



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN  
WATERS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA  
LAS AGUAS  
NOROCCIDENTALES

## MINUTES

### WORKING GROUP 2 (CELTIC SEA)

**CNPMEM, Paris**  
**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2017**  
**17:00 – 18:00**

#### 1. Welcome

The WG2 Chairman, Jesús Lourido García, welcomed the members and the attendees to the meeting. The full list of participants is included as an annex to these minutes. Apologies for absence were received from Paul Trebilcock.

The agenda<sup>1</sup> was adopted as drafted. The following action points from the last meeting in Edinburgh (6<sup>th</sup> July 2015) had been completed:

- 1: The NWWAC to draft advice on the TAC consultation taking into account the comments from WG2;
- 2: Sean O'Donoghue and the Focus Group on Nephrops to review and update the NWWAC position on Management measures for the Nephrops stock on the Porcupine Bank (FU16) in light of the advice released in autumn 2016 and published on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November on the NWWAC website ([link](#));
- 3: Members to submit additional evidence and arguments regarding the management measure proposed for the Haig Fras SAC to the NWWAC Secretariat;
- 4: The NWWAC to raise its concerns regarding oil and gas exploration in North Western waters with the relevant authorities/bodies and to insist that fishing interests are respected and properly consulted;
- 5: The NWWAC to draft a response on the Commission's Technical Conservation Measures (TCM) proposals that reflects the concerns raised by WG2.

#### 2. Effects of the Landing Obligation (LO) in the Celtic Sea

The Chair asked members to share their experiences and provide specific examples of the implementation of the LO in the Celtic Sea, in preparation for the Horizontal Working Group on the LO (HWGLO).

Purificación Fernández noted that she considered that the use of the phrase 'landing obligation' had a different interpretation to that of the phrase "discard ban" as described in the CFP. Although the phrase had been reported to sound nicer, it was recommended that in light of the difficulties surrounding the implementation of the LO that consideration should be given to a return to the original intention of the CFP and the wording used. Jesús Lourido García agreed that although no

---

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

closure of Spanish fisheries had occurred to date, it was likely that the toolbox would not be sufficient to solve the problems of mixed fisheries when the fisheries would become increasingly restricted by the LO. Julien Lamothe agreed that the toolbox, as defined in the CFP, would not be sufficient, but noted that since the full implementation date was imminent it seemed that Member States were willing to consider wider solutions, such as those previously proposed by stakeholders. Juan Corrás Arias concurred with Mr Lamothe that the implementation of the LO should be interpreted in a less restrictive way in order to prevent the closure of fisheries. He noted that the revision of the technical measures regulation would also reduce bycatches.

Barrie Deas noted that although the implementation is not perfect, the core idea of the LO was to introduce an incentive to reduce unwanted catches. The NWW Member States Group had been sympathetic to the issues raised by stakeholders, highlighting the limitations of the toolbox and the magnitude of the choke problem. It was considered that an improvement in regionalisation would be needed to further incentivise the reduction of unwanted bycatch.

The Chair concluded that it was important to not only concentrate advice on the introduction of the LO in 2018 and 2019, but to revisit proposals that were put forward previously, and to look for practical consequences of the LO, in order to come up with innovative solutions.

**ACTION:** The input from the Working Group would be brought to the attention of the HWGLO.

### **3. Developments of Marine Protected Areas**

The Chair invited input for the AC response on the MPA proposals that had been presented by the UK administration (Defra)<sup>2</sup> as an informal consultation. In the Celtic Sea, management measures had been proposed for 5 MPAs. An additional MPA had been proposed for the Western Channel, but Rachel Bower (JNCC) noted that discussions surrounding this site had been particularly contentious, and it was not likely to be included in this consultation. She was asked to inform the AC on the progress on this site regarding the current informal consultation.

**ACTION:** The AC to be informed on the relevancy of the Western Channel MPA by Defra.

Mr Corrás Arias noted that the size and number of restricted areas was far too large, and result in a redistribution of fishing fleets away from historic fishing grounds. He considered that the current areas and restrictions in gear selectivity were sufficient for the protection of sites and no further closures should be implemented. Proposals for additional control measures were considered excessive.

Mr Lamothe indicated that the consequences of adding new MPA measures to existing sites should be taken up in an integrated impact study for all areas. Consultation processes are ongoing in all Member States, but the industry had been frustrated that technical evidence was rarely taken into account. He had doubts about the proportionality between the ecosystem objectives and the measures proposed and asked for specific explanation between objectives and proposed measures. Ms Bower agreed that the elaboration of the proposed measures could be improved.

Gaël Laviolle indicated that Breton fishermen had issued a report to DEFRA that showed that the proposed sites in the Channel and Celtic Sea accounted for 30% of the income of their fishermen, which implied that closing these sites would result in major shifts in fishing effort. He questioned if the JNCC guidelines to close areas with low fishing intensity had been implemented, and mentioned

---

<sup>2</sup> All relevant documents to the presentation can be found on the NWWAC website: [link](#)

that his organisation had put forward proposals for sites that would have fewer economic effects. Regarding the Western Channel site, Defra was urged to consult with stakeholders in a timely fashion.

Javier López noted that his organisation agreed with the proposals as these help fulfil national and international commitments. Considering that fishing efforts would have an impact on habitats, he stressed that fisheries (and other human activities) should only be allowed when the effects do not harm the protection objectives of the sites. He also noted the importance of stakeholder involvement in developing measures, emphasising the need to use the knowledge of the industry to develop measures that were efficient in protecting habitats, while avoiding the reduction of fishing opportunities.

The Chair agreed that nobody was against taking measures to protect habitats, while he noted that the reasoning behind objectives and measures for protection needed to be clear.

**ACTION:** The input from the Working Group to be included in the NWWAC response to the informal consultation, which would be finalised by the end of March.

#### 4. Summary by the Chair of actions agreed and decisions adopted

1	The input from the Working Group would be brought to the attention of the HWGLO.
2	The AC to be informed on the relevancy of the Western Channel MPA by Defra.
3	The input from the Working Group to be included in the NWWAC response to the informal consultation, which would be finalised by the end of March.

NWWAC Document  
Chairman: Jesús Lourido García  
Rapporteur: Barbara Schoute  
Review and editing: Conor P. Nolan

## Annex 1 – List of Participants

<b>NWWAC members</b>		
Jesús Angel	Lourido García	Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP-77
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Debbie	Crockard	Seas at Risk
Javier	López	Oceana
John	Crudden	European Anglers Alliance
Erwan	Quemeneur	CDPMEM du Finistère, Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins 29
Franck	Le Barzic	OP COBRENORD
Julien	Lamothe	Association Nationale des Organisations de Producteurs
Francis	O'Donnell	Irish Fish Producers Organisation
Hugo	Boyle	Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation
John	Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation
Sinéad	Cummins	BirdWatch Ireland
José Luis	Otero Gonzalez	Lonja de La Coruña S.A.
Juan Carlos	Corrás Arias	Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco
Luis Francisco	Marín	Organización de Productores de Pesca de Ondarroa
Purificación	Fernández Alvarez	Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Buques de Pesca de Gran Sol
Barrie	Deas	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations
Jim	Portus	South Western Fish Producer Organisation Ltd
Kenny	Coull	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
<b>Observers</b>		
Gaël	Lavialle	OP COBRENORD
Lucile	Toulhoat	CNPMEM, Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins
Anna	O'Sullivan	Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, Ireland
Paul	Duane	Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority
Emily	Baxter	North West Wildlife Trusts
Peter	Smith	Scottish Fishermen's Organisation
Rachel	Bower	Joint Nature and Conservation Committee (JNCC)
Caroline	Gamblin	CNPMEM
Dimitri	Rogoff	CDPMEM Calvados
Liane	Veitch	ClientEarth
Ken	Kawahara	PPPAF
Marina	Le Gurun	Bluefish
Dominique	Thomas	Organisation de Producteur Coopérative Maritime Etaploise Manche Mer du Nord
Vera	Coelho	PEW
Alex	Kinninmonth	Birdlife
Despina	Symons	EBCD
Geert	Meun	Vis-Ned
Juana	Poza Poza	Ministerio de Agricultura
William	Stuart	EFCA
<b>NWWAC Secretariat</b>		
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Barbara	Schoute	Deputy Executive Secretary
Sara	Vandamme	Project Development and Communications Manager