



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

**NORTH WESTERN
WATERS**
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

Minutes

GENERAL ASSEMBLY / AGM

The Main Conference Centre – Dublin Castle

Friday 06 September 2019

11:00 – 12:30

1 Welcome and introductions

The President of the General Assembly welcomed all participants. Apologies were received from Barrie Deas NFFO, Mike Park SWFPA, Delphine Roncin and Manon Jougnet FROMNORD, Mrs Dominique Thomas CMEOP, Julien Lamothe ANOP. The agenda was adopted as is.

2 Annual report from the NWWAC ExCom Chairman

The Chair of the NWWAC Executive Committee presented:

- Work completed in Year 14
- Work priorities for Year 15 and adoption of the work programme
- Proposed calendar of meetings for Year 15

The proposed workplan for year 15 was adopted by the General Assembly.

3 Report of budget (Secretariat)

The NWWAC Executive Assistant (Finance & Administration) presented:

- Review of the income and expenditure for Year 14
- Proposed budget for Year 15; ratification

As the Financial Year closes end of October 2019, the Secretariat is asking all members to please submit your reimbursements ASAP after the Dublin meeting!



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A member enquired what happens with any surplus funding received for the year.

The Secretariat explained that there would only be a nominal surplus as the COM does not pay out the full amount, instead, payment is received pro rata. When the COM does the final calculation, the final payment is based on the final expenditure.

The finding from the COM is received in three steps, with the final payment only received after closing of accounts.

While the member is aware of the unusual accounting procedures of the COM, the issue at hand is that there was an opportunity to use this money for good purpose. The AC needs to look to maximise the income and expenditure. If surplus had been predicted maybe 6 months ago this money could have been earmarked for interpretation/translations.

The Secretariat has also been doing some translations in house and did not use outside services. However, the changeover in staff has contributed to some issues not being identified in time and the Secretariat will do its best to improve.

If the COM is only paying the AC according to what is spent, then we will try to be more efficient and won't hesitate to ask for more money for translations.

Funding following Brexit

A number of people have asked what will happen after Brexit regarding funding within the AC.

What will happen with the UK contribution (both OIG and sector) if Brexit happened tomorrow though nobody knows which way Brexit is going to go.

The COM was invited to make a statement regarding this.

The COM has made interventions in terms of their functioning previously, for example observer status to the UK. The COM member at this meeting is replacing another COM representative who is looking after the financial aspects and unfortunately has no information at this moment but can take note and will seek a written reply if that is wanted.

The AC feels that this is fundamental questions because it is about the integrity of the members of the AC and regarding transparency to avoid unfair competition.

4 Report on membership (Secretariat)

The NWWAC Executive Assistant (Finance & Administration) presented an overview of the membership.

The General Assembly confirmed that the Dutch Elasmobranch Society has been accepted as member of the ExCom.



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A request by Blue fish for ExCom membership is currently being processed by the OIG college.

The Blue Fish representative stated that both topics was mentioned in HWG yesterday and that his organisation would like an answer very quickly. They are very interested in the work programme as set out by the Secretariat and feel that they fit perfectly into this as they are working on all these environmental and social topics.

Mandates of President of the GA, ExCom Chair and vice-chairs, and WG chairs and rapporteurs are confirmed for the year 15.

5 Rules and Procedures of the NWWAC (Secretariat)

This point is just a quick repetition of what was said during the ExCom. The Secretariat would appreciate if members could let us know when they are coming to meetings and which meetings they intend to attend so as to provide a better service, for example in relation to the size of the meeting rooms and to interpretation issues. Rules and Procedures of the AC need to be revisited specifically regarding the attendance at Focus Groups. If a non-active member of the FG wants to participate in this meeting this decision falls on the chair of the Focus Group.

The Secretariat was asked to clarify the working of the Focus Groups regarding membership and observer attendance.

Any member of the NWWAC can attend any meeting of the geographical/regional working groups as an observer. The Focus Groups, however, are dedicated to carrying out work on a specific task on behalf of the AC members. Any observer, even if they are members of the AC, must ask the Chair of the relevant Focus Group for approval prior to attending any meeting as an observer. One member had previously raised the question why any member of the AC would want to attend any Focus Group meeting as an observer instead of being an active member.

This was fully supported, and the President of the GA added that there does not seem much point in attending a Focus Group meeting as an observer. Either you are an active member or not. The point is to be there as a hard-working member of the group instead of just observing.

6 Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted (President)

Year 14 was a very intense, very busy, and an extremely productive year for the NWWAC.

The Year 15 strategic work programme has also been adopted by the General Assembly. All the strands on which the AC proposes to work are absolutely essential to address fishing holistically.

Also approved is the calendar of meetings. These must take into account logistics and transport difficulties to allow everyone to attend the meetings right to the end.



Regarding the budget it is important to make the best use of the budget, maybe we should ensure an increase in interpretation/translation budget to allow as many people as possible to attend the Focus Groups.

The Year 15 budget was ratified unanimously.

The General Assembly is delighted to welcome the Dutch Elasmobranch Society to the ExCom. It also noted the Blue Fish comment and application which will assist continuity.

One member reiterated that it is important to know well in advance the dates of the meetings in order for hotels and flight tickets to be booked. It was also requested to not schedule any meetings for the first two weeks of August. We would like to thank the Secretariat for the excellent organisation of the last two meetings.

All requests have been mentioned, the per diem allowance has been increased for Dublin due to the fact that Dublin is extra expensive. AC members want to avoid travel on a Friday, which will also be taken into account so as to ensure that everyone can stay right until the end.

The President thanked everyone for their attendance.

Annex 1 – List of Participants

NWWAC members	
Olivier LeNezet	CRPMEM de Bretagne
Emiel Brouckaert (Chair)	Rederscentrale
Patrick Murphy	Irish South and West Fish Producers Organisation
John Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation
Hugo Gonzalez	Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Pesca de Gran Sol (ANASOL)
Jenni Grossman	ClientEarth
Debbie Crockard	Seas at Risk
David Curtis	European Anglers' Alliance
Alex Kinninmonth	RSPB
Johnny Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Sean O'Donoghue	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation
Geert Meun	Stichting van de Nederlandse Visserij
Paul Trebilcock	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation (UK)
Caroline Gamblin	CNPMEM
Fintan Kelly	BirdWatch Ireland
Despina Symons	EBCD



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José Manuel Fernandez Beltran	OP-LUGO
José Luis Otero Gonzalez	Lonja de La Coruña S.A.
José Luis Otero Gonzalez	FREMSS
Jesús Angel Lourido Garcia	Puerto de Celeiro SA OPP-77
Juan Carlos Corrás Arias	Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco
Luis Francisco Marín	OPPAO
Jean-Christophe Vandeveld	The PEW Trusts
Kevin McDonnell	West of Scotland FPO
Lionel Bottin	CDPMEM du Calvados
Gérald Hussenot Desenonges	Blue Fish
Oscar Sagué	IFSUA
Erwan Quemeneur	CDPMEM du Finistère
Enda Conneely	Irish Islands and Marine Resources Organisation
Other observers	
Jonathan Shrives	DG MARE
Norah Parke	Killybegs Fishermens' Organisation
David Leroy	CRPMEM Normandie
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