**DRAFT**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Title:**

**Focus Group on the development of a crab fishing management strategy (FGCrab)**

**Chair:**

**Rapporteur:**

**Working languages:**

English, French, Spanish

**Time frame and deadline:**

Meeting dates:

A reasonable goal would be to reach a joint fisheries management strategy for brown crab (*Cancer pagurus*) by the end of 2017. We must have time to build this strategy in good conditions. A minimum of two meetings per year is needed. The first meeting could be held in October, 2016.

Advice to ExCom for decision:

**Objective** – Concrete output for the meeting in one or two paragraphs:

Propose joint action (FR, IR, UK, SP, etc.) to better manage the brown crab fishery including fishing effort: limiting the number of gear on board, defining the fishing periods, setting up a system of licensing and monitoring of fleets, etc. This includes solving the problem of latent fishing effort highlighted for certain fishing areas (harmonising the effort management measures across the EOS). The impact of the measures on the crab market should be considered (keeping in mind the goal of optimal use of catches).

Members of the group:

Members to sign up via the NWWAC Secretariat. Representation from all types of fisheries is required.