



## The Impact of Climate Change on Fisheries in the North Western Waters: Examining policy, research, and potential mitigation and adaptation strategies

**A 1-Day virtual Workshop organised by the NWWAC FG Climate & Environment**

### **Draft Terms of Reference**

#### **Overview**

Oceans and coastal ecosystems play an important role in the global carbon cycle. Healthy ocean ecosystems are essential for the mitigation of climate change, and rising ocean temperatures as well as ocean acidification mean that the capacity of the ocean carbon sink will gradually get weaker.

The impact of climate change on ocean systems also affect sustainable fisheries, both globally and in the North Western Waters. Over the past 40 years, the Celtic Seas ecoregion has experienced significant changes with further increases in sea temperature expected over the coming decades. This can lead to changes in stock distribution and abundance which will need to be addressed and reflected in fisheries management. Challenges facing the fishing industry will need to be met by mitigation and adaptation measures, for example increasingly flexible and adaptive management, to ensure the future viability of the fleets. However, the fishing sector can also contribute actively take steps to address its own impact on climate for example by reducing its carbon footprint.

#### **Purpose of the workshop**

The aim of the workshop is to provide an overview of the challenges related to climate change to fisheries in the North Western Waters, examine potential mitigation and adaptation strategies, action which can be taken by the fleets and/or vessels, and submit advice to the European Commission (and the Members States) identifying the need for increased focus on flexible and adaptive fisheries management strategies including specific tools and mechanisms in support of the fleets in the NWW.

To aid the members of the NWWAC in the production of advice on this topic to the European Commission as well as to inform the work of the four geographical Working Groups, the focus is on the specific impact of climate change on commercial stocks in the NWW. However, the work carried out by the European Commission, ICES, the international research and connections as well as actions which can be and have been taken at vessel or fleet level are of interest to members of the other Advisory Councils as well, whose members will be invited to participate, as well as other identified interested parties.

#### **Proposed Outcomes**

- Workshop report
- Strategic advice to the European Commission

## Speakers

- Commission representative from DG ENV and/or DG MARE
- ICES representative from WGGRFY and/or SICCM
- representative from IUCN fisheries expert group
- Researchers from NWWAC Member States' institutions, e.g. IFREMER, Marine Institute etc.
- Academic researchers
- fishing companies involved in climate mitigation/adaptation work
- Civil society representatives

## Target Audience

- Members of the North Western Waters Advisory Council
- European Commission and other relevant/interested (EU) institutions (e.g. EP)
- Experts and other stakeholders including the other Advisory Councils and Member States representatives.

## Schedule and Deadlines

- Draft Terms of Reference to be adopted by mid-October 2020 by NWWAC Focus Group Climate & Environment
- Date for Workshop: 26 November 2020, 09:00 – 16:00 CET
- Meeting Platform: Webex or similar; webinar style, i.e. only speakers and moderators can speak, all questions via the chat
- Meeting Languages: English, French, Spanish, simultaneous interpretation provided
- Report, conclusions/recommendations from the workshop to be published in its final version by February 2021
- The recommendations from this workshop will feed into advice produced by the Focus Group Climate & Environment

## Resources, inputs and external sources

- Foreseen budget: approx. €5000 for interpretation and platform usage