



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

MINUTES

HORIZONTAL WORKING GROUP

The Main Conference Centre – Dublin Castle

Thursday 05th September 2019

15:30 – 17:00

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair Emiel Brouckaert welcomed all participants.

Apologies for this meeting were received from Mike Park (SWFPA), Delphine Roncin (FROMNORD), all the Irish, Barry Deas (NFFO), Dimitri Rogoff (CRPMEM Normandie), Hugo Boyd/Ciaran Whelan (ISEFPO).

The agenda was adopted.

Action points from the minutes of the last meeting (Ghent 02 & 03 July 2019)

Horizontal Working Group	
1	The Secretariat to initiate the advice drafting process on the fishing opportunities for 2020 and to request an extension to the 20 th of August deadline. The process includes the nomination and election of Chair and the inclusion of input from the discussion held in the Working Groups 1 to 4 over the two days in Ghent. This advice to include the sustainability dimension of the marketing standards.
	DONE: 1 month extension granted by COM (08/07/19), First email sent out looking for participants on 12 July. The Secretariat developed draft material. Group met yesterday, process will be discussed under point 3.
2	The Secretariat to initiate the process of setting up of an Advice Drafting Group including selection of Chair and timeline on the finalisation of consensus advice on the Discard Plan and the BCRéP. This also includes an update of the Choke Identification Tool (previously Choke Mitigation Tool).
	DONE: following some discussion it was agreed to continue work on advice regarding choke avoidance after Discard Plan. The Secretariat updated the Choke ID tool and the four WG discussed these today. BCRep Discussed at ADG for fish opps 2020.
3	The Secretariat to contact the Market AC and identify potential for collaboration in view of the workshop the MAC is organising
	DONE: The MAC will be hosting a workshop on plastics later this year, plus a workshop on Ecolabels during the first quarter of 2020. NWWAC is actively assisting the MAC in preparing the workshop on plastics which will be held in DG MARE on 07 November 2019. Speakers have yet to be confirmed.

The Secret Ballot for the ExCom seat for the Dutch Elasmobranch Society was carried out electronically. An email ballot was initiated on 17 July. A reminder was emailed on 13 August, with the deadline for voting 23 August. The vote was in favour and the WG welcomes Irene Kingma as an ExCom member.

Irene informed the HWG that she has taken on a new position for another organization with the North Sea Foundation. Her personal focus will be more on the North Sea so that she won't personally be attending the NWWAC anymore. However, the DES will remain a member of NWWAC and the ExCom.

Some discussions were held between ExCom Chair and Vice-Chairs, the Secretariat and other representatives. Blue Fish has presented their candidacy to the OIG college. The OIG Vice-Chair informed the HWG that this application was received. Following from meeting with CHARM at the end of August, the OIG college has been requested to produce a procedure of how members who are looking to be nominated for an ExCom Chair are evaluated. This is currently being drawn up before moving forward.

2. NWWAC advice on Fishing Opportunities 2020 (discussion)

The Advice Drafting Group has produced a document which now needs to be translated into the three working languages of the NWWAC before being approved by the ExCom.

The OIGs commented that they are drafting a couple of comments in response to the draft that had been circulated previously. This should be received in a few moments so could these comments please be included before being sent for translation. While these comments do not change the content of the draft advice, members of the ADG should review these.

If the ADG agrees this draft then the ExCom has to approve it to go ahead.

A member of the Focus Group on Sea bass requested that the ADG should wait for results of Focus Group meeting next week Monday to be included in the draft advice.

The ExCom Chair explained that it is not possible to wait for the sea bass advice due to deadline of 20 September as there doesn't seem to be a finalized document coming out of the group. He proposed that the best thing to do is to list the statements and the situation for seabass in the NWW and the intention to look into the situation more intensively within FG in conjunction with NSAC.

While the Webex is planned for next week, this would only be enough timewise if anything concrete was coming out of the meeting. Any text has to be translated into three languages which means there is not enough time to include this at such a late stage. The best thing is to contact the relevant ExCom member to see if what has been included in the current advice is enough. The future Focus Group can work on this.

3. NWWAC advice on the Review of the State aid framework applicable to the fishery and aquaculture sector (discussion)

The Commission (DG MARE) has embarked on the exercise of the review of the State aid framework applicable to the fishery and aquaculture sector:

- (1) *De minimis* Regulation (Commission Regulation (EU) No 717/2014),
- (2) Block Exemption Regulation (Commission Regulation (EU) No 1388/2014), and
- (3) Guidelines for the examination of State aid to the fishery and aquaculture sector (Communication 2015/C 217/01, as amended).

The Secretariat asked for expressions of interest for an advice drafting group on this but received no replies. Suggestion: to complete the questionnaire now in HWG and send for approval to ExCom tomorrow.

This questionnaire was made available online on the NWWAC website in preparation for this meeting.

The Chair presented a number of slides in consideration of this topic and posed the question if the NWWAC as a whole should respond, or if the AC should add our view in a letter to the COM. When asked if any NWWAC member had responded to this consultation so far, only one OIG indicated involvement.

A comment was made that currently there are a lot of requirements in order to access aid. Legislation states that vessels or companies that receive aid in the last five years cannot be penalized as a serious fault under the CFP otherwise they have to give monies back, for example mistakes in calculation/estimation regarding landings (wrong landing declaration). Any aid received has to be returned over five years which is why this particular AC member had not applied for grant aid.

In response it was pointed out that refunds would probably fall under the EMFF regulations, while under this agenda item the state aid framework was being evaluated.

The framework basically states that there is EMMF and the block exemption which are applicable to fisheries. EMFF is becoming a topic on the trilogue discussions with amendments being put forward by the Parliament and the Council already. This consultation is specifically about the three things mentioned:

1. De minimis Regulation, 717/2014
2. Block Exemption Regulation (FIBER), 717/2014
3. State aid Guidelines (Guidelines). 2015/C 217/01

ACTION: NWWAC is asking membership directly to respond and NWWAC will not put forward an opinion as a whole.

4. NWWAC advice on 'Addressing Choke Risk in NWW after exemptions'

This advice has been discussed in the four regional working groups. The Secretariat will consolidate the advice and then go through written procedure for ExCom approval.

Advice received in WG4: agreed.

Advice received in WG3: sole 7d: this is a target stock, so an explanation is needed as to why this could also become a choke. If any member has further input, please send it to the Secretariat

Advice received in WG2: The group has not been able to advance too much, as a long discussion was held on the scope of the diagnostic tool to include additional TCM as suggested by the COM. Written contributions are needed to complete this table. It was felt that the group needed to receive the ICES report on mixed fisheries before making any further progress.

On this the COM clarified that TCM are one of several options. Last year there were a number of options included in the Choke identification tool and not all of them were supported by all members. This table should not be an in-depth analysis of all the TCM that are available, only that it is one of the options that the group could explore and prepare advice for the Council on.

Other items that could be added that were identified during WG 2, included for example an explanation of why haddock is perceived as a high risk choke species. A comment could also be added to the 7e whiting fishery, which is not really a mixed fishery but included under the mixed fisheries management. It would be worthwhile to add a comment and a request to see if unnecessary measures can be avoided in parts of the area as whiting 7b-k is addressed overall here.

A request was made regarding the need to see the effect of the new Celtic Sea TCM before further discussions. A request has also been made for the setting up of a Focus Group for the analysis of the TCM.

Advice received in WG1: Irene: nothing to report on choke.

ACTION: NWWAC members to supply Secretariat with additional information

Following this overview, a question was posed to the COM regarding the deadline for receiving of this advice.

The COM needs to receive advice at least a month before proposal comes out which means really at the end of September, however, the hierarchy can be asked if an extension could be given needed. This might be possible if the COM can view the draft proposals.

As the Secretariat needs time to give the members the opportunity to respond and since questions may still arise the Chair requested that the COM representative seek an extension of the deadline.

ACTION: COM to discuss possibility of extension. Based on this the Secretariat to contact all members with exact deadline.

The Secretariat invites all member to please send in comments anyway never mind the deadline

5. Brexit update

As these discussions are still at political level, it was felt that the topic to discuss is the future functioning but at this point in time not a lot can be said about this.

However, a point arose in WG 3 and the COM made a useful suggestion to create a Focus Group on scallops.

The COM confirmed that an email had been sent to the lawyers regarding the concerns about what could be put into a joint recommendation with regards to Brexit, could there be any complications, and would it prejudice in any way any future agreement on fisheries between the UK and the EU. While this depends of course on the content and the wording, however, recommendations regarding kilowattage and effort exchange would be ok, as well as the inclusion of recommendations regarding technical measures. These joint recommendations could also contain a sentence like “without prejudice to any future agreement on access” depending on if the AC decides to add this. The general consensus is that there should be no legal blockage to the AC progressing with discussions on JR on scallops.

6. Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted (Chair)

The decision regarding Blue Fish’s nomination is in hands of OIG college.

The ADG is waiting for further comments on the second draft which was distributed this morning followed by a discussion between ADG members, with a final draft hopefully ready tomorrow for ExCom approval.

It was agreed to provide no specific further input from AC on the revision of the State Aid Framework.

1	NWWAC is asking membership directly to respond to the consultation on the Review of the State Aid Framework
2	NWWAC members to supply Secretariat with additional information on the choke identification tool.
3	COM to discuss possibility of extension. Based on this the Secretariat to contact all members with exact deadline.

Annex 1 – List of participants

NWWAC members	
Emiel Brouckaert (Chair)	Rederscentrale
Jonathan Shrives	DG MARE
Elsa Tudal	Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation
Hugo Gonzales	Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Pesca de Gran Sol (ANASOL)
Jenni Grossman	ClientEarth
David Curtis	European Anglers' Alliance
Julien Lamothe	Association Nationale des Organisations de Producteurs (ANOP)
Caroline Gamblin	Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins (CNPMEM)
Pascale Coquet	France Pêche Durable et Responsable
Norah Parke	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation
Geert Meun	Stichting van de Nederlandse Visserij
Alex Kinninmonth	RSPB
Fintan Kelly	BirdWatch Ireland
Debbie Crockard	Seas at Risk
Paul Trebilcock	Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation
Enda Conneely	Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation
Irene Kingma	Dutch Elasmobranch Society
Paul Macdonald	Scottish Fishermen's Organisation
Jim Portus	South Western Fish Producers Organisation Ltd.
Kenny Coull	The Scottish White Fish Producers Association Ltd.
Kevin McDonnell	West of Scotland Fish Producers' Organisation
Jean-Christophe Vandevelde	The PEW Trusts
José Manuel F. Beltrán	Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Lugo (OP-LUGO)
Luis Francisco Marín	Organización de Productores de Pesca (OPPAO)
José Luis Otero Gonzales	Lonja de La Coruña S.A.
Juan Carlos Corrás Arias	Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco
Oscar Sagué	IFSUA
Lionel Bottin	Comité Départemental des Pêches et des Élevages Marins du Calvados (CDPMEM 14)
Erwan Quemeneur	Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins du Finistère (CDPMEM 29)
Thierry Kerzerho	Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins (CLDPMEM) du Morbihan
Dominique Thomas (Mr)	CDPMEM des Cotes d'Armor
Mathieu Vimard	L'organisation de producteurs de Basse-Normandie (OPBN)
Gérald Hussenot Desenonges	Blue Fish
Jean-Marie Robert	Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne (LPDB)
Franck Le Barzic	Coopérative Maritime Bretagne Nord (COBRENORD)
Dominique Thomas (Ms)	Organisation de Producteur Coopérative Maritime Etaploise Manche Mer du Nord (OPCMEEMN)
Olivier Lepetre	FEDOPA
Marc Ghiglia	UAPF
Secretariat	
Michael Keatinge	Executive Secretary NWWAC
Mo Mathies	Deputy Executive Secretary NWWAC
Matilde Vallerani	Deputy Executive Secretary NWWAC
Monica Negoita	Executive Assistant (Finance and Administration) NWWAC

