



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

MINUTES

Focus Group Landing Obligation

Thursday 12 October 2023, 10:00 – 12:00 CET

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair Emiel Brouckaert welcomed all participants to the meeting. Apologies were received from Irene Prieto and Aodh O'Donnell in advance of the meeting. The agenda was adopted as drafted.

Action point from the last meeting (13 July 2023):

- The Secretariat will prepare an updated draft of the Fishing Opportunities advice and circulate it among the FG members. The draft advice should go first into the HWG and then to ExCom.

Completed, the advice was submitted to the Commission on 9 August.

2. Letter to DG MARE following AC response to UK consultation on discards

Matilde Vallerani reported that the NWWAC response to the UK consultation on discards had been delivered on 9 October. The Commission and the NWW Member States Group have already been notified and received a copy of the submission. As agreed by the Horizontal Working Group meeting in September, this UK consultation is a good opportunity for the NWWAC to send a letter to the Commission suggesting that a discussion is started on an alternative approach to the landing obligation.

The Chair suggested that the NWWAC advice submitted in support of the preparation of the CFP report be considered as a reference in this letter. He then mentioned the work of the Focus Group CFP package and asked whether the discards issue should be included in the upcoming advice on the CFP Communication, rather than with a separate letter.

In John Lynch's view, it is important to write a separate letter, highlighting the need to have cohesion between the two different management areas. Measures need to be practical and as similar as possible on both sides.

Alexandra Philippe, the Chair of the FG CFP package, added that the advice on the CFP Communication can mention the need for considering a reform of the landing obligation, but should not enter the remit of the FG Landing Obligation and make specific comments/recommendations on how such a reform should be.



The Chair concluded that a separate letter would be the best way forward.

ACTION: The Secretariat will draft a letter to the Commission based on the AC response to the UK consultation on discards.

3. Draft response to Technical Measures questionnaire

This questionnaire is part of the Commission's obligation to report on the implementation of the Technical Measures Regulation every three years, aiming at providing an overview on how Member States and stakeholders have implemented the regulation in these years, while serving as well as an opportunity for showcasing efforts on research and innovation. Advisory Councils have been requested to reply to the questionnaire by 24 November.

Vallerani shared the questionnaire on screen. Members' contributions have been noted directly in the questionnaire document.

ACTION: The Secretariat will work on comments received and share an updated version of the response to the TMR questionnaire with members.

4. Organisation of work on choke advice

Vallerani gave an update on the state of play of work on the choke advice.

The traffic light spreadsheet needs to be updated with the inputs from the geographical Working Groups and advice needs to be drafted. She suggested to recirculate the updated spreadsheet to all members, especially because during September meetings there was not enough time to discuss stocks in the West of Scotland. She also pointed out that ICES still has to publish advice for a number of important stocks in the NWW and that further discussion will be needed in the Focus Group.

On top of the ICES advice still missing, the Chair felt that it is also not clear if the Commission is going to consider any potential deviation from the scientific advice. The Commission got the mandate to start bilaterals with the UK but it is not clear if a non-paper with DG MARE's views will be published. He felt that the advice should acknowledge and appreciate that the NWWAC advice on the joint recommendation on a new Discard Plan in the NWW has been largely followed. Therefore, the new Discard Plan seems to be workable.

Overall, the Chair agreed that there's some information still missing before work on choke can start in this FG.

Lynch commented that the choke advice should make specific reference to how zero TAC advice stocks will be dealt with.

ACTION: The Secretariat will update the choke traffic light spreadsheet and share it with AC members for further comments. The Secretariat will start drafting advice with the information currently available.



5. Next steps and action points

Philippe mentioned that in the CFP Communication ACs are requested to help delivering key data on the landing obligation by spring 2024 along with the other stakeholders. She felt it might be worth asking the Commission informally how they intend to collect this data and how exactly ACs are requested to contribute.

ACTION: Secretariat to get in touch with DG MARE asking them to elaborate on the request to ACs regarding providing data on the landing obligation as included in the CFP Communication.

1	The Secretariat will draft a letter to the Commission based on the AC response to the UK consultation on discards.
2	The Secretariat will work on comments received and share an updated version of the response to the TMR questionnaire with members.
3	The Secretariat will update the choke traffic light spreadsheet and share it with AC members for further comments. The Secretariat will start drafting advice with the information currently available.
4	Secretariat to get in touch with DG MARE asking them to elaborate on the request to ACs regarding providing data on the landing obligation as included in the CFP Communication.

6. Participants

Name	Organisation
Emiel Brouckaert (Chair)	Rederscentrale
Kenatea Chavez-Hey	ANOP
John Lynch	IS&EFPO
Anais Mourtada	CNPMEM
Patrick Murphy	IS&FPO
Alexandra Philippe	EBCD
Matilde Vallerani	NWWAC
Arthur Yon	FROM Nord