



## **North Western Waters Advisory Council**

### **West of Ireland and Celtic Sea (WG2)**

## **MINUTES**

**Thursday 13 November 2014**

**09:00 – 10:30**

**CNPMEM, Paris**

**Chairman: Jesus Lourido**

**Rapporteur: Paul Trebilcock**

### **1. Welcome and Elections**

- Apologies

Apologies were noted from Michael Keatinge (NWWAC Director), Severino Ares Lago (FREMSS), Luc Corbisier (SDVO), Bruno Dachicourt (ETC), Hugo González (ANASOL represented by Purí Fernandez) and Luis Francisco Marín (OPPAO).

- Election of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur for the Next Term of Office (1 October 2014 to 30 September 2017)

The following proposals were made on the basis of formal nominations received by the Secretariat:

WG2 Chair	Jesus Lourido
WG2 Vice-Chair	Paul Trebilcock
WG2 Rapporteur	Paul Trebilcock

These proposals were unanimously agreed by the members of Working Group 2.

- Adoption of the Agenda

The Chairman proposed to reverse the order of agenda items 2 and 3.



This amendment was agreed by the members and the resulting agenda was adopted by consensus.

- Adoption of the report of the last meeting

The report of the last meeting, held in Edinburgh on 3 July 2014, was approved as a true and accurate record of events.

**ACTION:** Jesus Lourido was appointed as Chair and Paul Trebilcock as Vice-Chair and Rapporteur of WG2.

## **2. Implementation of the Landing Obligation for Demersal Stocks**

The Chairman of the Executive Committee (Bertie Armstrong) gave a brief introduction of this agenda item. The very short timescale and complexity of this issue was highlighted and it was made it clear that Member States required direction and advice from the NWWAC on the implementation of the landing obligation. The importance to the AC of this interaction with the Member States was stressed to members.

A discussion paper produced by the NWWAC and available on the NWWAC website<sup>1</sup>, formed the basis of subsequent discussion.

Members considered that a phased approach to the implementation of the landing obligation was essential and that a 'big bang' on 1 January 2016 would not be a desirable outcome.

Members considered that phasing, in the context of both a species and a fisheries approach, as outlined in the discussion paper was an appropriate strategy to adopt in the first instance.

Discussion highlighted the fact that a majority of members favoured the fisheries approach, whilst others favoured a species approach.

All members indicated, however, that their initial indication of support was contingent on a better understanding of each approach, especially in relation to:

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<sup>1</sup> Discussion Paper:  
[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)  
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- The definition of fisheries; How they are or should be defined;
- The definition of species; Which species should be included in year 1 and subsequent years;
- Clarity on TAC uplifts;
- Up-to-date data on existing discard rates;
- The role of technical measures;
- Compliance and enforcement elements.

It was the opinion of members that there were fundamental questions and uncertainties surrounding this issue and that a drafting group should be convened by the NWWAC secretariat to develop a position paper that would begin to address and consolidate opinion on these issues, as soon as possible.

**ACTION:**        **WG2 recommends that a drafting group is establish by the NWWAC Secretariat, early in 2015 to develop a NWWAC position on this issue.**

### **3. EC Fishing Opportunities for 2015**

A document detailing the Commission's proposals for fishing opportunities for 2015 had been circulated to WG2 members ahead of the meeting (available on the NWWAC website<sup>2</sup>). This formed the basis for a detailed discussion from which the following key points emerged:

- Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) by 2015

The Commission had chosen to base its proposals on single stock MSY by 2015, despite the unambiguous reference to 'where possible' in the regulation.

In addition, no genuine attempt to address the ultra-mixed fisheries context or issues in many fisheries in Western Waters had been included.

This was against the background of positive stock assessment trends which indicated declining or steady fishing mortality and steady or increasing biomass in many stocks.

It was the opinion of members that this approach had led to an unnecessarily draconian set of TAC proposals.

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<sup>2</sup>

[http://www.nwwac.org/\\_fileupload/Papers%20and%20Presentations/2014/EC\\_Proposal\\_Regulation\\_Fishing\\_Opportunities\\_2015\\_28October2014\\_EN.pdf](http://www.nwwac.org/_fileupload/Papers%20and%20Presentations/2014/EC_Proposal_Regulation_Fishing_Opportunities_2015_28October2014_EN.pdf)

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- Northern Hake

Members noted that despite the positive trends in the stock assessment, there was a 4% reduction in TAC proposed, which was generated by the requirement to reach MSY by 2015. Members also noted that based on ICES catch forecast tables in the advice, however, the continued improvement of the stock biomass could occur with no change in TAC or an increase in TAC of up to 15%.

- Cod, Haddock and Whiting

The group considered it essential that the latest STECF advice (incorporating the 4th quarter survey data) was included when setting TACs for these species. In addition, selectivity measures already being used by fleets must be assessed and their effects factored into TAC levels.

- Sole

Members noted that the strict application of MSY by 2015 for this stock would have massive economic and social consequences for Belgian and UK fleets.

- Pollack, Skates and Ray in area VII

The proposal to reduce the TAC in both these stocks on the basis of being data limited was not acceptable to members. It was emphasized that as there was no new advice for Pollack, there was no justification for any reduction in the TAC for this stock.

- Angler and Megrim in area VII

Members noted that despite positive qualitative trends in the assessments of these stocks that the proposed reductions in the TACs, on the basis of being data limited, were not justified and should be resisted.

The meeting agreed that any other specific technical points on these stocks should be submitted to the NWWAC secretariat, as soon as possible.

**ACTION: The issues raised on this topic should be incorporated into the NWWAC position on 2015 fishing opportunities to be submitted to both the Commission and Member States.**



#### **4. Summary of actions agreed and recommendations for the Executive Committee:**

- A drafting group be establish in early 2015 to develop a NWWAC position on the Implementation of Landing Obligation for Demersal Stocks.
- The issues raised in relation to the Commission's proposals for fishing opportunities for 2015 should be incorporated into the NWWAC position on fishing opportunities for 2015.

**The Chair thanked all attendees, interpreters and Secretariat.**

**The meeting was closed at 10:30**



## ANNEX I

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS		
Name	Surname	Organisation
Jesús	Lourido García	Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP-77; <b>WG2 Chair</b>
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish FPO; <b>Rapporteur</b>
André	Gueguen	OPOB / Pecheurs de Bretagne – <b>WG2 Vice-Chair</b>
Bertie	Armstrong	Chairman NWWAC Executive Committee
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
René-Pierre	Chever	CDPMEM du Finistère
Juan Carlos	Corrás Arias	Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco
John	Crudden	European Angler's Association
Dave	Cuthbert	NUTFA
Barrie	Deas	NFFO
Purificación	Fernández	ANASOL/ARVI
Caroline	Gamblin	CNPMEM
Marc	Ghiglia	UAPF
John	Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation
Alan	McCulla	ANIFPO
Frances	O'Donnell	Irish Fish Producer's Organisation
Sean	O'Donoghue	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation
Miquel	Ortega	Fundació ENT



<b>MEMBERS (CONT.)</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Eibhlin	O'Sullivan	Irish South and West FPO
José Luis	Otero	Lonja de la Coruña S.A.
Jacques	Pichon	ANOP
Mercedes	Rodriguez	OPP-07-LUGO
Caitlin	Uí Aodh	Irish South and East FPO
<b>OBSERVERS / EXPERTS</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
David	Beard	Manx FPO
Giles	Bartlett	WWF-UK
Stéphan	Beaucher	Fisheries Consultant
Richard	Brouzes	OPBN
Alain	Coudray	CDPMEM 22
Angus	Cragg	DEFRA
John	Daly	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Gonzague	De Moncuit	French Ministry – MS Representative
Marta	García Merchán	MAGRAMA - Spanish Administration
Iain	Glasgow	DEFRA
François	Hennuyer	FROM Nord
Irene	Kingma	Dutch Elasmobranch Society



Daniel	Lefevre	CNPMEM Basse Normandie
<b>OBSERVERS / EXPERTS (CONT.)</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Kevin	Leleu	CNPMEM
Laurent	Markovic	DG MARE - Commission
Erin	Priddle	Environmental Defense Fund
Glenn	Quelch	European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)
Liane	Veitch	Client Earth
Johnny	Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary

<b>NWWAC SECRETARIAT</b>		
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Alexandre	Rodríguez	Executive Assistant – Policy and Information
Joanna	McGrath	Executive Assistant - Administration and Finance