



## DRAFT MINUTES

### WORKING GROUP 1 (WEST OF SCOTLAND)

Room 21.04 “Jacob Van Artevelde” - Virginie Lovelinggebouw (VAC)  
Koningin Fabiolalaan, 9000 Gent

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2018  
11:00 – 13:00

#### 1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair, Mike Park, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Javier Lopez (Oceana), Alan McCulla (ANIFPO) and Luis Francisco Marín (OPPAO).

The agenda was adopted as drafted.

The Secretariat updated the meeting on the action points from last meeting in Madrid (7<sup>th</sup> March 2018):

1. Working Group members are invited to inform the Secretariat if they wish to join a Focus Group to further develop the draft cod management plan.

Following an email sent to WG1 members, nominees were collected.

2. A workshop will be organised later in the year to develop a Regional Management Plan for cod

Most items that were discussed in the draft cod management plan, presented at the ExCom meeting (8<sup>th</sup> March), had been included in the AC advice on the LO published on 17<sup>th</sup> April ([link](#) – [lien](#) - [enlace](#)). A scientific project proposal on the identification of cod population in areas 6.a and 4 has been drafted and will be discussed later in the meeting.

The meeting has to decide whether a Focus Group is still required.

#### 2. ICES advice for the West of Scotland

Mr Ghislain Chouinard (ACOM Vice-Chair) presented the advice for West of Scotland and deep sea stocks on behalf of ICES.



After the presentation, the chair opened the floor for questions and invited members to provide specific feedback that will form the basis of the NWWAC response to the fishing opportunities for 2019.

In response to questions raised by members, Mr Chouinard clarified:

- Natural mortality in assessment models is periodically updated, for example in case of haddock this year. It does have an effect in the assessment, but for haddock the subsequent effects on SSB is small. To assess the state of the stock and produce advice, it is not so much natural mortality but the change in SSB that is relevant.
- Surveys included in the assessment cover the bulk of the stock distribution. The weight that is given to each survey in the assessment is modeled as part of the assessment process.
- It is known that the survey coverage in area 6.b is not dense. For now, it is not yet flagged as a big issue for the assessment (reference section Quality of the assessment in the ICES advice, [link](#)). Scientific surveys can be accompanied with additional surveys if available.
- For haddock in area 6.b, Fmsy upper equals the midpoint Fmsy, because Fmsy had to be capped so that there is less than 5% probability of the stock falling below Blim.

The COM clarified that as a rule of thumb the midpoint Fmsy is used to set the fishing opportunities. As there is no Multi-Annual Plan for the Western Waters, there are legally no mechanisms available to introduce mixed fisheries considerations and therefore allows using the upper Fmsy range. However, the exact target of the TAC is ultimately decided at the December Council.

**ACTION:** The working Group will draft advice for the COM on setting the fishing opportunities for 2019 based on the discussion

### 3. COD Management Plan

The chairs of the Working Group had presented a draft discussion document at the ExCom meeting in Madrid (8<sup>th</sup> March 2018). At the time, ExCom had agreed to set up a Focus Group to develop this document further. Considering most of the proposals had been further developed and included in the NWWAC advice on the Landing Obligation (17 April 2018, [link](#) – [lien- enlace](#)), the chair asked whether it is still required to organize this Focus Group.

The Working Group agreed to organize the Focus Group and could perform as the discussion forum to steer the project on the genetic stock identification of gadoids in area 6.a and 4. Mr O'Donoghue informed the meeting that a draft project proposal was developed by Edward Farrel (Ireland) and Peter Wright (Scotland) and he will forward it to the Secretariat for distribution to the WG members.

**ACTION:** Focus Group on Cod Management Plan will be organized, chaired by Ms Irene Kingma

**ACTION:** The AC to contact ICES in relation to the questionable population structure used in assessments on cod

**ACTION:** The Secretariat to distribute the project proposal on the genetic population identification of cod forwarded by Mr O'Donoghue.



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

1	The working Group will draft advice for the COM on setting the fishing opportunities for 2019 based on the discussion
2	Focus Group on Cod Management Plan will be organized, chaired by Ms Irene Kingma
3	The AC to contact ICES in relation to the questionable population structure used in assessments on cod
4	The Secretariat to distribute the project proposal on the genetic population identification of cod forwarded by Mr O'Donoghue.



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## Annex 1 – List of Participants

<b>NWWAC members</b>	
Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Pesca de Gran Sol (ANASOL)	Purificación del C. Fernández Alvarez
Lonja de La Coruña S.A.	José Luis Otero Gonzalez
Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Lugo (OP-LUGO)	José Manuel Fernández Beltran
Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco	Juan Carlos Corrás Arias
The PEW Charitable Trusts	Jean Christophe Vandavelde
Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins (CNPMEM)	Caroline Gamblin
Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne (LPDB)	Jean-Marie Robert
Irish Fish Producers' Organisation (IFPO)	Francis O'Donnell
Irish Fishermen's Organisation	John Lynch
Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation	Seamus Bonner
Irish South and West Fish Producers' Organisation	Patrick Murphy
Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation	Sean O'Donoghue
Dutch Elasmobranch Society	Irene Kingma
Scottish Fishermen's Organisation	Paul McDonald
West of Scotland Fish Producers' Organisation	Kevin McDonnell
<b>Observers</b>	
Rederscentrale	Emiel Brouckaert
Fundació ENT	Lydia Chaparro
Fundación Rendemento Económico Mínimo Sostible e Social	Severino Ares Lago
International Forum for Sustainable Underwater Activities (IFSUA)	Oscar Sagué
ClientEarth	Heather Hamilton
European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)	Maria Aira
Seas at Risk	Debbie Crockard
Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins du Finistère (CDPMEM 29)	Erwan Quemeneur
Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins (CRPMEM) de Bretagne	Emmanuel Kilberine
FROM Nord (Fond Régional d'Organisation du Marché du poisson)	Delphine Roncin
Organisation de Producteur Coopérative Maritime Etaploise Manche Mer du Nord (OPCMEMMN)	Dominique Thomas
BirdWatch Ireland	Fintan Kelly
Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation	Hugo Boyle