

# Skates and Rays

## Term of Reference

Item 3, Horizontal Drafting Group Terms of Reference  
Dublin, 17 September 2015



---

CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN  
WATERS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA  
LAS AGUAS  
NOROCCIDENTALES

# Focus Group ToRs

Terms of Reference need:

- Description of the issues
- Clear output / deliverables
- Chair
- Rapporteur
- Timing:
  - i. Meeting(s) needed – number / dates
  - ii. Deadline for output

# Perceived Problems

- 1) Multi-species TACs for Skates and Rays
  - a) No safeguard for endangered species
  - b) May become a 'choke species' for healthy stocks
- 2) No analytical assessment for individual species
- 3) Insufficient data for individual species
- 4) Catch data insufficient for assessing relative stability for individual species TACs
- 5) Preparation for Landing Obligation needed

# Focus Group Requirement

To work efficiently the follow is needed:

- the Commission translation of the ICES advice into a multi-species TAC proposal.

# Focus Group will:

- 1) Assess the performance of past management decisions
- 2) Prepare NWWAC advice for:
  - a) Decision rules and/or a Management framework for setting multi-species TACs to:
    - i. better reflect ICES advice for the most abundant species
    - ii. Introduce safeguards for vulnerable species

# Focus Group will:

- 2) Prepare NWWAC advice for:
  - b) The improvement in the recording of catches
  - c) The resolution of data deficiencies with scientists

# Final points

- a) Chair
- b) Rapporteur
- c) Timing:
  - i. Meeting(s) needed – number / dates
  - ii. Deadline for output

Results will be sent round for comments

Final text to be agreed by ExCom

Thank you – Any questions?



---

CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
SEPTENTRIONALES

**NORTH WESTERN  
WATERS**  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA  
LAS AGUAS  
NOROCCIDENTALES