



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN  
WATERS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA  
LAS AGUAS  
NOROCCIDENTALES

## MINUTES

### WORKING GROUP 4 (IRISH SEA)

The Main Conference Centre – Dublin Castle

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018

09:30 – 11:00

#### 1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair Francis O'Donnell opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Javier Lopez (Oceana), Barrie Deas (NFFO) and Alex Kinninmonth (RSPB). The agenda was adopted as drafted.

The Secretariat updated the meeting on the action points from the last meeting (4<sup>th</sup> July 2018):

1. The working Group will draft advice for the COM on setting the fishing opportunities for 2019 based on the discussion

The WG had discussed the ICES advice for the relevant stocks at the meetings in Ghent. The Secretariat drafted the advice based on these discussions. Before sending the draft advice to the General Assembly, the chairs of the WG provided their comments. ExCom received the latest version for final approval in advance of the meeting tomorrow (13<sup>th</sup> September).

2. Consult the COM on the timing of the repeal of the Cod Recovery Plan and what considerations were given to the Western Waters as the plan was related to the introduction of the North Sea Multi-Annual Plan

This was included in the advice on the fishing opportunities for 2019.

3. The Working Group will continue discussions on selectivity trials to make recommendation for the Regional Group

Update on on-going trials under agenda item 4.

#### 2. Overview and objective of the meeting

*Election of officers (Chair and Vice-Chair)*

At the Working Group meeting last year (13<sup>th</sup> September 2017), Mr O'Donnell informed the meeting



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN  
WATERS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA  
LAS AGUAS  
NOROCCIDENTALES

that he would be stepping down as chair of this working group. Before electing the new officers, Mr O'Donnell wanted to emphasize the procedural issues regarding advice drafting and action points. It was important that action points are being approved by the ExCom. Members who object to action points have to raise their concerns through an ExCom representative.

Frustrations were shared by other WG members and reference was made to the overview of the procedures on advice drafting at the ExCom meeting (13<sup>th</sup> September 2018).

John Lynch was nominated as chair of the Working Group and Norah Parke as the new vice-chair.

### **3. Input on the draft advice 'Addressing Choke Risk in NWW after exemptions' for relevant WG4 stocks**

Mr Rihan (BIM) presented an overview of the draft advice for the relevant stocks of WG4. The Secretariat clarified that the solutions presented in the table were draft proposals discussed at the FG LO (19<sup>th</sup> July, Dublin). The table had not yet been updated with the comments received from FG members.

Specific issues that were raised during the meeting were:

- How does the assessment take into account the recent developments in selectivity  
Implementation of gear trials is usually poor, but in the Irish Sea there has been a large uptake in recent years and positive effects are observed. The inclusion of certain selective gear in the Delegated Act will further improve this. Regardless, selectivity will not resolve all problems in the Irish Sea.
- Other measures like real-time monitoring have also potential to reduce unwanted catches

**ACTION:** Members are invited to send their input on the draft advice on the LO to the Secretariat in advance of the web meeting (24<sup>th</sup> September)

### **4. Objectives for TCM advice in 2019**

Daragh Browne (BIM) and Ben Collier (ANIFPO) presented an update on the gear trials that have been conducted in 2018 in Ireland and Northern-Ireland, respectively. The presentations are available on the [website](#).

Comparing these and other trials revealed interesting results. A lot of factors influence selectivity and what works in one area does not necessarily work in other areas. For example the use of scaring ropes worked well in Denmark, but did not work in the Irish Sea.

The results of the gear trials using LED lights are promising, but further research is required to investigate the effect of e.g. the position of the light source in the net, light frequency and colour.

The Working Group wants to continue providing updates on gear trials and see how these results may lead into recommendations. In particular the Working Group want to continue the discussions from the last meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November to provide advice to improve selectivity in the Nephrops fisheries now that the recommended gear trials have been conducted.



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN  
WATERS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA  
LAS AGUAS  
NOROCCIDENTALES

**ACTION:** The Working Group to follow up on the progress made on selectivity to draft recommendations for the Irish Sea fisheries.

#### 5. Update on Wklrish 5 + Introduction ProbyFish

Dr Dave Reid (Marine Institute) presented an overview of the progress done in the ICES Benchmark Workshop on sharing information on the Irish Sea ecosystem, stock assessments, and fisheries issues, and scoping needs for assessment and management advice (Wklrish). He provided an overview of the next and final workshop of the series that will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> till 9<sup>th</sup> November in Dublin. Members were encouraged to participate at this next WKIrish meeting.

The progress made by the Workshop has been positively received by both stakeholders and scientists. Stakeholders emphasized they would like to see this work be taken forward in the developments of an ecosystem based approach to fisheries management.

Finally, Dr Reid presented an overview of a new EU project called ProbyFish. This project focusses on whether bycatch species are adequately protected/exploited by TACs on target species and which other measures could be used to ensure this. The NWWAC will be kept informed through the newsletters.

Both presentations are available on the [meeting website](#).

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

1	Members are invited to send their input on the draft advice on the LO to the Secretariat in advance of the web meeting (24 <sup>th</sup> September)
2	The Working Group to follow up on the progress made on selectivity to draft recommendations for the Irish Sea fisheries



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
SEPTENTRIONALES

**NORTH WESTERN  
WATERS**  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA  
LAS AGUAS  
NOROCCIDENTALES

## Annex 1 – List of Participants

<b>NWWAC members</b>	
Francis O'Donnell	Irish Fish Producers' Organisation (IFPO)
Jenni Grossmann	ClientEarth
John Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation
John Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Hugo Boyle	Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation
Norah Parke	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation
David Beard	Manx Fish Producers' Organisation
Ben Collier	ANIFPO
<b>Observers</b>	
Jonathan Shrives	European Commission
Fintan Kelly	BirdWatch Ireland
Patrick Murphy	Irish South and West Fish Producers' Organisation
Mo Mathies	BIM
Daragh Browne	BIM
Dave Reid	MI
<b>Secretariat</b>	
Michael Keatinge	Executive Secretary NWWAC
Dominic Rihan	BIM
Sara Vandamme	Deputy Executive Secretary NWWAC
Monica Negoita	Executive Assistant (Finance and Administration) NWWAC