



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN  
WATERS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA  
LAS AGUAS  
NOROCCIDENTALES

## DRAFT MINUTES

### Focus Group Control & Compliance

#### Virtual meeting

Thursday 11 May 2023, 10:00 - 11:00 CET

#### 1. Welcome and introductions

Matilde Vallerani, NWWAC Secretariat, welcomed all participants to the meeting. Apologies were received from Emiel Brouckaert and Sander Meyns in advance of the meeting. The agenda was adopted as drafted.

Action points from the last meeting included:

- The Secretariat will get in touch with EFCA and invite them to the next FG meeting to discuss the possibility of a webinar/workshop on the report evaluating compliance with the Landing Obligation.

Vallerani explained that contact had been made with EFCA and that she had an informal discussion with Miguel Nuevo during the NWWAC meetings in Santiago, where he mentioned that EFCA, together with the MS Control Expert Groups, is planning to organise meetings on the topic with several ACs. The NSAC and PelAC would be first in line, then it will be the NWWAC turn. A meeting could be expected in September.

Sean O'Donoghue mentioned the letter that the PelAC sent to the Regional MS Groups urging them to authorise and instruct the EFCA to publish not only the executive summary but also the integral report, regardless of its conclusions. Since more transparency on the methodologies used is essential to ensure the sector isn't left exposed, he suggested that the NWWAC writes to EFCA requesting confirmation that the full report will be disclosed.

**ACTION:** Secretariat to draft letter to EFCA on full disclosure of the report on evaluation of compliance with the LO in the NWW.

Recalling the dialogue with EFCA in Santiago during NWWAC March meetings, Aodh O'Donnell suggested that an in-person meeting is organised with EFCA to discuss the joint deployment plans (JDPs). Other participants agreed that it would be useful to have clarification by EFCA as interpretation of control regulations can often vary significantly between MS. Vallerani proposed to combine this with the NWWAC July meetings in Ghent. O'Donoghue suggested to consider cooperation with the PelAC on this topic, given the pelagic focus of the recent JDPs.

**ACTION:** Secretariat to invite EFCA to attend the July meeting of the Horizontal Working Group and do a presentation on the joint deployment plans and on the role of EFCA to ensure control regulations are applied consistently across MS.



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- The Secretariat will share the updated Terms of Reference with the Horizontal Working Group and ask for more members to join the FG.

Following the call by the Secretariat, KFO, IIMRO and AIPCE CEP joined the Focus Group. Participants agreed that OIG representatives should get involved in the FG as well.

**ACTION:** Secretariat to reach out to OIG representatives, especially EBCD, regarding joining this Focus Group.

## 2. Election of Chair

Patrick Murphy was elected Chair of the Focus Group unanimously. Arthur Yon agreed to take on the role of Vice Chair.

## 3. Discussion and agreement of draft Terms of reference

Vallerani shared the draft ToR on screen and participants were given the opportunity to comment. She clarified that the ToR will have to be reviewed by the HWG and approved by the ExCom.

Overall, participants agreed that the ToR should be kept broad enough to ensure flexibility of the FG work in case new, unexpected control topics arise.

**ACTION:** Subject to the approval of the ToR, the Secretariat will invite EFCA and the NWW Control Expert Group to become party of the Focus Group.

The Chair asked if participants were aware of any developments on the revision of the fisheries control regulation. O'Donoghue reported that the trilogue discussions on revising the fisheries control system might be closer to a conclusion as EU lawmakers aim to reach a final agreement in May. He specified that the next meeting, scheduled for 30 May, could be the decisive one. Members agreed that, if that will be the case, the Focus Group should be ready to react by reviewing the text and also consider the advice sent by the NWWAC in 2018.

Participants agreed that reference should be made in the ToRs to the CFP package and especially to the control aspects and actions included in the Communication on the CFP and the related Staff Working Document.

O'Donnell commented on the UK dimension of control aspects and the Chair asked for proposals on how the FG should tackle them. Vallerani proposed to include in the Terms of Reference that the FG will follow the work of the Inter-ACs Brexit Forum and supply issues for discussion. This liaison should be done through the Secretariat and through members of the FG who also participate in the Brexit Forum.

Finally, participants discussed the issue of article 27 of the technical measures regulation and the contradiction with the landing obligation. It was noted that several work had been carried out by the NWWAC on the topic, including a dedicated meeting on that with the Commission, EFCA and the



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Control Expert Group. Unfortunately, the issue still has to be resolved. In particular, the Commission should clarify the hierarchy of the legislation.

**ACTION:** The Secretariat will review all letters and advice sent to the NWW MS Group and to the Commission, identify pending requests and send reminders to advice recipients.

O'Donoghue suggested to keep the liaison with the PelAC on the topic.

The Chair asked whether any case study has been carried out in the past on the topic. O'Donoghue mentioned that Dominic Rihan might have knowledge of that.

**ACTION:** Secretariat to get in touch with Dominic Rihan asking for reports/case studies done on technical measures and the landing obligation.

In case there's no study available, participants agreed that it would be appropriate to recommend to the Commission that this work is carried out.

#### 4. Action points & closing of the meeting

Participants agreed that at the moment there is no urgent need to meet before NWWAC meetings in July. However, should an agreement be found on the revision of the control regulation on 30<sup>th</sup> of May, the Secretariat will contact the FG to consider the possibility of organising an emergency meeting.

1	Secretariat to draft letter to EFCA on full disclosure of the report on evaluation of compliance with the LO in the NWW.
2	Secretariat to invite EFCA to attend the July meeting of the Horizontal Working Group and do a presentation on the joint deployment plans and on the role of EFCA to ensure control regulations are applied consistently across MS.
3	Secretariat to reach out to OIG representatives, especially EBCD, regarding joining this Focus Group.
4	Subject to the approval of the ToR, the Secretariat will invite EFCA and the NWW Control Expert Group to become party of the Focus Group.
5	The Secretariat will review all letters and advice sent to the NWW MS Group and to the Commission, identify pending requests and send reminders to advice recipients.
6	Secretariat to get in touch with Dominic Rihan asking for reports/case studies done on technical measures and the landing obligation.

The Chair thanked all participants and closed the meeting.



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## 5. Participants

Name	Organisation
Anais Mourtada	CNPMEM
Aodh O'Donnell	IFPO
Arthur Yon	FROM Nord
Brendan Byrne	AIPCE CEP
Seamus Bonner	Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation
John Lynch	IS&EFPO
Patrick Murphy	IS&WFPO
Sean O'Donoghue	KFO