



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

MINUTES

Executive Committee

Ghent, Wednesday 3rd of July 2019

11:30 – 13:00

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair, Emiel Brouckaert, opened the meeting and welcomed the members, observers, ICES and DG MARE representatives to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Alex Kinninmonth, Johnny Woodlock, Alan McCulla, Bruno Dachicourt and Kenny Coull in advance of the meeting.

The agenda was adopted with a small change of splitting agenda item 3 into two points to start off with the WKSCINDI report by Barrie Deas, followed by the two items Ms Elsa Tudal is presenting on.

Action points from the minutes of the last meeting (13th March 2019 Madrid)

1	The Executive Committee approved the action points from the Working Group 1-2-3-4 meetings and the Horizontal Working Group.
2	The Executive Committee approved Ms Crockard to act as interim vice-chair for the OIG college, until a new vice-chair can be appointed.
3	The nomination of Dutch Elasmobranch Society will be put forward to the General Assembly for voting.
	Need to identify procedure internally
4	The OIG college will vote on the Bluefish nomination for an ExCom seat
	Email sent to Bluefish to contact Debbie Crockard regarding this directly so that OIG college can vote.
5	Following the ICES advice in June, a Focus Group on the landing obligation can be organised to identify potential choke stocks in NWW and discuss solutions
	To be discussed
6	Contact the NSAC once the Terms of Reference for a FG on brown crab are established for potential collaboration.
	To do following this meeting
7	Set up Inter-AC steering group meeting with LDAC and PELAC.
	Due to delay with Brexit there has not been a recent meeting.



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2. Secretariat

The NWWAC Executive Secretary Michael Keatinge pointed out that the two new Deputy Executive Secretaries were introduced during the first meeting of the HWG on Tuesday. The Madrid meeting was a turning point as Conor had left and Sara was about to leave. The recruitment process fully resolved and now there is a full complement in the Secretariat. Thanks to Monica for keeping things going while on her own in the office, and also thanks to Matilde and Mo for the preparation of meetings.

One small technical point: WG4 will be held after ExCom due to travel arrangements. But as a point of principle it needs to be discussed if this is a good thing. While respecting the need for people to get flights, it is proposed that all Working Groups should take place before the ExCom meeting as the latter looks over the action items and gives directions to Secretariat.

It was agreed that in future ExCom will be the last session of meetings.

Comments from NWWAC members included:

- The additional day some members would need for traveling bringing the number of overnights to 3 and taking participants away from their day-to-day work.
- Changing the order of the working groups so that it is not always WG 4 that is last
- Starting the meeting at lunchtime on the first day and ending at lunchtime on the third day to allow participants to travel in the morning and the afternoon respectively.

This topic will be reviewed at the next CHARM meeting.

3. Workshop on Science with Industry Initiatives WKSCINDI (Barrie Deas, NFFO)

This workshop was held last week in Copenhagen by ICES to provide an up to date overview on the roles that industry can play in delivering scientific information relevant to ICES advice and marine research and result in a roadmap for measurable steps toward the inclusion and application of scientific data from industry.

The meeting was well attended meeting, and a lot of information was shared. It was established that a lot of work is carried out through fisheries-scientist partnerships that are already in existence.

The main themes addressed by the industry include the general frustration that information generated by the industry is not as influential as they have been led to believe.

One of the main conclusions is whether ICES can develop a data protocol to identify what would be useful to the science process as no one wants to collect data just for the sake of it. In addition, there are already existing data sets are not being used.

The information collected needs to be scientifically valid and the question is how that can be achieved.

During the workshop it was mentioned that currently there seems to be only a two-way discussion, however, a three-way discussion is that is needed which includes fisheries managers, not just fishermen and scientists. For this to progress it would need to be identified who that would involve at national, local, EU, and international level.

All three sections need to be involved early in the design process for better outcomes of research.



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Capturing the knowledge and experience that is available in the industry is vital, but this cannot be achieved via one single approach. It is also important to respect each other's competences. Several presentations during the workshop touched on REM, and one particular issue is the governance surrounding this kind of work. There are tensions between REM as a method for control and REM used for science, and concern that one might get into the way of the other. There seems to be powerful backing from top echelons in ICES for this Working Group, and best practice guidance is expected to be developed out of this working group with a move away from top down management to the bottom up approach. This has to lead to better management outcomes.

A full written report is to follow including best practice guidelines, which will be distributed to all members upon receipt by the Secretariat and also be followed up at the next MIACO meeting.

The Commission invited NWWAC members to make them aware of any important meetings during the year so that they would not be missed.

A query was raised by an NWWAC member as to the strengthening of cooperation between fisheries and scientist, and if this would take into account any potential conflicts of interest? Or if there were any rules within ICES to prevent potential conflicts of interest in the future?

Mr Deas replied that fisheries science partnerships are not new, and some have been running for a long time mentioning one specific example in the UK which has been running for 16 years generating projects every year.

Conflict needs to be resolved through dialogue. It is important to have the right people in the room right from the beginning so meaningful and useful data can be produced. Hopefully the conclusions/roadmap from this workshop will receive a lot of attention.

ACTION: The Secretariat to distribute full report including best practice guidance to all members upon receipt and follow this up at the next MIACO meeting.

4. Joint Recommendations Discard Plan (Elsa Tudal, NWW MSG)

The Joint Recommendations were sent in June to the COM by France on behalf of the HLG of the NWW MSG and are currently being assessed by STECF.

The JR gravitates around three pillars:

- Continuing the existing exemptions;
- In view of new items brought by the MS the NWW group asked the EU COM to extend until 2021 exemptions that had been temporarily granted;
- MSG suggest to COM that new exemptions are provided regarding survival rate and other exemptions under de minimis.

New high survivability exemptions are proposed regarding plaice capture by otter trawls, plaice caught with seines and common sole below MCRS caught with otter trawl in specific areas of the NWW (details under Point d-3 in the JR document).

The introduction of de minimis exemptions are listed under Point e-3 in the JR document, and



technical measures are identified in Chapter 6.

The JR have been assessed by the technical group of STECF, and the final opinion of STECF will be disclosed this week at end of the STECF plenary session.

NWWAC members raised the following points:

- that continued cooperation between the MSG and the NWWAC is important to see what STECF comments are and to prepare and obtain advice from AC.
- A number of exemptions were granted for 2019 on the grounds that some new elements would be dropped, for example rays and their survival rate and it was hoped that this would be maintained in the following years. Studies take a long time and criteria imposed by the Commission are not easy to meet.

It was identified that the outcome of the French studies is included in the annex of the JR. The Commission is aware of the particular exemptions, and all of the exemptions are under scrutiny. Cuckoo ray is currently the only exemption with a question around it, all others have been kept for the duration of the plan, but no particular comments can be made until the STECF opinion has been received.

- In the previous year the Commission that sent letter to the regional groups regarding exemptions and the details of how they were arrived at. Will this be repeated this year to inform the ACs of the process and not just have the end result presented?

The Commission pointed out that there will be an exchange between COM and MSG following the STECF results, and while a discussion is needed and already planned, there is very little time. The legal text for the Delegated Act needs to be drafted by the end of July. Thus, the Commission can't confirm if the same methodology will be used as last year due to lack of time and the fact that a decision has not been made yet. However, this request will be taken back to the COM.

5. ByCatch Reduction Plan

This document is also currently being discussed at the STECF plenary.

This plan is part of the two-year reduction of bycatch in NWW work that started in December 2017 during the Council of Ministers, where the MS drafted a joint statement in which they committed themselves to improved selectivity in the Celtic Sea gadoid fishery.

This statement was assessed by STECF in 2018 and was translated into the Delegated Act, which included technical provisions that concern the NWW.

In December 2018 following scientific advice a number of stocks were identified that had zero stock advice which was in contradiction with LO.

The COM suggested the implementation of 5 bycatch TACs for zero TAC stocks and in parallel the MS that were impacted by this committed themselves to reduce the bycatch of these species as much as possible.



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NOROCCIDENTALES

The BCREP covers only zero TAC stocks and includes specific monitoring aspects. The BCREP was drafted in 2019 to be fully implemented as soon as it has been validated by STECF, and includes the following stocks for which ICES had released zero catch advice in 2019:

- Whiting 7a = in Irish Sea
- Whiting 6, 5b, 12, 14 = in West of Scotland
- Cod 6a, 5b (East 12°00W) = in West of Scotland
- Cod 7bce-k, 8, 9, 10, COPACE 34.1.1 = in Celtic Sea+ SWW
- Plaice 7hjk = in South West of Ireland

The BCREP is an ad hoc tool. As soon as ICES removes one of the stocks from zero tac advice the stock will be removed from this plan.

Common measures apply to the five species:

- Prohibition of targeted fisheries
- Technical Measures aiming to lower under MCERS catches
- Spatio-temporal closures
- Control measures
- Reporting obligation and then avoidance rise
 - 1.If exceeding a threshold in catch composition defined for stock, by fishing operation then information to the Flag FMC;
 - 2.Consequently: avoidance measures to be put in place within a 10 nautical miles diameter circle centred on the middle geographical point of the triggering haul.

It is important that reporting foster a notification process so that action can be taken as soon as something is abnormal relating to these species, e.g. avoiding specific areas.

The MS allow 18 months for these measures in order to assess the impact of the TCM. Nevertheless, the MSG has already foreseen specific measures that could be implemented after 18 months if there is no improvement visible.

Any new measure can only be implemented at the end of 2020 but intervention of the MSG is possible prior to this date if identified by STECF.

Following this presentation, the Chair of the NWWAC ExCom welcomed continued involvement by the NWWAC following STECF reply and that it is this ACs intend to develop advice from the discussion that have been held in the Working Groups over these two days.

Observer Fintan Kelly, BirdWatch Ireland, made a statement on the state of play regarding the BCREP.

ExCom members commented that there are inaccuracies in the observer statement and that it should not be reflected as an opinion of the NWWAC.



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The Commission replied that it had made commitment to send the BCRéP to the STECF without concerning itself with the quality of the plan. A solution for 0 tac advice stocks is needed, and the AC will hopefully provide advice to the COM following STECF analysis.

If STECF comes back with a very negative opinion, the COM needs to have a discussion with the MSG regarding the work that is being carried out.

The COM proposals will go forward as non-papers due to lack of scientific advice.

It is suggested that NWWAC members contact their MS representatives if they want to know what is going on and to request copies of non-papers.

A further observer comment was made enquiring why the presentations and discussion of the JR and BCRéP were not part of the HWG. This could not be discussed due to time constraints.

Action: 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).

6. Brexit update

The Chair gave an overview of the items of importance for the NWWAC. Currently the attention is on the Tory leadership as to who is taking over from Theresa May which is important in evolution of Brexit. The EU stand and views are still the same.

EU fisheries are in preparation for hard Brexit, while in the UK the fisheries bill is under discussion. However, as long as there is no political agreement the parties cannot move forward with any discussions.

The NWWAC started an initiative on future functioning of the ACs but due to lack of clarity there has been no further action. The Secretariat is standing by for further work, but it is doubtful if any work can be carried out even by the September meeting in Dublin.



7. Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair

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.
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).
3	The Secretariat to assist in setting up the programme for the Focus Group Marine Plastics and to set timing for presentation of first draft advice to the ExCom.
4	The Focus Group Control to continue under the Chairmanship of Sean O’Donohue, KFO, to draft new Terms of Reference and to establish a timeline for draft advice to be sent to ExCom
5	The ExCom accepted all action points identified in Working Groups 1, 2 and 3. Action points identified in Working Group 4 will need written approval from the ExCom.
6	The Secretariat to follow through on the written approval process for action points raised in Working Group 4.

Annex 1 – List of Participants

NWWAC ExCom members	
Emiel Brouckaert (Chair)	Rederscentrale
Patrick Murphy	Irish South and West Fish Producers Organisation
Pedro Santos	EBCD
Purificación Fernández	Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Pesca de Gran Sol (ANASOL)
Jenni Grossman	ClientEarth
Debbie Crockard	Seas at Risk
David Vertegaal	European Anglers' Alliance
Julien Lamothe	Association Nationale des Organisations de Producteurs (ANOP)
Caroline Gamblin	Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins (CNPMEM)
Sean O’Donoghue	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation
Geert Meun	Stichting van de Nederlandse Visserij
Barrie Deas	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation (UK)
Mike Park	The Scottish White Fish Producers Association Ltd.
NWWAC observers	
Pascale Coquet	France Pêche Durable et Responsable
Norah Parke	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation
Fintan Kelly	BirdWatch Ireland



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ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

John Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation
Francis O'Donnell	Irish Fish Producers' Organisation
Ciaran Whelan	Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation
Paul Trebilcock	Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation
Irene Kingma	Dutch Elasmobranch Society
Jim Portus	South Western Fish Producers Organisation Ltd.
Paul Fletcher	Scottish Fishermen's Organisation
Jean-Christophe Vandevelde	The PEW Trusts
Lydia Chaparro	Fundació ENT
Dominique Thomas	FROMNord
Mathieu Vimard	L'organisation de producteurs de Basse-Normandie (OPBN)
Delphine Roncin	FROM Nord (Fond Régional d'Organisation du Marché du poisson)
Franck Le Barzic	Coopérative Maritime Bretagne Nord (COBRENORD)
Dominique Thomas	Organisation de Producteur Coopérative Maritime Etaploise Manche Mer du Nord (OPCMEMMN)
Stephane Pinto	CRPMEM Haut de France
Other observers	
Sara Vandamme	Universiteit Gent
Jonathan Shrives	DG MARE
Elsa Tudal	Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation
Juana Porza	Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentacion
Dirk van Guyze	Vlaamse Overheid
Barbara Roegiers	Vlaamse Overheid
Ghislain Chouinard	ICES
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