



North Western Waters Advisory Council

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

BEC, Bilbao Wednesday 22nd April 2015 - 14:00 - 18:00

**Chairman: Bertie Armstrong
Rapporteur: Conor Nolan**

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:
 - Anne Marie Katz (AIPCE - European Fish Processors Association)
 - Jacques Pichon (ANOP was represented by Thierry Guigue)

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

- Adoption of the agenda:
The agenda was adopted without any comments or changes.
- Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting (Paris, 14 November 2014):
The minutes from last meeting were adopted without changes. The 'Phasing document' developed after the Paris meeting was also adopted.
- Recruitment of Deputy Executive Secretary:
The new Deputy Executive Secretary was introduced: Barbara Schoute (pronounce as 'shoute', 'scoute', for *sch* use whatever you make of *SCH*iphol airport) will join the Secretariat from the end of May. Barbara's background in environmental and marine biology and her experience with multi-national



stakeholder groups has allowed her to develop a fundamental understanding of the implementation process required to achieve management objectives in fisheries. She has worked at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in the Netherlands on the 2002 reform of the CFP, EU-Norway negotiations, gear development and stakeholder interaction before she moved to Copenhagen in 2007, to work with ICES. At ICES she coordinated the development of the benchmark process, bringing together stakeholders and a broad range of scientists, which resulted in a new process to improve the state-of-the-art fish stock assessments. In subsequent years, she continued to improve the ICES advice format and was instrumental in the development of visual tools to support the communications of advice in cooperation with IT and data experts. Barbara enjoys facilitating cooperation between a broad range of experts and guiding processes to relevant conclusions in a professional, open and pro-active, Dutch way. She has a basic level of French and Spanish and a high level of proficiency in English.

2. Ratification of Executive Committee Chair and Vice-Chairs

The preliminary decisions on (vice-)chairs taken at the last meeting is hereby ratified. Additionally, there is an application from NUTFA to become an ExCom member which would increase the number of delegates to 26. This can be arranged with the EC and the ExCom agrees to ask the Secretariat to do this.

Action point: Secretariat to arrange increased number of delegates with EC.

Following the retirement of Victor Badiola from OPPAO (Spain), the nomination for Executive Committee membership of Jesús Lourido from Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP-77 is now accepted.

3. Landing Obligation (Chair)

- Review of the ACs input to the *Discardless* Conference
The chair gave a brief review of the presentation during the EU DiscardLess project kick-off meeting on Wednesday morning. DiscardLess aims to provide the knowledge, tools and technologies as well as the involvement of the stakeholders to help implement the landing obligation. The project will help design Discard Mitigation Strategies (DMS) proposing cost-effective solutions at all stages of the seafood supply chain. The first focus is on preventing the unwanted catches from ever being caught. This will promote changes in gear using existing and innovative selectivity technology, and changes in fishing



tactics based on fishers' and scientists' knowledge. The second focus is on making best use of the unavoidable unwanted catch. DiscardLess will evaluate the impacts of discarding on the marine environment, on the economy, and across the wider society before, during and after the implementation of the landing obligation. All these innovations will be combined in integrated Internet based interactive programs (DMS toolbox) that will help fishers to evaluate the present and future situation and to take a more qualified decision of how to adjust to the new regime.

- AC engagement with Member States;
The process of regionalization of fisheries management is under development, and the drafting of regional discard plans is the first topic. A discard action group for the NWWAC is set up with a top level for senior managers, and a technical group for management support and technical experts (high and technical level MS group – HLG and TLG). The role of the AC in the regional management group is considered important but as the process is new this needs further development. It was stressed that it is very important to come to agreement on advice from the AC in order to have full impact on the discussion in the HLG.
- Document development and submission;
A MS advice drafting group (ADG) was set up to provide the H/TLG with input and the AC advice was taken into account. The ADG draft plan was largely in agreement with the input from the AC. One proposal on elective designation of the fisheries (where fishermen can choose prior to a fishing trip which type of fisheries they intend to pursue) was not accepted by MS because the EC indicated it was perceived this might lead to fishermen choosing their métier to optimize fisheries, not necessarily reflecting the reality.

4. Landing Obligation (Discussion)

- Outcomes;
The result of the ADG was firstly a document on phasing of the implementation. This seems to be largely accepted in the HLG. ExCom asked that MS explain the application of the phasing arrangements by the end of the year so fishermen know what to expect.
On the point of designating fisheries several indicated their acceptance of the drafting of the elective procedure was in the spirit of compromise, but that they found their organisation could not support this proposal from the AC. This meant that the proposal from the AC for the ADG (dated 3rd Feb version 3)



could not be ratified. Most ExCom members agreed that the alternative method to assign fisheries as currently drafted by the HLG (using backwards looking gear type and landing composition) is not considered a suitable method, which means an alternative will need to be developed by the AC.

- Plan for future work;
May 2015: The MS draft proposal for the Commission will be ready for the AC by June. It is a statutory requirement that discard plans must be passed on to the ACs, though the impact from AC comments may be limited. The date and process for this are not entirely clear and it will likely need to be done on an ad hoc basis. The main focus should be to concentrate on the refinement of the plans in the future.

- **6 Month time-line** for the ADG to look into:
 1. Chokes (uplift, selectivity, interspecies flexibility),
 - Methods for TAC uplift, quota exchange etc. need to be clarified by MS.
 - Flexibility and DM exemptions: A compromise text was reached on the candidate species for survivability exemptions. At least one DM is being discussed but no specific recommendations for specific species were accepted yet.
 2. Practical consequences on deck (crew, working hours, safety – link with DiscardLess),
 - What will happen in harbours where discards are landed, the need for changes in reception facilities and additional costs involved.
 - Explanation in harbour: Fishermen are still unsure what the impact of the LO from the 1st Jan 2016 will be. The intention is that the LO only regulates target species and nothing else that should hamper the fisheries in the first year, but taking into account that more stocks will be phased in and by the end of 2019 all stocks and derogations should be arranged. AC members have difficulty explaining how the new rules will be implemented and what the consequences may be. MS/EC need to address this.
 3. Vessel category choices:
 - The issue regarding the selection of fisheries will need to be addressed and input from the AC to the MS groups is needed. Since there is no agreement to advise the 'elective approach', and the current backward looking method is not acceptable either, there is a need for an alternative. A pilot project for the elective approach could be proposed, or at least the implications of the use of the current options (using landing compositions,



cod recovery plan fisheries categories) vs trying the elective option should be explored.

- Trans-boundary fisheries will have to be considered as well, following the experience from the PelAC. Consistency and regionalization are at odds sometimes, but managers need to be aware of problems this may cause.

4. Control and enforcement

- *Points not to be taken up by the ADG*

The inclusion of TechCon measures in LO plans was discussed in the HLG. The ADG considered it could not come up with one full list of relevant measures but considered that individual MS are better equipped to discuss that with their national fisheries.

- Discussion

It was felt that the connection between ExCom and the ADG could be improved. It is proposed that in the light of possible last minute requests for the ExCom, a 48 hour response time for ExCom members to respond to ADG proposals should be used, based on fully translated documents.

Action point – Secretariat to set up a procedure for this

5. AC Workplan for 2015

- Landing Obligation;

See point 4.

- Seabass;

The chair explained the situation that arose after the December Council last year (see also the explanatory note from the chair d.d. 8-Feb-2015¹). On 19 Dec 2014 the UK put forward unilateral emergency measures to close part of seabass fisheries because it considered the December Council did not act on the ICES advice. The UK does not support management with a TAC for this species and put forward alternative measures to reduce F. The NWWAC was asked to submit a reaction which was drafted on an ad-hoc basis by the chair based on earlier work and sent out .

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http://www.nwwac.org/fileupload/Seabass/Seabass_Chairs_Report_to_AC_members_8_Jan_FIN_AL_EN.pdf



Proposals for a joint management plan are expected in July, unless the ICES advice changes the interpretation of the state of the stock. A process set up like a fast track option is needed because Commission Emergency measures will always give the AC very little time for comment.

Changes in seabass TAC will be in the 2nd amendment of the TAC.

On the paper:

Some ExCom members indicated they did not agree with the content of the message that was sent out. However, the group understood how the document came about and decided to concentrate on finding a procedure for future occasions of this type.

For the future:

The focus group meeting in Dublin (18 Sept 2014) showed wide range of views which were difficult to merge into one. NSAC would like to work together with NWW and SWWAC to cover the full stock. The AC agrees to have advice drafted in an inter-AC group.

Action point: Secretariats to look for date: last week May/first week June.

- Multi-annual plans;
See point 4.
- Working Group Priorities;
WGs are asked to put their priorities forward before the next meeting.

6. EC update

Laurent Markovic from the EC informed the ExCom of a couple of current affairs:

- Development of the NWW MAP – an impact assessment is being carried out, the proposal is expected in August the AC will be asked for a response by Sept 1st.
- Celtic Sea emergency measures will be updated with the 100 mm square mesh panel to become 120 mm. The MS have agreed and the update is expected to be agreed by end of April.

AOB: none

The Chairman closed the meeting at 18:00



ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS		
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ORGANISATION
Bertie	Armstrong	North Western Waters AC
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Kara	Brydson	RSPB Scotland
Luc	Corbisier	Stichting voor Duurzame Visserij Ontwikkeling
Debbie	Crockard	Seas at Risk
John	Crudden	European Anglers Association
Bruno	Dachicourt	European Transport Federation
Barrie	Deas	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation
Ross	Dougal	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Marc	Ghiglia	CNPMEM
Hugo	González	Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Pesca de Gran Sol
Thierry	Guigue	Association Nationale des Organisation des Producteurs
Konstantinos	Kokosis	European Bureau for Conservation and Development
Eduardo	Miguez	European Association of Ports and Auctions
Geert	Meun	Dutch Fish Product Board
Sean	O'Donoghue	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation
Eibhlin	O'Sullivan	Irish South & West FPO
Liane	Veitch	ClientEarth
John	Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary

OBSERVERS		
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ORGANISATION
John	Anderson	Scottish Fishermen's Organisation
David	Beard	Manx Fish Producers Organisation
Richard	Brouzes	OPBN
Andrew	Clayton	The Pew Charitable Trusts
Alan	Coghill	Orkney Fish Producers Organisation
Dave	Cuthbert	New Under Ten Fishermen's Association
Gonzague	De Moncuit	Ministère de EDDE
Marta	García Merchán	Ministerio de AAMA



Robert	Griffin	European Commission
Daniel	Lefèvre	CRPMEM de Basse Normandie
Olivier	Le Nezet	CRPMEM Bretagne
Tris	Lewis	Funding FISH Initiative
Jesús Angel	Lourido	Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP-77
John	Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation
Laurent	Markovic	European Commission
Kevin	McDonnell	West of Scotland FPO
Justyna	Niewolewska	The Pew Charitable Trusts
Miquel	Ortega Cerdá	Fundació ENT
Erin	Priddle	Environmental Defence Fund
Glenn	Quelch	European Fisheries Control Agency
Anne-Marie	Stewart	The Scottish White Fish Producers Association
Dominique	Thomas	CMEACA du Nord
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish Fish Producer's Organisation
Caitlín	Uí Aodha	Irish South & East FPO
Jim	Portus	SWFPO
Nuala	Carson	Defra
Paul	Francoise	CDPMEM14
Sara	Vandamme	University of Salford / ILVO
Delphine	Roncin	CRPMEM Nord Pas de Calais / Picardie
Edward	Fahy	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Marina	Le Gurun	BlueFish

SECRETARIAT		
Michael	Keatinge	BIM / NWWAC Director
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary / NWWAC Director
Barbara	Schoute	Deputy Executive Secretary
Joanna	McGrath	Executive Assistant – Administration and Finances