

DRAFT Minutes

Joint NWWAC/NSAC Focus Group Social Aspects

Virtual meeting

25 November 2021

Participants

David Curtis	European Anglers Alliance	OIG	NWWAC/NSAC
Bruno Dachicourt (Chair)	European Transport Federation	IND	NWWAC
Norah Parke	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation	IND	NWWAC
Jasmine Vlietinck	Rederscentrale	IND	NWWAC/NSAC
Johnny Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary	OIG	NWWAC
Mo Mathies	NWWAC Secretariat		
Matilde Vallerani	NWWAC Secretariat		
Tamara Talevska	NSAC Secretariat		
Richard Curtin	BIM		

1. Welcome and introductions

Mo Mathies welcomed all participants to the meeting. Apologies were received from Gérald Hussenot, Blue Fish. She explained that unfortunately Mary Campbell, BIM, was unable to join the meeting and her presentation would be postponed to a future meeting of this Focus Group. The change to the agenda was made accordingly. The agenda was adopted.

- Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair

Bruno Dachicourt, European Transport Federation Fisheries section, volunteered for the position of Chair of this FG. Members approved his nomination. Jasmine Vlietinck, Rederscentrale, was nominated as Vice-chair and will discuss this internally.

2. Draft Terms of Reference

The Secretariat shared the draft ToR on screen. Some comments were received following consultation via email, and they were addressed directly in the text.

The Chair asked if the NSAC's details could also be included in the timeline and volunteered to make a presentation on the draft advice to NSAC members if desired. Mo Mathies pointed out that some references to the NSAC are still missing and asked for Tamara Talevska to review this from the NSAC point of view and add all inputs she deems

necessary. Talevska added that a few points in terms of content will need to be aligned with the NSAC workplan. She agreed to invite more NSAC members to join this FG, which the NWWAC Secretariat will also do for its members.

A discussion on the Terms of Reference followed with changes made directly in the document. It was agreed that an updated draft would be distributed to the members of the Focus Group for review together with the minutes of the meeting. David Curtis identified an article on the compatibility of the sustainability pillars in fisheries work ([link](#)). The Chair referred to the newly release STECF 2021 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet ([STECF 21-08](#)) and asked that this be included in the background paragraph.

3. Labour Supply project – Richard Curtin, BIM

Richard Curtin is a senior economist in Bord Iascaigh Mhara's Economic and Strategic Services business unit. He explained that the BIM project on labour supply will evaluate both vessel owners and crews perspective on working conditions, labour contractual situations. The project is halfway through its timeline and will finish in April 2022. It includes an assessment of literature available on labour supply issues and is trying to build up data across different fleet segments. Two surveys about contractual situations were developed targeting owner on the one hand, and crew on the other. POs and fisheries stakeholders' representative were asked for feedback on the survey design. This should result in good primary data on how crew are hired, paid and what the situation is on board. The project is also looking at what the main obstacles may be regarding hiring a crew.

Mathies asked members if that felt that a questionnaire should be developed to gather opinions and information from members in both ACs regarding the main barriers? She pointed out that employment terms are very different in each country so it would be interesting to get country-specific information.

ACTION: The Secretariats will draft a quick survey.

Norah Parke enquired how information on migrant workers was being considered within the project. Curtin responded that while the survey is open to migrant workers, their English may not be adequate for participation and that NIM are considering other ways to incorporate their feedback in the study.

Johnny Woodlock pointed out that the employment situation is constantly evolving and that labour needs should be met flexibly, i.e., if the local labour supply was limited, workers should be allowed to be brought in from outside. He conceded that this brought its own difficulties as well.

Parke enquired if there was any flexibility of employment for fishers and if there were any mechanisms where people who are trained as fishers could move into other aspects of marine based work

Curtin explained that this would form part of the recommendations on skills and training and how to make other related sectors more accessible to crew. Training, education and outreach are important elements here.

Mathies asked if Curtin could provide a brief overview of the [Cabfishman project](#) as she felt this would be an important project to consider for informing the work of the FG.

Curtin described that this INTERREG project focusses on Small Scale Fisheries along the Atlantic (IE, UK, FR and PT) and examines areas affecting these, including lack of data, impact of fishing gears on marine habitat, value of cultural heritage and how to incorporate this into management, the overall economic estimation of value of SSF and ecosystem services of habitats. Information will be displayed in a web tool displaying a map with all the data that has been worked on after the project finishes as an input to management advice.

The Chair commented that this was an interesting, especially since it covers different countries. He enquired how SSF has been defined by the project across different countries and if there was a common definition.

Curtin pointed out that there was no agreed definition even within individual Member States' regions and that the definition also varies between countries.

Parke recalled that there seemed to be an EU acceptance that below 12 metres related to inshore fisheries but that there is no one size fits all solution. She suggested that this might be something that should be included as part of the issues the FG is looking at when considering sustainability pillars.

Curtin agreed that in the EMFF the line for funding was at 12 metres but that this depends on the fleet segment. Included the project's web tool will be an option to select fleet by length classes to get around the issue of what the definition is.

ACTION: Invite Cabfishman project to present at next meeting

Woodlock recalled that in the past BIM ran a seafood chef competition in schools and felt that this could be interesting to revisit in order to encourage more people getting involved in seafood cookery and as a consequence in seafood industry. It could be an interesting measure that the MS could implement

4. Next steps

- Redefine terms of reference and distribute them for comments
- Presentation from Cabfishman project + presentation from Mary Campbell
- Women in seafood industry are offering their participation in the FG as external expert – important if we provide separate advice on gender equality - possibility to invite them to attend dedicated meetings according to their availability once ToR are confirmed
- Circulate social partners for sea fisheries paper to see how to incorporate outcomes into our work ([link](#))

5. Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair

Actions

1	The Secretariats will draft a quick survey.
2	Invite Cabfishman project to present at next meeting
3	Redefine terms of reference and distribute them for comments
4	Invite Mary Campbell to present at next meeting
5	Contact WSI once ToR have been agreed and invite participation
6	Secretariat to send a Doodle for the next meeting of the FG

Next meeting: second week of January