



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

MINUTES

WORKING GROUP 3 - ENGLISH CHANNEL

Nuevos Ministerios – Paseo de la Castellana, 63 - Madrid

Wednesday 13th March 2019

11:15 – 12:30

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair, Pascal Coquet, opened the meeting and welcomed the members and the observers to the meeting.

The agenda was adopted as drafted.

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

1. Members are invited to forward ideas for the Focus Group on Scallops to the Secretariat.

No input received from members. This action point will be discussed in item 2.

2. Management measures for:

- King scallops: state of play

Ms Tudal provided the update from the NWW Member States Group. Bilateral meetings took place in November 2018 between the United Kingdom and France. There were important amendments to the previous Joint Recommendation. The French administration has discussed in January with its scallop industry and is planning new discussion with colleagues in DEFRA, but most likely not before April.

QUESTION: Do members still want to organise a Focus Group? If so, should this wait for the new proposal on the Joint Recommendation from the Member States Group?

Mr Portus referred that there have been several initiatives in the UK on the topic. These include the UK Scallop Management Conference (February 2019) and the creation of the Scallop Industry Consultation Group (SICG) in 2012, which has become the main forum in the country to discuss issues related to king and queen scallop fisheries. Fleet representatives and scallop fishermen have also started to engage in groups designed to drive fisheries improvements, such as the MSC-facilitated Project UK Fisheries Improvements (PUKFI) steering group.

Reports by Poseidon and CEFAS were presented at the conference, assessing the scallop stock status for selected waters around the English Coast, presenting an overview of the current trends in the fishery and providing management recommendations. Based on these studies, several working groups have been established at the conference to review and discuss the management of scallops.



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The survey and assessment for the studies in both the North Sea and English Channel area were funded by the industry.

ACTION: Mr Portus to forward the link to reports that were referenced during the meeting for further distribution to the WG members.

Mr Coquet provided an overview on the ongoing discussion on scallop management among the French industry. He reported that trials on selectivity will be developed for Baie de la Seine. As remarked by Ms Tudal, the French administration would hope to further discuss with the UK and the COM on the management of this resource, especially if there is more clarity on Brexit.

Mr Vimard asked Mr Portus about the dimension of the area covered by the assessment survey, in particular if it covered beyond the UK coastal area.

Mr Portus replied that the survey work done in 2018 was primarily for the Channel and several tows by fishing vessels chartered by CEFAS, including the outer area of the Channel, such as Bay de la Seine, the 7f and 7g ICES areas and the North Sea off Scarborough. This data was added to 2017 data as the aim is to build a 3 years baseline. Ifremer is working on a similar project.

Mr Vimard then asked Mr Portus if there were any updates on the work done by DEFRA concerning the inclusion of under 15m boat in the management especially in the FRUK agreement.

Mr Portus replied that DEFRA is intending to have a consultation with the UK industry, which could happen at the next SICG meeting on 20 March 2019.

- Seabass: outcome of the December Council

The COM was asked to give a summary from the December Council report.

DISCUSSION with members

QUESTION: Are there any actions to be taken by the Working Group?

Mr Vimard pointed out that the AC had a Focus Group to prepare a management proposal to reduce seabass catches and discards. However, following the activities of trawls and seines, an increase in discard has been noticed.

COM provided an overview on how the seabass discussion have evolved. MS and COM discussed last year whether seabass should be under the LO and decided it should not, since it would have been a choke species.

Then, the management proposal was discussed at the MSG, but the MS decided to stay with the previously agreed vessel catch limits.

There are now regular reports on the landing to see how the measures are implemented and if this changes for the stock perception (to be verified with the ICES advice).



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It was a difficult decision to make, but by applying the LO the catch potential would have been much lower. It does seem like the stock is recovering.

Mr Sagué stated he would like to participate in the Focus Group on seabass.

Mr Deas recalled the discussion in the Focus Group with scientists, saying that the stock recovery is going to take a long time, even if serious measures to reduce mortality are taken. According to him, the AC proposal was significant in the sense that it wanted to help reduce mortality.

ACTION: A Focus Group on seabass to be organised to further discuss and recommend management options.

3. Experience to date with the landing obligation

- Scallop dredgers

DISCUSSION with members on experience to date, lead by Mr Portus, who presented the British situation.

ACTION: Members are invited to send their comments and experience on scallop dredgers to the secretariat.

4. Preparation for the Joint Recommendations

- *De Minimis* exemption: bycatch of mackerel and horse mackerel in demersal fisheries

The current Delegated Act includes temporary *De minimis* exemption. For mackerel and horse mackerel there is one *De minimis* exemption for each species.

To keep the exemption, STECF asked for additional information to justify the exemption and keep it in place.

DISCUSSION with members.

QUESTION: A *De Minimis* exemption is justified either on selectivity or disproportionate costs. What information do members have, especially on the disproportionate costs?

COM pointed out that there could also be economic data provided on these species. STECF has been asked to explain what type of data is requested. This can be distributed to the membership for consideration at the Summer plenary.



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

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



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Annex 1 – List of Participants

NWWAC members	
Pascal Coquet (Chair)	France Pêche Durable et Responsable
John Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation
Hugo Boyle	Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation
Geert Meun	Stichting van de Nederlandse Visserij
Paul Trebilcock	Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation Ltd.
Barrie Deas	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation (UK)
Jim Portus	South Western Fish Producers Organisation Ltd. (SWFPO)
Oscar Sagué	International Forum for Sustainable Underwater Activities (IFSUA)
Anna Szczodrowska	European Anglers' Alliance
Javier López	Oceana
Julien Lamothe	Association Nationale des Organisations de Producteurs (ANOP)
Lionel Bottin	Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des élevages Marins du Calvados (CDPMEM 14)
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)
Caroline Gamblin	Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins (CNPMEM)
Dimitri Rogoff	Comité Regional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins (CRPMEM) Normandie
Olivier Le Nezet	Comité Regional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins (CRPMEM) de Bretagne
Stephane Pinto	Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins (CRPMEM) Hauts de France
Mathieu Vimard	Organisation des Pêcheurs Normands (OPN)
Delphine Roncin	FROM Nord (Fond Régional d'Organisation du Marché du poisson)
Jean-Marie Robert	Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne (LPDB)
Franck Le Barzic	Coopérative Maritime Bretagne Nord (COBRENORD)
Dominique Thomas	Organisation de Producteur Coopérative Maritime Etaploise Manche Mer du Nord (OPCMEMMN)
Thierry Kerzerho	Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des élevages Marins du Morbihan (CDPMEM 56)
Norah Parke	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation
Observers	
Emiel Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Enda Connelly	Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation
Patrick Murphy	Irish South and West Fish Producers' Organisation
Sean O'Donoghue	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation
David Beard	Manx Fish Producers' Organisation
Jenni Grossmann	ClientEarth
Debbie Crockard	Seas at Risk



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Alex Kinninmonth	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB Scottish Headquarters)
Jean Christophe Vandevelde	The PEW Charitable Trusts
Fintan Kelly	BirdWatch Ireland
John Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Purificación del C. Fernández Alvarez	Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Pesca de Gran Sol (ANASOL)
Luis Francisco Marín	Organización de Productores de Pesca (OPPAO)
Jesus Angel Lourido Garcia	Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP-77
Bruno Dachicourt	European Transport Federation
Mo Mathies	BIM
Michael Armstrong	Irish Seal Sanctuary
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