



Minutes

FOCUS GROUP CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

Virtual meeting via Teams

Monday 12 March 2021, 14:30 – 15:30 CET

Participants

Name	Organisation
Jacopo Pasquero	EBCD
Stavroula Kremmydiotou	EBCD
Despina Symons	EBCD
Matilde Vallerani	Secretariat
Mo Mathies	Secretariat
Jerome Jourdain	UAPF
Norah Parke	KFO
Jasmine Vlietinck	Rederscentrale

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair Jacopo Pasquero welcomed all the participants to the meeting. The agenda was adopted with the addition of an item on the PelAC Ecosystem Focus Group meeting.

Action points from the last meeting (15 February 2021):

1	Secretariat to establish if the ToR need to be approved by ExCom and circulate for approval if necessary. ACTION: Secretariat to distribute ToR for ExCom approval
2	Secretariat to circulate agreed ToR to members of this FG. The ToR was circulated in the invitation to this meeting.
3	Secretariat to prepare a draft advice based on the Terms of Reference. See item 4 of this agenda
4	Point 3a: Secretariat to check back into previous minutes regarding fish stocks in the NWW by COM. Proposed wording sent out to members in the invitation to this meeting.
5	Point 3b: Secretariat to check OIG statements to establish if there is common ground in previous advice. No relevant information found.
6	Point 9: Jacopo to draft an answer and email pdf files of consultation document to Secretariat. Proposed wording sent out to members in the invitation to this meeting.
7	Secretariat to share Doodle regarding best time Meeting had to be postponed to 12 March



2. Public consultation: Evaluation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020

Members agreed to not include the text proposed for point 3a of Part 1 of the consultation (Evaluation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020) as it was not fully relevant to the question. The text proposed for point 9 Part 2 of the consultation was approved.

ACTION: Secretariat to submit draft reply to ExCom for approval.

3. Feedback on draft act CO2 emissions of engines - methodology for their reduction

This initiative establishes methodological elements for measuring the reduction of CO2 emissions from fishing vessel engines, in order to provide a harmonised framework covering all Member States. For fishing vessels between 12m and 24m long, any new engine installed with support from the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) must emit at least 20% less CO2 emissions than the previous engine.

The feedback is not open yet, but the Group agreed that input should be provided on this important item.

ACTION: Secretariat to contact the Commission asking for information on when the feedback will open and for how long.

The South Western Waters AC is organising a meeting on this topic by the end of April. It would be useful to follow this meeting as well, as it aims at providing advice on managing capacity. Experts on the topic will be invited to present.

ACTION: Members of this FG to attend this meeting. Jerome will provide updates when available. If needed, the Secretariat will also invite an expert to present on this topic at the next FG meeting, to ensure the group is properly informed when preparing the submission.

4. Draft climate advice

The Secretariat shared on screen the first version of the draft advice. Unfortunately, work on it had been delayed due to the very busy period around NWWAC spring meetings. Thus, the Secretariat proposed to review the schedule on the advice ToR to reflect the situation.

ACTION: Secretariat to review the schedule on the advice ToR and send the draft advice for a first round of comments.

ACTION: Secretariat to contact the Commission to inform them about the preparation of this advice and ask for any indication on a timeline to make the advice delivery in a timely manner.

5. PelAC Ecosystem Focus Group meeting 17 March

The Pelagic AC will hold a briefing meeting on climate change and its impacts on pelagic fisheries, on Wednesday 17 March from 14:00 – 15:30 CET. Coordinators of the CERES and ClimeFish projects will give presentations on this subject.

ACTION: Jerome Jourdain, as PelAC member, will attend this meeting and report back to the Focus Group.



6. Summary of actions agreed and planning

ACTION: Secretariat to launch doodle for next meeting once more information on deadlines for providing feedback on draft act CO2 emissions of engines is available.

Action points:

1	Secretariat to distribute advice ToR for ExCom approval
2	Secretariat to submit draft reply to the Biodiversity consultation to ExCom for approval.
3	Secretariat to contact the Commission asking for information on when the feedback on draft act CO2 emissions of engines will open and for how long.
4	Members of this FG to attend the SWW meeting. Jerome will provide updates when available. If needed, the Secretariat will also invite an expert to present on this topic at the next FG meeting, to ensure the group is properly informed when preparing the submission.
5	Secretariat to review the schedule on the advice ToR and send the draft advice for a first round of comments by Focus Group members.
6	Secretariat to contact the Commission to inform them about the preparation of this advice and ask for any indication on a timeline to make the advice delivery in a timely manner.
7	Jerome Jourdain, as PelAC member, will attend the PelAC Ecosystem Focus Group meeting and report back to the Focus Group.
8	Secretariat to launch doodle for next meeting once more information on deadlines for providing feedback on draft act CO2 emissions of engines is available.