



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

MINUTES

WORKING GROUP 1 - WEST OF SCOTLAND

Nuevos Ministerios – Paseo de la Castellana, 63 - Madrid

Wednesday 12th March 2019

16:00 – 17:00

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair, Irene Kingma, opened the meeting and welcomed the members, observers, EFCA and COM representatives to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Mike Park in advance of the meeting. The agenda was adopted as drafted.

Action points from the minutes from the previous meeting in Dublin on 13th September 2018:

1. Members were invited to send their input on the draft advice on the landing obligations to the Secretariat in advance of the web meeting (24th September 2018).

The advice on the landing obligation was sent to the COM on 6th November 2018. A response was received on 5th March 2019 and discussed at the Horizontal Working Group meeting (12th March 2019).

2. Members to confirm with the Secretariat if they want to participate in the Focus Group on cod.

A Focus Group was organized on 15th November 2018 (see agenda item 2).

2. Management measures for the cod stock 6a

- **COM response to the advice**

The representative from the COM summarised the response to the advice.

He/she then reported that some quota swaps have been taking place between France and Spain and that there are still some weeks left to finalise the exchanges for those MS with no quotas. It was also mentioned that swaps requests do not need to be submitted to AC or MSG approval but need to be reported. Moreover, each MS needs to provide justification for the need of the quota which is then taken into consideration for swapping.



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QUESTION: Is there more information on a potential inter-benchmark meeting in 2019?

- **Update by Scottish White Fish Producers Association**

Mr Coull presented the update on the management measures for the cod stock 6a. In his presentation, he pointed out that:

- Although a cod bycatch limit has been agreed, it may not be sufficient to prevent an early closure of the mixed fishery in 2019.
- A new independent peer-reviewed assessment of West of Scotland cod estimates that the stock is healthier than the current ICES advice suggests, and effort controls have in fact been successful in reducing fishing pressure to a low level and are already promoting stock recovery.
- A re-evaluation of the bycatch limit should be carried out as soon as possible to reduce the risk of cod becoming a choke species.

QUESTION: Is another Focus Group meeting needed? If a genetic study is to be prepared, which should be the Terms of Reference?

Mr O'Donoghue stressed the importance of the genetic stock identification study and remarked the fact that lack of information on the stock structure is still an issue.

The COM representative replied that the bycatch quota is most likely to be repeated next year, depending also on ICES advice, but that there is no plan to close the fishery.

ACTION: 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 requirements could be looked into for an EASME project as suggestion in the COM correspondence.

Questions remains if this is really a job for the NWWAC or more for the scientific experts conducting the research.

3. Proposals for selectivity or avoidance measures to inform the by-catch reduction plans and the Cod Recovery Plan

Mr Coull presented the proposal for selectivity or avoidance measures and the approach taken in Scotland. This is part of the process that will feed back into the MSG. Marine Scotland to develop Discard Reduction Plan for submission to NWW by 30 April 2019.

- Increase cod bycatch to 3% and maintain whiting bycatch at 1.5%
- No targeting of West of Scotland cod or whiting by TR1
- There may be other measures needed to guarantee not targeting fisheries



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Mr Boyle commented that the reduction plan proposed is not considering the differences among MS. For both West of Scotland and the North Sea, real time closures are proposed, and all MS are expected to apply the same rules. Practicalities however may prevent this from happening.

COM replied that these are indeed solutions brought forward for discussion in the MSG and then decided what will be proposed in the BRP.

Ms Fernández pointed out that this is not the only proposal, as each MS will be able to make proposals for discussion at the MSG. Moreover, the decision on selectivity devices will depend on economic viability.

COM: there may be different options for MS and fleets

QUESTION: Will the AC have to provide input on draft document?

Ms Tudal to come back to the AC in case it is possible to share documents for comments.

Suggestions for the by-catch reduction plans currently discussed within the MSG are proposals for:

- increase in the square mesh panel size: 120 to 160mm,
- real time closure,
- eventually: reduce the effort level.

Ms Tudal could provide further information on ongoing discussion within the MSG.

DISCUSSION with members.

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

1	The Secretariat to look into potential funding options to support a genetic study on cod in west of Scotland and adjacent areas.
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Annex 1 – List of Participants

NWWAC members	
Irene Kingma (Chair)	Dutch Elasmobranch Society
Enda Connelly	Irish Islands Marine Resources Organisation
Hugo Boyle	Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation
Patrick Murphy	Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation
Sean O'Donoghue	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation
Norah Parke	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation
Paul MacDonald	Scottish Fishermen's Organisation
Kenny Coull	The Scottish White Fish Producers Association Ltd.
Alex Kinninmonth	Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB Scottish Headquarters)
Purificación Fernández	Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Pesca de Gran Sol (ANASOL)
José Luis Otero Gonzalez	Lonja de La Coruña S.A.
Luis Francisco Marín	Organización de Productores de Pesca (OPPAO) Pesqueros de Lugo (OP-LUGO)
José Manuel Fernández Beltran	Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Lugo (OP-LUGO)
Juan Carlos Corrás Arias	Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco
Javier López	Oceana
Julien Lamothe	Association Nationale des Organisations de Producteurs (ANOP)
Caroline Gamblin	Comité Départemental des Pêches et des Élevages Marins (CDPMEM)
Stephane Pinto	Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins (CRPMEM) Hauts de France
Jean-Marie Robert	Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne (LPDB)
Sylvie Roux	Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins du Morbihan (CDPMEM 56)
Observers	
Emiel Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
John Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation
Geert Meun	Stichting van de Nederlandse Visserij (Dutch Fisheries Organisation)
Debbie Crockard	Seas at Risk
Fintan Kelly	BirdWatch Ireland
John Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Erwan Quemeneur	Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins du Finistère (CDPMEM 29)
Rogoff Dimitri	Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins (CRPMEM) de Basse Normandie
Pascale Coquet	France Pêche Durable et Responsable
Manu Kelberine	Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins des Côtes d'Armor (CDPMEM 22)
Michael Armstrong	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Mo Mathies	BIM
Ghislain Chouinard	ICES
Elsa Tudal	Direction des pêches maritimes et de l'aquaculture
Jonathan Shrives	European Commission



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Jose A. López González	Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación
Ana Maurer Bueno	Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación
Juana Poza Poza	Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación
Ismael Yague Sabido	Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación
Secretariat	
Michael Keatinge	Executive Secretary NWWAC
Dominic Rihan	BIM
Sara Vandamme	Deputy Executive Secretary NWWAC
Monica Negoita	Executive Assistant (Finance and Administration) NWWAC