



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN  
WATERS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA  
LAS AGUAS  
NOROCCIDENTALES

## MINUTES

### HORIZONTAL DRAFTING GROUP

#### Terms of Reference

#### SEABASS, SKATES and RAYS

#### Printworks – Dublin Castle

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2015, 13:30 – 14:30

### 1. Welcome and introductions

Bertie Armstrong welcomed AC members, Commission and Member State representatives, and observers to the meeting.

The agenda<sup>1</sup> was adopted as drafted. The meeting was organised to agree on Terms of Reference for two Focus Groups.

### 2. Seabass

The chairman introduced the progress made on Seabass so far. The attempts to develop advice in an InterAC group did not result in consensus results, although an outcome document from the last meeting on 26 May 2015 in Paris was sent round in June. The EC has introduced different measures during 2015 for both commercial and recreational fisheries. The scientific advice for seabass in the North Sea and Celtic Seas in 2016 implies a catch reduction of over 50%. The EC has announced the intention to develop a single species or multi-species Multi Annual Plan (MAP) for 2016, and indicated there is no direct intention to set a TAC for this species.

The meeting agreed on one main principle: all relevant fisheries must share the burden of management measures equally. Although it was acknowledged that there is an urgent need for management of the stock, the group realised it will not be possible to provide advice for 2016 and decided to concentrate on developing a management strategy for 2017 and beyond. The group would preferably cooperate on an InterAC basis, but it was concluded there is a need to develop the NWW position in a Focus Group on Sea bass (FGBass) before taking part in further InterAC meetings

The group discussed the items to be incorporated in the Terms of Reference for a Focus Group on Sea bass (See ToR attached).

#### Action points:

**Secretariat to contact scientist and arrange scientific meeting**

**Secretariat to draft ToRs and circulate for agreement.**

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<sup>1</sup> All relevant documents to the meeting can be found at the NWWAC website: [link](#)



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**Title:**

Focus Group on Sea bass in NWW (FGBass)

**Chair:**

tbd

**Rapporteur:**

tbd

**Working languages:**

English, French, Spanish

**Time frame and deadline:**

Meeting dates:

Scientific meeting to determine ways forward to improve scientific advice – Q4 2015 / Q1 2016

Advice to ExCom for decision:

NWW position paper for management to be discussed at ExCom meeting in July 2016. Advice to be released for management in 2017 and beyond.

**Objective** – Concrete output for the meeting in one or two paragraphs:

Scientific meeting points

- Scoping of data gaps that need to be addressed outside and in cooperation with projects such as [BARGIP](#) and [C-Bass](#).
- The stock definition should be looked into because the current split between four stocks (one stock in ICES Divisions IVb and c, VIIa, and VIId–h, one in Divisions VIIIa,b, one in Divisions VIIIc and IXa, and one in Divisions VIa, VIIb, and VIIj) is pragmatic in lieu of genetic and tagging data.
- Evaluation of current management measures.

Drafting advice for Sea bass management in 2017 and beyond should contain

- Management targets
- Management measures for all relevant fisheries
- The effect of the Landing Obligation on the relevant fisheries needs to be taken into account as well.

Members of the group:

Members to sign up via the NWWAC Secretariat. Representation from all types of fisheries is required.



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### 3. Skate and Ray management

The chairman referred to the previous NWWAC meeting in Edinburgh where there was a request to reinstate the Focus Group on Skate and Ray management (FGRay). The main issues for management were discussed and it was concluded that current management was a poor fit for the situation in the ocean and in fisheries and alternative ways to manage these fisheries were needed. Additionally the introduction of the Landing Obligation (LO) will need to be studied to adapt management for rays in such a way that it healthy stocks do not create choke species.

In short, the main problems perceived were:

- 1) Multi-species TACs were no safeguard for endangered species, and could result in suboptimal harvesting of healthy species;
- 2) Analytical assessments are only available for some species, mainly due to insufficient data for individual species;
- 3) Catch data are insufficient for assessing relative stability for individual species TACs;
- 4) Implementation of the LO may result in creating choke species

The Commission (Mr Markovic) indicated that input from the NWWAC for the TAC decision for 2016 would be welcome, as well as guidance for a final decision rule in 2016. Advice drafted by FGRays might influence decisions, possibly for an in-year amendment of the TAC regulation.

The group discussed the items to be incorporated in the Terms of Reference for a Focus Group on Skates and Rays (See ToR attached).



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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

**Title:**

Focus Group on Skates and Rays management alternatives (FGRays)

**Chair:**

Eibhlin O'Sullivan

**Rapporteur:**

Richard Brouzes

**Working Languages:**

English, French, Spanish

**Time frame and deadline:**

Meeting dates: tbd

Advice to ExCom for decision: tbd

**Objective** – Concrete output for the meeting in one or two paragraphs:

- 1) Assess the performance of past management decisions (such as the multi-species TAC and differentiated TACs in France).
- 2) Prepare NWWAC advice for:
  - a) Decision rules and/or a Management framework for setting multi-species TACs to:
    - i. Better reflect ICES advice for the most abundant species;
    - ii. Introduce safeguards for vulnerable species.
  - b) Improvement in the recording of catches:
  - c) Resolving data deficiencies.

Members of the group:

Members to sign up via the NWWAC Secretariat.



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## Annex 1 – List of Participants

<b>NWWAC members</b>		
Bertie Armstrong	Scottish Fishermen's Federation (1)	
Thierry Guigue	Association Nationale des Organisations de Producteurs	
Dimitri Rogoff	Comité Départemental des Pêches et des Élevages Marine: CDPMEM 14	
Romain Le Bleis / Emanuel Kelberine	Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins du Finistère	
Kevin Charlot	Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins	
Daniel Lefèvre	Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins de Basse Normandie	
Delphine Roncin	Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins du Nord / Pas de Calais / Picardie	
Dominique Thomas	Coopératives Maritimes Etaploises & Armement Cooperatif Artisanal du Nord	
Richard Brouzes	Copeport Maree OPBN	
Rachel Lagiere	OP COBRENORD	
John Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation	
Francis O'Donnell	Irish Fish Producers Organisation	
John Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary	
Hugo Boyle	Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation	
Eibhlín O'Sullivan	Irish South and West Fish Producers Organisation	
Sean O'Donoghue	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation	
Irene Kingma	Dutch Elasmobranch Society	
Geert Meun	Stichting van de Nederlandse Visserij / Dutch Fisheries Organisation (2)	
Purificación Fernández	Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Pesca de Gran Sol	
Javier Garat Pérez	Confederación Española de Pesca (CEPESCA)	
Lydia Chaparro	Fundació ENT	
Jesús Angel Lourido García	Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP-77	
Paul Trebilcock	Cornish Fish Producers Organisation	
Barrie Deas	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations	
Ross Dougal	Scottish Fishermen's Federation (2)	
<b>Observers</b>		
Stéphan	Beaucher	Consultant
Gonzague	de Moncuit	Ministère de l'écologie, du développement durable et de l'énergie
Paul	Duane	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority
Iain	Glasgow	DEFRA
Robert	Griffin	European Commission
Laurent	Markovic	European Commission
Brendan	Price	Wildlife Consultant
Dominic	Rihan	European Commission
Sara	Vandame	ILVO
Alan	McCulla	ANIFPO LTD, UK
Thomas	Catchpole	CEFAS, UK
<b>NWWAC Secretariat</b>		
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Barbara	Schoute	Deputy Executive Secretary