

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Title:

Joint Focus Group between the NWWAC and NSAC on management measures for skates and rays (FG Skates & Rays)

Chair:

John Lynch, Irish South & East FPO

Vice-Chair:

Johnny Woodlock, Irish Seal Sanctuary

Rapporteur:

Mo Mathies, NWWAC Secretariat
Tamara Talevska, NSAC Secretariat

Working language:

English

Time frame and deadline:

A 36-month period (March 2020 – September 2022) to

- 1) respond to the specific request from the Scheveningen Group (Deadline 01 May 2020)
- 2) to address ongoing issues regarding the management of skates and rays
- 3) to address issues arising within the advisory process

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and related restrictions regarding travel, the group will commence its work via virtual meetings. The Secretariats will monitor the situation and organise a face to face meeting for all group members should this be required and once travel restrictions have been lifted.

NWWAC

The FG Skates & Rays will function within the Horizontal Working Group. The paper will undergo a written procedure at the NWWAC ExCom for revision and adoption.
A final report to be presented at NWWAC September 2022 meeting in Dublin

NSAC

The Skates and Rays Focus Group will report to the NSAC Demersal Working Group. Papers will undergo a written procedure at the NSAC Demersal WG and ExCom for revision and adoption.

Objective:

- 1 Develop response to the request from the Scheveningen Group, including:**
 - a) Overview at fleet level of measures and best practice measures taken
 - b) Separation in avoidance, selectivity and survival (as in LO exemption text)
 - c) Advice on future measures that could be developed

- 2 Develop advice to Commission and MS on improving management of skates and rays**
 - a) Revisit previous advice from both ACs and formulate an advice paper on improved management
 - b) Review results from SUMARiS, discuss merits

- 3 Develop advice to the Commission and MS on issues arising in the advisory process**
 - a) Engage with relevant parties in the advisory process
 - b) Invite experts from ICES to FG meetings

Members:

Rosalie Crespin	CNPMEM	IND	FR	NWWAC/NSAC
John Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation	IND	IE	NWWAC
Geert Meun	VisNed	IND	NL	NWWAC/NSAC
Sander Meyns	Rederscentrale	IND	BE	NWWAC/NSAC
Amerik Schuitemaker	Nederlandse Vissersbond	IND	NL	NSAC
Linda Planthof	North Sea Foundation	OIG	NL	NSAC
Solène Prevalet	From Nord	IND	FR	NWWAC/NSAC
Sofie Smedegaard Mathiesen	Danmarks Fiskeriforening	IND	DK	NSAC
Jasmine Vlietinck	Rederscentrale	IND	BE	NWWAC/NSAC
Johnny Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary	OIG	IE	NWWAC
Mo Mathies	Rapporteur, Secretariat	Sec		NWWAC
Tamara Talevska	Secretariat	Sec		NSAC

Expert observers:

Irene Kingma	Dutch Elasmobranch Society	NGO
Paddy Walker	Dutch Elasmobranch Society	NGO