

North Western Waters Advisory Council

WORKING GROUP 1

West of Scotland (VIa) and Western Approaches (EC Vb)

MINUTES

CNPMEM Paris, 13 November 2014

16:00 – 17:30

Chair: Jane Sandell

Deputy Rapporteur: Andrew Clayton

1. Welcome and Elections

- Apologies were noted from Kara Brydson (RSPB-Birdlife International), Debbie Crockard (MCSUK representing Seas at Risk), Ross Dougal (Scottish Fishermen's Federation), Hugo González (ANASOL-ARVI, replaced by Puri Fernández), John Hermse (Scallop Association), Kevin McDonnell (West of Scotland FPO), Luis Francisco Marín (OPPAO), Michael Keatinge (BIM, NWWAC Director).
- The report of the last WG1 meeting (Edinburgh, 3rd July) was adopted without change.
- The agenda of the meeting was adopted without change or comment.
- The election of the chair, vice-chair and rapporteur was postponed until the next WG1 meeting. Jane Sandell has left SFO but will chair her last meeting in the interim.

2. EC Proposal on Fishing Opportunities for 2015

The Commission gave an overview of the current status of the 2015 TAC proposals, highlighting a number of specific issues:

- STECF is currently examining the advice on haddock. The EU-Norway agreement suggests reduction of 7%;
- Cod; The fishing mortality is not currently controlled, and the advice is for no directed fishery;

- Anglerfish and Megrim; These species still show as 'pm' (*pro memoria*; e.g. subject to late advice) in the Commission proposal.

Mike Park highlighted the fact that ICES, in their own analysis, indicated that an 8% increase in Northern Haddock was possible. He hoped that this increase would be revised by the drafting Group to 12%.

Juan Carlos Corrás Arias argued against the proposal to reduce Northern Hake TAC by 4% and proposed an increase of 15% instead and a deferral of the achievement of FMSY until 2020.

Sean O'Donoghue noted that because ICES is now giving advice for a combined Haddock stock in areas IV and VIa that all the work that the group has been doing on the stock in VIa is now not being incorporated.

Tom Bryan Brown explained that Skate and ray stocks straddled a massive area and that he is seriously concerned that these species will become choke species. It was also noted that these stocks are data limited and that there is a recommendation for a 20% reduction as a result. The need to gather more information on these species was highlighted.

On the same issue, Eibhlin O'Sullivan noted that ICES, for first time, had given individual advice for individual skate and ray stocks. In reply the Commission stated that this approach had been taken in order to protect the most sensitive species. It was the opinion of members, however, that reductions in TAC on this basis were not justified, given the explanation provided by Colm Lordan on the intention of 3 years data limited stocks.

Alan McCulla expressed his frustration about cod given that the whole quota allowance for one Producer Organisation could be caught in one day. It was his opinion that it is unacceptable that nobody with responsibility seems prepared to address this problem.

Alan Coghill stressed the need for further work on real time closures for cod north of 59 degrees north and working with fishermen to monitor effects. The AC and governments should consider this as a serious proposal.

Although Sean O'Donoghue had asked ICES for an alternative approach to a zero TAC for Cod in VIa he noted that the response received was not very satisfactory.

Andrew Clayton wanted the record to show that he did not agree with any proposals for TACs that exceeded the scientific advice.

NOTE: Cod and whiting: Pending a reply from ICES regarding the mixing of stocks in Areas IV and VI, an action may be required to address the implications of any TAC set on this basis. Members to note this issue as being of relevance if included in the instructions to ICES WGs to give combined advice for VIa and IV.

ACTION: Eibhlin O’Sullivan to prepare a summary note on proposals for skate and ray stocks and the need to review the EC proposal in light of the new advice by single species.

3. Implementation of the landing obligation for West of Scotland fisheries

Bertie Armstrong reported on the outcomes of the last technical group of meeting of the NWW Member States’ Group in The Hague on 30 October. The timescale member states are working to was described as ‘really horrendous’.

Member states are requesting an indication, to the High Level Group of Directors General, on the direction to take on key landing obligation issues, such as phasing, before 25th November 2014.

The most pressing question is how to phase in the landing obligation for demersal species, which in broad terms means choosing between a fisheries approach, or a species approach.

Jane Sandell asked what the group’s understanding of the phased approach was? In response, Bertie Armstrong and Liane Veitch summarised the following approaches that article 15 of the CFP regulation might allow:

- A fisheries approach would mean:
 1. Not having a list of species across the board, at the same time;
 2. Applying the landing obligation to as few as one species in each fishery, in 2016.
- A species based approach would mean the applying the landing obligation to specific species at one time across fisheries in a phased manner.

It was noted that the landing obligation for all species subject to catch limits that are not listed in art 15 would still apply in 2019 in all fisheries and that phasing, therefore, is important as it avoids a ‘big bang’ (i.e. the effect of implementing the landing obligation in a non-phased manner). The group noted that all sorts of hybrids needed to be analysed and evaluated to consider what could work.

Mike Park stressed that phasing was not enough and that the group needed to understand that problems will persist, even under the phasing options allowed. He urged the development of a system that provided a backbone approach so that members could address the specific details and complexities of each fishery or species assemblage. Regionalisation should mean taking problems back to the regions and solving each fishery’s problems on-site not just providing ideological concepts.

Bertie Armstrong agreed with this analysis, and wanted to apply the precautionary approach to the implementation of the landing obligation.

Liane Veitch stressed that the group was unlikely to find a perfect, global solution, and may need to be prepared to settle on the option that works best for each case.

Alan Coghill emphasized the need for practical solutions, identifying choke species, and the need to have input from other countries.

Sean O'Donoghue noted that area VIa is a classic example of a situation where the application of a species definition could cause serious trouble. As a zero TAC for cod exists in this area the implication of the landing obligation would be to close the area to fishing. Members were encouraged to look at the fisheries and define the key species, and he urged caution in making any assumptions about quota uplift.

Barrie Deas said it was important that the AC prepares for WG discussions in terms of furnishing information on fleet definition. In preparing for those meetings the AC needs to move from the abstract to the concrete and should not close off any options at this stage.

Bertie Armstrong warned the group that they need to understand the process of MS Group where information is requested from the AC and base the work of the AC around such requests. The importance and urgency of this process means starting this work now and providing the Member State Group with AC opinion on the direction we want to go in.

Mike Park and Sean O'Donoghue stressed that there should be no one-size-fits-all approach for all areas, and Member States have to come up with the perfect solution for each area.

Alan McCulla reminded the group that other regulations (such as the Cod Plan) will have an impact on the landing obligation and asked the Commission to inform the Group on the possibilities for changing conflicting regulations to reflect the implementation of the landing obligation? The Commission representative was not in a position to reply.

Jesus Lourido reported on the work by POs in Spain who have reflected on practical applications of new measures to implement the landing obligation but have not found solutions.

4. Update on MAREFRAME FP7 Project – West of Scotland Case Study

Alex Rodriguez gave a detailed presentation on behalf of Drs Paul Fernandes, Alain Baudron and Kare Nolde the WP6 WoS Case Study leaders and WP6 Leader who were not able to attend the meeting. He encouraged members to provide feedback on prioritising what the main management issues are from an Ecosystem Based Approach perspective and also to participate in future MAREFRAME events such as the Annual Meeting to be held in Aberdeen on 9-10 December 2014.

5. Summary of actions and proposals to put forward for the Executive Committee

Implementation of the landing obligation

- Organise a NWWAC Drafting Group to scope the work required and provide input to the NWW MS Group;

EC Fishing opportunities for 2015

- Cod and whiting: Pending a reply from ICES regarding the mixing of stocks in Areas IV and VI, an action may be required to address the implications of any TAC set on this basis. Members to note this issue as being of relevance if included in the instructions to 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 advice by single species;

6. Closing remarks

The WG1 Chair thanked all attendees, interpreters and the Secretariat. She specifically thanked Alexandre Rodriguez for his work in the NWWAC Secretariat over the last years and wished him all the best in his future career. The NWWAC Chairman, Bertie Armstrong, also thanked Jane Sandell for her excellent work and commitment with WG1 and the NWWAC and said that she will be sorely missed.

Meeting closed at 12:30



Annex I

List of participants

WG1 MEMBERS		
Name	Surname	Organisation
Jane	Sandell	WG1 Chair – Scottish Fishermen’s Organisation
Andrew	Clayton	WG1 Deputy Rapporteur – The Pew Charitable Trusts
Bertie	Armstrong	NWWAC Chairman
Tom	Bryan-Brown	Mallaig North West FA
Alan	Coghill	Scottish Fishermen’s Federation
Juan Carlos	Corrás Arias	Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco
John	Crudden	European Anglers’ Association
Barrie	Deas	NFFO
Purificación	Fernández	ANASOL
Caroline	Gamblin	CNPMEM
Marc	Ghiglia	UAPF
Irene	Kingma	Dutch Elasmobranch Society
Jesús	Lourido	Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP-77
Alan	McCulla	Anglo-North Irish FPO
Sean	O’Donoghue	Killybegs FO
Francis	O’Donnell	IFPO
Eibhlín	O’Sullivan	Irish South and West FPO
José Luis	Otero	Lonja de la Coruña
Mike	Park	Scottish Whitefish PA
Jacques	Pichon	ANOP



MEMBERS (cont.)		
Name	Surname	Organisation
Mercedes	Rodriguez Moreda	OPP-07-LUGO

WG1 OBSERVERS		
Name	Surname/s	Organisation
David	Beard	Manx FPO
Stéphan	Beaucher	Consultant
John	Buchan	Mallaig North West FA
Angus	Cragg	DEFRA
John	Daly	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Gonzague	De Moncuit	DPMA – France
Marta	García Merchán	MAPA – Spain
André	Gueguen	Pêcheurs de Bretagne
Colm	Lordan	Marine Institute
Laurent	Markovic	DG MARE – Commission
Geert	Meun	Dutch Fisheries Organisatioon
Miquel	Ortega	Fundació ENT
Glenn	Quelch	European Fisheries Control Agency
Liane	Veitch	Client Earth
John	Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary



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LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

NWWAC SECRETARIAT		
NAME	Surname	Organisation
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Alexandre	Rodríguez	Executive Assistant - Policy and Communications
Joanna	McGrath	Executive Assistant – Finance and Administration