



**Working Group 2
West of Ireland and Celtic Sea**

Wednesday 8 July 2015

14:30 - 16:30

Conference Room 01, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh.

**Chairman: Jesus Lourido
Rapporteur: Paul Trebilcock**

1. Welcome

- Apologies

Apologies were noted from Luis Fransisco (OPPAO, Spain).

The Chairman welcomed Emanuel Kelbérine for CDPMEM du Finistère (René-Pierre Chever has retired) and Hugo Boyle for Irish South & East FPO (Caitlín Uí Aodh has stepped down).

- Adoption of the Agenda

It was proposed that an additional agenda item to discuss the latest ICES advice should be added. In addition it was felt that the specific agenda item for Seabass should be removed as it would be covered in detail by WG 3.

With these amendments the agenda was adopted.

- Adoption of the Report of the Last Meeting

Following a clarification on the attendance/apologies record, the report of the previous meeting (Bilbao on 23 April 2015) was approved as a true and accurate record.

2. ICES Advice (June 2015)

The Chairman gave an overview of the latest ICES advice on stocks most relevant to WG 2. The full ICES presentation is available on the NWW AC website for information.

Sole VIIIfg advice appeared unnecessarily draconian. The CFP states that FMSY should be achieved by 2016 **where possible** and in any event no later than 2020. It was suggested that given the characteristics of the fisheries and stocks involved the EU Commission's TAC proposals should reflect the 'where possible'.

Concerns about plaice VIIIfg were raised. There were reports of high abundances of plaice on the fishing grounds mainly being taken as a mixed fishery with sole. It was felt strongly by many experienced fishermen that although there was a high discard rate of plaice this was not necessarily a problem for the stock as most survive. An increase in the TAC would not affect fishing mortality (F) but would reduce discard rates. It was felt that this should be considered when proposing TACs for

plaice.

There were concerns raised regarding seabass advice and the associated management measures that had already been imposed. In particular it was felt that the displacement effects on other stocks/fisheries had not been considered properly by the Commission in any of its proposal on seabass.

It was agreed that the NWW AC advice on seabass to date had not been of sufficient quality to be influential. Constructive advice depends on comprise and goodwill from all stakeholders at the NWW AC, the absences of these on this subject had made it impossible to deliver.

ACTIONS:

- **Bring to the attention of the NWW AC Executive Committee the issues on the Sole and Plaice ICES advice raised above.**
- **Request that the NWW AC Executive Committee consider how the NWW AC can improve its method of working to improve its core function -to produce relevant and credible advice (in particular relation to seabass).**

3. Landing Obligation

The Chairman gave an overview of the latest information on the landings obligation most relevant to WG 2.

Particular issues raised included:

- What happens in situation where no quota is available to particular member state (relative stability share of zero)?
- How will damaged fish be dealt with?
- How will TAC uplifts and *de minimus* level be calculated and distributed?

It was agreed to support the action of WG 1. A letter should be drafted by the NWW AC asking specific detailed questions to the Commission on the landing obligation. The NWW AC secretariat should collate these questions and draft the letter. Detailed questions should be submitted to the NWW AC secretariat within 2 weeks by email.

ACTION:

WG 2 recommends that a letter should be drafted by the NWW AC asking specific detailed questions to the Commission on the landing obligation. The NWW AC secretariat should collate these questions and draft the letter. Detailed questions should be submitted to the NWW AC secretariat within 2 weeks by email.



4. Multi-Annual Plans (MAPs)

WG 2 were informed that the Commission had requested STECF to assess various scenarios on MAPs and that this information would be available late summer.

WG2 supported the establishment of a focus group on this issue. It was important that the very latest data and information was available for the work of this focus group. It was also important to focus on fishery specific practicalities as well as capturing social and economic impacts for fleets concerned.

ACTION:

WG2 supports the establishment of a focus group to work on the development of NWW AC advice on MAPs.

5. DAMARA Update

Eibhlin O'Sullivan gave an update of progress on the DAMARA project and a brief demonstration using some dummy data to illustrate some of the capabilities of the tool.

Following a series of technical working groups and meetings the system is now being tested. At this stage it is about testing the various scenarios to ensure that the system works.

It was felt that this would be a useful tool when considering potential impacts of MAPs. It was envisaged that more information will be available in September as more up to date data is entered into the system.

WG2 confirmed its continuing support for this important project.

6. UK Plans for Spurdog Management and the Landings Obligation

Stuart Hetherington from CEFAS (UK) summarized a UK project looking at spurdog by-catch, real-time monitoring and possible avoidance measures. Full presentation is available on the NWW AC website for information.

WG2 members felt that the project should include vessels from other Member States not just UK. CEFAS welcomed this suggestion and asked that nominations/suggestions be forwarded to them.

WG2 fully supported this project and proposed that the NWW AC should write to the Commission and CEFAS expressing its support for this project.

WG2 also suggested that other fleet segments from other member states should be encouraged to get involved with this project.



ACTION

WG2 fully supported this project and proposed that the NWW AC should write to the Commission and CEFAS expressing its support for this project.

7. Summary of Actions and Proposals to be put Forward to the Executive Committee

- i. **WG2 brings to the attention of the NWW AC Executive Committee** the issues on the Sole and Plaice ICES advice raised under item 2.
- ii. **WG2 Request** that the NWW AC Executive Committee consider how the NWW AC can improve its method of working to improve its core function -to produce relevant and credible advice (in particular relation to seabass).
- iii. **WG 2 recommends** that a letter should be drafted by the NWW AC asking specific detailed questions to the Commission on the landing obligation. The NWW AC secretariat should collate these questions and draft the letter. Detailed questions should be submitted to the NWW AC secretariat within 2 weeks by email.
- iv. **WG2 supports** the establishment of a focus group to work on the development of NWW AC advice on MAPs.
- v. **WG2 fully supported** the CEFAS Spurdog research project and proposed that the NWW AC should write to the Commission and CEFAS expressing its support for this project.



Annex 1 – List of participants

Members WG2		
Jesús A.	Lourido García	Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP-77
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish Fish Producers Organisation
Bertie	Armstrong	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Hugo	Boyle	Irish South & East FPO
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Kevin	Charlot	CNPMEM
Juan Carlos	Corrás Arrias	Pescagalicia Arpega Obarco
Debbie	Crockard	Seas at Risk
John	Crudden	European Anglers Alliance
Dave	Cuthbert	New Under Ten Fishermen's Association
Barrie	Deas	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations
Siobhán	Egan	BirdWatch Ireland
Marc	Ghiglia	Union des armateurs de la pêche en France
Hugo	González	Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Pesca de Gran Sol
Emanuel	Kelbérine	Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des Elevages Marins du Finistère
Rachel	Lagiere	OP COBRENORD
Olivier	Le Nézet	CRPMEM de Bretagne
John	Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation
Francis	O'Donnell	Irish Fish Producers Organisation
Eibhlin	O'Sullivan	Irish South & West FPO
José Luis	Otero	Lonja de la Coruña S.A.
Jacques	Pichon	Association Nationale des Organisation des Producteurs
Jim	Portus	South West FPO
Mercedes	Rodríguez Moreda	OPP-07-LUGO
Observers		
Stéphan	Beaucher	Consultant
Andrew	Clayton	The Pew Charitable Trusts
Gonzague	De Moncuit	Ministère de l'écologie, du développement durable et de l'énergie
Ross	Dougal	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Iain	Glasgow	DEFRA
Stuart	Hetherington	CEFAS
Mindaugas	Kisieliauskas	European Commission
Daniel	Lefèvre	CRPMEM de Basse Normandie
Laurent	Markovic	European Commission
Glenn	Quelch	European Fisheries Control Agency
Johnny	Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Liane	Veitch	Client Earth
Richard	Brouzes	OPBN
Marina	Legurun	Blue Fish
Sylvie	Roux	CDPM 22
NWWAC Secretariat		
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Barbara	Schoute	Deputy Executive Secretary
Joanna	McGrath	Executive Assisstant - Finance and Administration