



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

MINUTES

WORKING GROUP 2 - CELTIC SEA

Nuevos Ministerios – Paseo de la Castellana, 63 - Madrid

Wednesday 13th March 2019

12:30 – 13:15

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair, Jesus Angel Lourido Garcia, opened the meeting and welcomed the members, observers and COM representatives to the meeting.

The agenda was adopted as drafted. The status of the action points from the last meeting in Dublin (12 September 2018) was presented as follows:

1. Members are invited to send their input on the draft advice on the LO to the Secretariat in advance of the web meeting (24 September 2018).

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

2. Request to the MS Group on how to improve the coordination between MS on seismic activity.
3. NWWAC to ask ICES how the effects of underwater noise are being integrated in assessments as part of ecosystem-based approach to fisheries.

This action point was raised at the MIACO meeting (a summary of the meeting was provided yesterday at the Horizontal Working Group).

A new ICES working group is being created with a Term of Reference on shipping noise. ICES has not done any work on the effects of seismic surveys on fishing and the item was postponed to the MIACO meeting, however never got properly addressed. The Secretariat has met with the industry representatives early January. A more detailed discussion took place on how seismic surveys are done and what type of communication is currently used.

Ideas were discussed to improve coordination with the industry, including the development of a uniform information sheets on the seismic surveys that are taking place, the role of the fisheries liaison officers on board of such vessels, etc. Data collected during these surveys could also be shared with other interested bodies, such as marine institutes.

QUESTION: Are members interested in organising a meeting with the industry to further develop this topic and decide on the next steps?

ACTION: 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.



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2. Proposals for selectivity or avoidance measures to inform the by-catch reduction plans

The NWW Member States Group has to develop by-catch reduction plans (BRP) by 30 April 2019.

Update from the Member States Group:

If technical measures taken in Articles 9 and 10 of the Delegated Act (UE) 2018/2034 prove to be efficient, Member States could consider extending them to all the Celtic Sea and not only in the protected zone.

Three measures are proposed for all five stocks in the by-catch reduction plans:

1. Technical measures to lower BMS by-catches

An increase in mesh size (80mm) for towed gears (120mm) to reduce catches of both targeted species and bycatches.

2. Spatio-temporal closure (STC) / Real time closures

3. Move on rule (MoR) to protect juveniles and thus stocks recruitments

Either all vessels are concerned due to a low threshold, either it has no significant impact due to a too high threshold.

QUESTION: The technical measures considered in Articles 9 and 10 of the Delegated Act (UE) 2018/2034 came into force in the Irish Sea from 1 January 2019. Which is the uptake of these gears? Who is using which type of gears?

DISCUSSION with members on the following stocks:

- Cod 7.e-k
- Plaice 7.h, j, k

Members proposed to arrange an ad-hoc Working Group to further discuss the measures that will be proposed in the BRP.

ACTION: Recommend a joint meeting with the NWW Member States Group to propose selectivity measures in the Celtic Sea and discuss future potential measures.

The Member States Group also seems to be reluctant to introduce new measures until the effect of their implementation is known.

About potential additional measures, Julien mentioned that there is a whole panel of measures that can be launched in 2019 as part of the discard plans. Indeed, TCM proposals for cod are already available.



Ms Tudal responded that only a first exchange has taken place and no proposals have been drafted so far. The idea is to consolidate what the NWWAC has proposed, evaluate the measures and consider control aspects.

COM clarified their expectations from the BRP and stressed the need to build upon selectivity measures. A BRP that only contain measures such as TCM and those mentioned in Article 9 of the Delegated Act (UE) 2018/2034 is not enough to reduce mortality.

Mr Brouckaert concluded the discussion saying he would take this point forward to the Executive Committee.

3. Preparation for the Joint Recommendations

DISCUSSION with members on the following stocks:

- High survival exemption: plaice in the beam trawl fisheries

Variability in survival rate estimates is high and the rate is overall low. The NWW Member States Group suggests developing a roadmap to identify possible measures to improve the survival in terms of handling, technical changes, filling the data gaps.

- *De minimis* exemption for cod and haddock.

The Member States Group proposes to provide data on consumption level to support the *de minimis* exemption request. The COM expects additional information on disproportionate cost.

NOTE: A *de minimis* exemption is either based on selectivity limitations **or** disproportionate cost. Currently the DM exemption is based on selectivity trials (IE data). To extent the DM exemption, more data is needed on selectivity from other Member States.

QUESTION: Can members provide more information on selectivity trials in e.g. FR and UK?

COM replied that STECF will review the exemptions and will formulate suggestions on how the requests for the exemption need to be presented. Plaice exemption was very difficult to get through the EP, as there was a lot of variability in HS studies. Thus, the STECF report may be useful to know how to approach the exemptions.

Mr Brouckaert pointed out that the Member States Group already has two meetings planned in March and needs to provide an input by end of March, while the STECF report is only going to be available in April. He also asked COM about the actions the AC is now expected to take.

COM replied that Mr Rihan can provide some inputs on these exemptions proposals and might give the AC some guidelines (draft version). The MS have proposed a new HS exemption for otter trawls and it is recommended to evaluate the request.



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Mr Robert announced that ICES is planning a Benchmark meeting in 2020 on haddock, cod and plaice. The process of reviewing all the available information has started already in Galway. He suggested the NWWAC to reach out to ICES and be part of the evaluation.

ACTION: Ask ICES for updates on the status and participation at the Benchmark meeting on cod, whiting and haddock in 2020.

4. Review of progress, summary of actions agreed, and decisions adopted.

1	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.
2	Recommend a joint meeting with the NWW Member States Group to propose selectivity measures in the Celtic Sea and discuss future potential measures.
3	Ask ICES for updates on the status and participation at the Benchmark meeting on cod, whiting and haddock in 2020.



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Annex 1 - List of Participants

NWWAC members	
Jesus Angel Lourido Garcia (Chair)	Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP-77
John Lynch	Irish Fishermen's 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
Paul Trebilcock	Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation Ltd.
Barrie Deas	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation (UK)
Norah Parke	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation
Jim Portus	South Western Fish Producers Organisation Ltd. (SWFPO)
Debbie Crockard	Seas at Risk
Fintan Kelly	BirdWatch Ireland
Purificación Fernández	Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Pesca de Gran Sol (ANASOL)
Juan Carlos Corrás Arias	Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco
José Luis Otero Gonzalez	Lonja de La Coruña S.A.
Javier López	Oceana
Julien Lamothe	Association Nationale des Organisations de Producteurs (ANOP)
Jean-Marie Robert	Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne (LPDB)
Thierry Kerzerho	Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des élevages Marins du Morbihan (CDPMEM 56)
Emiel Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Observers	
Geert Meun	Stichting van de Nederlandse Visserij
David Beard	Manx Fish Producers' Organisation
Jenni Grossmann	Client Earth
Jean Cristophe Vandevelde	The Pew Charitable Trust
Manu Kelberine	Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des élevages Marins des Côtes d'Armor (CDPMEM 22)
Stephane Pinto	Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des élevages Marins (CRPMEM) Hauts de France
Dominique Thomas	Organisation de Producteur Coopérative Maritime Etaploise Manche Mer du Nord (OPCMEMMN)
Erwan Quemeneur	Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des élevages Marins du Finistère (CDPMEM 29)
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
Secretariat	
Michael Keatinge	Executive Secretary NWWAC
Dominic Rihan	BIM
Sara Vandamme	Deputy Executive Secretary NWWAC
Monica Negoita	Executive Assistant (Finance and Administration) NWWAC