



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN  
WATERS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA  
LAS AGUAS  
NOROCCIDENTALES

## MINUTES

### WORKING GROUP 3 (ENGLISH CHANNEL)

**CNPMEM – 134 Avenue de Malakoff, 75116 Paris**

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2017**

**16:00 – 17:00**

#### 1. Welcome

The acting WG3 Chairman, Jim Portus (standing in for Daniel Lefèvre who was occupied by other meetings), 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 Daniel Lefèvre and Paul Trebilcock.

The agenda<sup>1</sup> was adopted as drafted. The action points from the last meeting in Edinburgh (6<sup>th</sup> July 2016) were discussed:

1. A Focus Group on seabass (FGBass) to be re-convened following receipt of the Commission's response to the NWWAC opinion;  
*The EC response had not triggered a new meeting of the FGBass. This point would be further discussed at the Executive Committee.*
2. WG3 supported and endorsed the approach taken by WG2 on drafting NWWAC advice to inform the development of the EU TAC proposal.  
*In addition, species specific issues, in particular skates and rays in subarea 7 (specifically undulate ray) and sole and cod in division 7d, and the calculation of quota uplifts were raised.*
3. The Secretariat to forward links to the progress made by the NSAC on the development of advice on seabass. *Completed.*
4. WG3 asked the NWWAC to request that a full economic and social impact assessment is carried out for the MPA network in the Channel. This should take into account the individual and cumulative impacts (both positive and negative) of all of the MPAs in the Channel (see agenda item 4).
5. The AC to draft input on the Commission's Technical Conservation Measures (TCM) proposals that ensure that the NWWAC advice reflects to concerns raised by WG3. *Completed.*

#### 2. Appointment of Chair

The group was informed that Daniel Lefèvre had indicated he would retire in March 2017, and was kindly asked for nominations for this position before the end of the meeting.

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

Julien Lamothe commented that, given the importance of the area to the French industry, the need to maintain the balance of representation in the Advisory Council and the unknown consequences of Brexit, the French members would like to retain the chairmanship of the Working Group. In light of ongoing elections within the French organisations, it would only be possible to decide on a French nominee in April. It was proposed that a nomination from the French member organisations would be forwarded to the Working Group for decision, by correspondence.

There were no objections to this proposal.

**ACTION:** Julien Lamothe to inform the Secretariat of a nominee for the position of Chairman of Working Group 3. The Secretariat to organise a correspondence process to circulate the nomination for decision.

### **3. Effects of the Landing Obligation (LO) in the Channel**

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

Olivier Leprêtre referred to results of the EODE project, the report of which had been made available on the AC website ([link](#), in French only). Antoine Balazuc, coordinator of the project, presented a brief overview of the results of a trial rollout of the LO with standard trawls and more selective trawls, to gain experience of the effects of measures on fishermen, the fleet and the infrastructure on land. The aim had been to reduce unwanted catches of stocks under a TAC through adaptations of the fishing strategy and to seek solutions to limit socio-economic impacts of the measure. All vessels encountered significant problems with the additional pressure on the crew in terms of the time spent and weight carried while sorting and processing catches. For vessels under 18 metres the lack of hold space for additional catches impeded safety on board. In general, full implementation of the LO was considered unrealistic. Mr Leprêtre explained that the study results showed that implementing the landing obligation turned out to be too labour intensive and expensive for mixed fisheries, not only in the Channel.

The Chair noted that similar studies were ongoing in the UK inshore fleet, but that this work was not yet completed.

Barrie Deas noted that it was increasingly evident that even with flexibility it would be difficult to implement the LO. It was suggested that ICES scientists be requested to evaluate the implications of removing TAC status for bycatch species in mixed fisheries. Concentrating the LO on the main commercial species might be the most efficient way forward. Additionally, contingency measures should be decided in the case of choke situations.

The WG was asked to provide specific regional examples of experience with the LO, to provide input to the NWWAC advice drafting process.

Ken Kawahara mentioned that the LO would have a large impact on fisheries with (by-)catches of seabass, even for artisanal fisheries, which can release seabass alive after capture. Mr Leprêtre added that larger trawlers could not simply avoid catching seabass. He considered that the LO was in place in order to reduce discarding, and an obligation to land unwanted catches was not useful. He supported further cooperation with scientists to improve the situation.

Emiel Brouckaert noted that the implementation of the LO for sole in the Channel had not caused any problems so far, because the technical measures proposed by the industry had been implemented, alongside a *de minimis* exemption. Geert Meun noted that similar to the French experiments, Dutch LO trials ongoing in the North Sea, exploring 'best practices' based on full implementation of the LO had experienced similar problems as those reported in France (e.g. crew resting time problems, insufficient room in the holds). Removal of TACs for bycatch stocks would be an option, but in the Channel it was anticipated that choke situations (e.g. using fly-shooting gear) would be problematic, and the current toolbox would not provide a solution.

The Chair concluded that input from the industry, for example by describing best practices solutions, would be the ideal way to improve implementation of the LO.

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

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

The Chair reminded the group of the presentation from Defra on the proposed management measures in MPAs in UK waters, and asked the group for comments on the site proposals in the Channel.

French members referred to the workshop organised in Exeter (May 2016) where the proposals were discussed. Written comments had been sent to the Secretariat, which described the effects of the proposals on French fishermen, and questioned the proposed measures in relation to the habitat objectives. At the workshop, a meeting between the French and UK administrations and the industry was suggested, but regrettably Defra had not yet acted on their intention to organise such a meeting.

Mr Deas commented on experience with communication with Defra, which had improved in recent years but noted that authorities had reverted to less communication and a less evidence-based approach. He, therefore, shared the French concerns.

Liane Veitch spoke on behalf of other interest groups and referred to the Basurelle sandbank site proposals where no measures were proposed for demersal seines and demersal static gear, while there is no information to show that these gears do not influence the site. In order to comply with the habitat directive, it was advocated that these gears should be taken into account. There was an additional concern that fisheries in this area would still be allowed where effort is currently high, which might jeopardise the sandbank features.

Mr Leprêtre questioned the economic perspective left for fishermen if all the proposed measures were implemented, and noted that it would also be necessary to study the effects of power and communication cables and the installation of wind parks on sandy sediments. Paul Francoise added that with the introduction of gravel extraction, windmills and the site measures proposed, the vital space required in the Channel for fisheries was under a lot of pressure. The request for an integrated economic impact assessment, as listed in the action points from the last meeting should be added to the response to Defra.

Rachel Bower (JNCC, on behalf of Defra) thanked the meeting for the comments so far, which would be taken into account as part of the informal consultation of the NWWAC for the Member States group.

**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.

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

1	Julien Lamothe to inform the Secretariat of a nominee for the position of Chairman of Working Group 3. The Secretariat to organise a correspondence process to circulate the nomination for decision.
2	The input from the Working Group would be brought to the attention of the HWGLO.
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: Jim Portus  
Rapporteur: Barbara Schoute  
Review and editing: Conor P. Nolan

## Annex 1 – List of Participants

<b>NWWAC members</b>		
Jim	Portus	South Western Fish Producer Organisation Ltd
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Javier	López	Oceana
Marina	Le Gurun	Blue Fish
Caroline	Gamblin	CNPMEM, Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins
Dominique	Thomas	Organisation de Producteur Cooperative Maritime Etaploise Manche Mer du Nord
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 / Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne LPDB
Ken	Kawahara	Plateforme de la Petite Pêche Artisanale Française
Olivier	Lepretre	CRPMEM du Nord / Pas de Calais / Picardie, Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins
Pascal	Coquet	CRPMEM de Haute-Normandie, Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins
Paul	Françoise	CDPMEM du Calvados, Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins 14
Hugo	Boyle	Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation
John	Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation
Geert	Meun	Stichting van de Nederlandse Visserij / Dutch Fisheries Organisation (2)
Barrie	Deas	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations
Kenny	Coull	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
<b>Observers</b>		
Antoine	Balazuc	CRPMEM de Haute-Normandie, Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins
Francois	Hennuyer	FROM Nord
Gaël	Lavialle	OP COBRENORD
Lucile	Toulhoat	CNPMEM, Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins
Manuel	Evrard	Copeport Maree OPBN
Sonia	Muller	CRPMEM de Haute-Normandie, Comité Régional 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)
Liane	Veitch	ClientEarth
Debbie	Crockard	Seas at Risk
Vera	Coelho	PEW
Alex	Kinninmonth	Birdlife Europe
Despina	Symons	EBCD
William	Steward	EFCA

Purificación	Fernández Alvarez	Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Buques de Pesca de Gran Sol
Jesús	Lourido García	Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP-77
Tony	Delahunty	NFFO
Francis	O'Donnell	IFPO
Sinead	Cummins	Birdwatch Ireland
Dimitri	Rogoff	CDPMEM du Calvados
<b>NWWAC Secretariat</b>		
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Barbara	Schoute	Deputy Executive Secretary
Sara	Vandamme	Project Development and Communications Manager