NWWAC supports the work developed by ACRUNET to date and the possibility of developing ACRUNET 2 project proposal.



- Representatives from the UK scallop sector (Jim Portus and Dave Cuthbert) as well as any interested NWWAC member will participate in a forthcoming ACRUNET Working Group to clarify national regulations and by-laws on licensing system for brown crab in UK.

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF LANDING OBLIGATION

- The WG agreed on a phased approach and find the right justification for why are we asking; and find the right balance between a species and fisheries approach taking into account the advantages and disadvantages of each.

#### EC FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2015

##### UNDULATE RAY

- The Secretariat will circulate a revised Letter on undulate ray management aiming a regulated reopening of the fishery including comments made by both the coordinators of the eNGO (Irene Kingma) and industry (Caroline Gamblin). A minority position from the eNGOs will be reflected in the main body of the text and not as an annex, to show they have actively contributed to the process. The Secretariat will recirculate this letter for comments and approval by fast track procedure.

##### VIId SOLE

- The Group supports a letter for the NWWAC drafted by Emiel Brouckaert containing a proposal of developing a management plan for VIId Sole with the addition of data from UK inshore fleet for static gears, French passive gears and Belgian trawlers (beam). The Secretariat will circulate this letter for comments and approval by fast track procedure.

#### **WG4 – IRISH SEA**

**Chair: Francis O'Donnell / Vice-Chair: Alan McCulla**

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF LANDING OBLIGATION

- The WG4 members agree in the importance of a phased approach to fisheries management to avoid pitfalls and learn through the experience of doing; look at unintended consequences of a rushed implementation of the LO; highlight



the fact that progress has been made in terms of achieving high levels of compliance; need for a stepwise approach; This group requested additional time to MS and Council and Commission for producing advice.

- A set of Steering Groups by sub-regional area (5-10 people) will be convened in late January/early February in BIM in Dublin to work on agreeing a definition of the fisheries/species and their specificities.
- A drafting group composed of Bertie Armstrong, Barrie Deas, Alan McCulla, Sean O'Donoghue and Liane Veitch will have a task to narrow down the issues; define a specific fishery, move from the abstract to the concrete; propose potential solutions to keep the industry viable; and present it to the members of the Steering Group/Working Groups.
- The Secretariat will work with the Selection Panel to recruit a discards officer or project coordinator within the shortest delay.
- The Secretariat to circulate the letter from EAPO/Pelagic AC on the idea of setting up an Implementing Group chaired by EC to review of discards plans but composed of MS, Stakeholders, Advisory Councils and key members<sup>1</sup>.

## EC FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2015

### Cod VIIa

- Commission has recognised the flaws on the existing Cod management plan in force; first time in this time of the year that we do not have in the table automatic reductions in effort from the Commission but still proposing automatic reductions of TAC; This Group asks to make clear that science must be followed rather than an interpretation of it.

### Skates and Rays

- They are considered data deficient stocks even though there have been carried out observer trips and studies more than 5 years. However, there is not still much progress or improvement of science. The proposal from EC to cut the TAC for skates and rays should be withdrawn and TAC should remain

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<sup>1</sup> EAPO letter available here:

[http://www.nwwac.org/fileupload/Papers%20and%20Presentations/2014/EAPO\\_Letter\\_Implementation\\_LO\\_23Oct2014\\_EN.pdf](http://www.nwwac.org/fileupload/Papers%20and%20Presentations/2014/EAPO_Letter_Implementation_LO_23Oct2014_EN.pdf)



unchanged until the outcomes of the results come. Catch levels by fishermen are perceived to be the same in the last 10 years.

- Revelation that the 20% precautionary buffer advised by ICES should only be applicable for a three year period. The advice on Skates and Rays has been released recently and proposal of Commission was in the pipeline significantly before, NWWAC should ask the EC to review its proposal in line with this year's updated advice.

### **FOCUS GROUP ON NEPHROPS MANAGEMENT**

- The Secretariat will liaise with BIM to disseminate the information on gear selectivity trials in Ireland.
- The Secretariat will circulate a revised NWWAC Advice with a proposal to “switch off” or remove the constraint (the “off-which” special condition) currently in place in relation to the TAC for Norway Lobster (Nephrops) for FU16 (Porcupine) in Area VII. The reason for such removal would be that the suggested TAC from the area is significantly more than the 10 year average landings plus 10% and that the harvest ratio is well under the Fmsy proxy, indicating that exploitation is at a sustainable level.

**DECISION:** The members of the Executive Committee unanimously endorsed in principle the actions agreed at the Working Groups and presented by the WG Chairs. Due to the lack of quorum, this decision must be endorsed and formally adopted by the missing Executive Committee members. The Secretariat will launch a request for adoption by electronic fast track procedure with a 48 hours deadline.

### **3. Report on coordination meeting between the Commission and the Advisory Councils (Brussels, 30 October 2014)**

#### **3.1. Functioning of the ACs**

The NWWAC Secretariat (Alexandre Rodríguez and Conor Nolan) provided an overview of the discussions held at the last coordination meeting between the Commission and the Advisory councils in relation to the EC delegated act adopted by



the Commission on the 9 October, and currently being studied by the European Parliament and Council, for approval or rejection, in accordance with the procedure established under Article 46 of the CFP Basic Regulation.

The North Western Waters, the Mediterranean and the Long Distance ACs representatives showed concerns in relation to both the transparency and the elements included on the delegated act, namely the lack of consultation during the drafting process, the lack of definition and guidelines for concepts such as equitable fees, adequate representation of small scale fisheries or additional compensation to observers, as well as procedure to increase the number of seats for the Executive Committee, amongst others.

On the basis of the comments made at the meeting, and in view that the Delegated Act will not entry into force until the EP and Parliament approve it, the NWWAC Secretariat took the lead to coordinate a DRAFT Joint AC letter aimed to be submitted to the EP Fisheries Committee and Council MS representatives in order to inform them of the AC views in their deliberations. This letter has been uploaded as working paper and is available on the NWWAC website<sup>2</sup>.

**DECISION:** The NWWAC Secretariat will contact with their colleagues from the AC Secretariats to see if they would be in a position to support this letter. The Secretariat will also seek approval by the Executive Committee members by electronic (email) fast track procedure and the letter will be submitted no later than the 1 December 2014.

### 3.2. Update on Technical Measures and Omnibus Regulation – DG MARE

- Framework for Technical Measures

The DG MARE representatives (Robert Griffin and Laurent Markovic) explained that the consultation on a new framework for Technical Measures was an attempt to move away from micromanagement and encourage more clear and simple rules, focusing on high level objectives or guidelines at EU level and leave for the fishermen to work on the practical means and ways to achieve them. This is in line with the regional approach laid out in article 18 of the CFP Basic Regulation.

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<sup>2</sup>

[http://www.nwwac.org/fileupload/Papers%20and%20Presentations/2014/DRAFT\\_InterAC\\_letter\\_EP\\_Delegated\\_Act\\_Functioning\\_ACs\\_NWWAC\\_MedAC\\_7Nov2014.pdf](http://www.nwwac.org/fileupload/Papers%20and%20Presentations/2014/DRAFT_InterAC_letter_EP_Delegated_Act_Functioning_ACs_NWWAC_MedAC_7Nov2014.pdf)





- Omnibus Regulation

Debates are taking place on the trilogue and a vote from the European Parliament Fisheries Committee is expected to take place on 1 December. The aim of the Commission is that the Council and the Parliament can adopt this regulation before the end of the year so it enters into force on 1 January 2015.

#### **4. Landing Obligation: collaborative work between NWWAC and NWW MS Group**

The NWWAC representatives, Bertie Armstrong and Liane Veitch, summarised the outcomes of the last meeting with the Technical Group held on 30 October 2014 in The Hague. They also have prepared a discussion paper to explore the options for the definition of fisheries/species to assist the implementation of the landing obligation (LO) for demersal fisheries in the North Western Waters. This paper has been thoroughly discussed at the Working Group meetings and is available for consultation on the NWWAC website<sup>3</sup>.

**ACTION: The NWWAC will hold a series of Steering Group and Plenary meetings solely focused on development of discard plans for the implementation of landing obligation. These meetings are likely to take place in the end of January / early February in BIM conference rooms in Dublin.**

**ACTION: The Secretariat and the Selection Panel will also work into recruiting a discard officer with a very rigid mandate and terms of reference that will be submitted to the relevant candidates in advance.**

#### **5. Consultation on development of a New Technical Measures Framework**

This item has already been covered under item 3.2.

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<sup>3</sup>

[http://www.nwwac.org/\\_fileupload/Papers%20and%20Presentations/2014/Discussion\\_Paper\\_Phasing\\_Options\\_Implementing\\_LO\\_NWWAC\\_%205Nov2014\\_EN.pdf](http://www.nwwac.org/_fileupload/Papers%20and%20Presentations/2014/Discussion_Paper_Phasing_Options_Implementing_LO_NWWAC_%205Nov2014_EN.pdf)



## 6. Report from the Secretariat on recruitment and outreach

- Communications strategy: video snippets for NWWAC website

The Secretariat (Alex Rodriguez) explained that the film crew had visit and filmed extensive footage in ports from UK, Ireland (Howth), Spain (Vigo), and France (Normandy). He thanked in particular Puri Fernández and Hugo González from ANASOL-ARVI for acting as hosts in Galicia, and to Daniel Lefèvre and Paul Francoise for the same role in Normandy.

The Communications Board and the Secretariat are now finalising the content of the script and a first version of the video will be available in the following weeks. The idea is to have a video in each of the three working languages of the NWWAC (EN-FR-ES) ready to go before the end of the year if possible.

**ACTION:**        **The Secretariat will keep the members regularly informed on the work progress and completion of the project to have promotional video snippets for the NWWAC website.**

## 7. Summary of actions and concluding remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman thanked all participants for their attendance, CNPMM for hosting the NWWAC meetings, the Secretariat team for the assistance provided with the logistics, preparation and running of the meetings, and the interpreters for their proficiency.

He also thanked Alexandre Rodríguez for the work done for the NWWAC and wished him the best on his next position as Executive Secretary of the LDAC.

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



## ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS		
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ORGANISATION
Bertie	Armstrong	<b>NWWAC Chairman</b>
Olivier	LeNezet	<b>NWWAC GA Chair / Honorary President</b>
John	Crudden	European Anglers' Alliance
Bruno	Dachicourt	CFTC-ETF
Barrie	Deas	NFFO
Purificación	Fernández	ANASOL-ARVI ( <i>replacing Hugo González</i> )
Marc	Ghiglia	CNPMEM
Thierry	Leprêtre	France Pêche Durable et Responsable ( <i>replacing Jacques Bigot</i> )
Geert	Meun	Dutch Fish Product Board
Sean	O'Donoghue	Kyllibegs Fishermens Organisation
Jacques	Pichon	ANOP / PMA / Pecheurs de Bretagne
Sandra	Sanmartín	EBCD
Liane	Veitch	ClientEarth
John	Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary



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<b>OBSERVERS</b>		
<b>FIRST NAME</b>	<b>LAST NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
Stéphan	Beaucher	Fisheries Consultant
Tom	Bryan-Brown	Mallaig and North West Fishermen's Association
Andrew	Clayton	The Pew Charitable Trusts
Alan	Coghill	Orkney Fish PO
Angus	Cragg	DEFRA UK
Dave	Cuthbert	New Under Ten Metres Fisheries Association
John	Daly	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Caroline	Gamblin	Comité National de Pêches Maritimes (CNPMEM)
Marta	García Merchán	Ministerio Agricultura - Gobierno de España – <b>MS</b>
Robert	Griffin	DG MARE – European Commission
André	Gueguen	OPOB / Pêcheurs de Bretagne
Irene	Kingma	Dutch Elasmobranch Society
Daniel	Lefèvre	CRPMEM Basse Normandie – <b>WG3 Chair</b>
Jesús	Lourido	Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP-77 – <b>WG2 Chair</b>
John	Lynch	Irish Fishermen' Organisation
Laurent	Markovic	DG MARE – European Commission
Alan	McCulla	ANIFPO – <b>WG4 Chair</b>
Francis	O'Donnell	Irish Fish PO – <b>Discards HWG Co-Chair</b>
Miquel	Ortega Cerdá	Fundació ENT
Mike	Park	Scottish White Fish Producers' Association
Jim	Portus	South West Fish Producers' Organisation
Mercedes	Rodríguez Moreda	OPP-07-LUGO

**North Western Waters Advisory Council**

Executive Committee Meeting

Paris, 14 November 2014



<b>OBSERVERS (cont.)</b>		
<b>FIRST NAME</b>	<b>LAST NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
Jane	Sandell	Scottish Fishermen Organisation
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish Fish PO
Caitlín	Uí Aodha	Irish South & East PO

<b>SECRETARIAT</b>		
Michael	Keatinge	BIM / NWWAC Director
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary / NWWAC Director
Alexandre	Rodríguez	Executive Assistant - Policy and Communications
Joanna	McGrath	Executive Assistant – Administration and Finances