



## DRAFT MINUTES

### NWWAC FOCUS GROUP LANDING OBLIGATION

29 November 2022, 09:00 – 16:00 Irish Time

#### 1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair Emiel Brouckaert welcomed all participants to the meeting. The agenda was adopted as drafted. No apologies were received in advance of the meeting.

#### 2. Presentation on updates on the tool by Michael Keatinge

Michael Keatinge shared the tool on screen and explained it to the participants supported by written instructions he distributed to the audience. He made a demonstration on the tool functionalities using cod in the Celtic Sea as example, especially focusing on mixed fisheries interactions.

He highlighted the need to have experts to help filling the tool and produce conclusions.

Keatinge explained the importance of identifying if Brexit is causing chokes. The tool shows quotas before and after Brexit and considers the TCA to show the impacts of Brexit. He also pointed out the importance of considering the “Hague preferences” and how this can change relative stability.

He mentioned that chokes are created for two main reasons: there is either a mismatch between what is available scientifically (TAC following ICES advice) and what is politically decided by MS (quota), or the choke is created by selectivity issues. The tool can help identifying this, but the expertise of AC members is key in this process.

Finally, he explained that the discard rate for each stock needs to be updated following the ICES advice (**action 1**).

#### 3. Review of choke spreadsheet and NWWAC draft advice addressing choke risks

The Secretariat shared the draft choke spreadsheet on screen and members went through the recommendations for each stock reviewing the comments made during NWWAC September meetings. Comments by participants were noted directly in the document.

It was agreed to include snapshots from the new choke tool on those stocks categorised as “high risk” as annex to the advice, to support NWWAC analysis with quantitative information from the tool (**action 2**).

#### 4. Next Discard Plan post 2023 period

Given that the topic is going to be addressed by the Irish presidency of the NWW Member States Group starting from 1 January 2023, participants agreed that the Secretariat should liaise with both the MS and DG MARE asking about the preparatory process and work planned for the next Discard Plan (**action 3**).

It was also agreed to ask MS and DG MARE to share details on the type of information requested by STECF to support proposed exemptions (**action 4**). For example, in relation to survivability



exemptions, it is not clear if research on species survival will need to be redone in 2023. Participants agreed that the Commission should have a pragmatic approach when reviewing exemptions, considering that those exemptions that were already reviewed by STECF should not be put into question.

## 5. Presentation on AZTI tool by Sonia Sanchez

Sonia Sanchez presented a tool developed by AZTI aiming at investigating the impacts that new management measures proposed and/or introduced by the Commission can have on interested fisheries. Her presentation is available on the NWWAC website.

Sanchez gave a specific example of the use of the tool referring to the work done on the Spanish OPFF4 fleet operating in ICES 7.

She reported that the tool is also considering the socio-economic impact of the implementation of the management measures in the fleet. Most of the information was caught from ICES stock assessment – assuming a constant biomass where advice is not available. The tool considered fleet specific information on effort and catches and fixed & variable costs. However, data is coming from different sources, so it is difficult to have consistency.

She pointed out that BIM experts Dominic Rihan and Daragh Browne have already worked with AZTI on this matter. The tool could be used for some stocks in the NWWAC remit as well.

The Chair thanked Sanchez for her presentation and invited participants to reflect on how this tool could be used by the NWWAC and specifically to which advice this tool could be linked to.

## 6. Action points and closure of the meeting

1	The tool needs to be updated with the correct discard rate for each stock following ICES advice.
2	Include extracts from the new choke tool on those stocks categorised as “high risk” as annex to the choke advice.
3	Secretariat to ask MS and DG MARE about the preparatory process and work planned for the next Discard Plan.
4	Secretariat to ask MS and DG MARE to share details on the type of information requested by STECF to support proposed exemptions

After summarizing the action points, the Chair thanked all participants for their inputs and closed the meeting.

## 7. Participants

Members	
Alexandra Philippe	EBCD
Anais Mourtada	CNPMEM
Aodh O'Donnell	IFPO
Arthur Yon	FROM Nord
Edward Farrell	KFO
Emiel Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Franck Le Barzic	Cobrenord



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Daragh Browne	BIM
Dominic Rihan	BIM
Michael Keatinge	Independent consultant
Sonia Sanchez	AZTI
<b>Secretariat</b>	
Matilde Vallerani	
Mo Mathies	