

**NWWAC HORIZONTAL WORKING ON DISCARDS  
IMPLEMENTATION OF LANDING OBLIGATION  
DUBLIN, 17 September 2014**

**MAIN OUTCOMES AND ACTIONS**

- The NWWAC will continue with existing work on developing advice and feedback to MS on discard plans for mixed demersal fisheries for NWW, both at horizontal level (high principles) and at working group/sea basin level, collecting and analyzing relevant fisheries information and data.

The geographical areas will correspond with the Working Groups:

West of Scotland and Western Approaches  
West of Ireland and Celtic Sea  
English Channel  
Irish Sea

- The NWWAC will develop a protocol between the AC and MS for clarifying the work procedure and consultation process.

A working paper was drafted by the Pew representative for discussion at this meeting. This paper was an attempt to develop a common vision and clarify tasks and roles of the ACs (consultative bodies) and the Member States Groups (policy-makers) when working together in a regional framework to develop discard plans and management plans.

However, it was agreed that this document required substantial review within the NWWAC working groups and it should not be presented to the Member States Group as a document of “binding” nature setting obligations upon them as it could be counterproductive for our working relationship. The idea is to work a bit more on the tone and message and present it as a discussion paper for future meetings. The NWWAC Chairman, will have a first look at the document and make some edits.

- The NWWAC will follow EFCA’s work on accurate recording of discards data
- The NWWAC will work with STECF (through its dedicated EWG) in economic effects (IA) of management measures for concerned fleets as well as safety aspects of the crew
- The NWWAC need to develop an action plan for each of the areas/working groups above mentioned with timescales and assigning tasks as well as allocating responsible individuals; this will be hopefully led and coordinated by a discards officer to be appointed soon;
- The NWWAC will ensure proper representation in NWWAC delegation, including whenever possible the NWWAC Chair, Vice-Chair/s from the fishing sector and other groups of interest, and the Working Group Chairs.