



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
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Draft Minutes

Focus Group Landing Obligation

Virtual

Friday 23 September 2022 | 10:00 – 12:00 CET

Participants

Emiel Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Michael Keatinge	Consultant
John Lynch	IS&EFPO
Mo Mathies	NWWAC Secretariat
Aodh O'Donnell	IFPO
Sean O'Donoghue	KFO
Matilde Vallerani	NWWAC Secretariat
Arthur Yon	FROM Nord

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed all participants. The agenda was adopted.

Action points from the last meeting:

1	The Secretariat will ask the AC chairing the next Inter-AC Brexit Forum contact DG MARE to organize a meeting after the holiday break and/or ask a written debrief on the SCF meeting. Inter-AC Brexit Forum was held on 15 September
2	Members to review ICES advice issued in Autumn 2022 and discuss if further advice on Fishing Opportunities is needed. In progress
3	The next meeting of the Focus Group LO will be held on 23 September, 10:00 to 12:00 CET. Michael Keatinge will be invited to provide an update on the work on the Choke Tool. In progress

2. Choke Mitigation Tool

The Chair invited Michael Keatinge to demonstrate the tool.

Keatinge introduced the progression made since the meeting of the Horizontal WG on 13 September.

The tool includes 5 modules for producing information.



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The traffic light system is included in the tool database accessible stock by stock.

He proceeded to explain the functionalities of the quota model.

The ICES advice is also included in the module and can be inputted manually to model the quota for the following year based on all available information. This makes the model predictive.

A new module on mixed fisheries was added to see what the likely choke species might be. It allows the target species to be linked to two other species to establish if a choke could occur.

O'Donoghue stated that it would be important to identify where a stock is a bycatch issue and link this to the fisheries that may become problematic, as a 0-catch option could close a fishery prematurely, for example cod in the Celtic Sea or Whiting in the Irish Sea.

John Lynch commented that fisheries adapt themselves to make use of the available opportunities.

The Chair asked if the existing modules could not be adapted to identify the issue with bycatch?

Keatinge demonstrated that the existing module could show results on this already. He explained that the ICES advice is based on the composition of stocks in the oceans. Ratios change as a consequence of the gear. The ratios from the science are not always reflected in the ratios given by the MS so conflicts arise. Balance can be achieved between the MS with swaps.

He stated that the log sheet data would show the catch composition in the net which is currently missing from the tool. He believes the tool will provide an expert with the opportunity to answer choke questions for the AC.

Brouckaert stated that the tool is used for choke ID and possible mitigation. He wondered, for example regarding the Belgian bycatch of plaice in the sole fishery and how based on the reported catches it can be identified that there is a LO exemption due to high survivability. Can the catches reflect both landings and discards? Could members examine specific examples?

Keatinge stated that an expert is needed to read the data as the tool needs to be told if there is an exemption in place. However, once the modules are finalized and data for 2022 and predicted data for 2023 included, this prediction will be possible.

Brouckaert asked how this tool would be worked in the future.

Keatinge suggested that break out sessions would be needed in future with various experts attending. Issues that need identified are if the problem is related to relative stability or to selectivity.

Mo Mathies suggested that the group would be best to come together in person to discuss the details of the tool and identify issues as soon as the ICES advice is available.

Keatinge added that it is vital to also include socio-economic factors in the tool.



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ACTION: Next meeting of this Focus Group to be organized in person once the tool has been finalized.

Vallerani asked for clarification on this year's choke advice based on the traffic light system or is this year's advice should include information from the updated choke tool.

Keatinge identified that the modules would not take a lot of time to complete but there may be many stocks that need to be worked on. This work needs a fisheries expert.

Brouckaert stated that for next year this tool will be of high importance to support the extension of exemptions in the Discard Plan.

Keatinge added that the main problem is that there is not enough detailed information on selectivity has the AC has no access to the log sheets. It is known what is landed but not known what is caught.

3. Drafting of NWWAC choke advice for 2023

Discussion was postponed to the next meeting due to many representatives being unavailable for this discussion.

ACTION: Secretariat to circulate updated traffic light and updated advice to members of the group and identify where additional input is needed.

4. Planning and next steps

Participants agreed to propose 20 October as date for next meeting, to be held in person in BIM offices in Dun Laoghaire, Ireland.

5. Summary of actions agreed and planning (Chair)

1	Next meeting of this Focus Group to be organized in person once the tool has been finalized.
2	Secretariat to circulate updated traffic light and updated advice to members of the group and identify where additional input is needed.