



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

Draft minutes

ADG Cetaceans Bycatch/

GRC sur les prises accessoires de cétacés/

GRC sobre la captura incidental de cetáceos

Virtual meeting/ Réunion virtuelle/ Reunión virtual

20.07.2020 10:00 CET

Participants

Johnny Woodlock	Irish Seal Sactuary	OIG	IE
John Condon	ClientEarth	OIG	EU
Lydia Chapparro	Fundación ENT	OIG	ES
Puri Fernandez	ANASOL	IND	ES
Luis Francisco Marin	OPPAO	IND	ES
Jésus A. Lourido	Puerto de Celeiro, OPP-77	IND	ES
Perrine Ducloy	CNPMEM	IND	FR
Jean-Marie Robert	Pecheurs de Bretagne	IND	FR
Matilde Vallerani	NWWAC Secretariat		
Mo Mathies	NWWAC Secretariat		

1 Welcome / Bienvenue/ Bienvenidos (Secretariat)

The Secretariat welcomed all participants which was followed by a quick tour de table. The agenda was adopted.

2 Working language of ADG/ Langue de travail du GRC/ Lenguaje de trabajo de GRC

The group agreed that the working language would be English, and that documents would be translated into Spanish. Members can submit comments to the Secretariat in the three official AC languages. If required, the next meeting of this group can be supported with interpretation services.

3 Election of Chair/ Élection du président/ Elección de presidente

Chair: Jésus A. Lourido

Vice-Chair: Jean-Marie Robert



4 Discussion of documents and comments received/ Discussion des documents et commentaires reçus/ Discusión de los documentos y comentarios recibidos

It was established that it is unclear exactly what is asked from the NWWAC regarding advice on cetaceans bycatches, and that the competency of each AC is important, including a need to identify which organisations might be involved in the area.

Puri: What is the basis for this group and how are we going to elaborate this advice if there is going to be any. Is there any letter from the Commission to the NWW MSG on this?

Johnny: It seems that the hake fisheries on the continental shelf have been identified as an issue which would be in the NWW.

Suso: Hake gill nets are included in Secretariat draft document, but possibly taken out of context. Some MS carried out research identifying that the hake fishery is not a problem. Shouldn't the relevant information be reviewed first?

Puri: We are talking about emergency measures from ICES for areas that are not the NWW. Let us elaborate on what we have right now, i.e. technical measures which are working well. We can ask ICES to make some research, we need scientific evidence, and there is no ICES study available for the NWW yet I think. We can be proactive, but we only have the TM and other measures in place which are doing well so far.

Perrine: We have 2 different problems, SWW and NWW. The French research suggests that the strandings in the Bay of Biscay are not coming from area 7. Models to know where they come from say they are from the Bay of Biscay. We can share some things that are working in area 7 but it is not the same situation.

Johnny: Research by BIM and the Marine Institute has identified gillnet fisheries and there were a lot of protected species as bycatch. Strandings in the Bay of Biscay are local indeed, and a lot of that is inshore bycatch. Bottom set nets are an issue.

Suso: Bycatches are an issue, but we have to reflect, is it an emergency issue in the NWW as in other areas? Request MS to fulfil obligation and control technical measure implementation.

Lydia: Many NGOs at EU level requested restrictions on bycatches. In Spain we asked for emergency measures for all bycatches. There is a bycatch problem in the NWW, and while the ICES advice is focusing on the Bay of Biscay, we need implementation of bycatch measures across all EU seas, including monitoring and mitigation measures for both NWW and SWW. ICES published its advice on 26 May and this group needs to look at this emergency advice.

Suso: We need to reflect on reference points used by ICES. The ICES advice proposes closures of fisheries for 4-6 weeks which will mean no data collection of the measures are working or not. This is for the coasts of Spain, but not for the NWW.

Jean-Marie: There has been limited time available to work on this issue. It is not clear for ICES areas 6 and 7 what the problem actually is. We need a balanced approach and advice needs to be based on solid scientific advice. The situation in the NWW needs to be assessed first and from that we can identify the obligations for the fisheries in the NWW. If the knowledge is not available, then we can



ask the COM or ICES for information. We need to be careful and not mix the situation in the NWW with the SWW. Problems from the Bay of Biscay should not be imported into the NWW.

Johnny: Cetaceans species are highly mobile and while the ICES advice area is the Bay of Biscay, the species are moving around quite a lot. These animals spend quite a bit of time at the surface so surface gill nets should also be taken into account. We need to get the scientific facts first. Rough maps of distribution are available but not of movement.

Luis Francisco: I basically agree with the position explained by my colleagues from Spain and France, If the problem occurs in the Bay of Biscay, it is a question of Southern waters. What I wonder is why last year the commission wrote to the NWW HLG about this matter.

Suso: We need to gather the pertinent scientific information on this. Should we collect all the information first and then decide which way we go ahead? Review of what is available for the NWW and separate the issues between the SWW and NWW.

ACTION: Secretariat to contact MSG to ask what the exact query is on cetaceans bycatch.

Jean-Marie: there could be quite a large amount of material for this, would it be possible to set up a Dropbox or Google docs on this?

Secretariat: We have developed a 'Members Area' for the website. We will send out log in details and members of this ADG can be the guinea pigs for using this new addition.

Lydia: At the EU Council meeting on 29/6/2020 the Commissioner said that if sufficient bycatch measures were not developed by Member States through the joint recommendation process, then emergency measures would be put in place by the Commission ahead of the winter common dolphin bycatch peak season. So, there is some urgency to get robust and effective measures in place.

5 Drafting of advice document

Suso: Suggestion for members to review advice, reports and documents, digest same and come back after the summer to draft a document.

Secretariat: The deadline is not clear. The Commission was saying in the HWG meeting that it is very urgent but we don't know what this means.

Puri: When Ursula said it was urgent, it is not clear if she was referring to SWW or NWW. We should come back in September, so we have clearer ideas and have time to read the documents.

Suso: We can also see what will happen in the SWW between now and then.

Johnny: If we are having the next meeting in early September we have enough time to digest the documentations. We would already have the basis to draft something, maybe the Secretariat could have something available for next meeting. Members could pull together what they consider would be a good idea to put together in a draft?

ACTION: Members to submit comments and suggestions 2-3 weeks prior to the Secretariat prior to the next meeting



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ACION: Secretariat to share log in for members area on website

Puri: Are we presenting the results of the work of this ADG to the ExCom in September?

Secretariat: That depends on how much is achieved. September will be very busy with TAC advice, not sure if we can achieve having a final draft doc by then ready for approval.

Puri: In that case, because the NWW include other MS, what about their inputs? This group currently only has representatives from ES, FR and IE, what about BE, NL and possibly UK?

6 Timeline and summary of action points agreed

Next meeting in September week of 07 September

Action Points

1	Secretariat to contact MSG to ask what the exact query is on cetaceans bycatch? Email sent 20 July to DAFM and COM
2	Members to send links/documents to the Secretariat that they wish to share with the group. The Secretariat will upload these to the Members area on the NWWAC website
3	Secretariat to share log in for members area on website
4	Members to submit comments and suggestions 2-3 weeks prior to the Secretariat prior to the next meeting
5	Secretariat to create Doodle for next meeting