



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Nuevos Ministerios – Paseo de la Castellana, 63 - Madrid

Wednesday 13th March 2019

14:30 – 17:00

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair, Emiel Brouckaert, opened the meeting and welcomed the members, observers and COM representatives to the meeting.

No apologies were received in advance of the meeting. The agenda was adopted as drafted.

The Secretariat updated the meeting on the action points from the last meeting in Dublin (13th September 2019):

- *Members to inform the Secretariat if they wish to participate in the Focus Group on Control and Compliance (15th October, Brussels)*

Several meetings of the Focus Group have taken place to draft advice on the COM proposal for the EU fisheries control system. More information under agenda item 4

- *The Executive Committee was asked to approve the action points from previous meetings. Action points from future Working Groups meetings will be approved via written procedure*
- *The WG suggested the addition of a specific paragraph to the advice 'Addressing Choke Risk in NWW after exemptions' on the changes to the Joint Recommendations regarding High survival exemptions and De Minimis exemptions*

The Advice Drafting Group met via web, finalised the advice, distributed and published on the website on 6th November

- *The Secretariat to discuss the consultation process with the Member States on seismic surveys*

On-going action point

- *The Secretariat to remain in contact with Dr Feekings around ways to improve communication on gear trials in different Member States.*

On-going action point



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- *Members to send recommendations for future discussion at the Horizontal Working Group on “Social welfare and sustainability in the fishing industry”*

The Secretariat received suggestions from some members. The topic will be taken forward at one of the next NWWAC meetings this year.

- *ExCom approved the advice drafting procedure*
- *Members are invited to forward input for a discussion document on Functioning of the Advisory Councils to the Secretariat. A Focus Group will be organized if required.*

The Secretariat did not receive any input and no Focus Group was convened. The NWWAC is part of an inter-AC steering committee that organizes inter-AC meetings on the subject.

- *The following advice documents were finalised, distributed and published:*
 - NWWAC advice on WW Multi Annual Plan (19th September 2019)
 - NWWAC response to the COMs advice request on eel management measures for 2019 (28th September 2018)
 - NWWAC advice on the Fishing Opportunities for 2018 (18th September 2018)
 - Joint NWWAC – NSAC advice on seabass management (19th September 2018)
- *Members are invited to send topics for discussion at a Seabass FG in 2019. Note: this FG will be organised if required.*

The Secretariat did not receive any input. However, the subject was raised again at the Working Group 3 meeting.

- *ExCom agreed to continue the work of the FG on Brown crab. The chair and Secretariat will develop the Terms of Reference.*

Update on the progress of the Focus Group will be presented under item 4

- The Directors of the NWWAC Company will provide a summary document on the legal requirements to become a director

A member of BIM was been appointed as the second director of the NWWAC company.

Action points arising from Working Group 1:

- The Secretariat to look into potential funding options to support a genetic study on cod in west of Scotland and adjacent areas.
In particular the EASME as suggestion in the COM correspondence ([link](#) – [lien](#) - [enlace](#)).



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Action points arising from Working Group 4:

- Based on STECF recommendation on the requirements to support a *de minimis* exemptions and a study evaluating the effects on the catch composition and economic impact of different selectivity option for whiting, the NWWAC would make further recommendation on selectivity options.
- An overview to be presented on the effects and impacts of the eliminator trawl vs increasing mesh size to 120mm mesh size in TR1.
- The COM to provide clarification on two outstanding questions.

Action points arising from Working Group 3:

- Mr Jim Portus to forward the link to reports that were referenced during the meeting for further distribution to the WG members.
- A Focus Group on seabass to be organised to further discuss and recommend management options.
- Members are invited to send their comments and experience on scallop dredgers to the secretariat.

Action points arising from Working Group 2:

- The NWWAC to recommend an ICES working group to look at the effects of seismic activity on fish stocks and review the potential to harmonize exploitation patterns in protected areas.
- Recommend a joint meeting with the NWW Member States Group to proposed selectivity measures in the Celtic Sea and discuss future potential measures.
- Ask ICES for updates on the status and participation at the Benchmark meeting on cod, whiting and haddock in 2020.

Action points arising from the Horizontal Working Group:

- A Focus Group on control and compliance should be organized to discuss the use and implementation of remote electronic monitoring tools to increase the buy-in from the industry.
- Members are invited to forward their suggestions for the By-catch Reduction Plans (BRP) to the Secretariat. These will be collated with the input from the meetings this week to bring forward at the NWW Member States meetings as individual inputs (not NWWAC approved advice).



- The NWWAC to recommend a scientific study on the effects of certain species being listed on the prohibited species list and evaluate that status.
- The Secretariat to forward the draft advice tables on skates and rays to the membership for commenting. A Focus Group would be reconvened to finalise the draft for ExCom approval.
- Members are invited to forward suggestion on best handling practices to the Secretariat to include in the NWWAC advice on a programme of measures to reduce discard mortality of skates and rays.
- A Focus Group to be established to further discuss and define the role of the NWWAC in the COM legislation on marine litter, single use plastic and the circular design of fishing gear

ACTION: The Executive Committee approved the action points from the Working Group 1-2-3-4 meetings and the Horizontal Working Group.

Members were notified that the NSAC will be organising focus group meetings on both the use of REMs and the evaluation of the different skates and rays species on the prohibited species list. It was recommended that the NWWAC and NSAC could collaborate on these subjects together.

2. Administration

On the first item for discussion, the interim vice-chair has asked the ExCom to postpone the decision of appointing a new vice-chair until the next meeting. By this time, there will be more clarity on the effect of Brexit on the membership of certain OIG members.

ACTION: The Executive Committee approved Ms Crockard to act as interim vice-chair for the OIG college, until a new vice-chair can be appointed.

The Executive Committee was reminded that the Secretariat has updated the Rules of Procedure on the voting procedure for the Executive Committee representatives, following the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2017/1575 on the functioning of the Advisory Councils under the common fisheries policy. The ExCom approved the updated Rules of Procedure on 22nd February, which are effective immediately.

The Secretariat had received a nomination to join the Executive Committee at the meetings in Dublin castle from Dutch Elasmobranch Society (NEV). After approval of the rules of procedure, the Secretariat received a letter from Bluefish who wish to be nominate for a seat on the ExCom.

According to the updated Rules of Procedure, the Secretariat cannot accept a nomination by an individual organisation. This nomination must be put forward by the OIG college, for example through the interim OIG vice-chair.

The meeting was informed by the OIG vice-chair that they have already voted on the nomination of the Dutch Elasmobranch Society in advance of the meeting. A new vote will be organised for the nomination of Bluefish.



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ACTION: The nomination of Dutch Elasmobranch Society will be put forward to the General Assembly for voting.

The OIG college will vote on the Bluefish nomination for an ExCom seat

Following the departure of Sara Vandamme as Deputy Executive Secretary, the meeting was informed that interviews are taking place during the meetings. A replacement will most likely be announced in the next week.

3. COM overview on ongoing dossiers and upcoming advice requests

The COM representative informed the meeting that currently the main topics that require NWWAC input are:

- The bycatch reduction plans
- Advice on choke for 2020 following the ICES advice that will be published in June
- Seabass
- Any updated advice, building on the NWWAC advice published in 2017 on management proposals for skates and rays ([link](#))

ACTION: 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

4. State of play of the NWWAC Work plan for Year 14 (2018 – 2019)

• Focus Groups progress

○ Skates and Rays

Mr Lynch presented a summary of the FG meeting he chaired in Dublin on 6th February. Members were invited to submit their comments on the draft tables which were discussed at the Horizontal Working Group by email. A Focus Group meeting will be convened via web to finalise the draft. At a later stage, another meeting could be organised to discuss management proposals.

○ Control and Compliance

Mr O'Donoghue informed the meeting that good progress was made at the FG meeting this morning. There is one outstanding comment that needs to be discussed offline before the advice can be distributed to the ExCom for approval. Mr O'Donoghue thanks all members of the FG for their hard work and collaboration. This group is exemplar regarding participants preparation in advance of the meeting and reaching consensus.

Following the question of certain members why there was no interpretation at the meeting, the meeting was informed that this meeting was a follow-up meeting building on discussions that took place during two previous meetings (15th October and 14th January). A Focus Group is open to all member of the NWWAC and an invitation was sent to the General Assembly to be part of this Focus Group on 12th July 2018. The nominated members agreed to have the FG meetings in English only. The aim of the meeting this morning was to finalise this advice, not to discuss any new items. Therefore, the meeting was conducted with the same members as the previous meetings, but observers were welcome to listen in.



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- **Upcoming meetings**

As indicated in the NWWAC work plan, the following topics are outstanding and require a decision on progress

- Non-Quota species
The meeting decided to discuss in relation to species like cuttlefish, red mullet, squid as a horizontal issue. Therefore, this could be addressed at the Horizontal Working Group
- Brown crab
Ms Parke has contacted relevant FG members in advance of the meeting and based on the input received, she intends to present the terms of reference at the next NWWAC meeting. Considering the problem is similar in the North Sea, members suggested to contact the NSAC to collaborate on the subject.

ACTION: Contact the NSAC once the Terms of Reference for a FG on brown crab are established for potential collaboration.

- Inter-AC meeting on the Functioning of the AC and Brexit
The chair informed the meeting that the NWWAC is part of an Inter-AC steering committee which includes the chairs and Secretariat of three ACs: LDAC, PELAC and NWWAC. The Steering committee was set up to prepare the last inter-AC meeting that took place in Madrid on 4th December 2018. Regular meetings are held via web meetings.
At the last meeting, it was decided that the AC should keep the momentum and schedule a next Inter-AC meeting early April. The NWWAC would host this next meeting. ExCom will be informed if any decision is required.

5. Brexit

The Chair gave an overview on the current status regarding the Brexit. However, considering the recent the developments, the ExCom members decided that there are still to many uncertainties. It was suggested to postpone a wider discussion to the NWWAC meetings in Ghent.

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

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.
4	The OIG college will vote on the Bluefish nomination for an ExCom seat
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
6	Contact the NSAC once the Terms of Reference for a FG on brown crab are established for potential collaboration.
7	Set up Inter-AC steering group meeting with LDAC and PELAC.



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Annex 1 – List of Participants

NWWAC Executive Committee members	
Emiel Brouckaert (Chair)	Rederscentrale
Purificación Fernández	Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Pesca de Gran Sol (ANASOL)
Jesús Angel Lourido García	Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP-77
Jenni Grossman	ClientEarth
Bruno Dachicourt	European Transport Federation
Debbie Crockard	Seas at Risk
Javier Lopez	Oceana
Julien Lamothe	Association Nationale des Organisations de Producteurs (ANOP)
Caroline Gamblin	Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins (CNPMEM)
Alex Kinninmonth	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB Scottish headquarters)
John Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Despina Symons	European Bureau for Conservation and Development EBCD
Patrick Murphy	Irish South and West Fish Producers' Organisation
Norah Parke	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation
Sean O'Donoghue	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation
Geert Meun	Stichting van de Nederlandse Visserij
Kenny Coull	The Scottish White Fish Producers Association Ltd.
Observers	
Jonathan Shrives	European Commission
Elas Tudal	French Government
Juana Poza	Spanish Government
Ismael Yague Sabido	Spanish Government
Ana Maurer Bueno	Spanish Government
Jose Antonio Lopez Gonzales	Spanish Government
Jean-Christophe Vandeveld	The PEW Charitable Trusts
Fintan Kelly	BirdWatch Ireland
Hugo Boyle	Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation
John Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation
Enda Conneely	Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation
David Beard	Manx Fish Producers' Organisation
Paul MacDonald	Scottish Fishermen's Organisation
José Manuel F. Beltrán	Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Lugo (OP-LUGO)
Manu Kelberine	Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins des Côtes d'Armor (CDPMEM 22)
Erwan Quemeneur	Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins du Finistère (CDPMEM 29)
Dimitri Rogoff	Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins (CRPMEM) de Basse Normandie
Thierry Kerzerho	Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins (CRPMEM) de Bretagne
Jean-Marie Robert	Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne (LPDB)
Olivier LeNezet	Comité Départemental des Pêche Maritimes et des



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	Elevages Marins du Morbihan (CDPMEM 56)
Michael Armstrong	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Mo Mathies	BIM
Secretariat	
Michael Keatinge	Executive Secretary NWWAC
Sara Vandamme	Deputy Executive Secretary NWWAC
Monica Negoita	Executive Assistant (Finance and Administration) NWWAC