

DRAFT Minutes

Joint NWWAC/NSAC Focus Group Social Aspects

Virtual meeting

09 March 2022

Participants

Name	Organisation
David Curtis	EAA
Bruno Dachicourt (Chair)	ETF
Gerald Hussenot	Blue Fish
Mo Mathies	NWWAC Secretariat
Arantza Murillas	AZTI
Norah Parke	KFO
Kenn Skau Fischer	Danmarks Fiskeriforening
Antonios Stamoulis	DG MARE (observer)
Matilde Vallerani	NWWAC Secretariat
Jasmine Vlietinck	Rederscentrale
Johnny Woodlock	ISS

1. Welcome and introductions / Actual et presentations

The Chair welcomed all participants to the meeting. Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from Tamara Talevska, NSAC Secretariat, Peter Breckling, Deutscher Fischereiverband.

A change was proposed to the agenda based on the current fuel provision crisis faced by the industry. The Secretariat has prepared a draft letter to the Commission.

David Curtis noted that this was a very specific issue related to the Ukrainian situation and if this FG was the right forum to develop such a submission instead of a broad approach across the whole AC.

Norah Parke noted that this is a very urgent problem which needs to be addressed from any possible source.

Johnny Woodlock agreed with Parke, identifying that all fleets are being affected by this extremely urgent issue, and also agreed with Curtis that this issue should be jointly addressed by the ExComs of all ACs.

Kenn Skau Fischer pointed out that there is a general concern across the entire EU sector on fuel price increase. While the respective ExComs can indeed progress the discussion, the NSAC colleague who proposed this topic for today's discussion felt that this forum could be a good opportunity to prepare and formulate a draft that can then be

submitted to the ExComs of both NWWAC and NSAC. A fast track procedure of 3 days could be put in place to react quickly to the matter.

The Chair agreed with the NSAC's request, commenting that the fuel crisis is having impacts on fishers salaries and wages so it is quite legitimate for this FG to address it. This issue will have severe socio-economic implications.

The Secretariat agreed with the Chair and explained that this of course affects all ACs but that a joint effort is not possible due to the urgency of the matter and the variety of approval procedures in the ACs. A joint NWWAC/NSAC submission would be more favourable. The FG would only draft the letter for the ExCom to review and submit.

Curtis pointed out his expectation regarding a process for the ACs to raise emergency issues and felt that this proposal did not fit in the ToR of this FG. He felt that a change of the agenda in favour of this emergency submission presented a complete takeover of this group for emergency purpose. He agreed with the change only if there really was no other way to proceed but expressed his disbelief that the AC does not have another way to deal with urgent matters. He enquired regarding a written procedure within the NWWAC for dealing with urgent issues and if none exists, that this would be addressed by the Secretariat.

The Secretariat explained that technically the ToR are not adopted yet and are still open to change so an insertion can be made to include the discussion of emergency issues if and when they arise. In the NWWAC urgent matters regarding a specific subject for which a Focus Group exists are put to the Chair for decision. If no FG exists, matters are brought to the Chair of the AC for decision.

Parke commented that this FG has a specific title, nothing could be more appropriate that this FG would address this problem.

ACTION: NWWAC Secretariat to review Rules of Procedure and, if necessary, prepare an amendment for the inclusion of an emergency procedure for the production of urgent advice.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

2. Conserving Atlantic Biodiversity by Supporting Innovative Small Scale Fisheries Co Management (CABFISHMAN)– Arantza Murillas, AZTI

[Link](#) to presentation

Arantza Murillas thanked the group for the invitation to the meeting. She introduced the project which is a collaboration of 28 organisations from 5 countries. The project's aim is to develop user friendly methodologies for implementing the ecosystem-based approach to small-scale fisheries (SSF) in the whole Atlantic area.

The project supports SSF facing social challenges including:

- ✓ Under the new approach for a sustainable blue economy (COM 2021 141 strong challenges should be addressed by SSF
 - ✓ Climate neutrality and zero pollution
 - ✓ Circular economy

- ✓ Biodiversity and investing in nature
- ✓ Coastal resilience
- ✓ Responsible food systems

- ✓ Other SOCIAL challenges LINKED to sustainable blue economy
 - ✓ SSF Governance enhancement
 - ✓ SSF social sustainability
 - ✓ SSF to recognize its total value including social values (women in value, cultural values,
 - ✓ SSF social role in coastal communities

The project works with SSF trying to identify the total value surrounding small-scale fisheries including more than the regional value, for example cultural and social values of SSF.

The first step is to assess the economic and social growth linked to SSF and identify the food provisioning value attached to the production of SSF (market based) that needs to be taken into account, as well as the cultural heritage value (non-market based). In addition, the contribution of SSF to a sustainable economy will be identified and assessed, for example in relation to climate change and its impacts on the marine environment.

The project will identify and assess:

- ✓ Economic but also social dependency of the areas
- ✓ Total social value assessment enhancing the attractiveness of the SSF through providing more visibility to the sector
- ✓ Social importance for coastal communities exceeding the traditional economic contribution
- ✓ Social sustainability of the sector
- ✓ SSF fishing areas other uses of the Sea areas
- ✓ Governance and,
- ✓ Social dimension in decision making

The project is developing a publicly available tool where users can see which social value can be protected and which is the social dependency of the coastal community in relation to this ([link](#)). Users can include “what-if” queries into the tool as it connects all data and variables that have been collected throughout the project. Information available from SSF can be combined with information on other stakeholders to illustrate the impact on the marine environment.

Outputs by users:

SSF SECTOR	Viability. Socio-economic growth and sustainability assessment
FLAGS	Social importance for coastal communities
RESEARCHERS	Social sustainability pathways
NGOs	Social sustainability pathways – balance between environment, economic and social issues
ADVISORY BODIES	Advice from GeoTool
STUDENTS	Lessons learned
POLICY MAKERS	What happens if?

The Chair thank Murillas and opened the floor for questions.

Gérald Hussenot enquired regarding the information used by the project to understand the intuitive knowledge of the fishers as well as the sources used to look at the vessel activities and how are they quantified in the different regions

Murillas stated that the project developed first estimations of all variables using official data from the European Commission. In addition, the project is developing a second assessment with a higher resolution using national data from the administrations or the national scientific organisations depending on the countries. This second assessment is being used to develop a third assessment using information collected on board the vessels.

The project spent a year identifying which type of cultural and social elements are attached to each of the countries and regions specifically. Social values change not only between countries but also between regions within one country.

Parke expressed her appreciation of the output of the project and asked what the longevity might be of this project. Will countries be able to update data and continue using it in future years?"

Murillas identified that the importantly project includes the collaboration between all stakeholders. While the GeoTool is for now attached to the project, the plan is to maintain it after the project is finalised and continue updating it in future years depending on available resources for example from existing project partners. The important thing is that not only can the data be easily updated, but the methodologies can be easily transferred.

The Chair also expressed his appreciation of this excellent tool.

Woodlock stated that it seems likely to tie in with some other topics raised previously in the discussions in this group. He felt that new entrants into the industry could possibly assist with the administration of the tool and this work could open up new employment pathways.

Murillas agreed with this statement and identified that it is up to the multiple stakeholders identified in the project to utilise the tool. The project will hold training workshops for the utilisation of the tool once it is finalised.

3. Discussion on the emergency draft submission to the European Commission on the current fuel provisioning crisis faced by the fishing sector

The Secretariat went through the draft letter and the Chair opened the floor for comments. A discussion followed and the draft submission was amended accordingly.

Members felt in general that this approach was worthwhile, however, it was pointed out that a request for fuel subsidies would not be supported by the OIGs. Several changes were made in order to arrive at a consensus wording.

The members of the Focus Group agreed to proceed with the submission of the draft letter to the respective Executive Committees.

ACTION: Secretariat to initiate the submission of this letter to both ExComs for comment and approval.

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

The Secretariat explained that there was no time left for the discussion of the Terms of Reference or the questionnaire. Members are invited to share their comments and suggestions via email with the Secretariat. The

Secretariat will amend the ToR following earlier discussions and circulate same including the comments received from the EAA and Danmarks Fiskeriforening.

The Secretariat also informed the members that at the next meeting of this Focus Group a Commission representative will present on the Commission's gender equality strategy.

The Chair summarised the action points, thanked all participants for their active participation and closed the meeting.

Actions

1	NWWAC Secretariat to review Rules of Procedure and, if necessary, prepare an amendment for the inclusion of an emergency procedure for the production of urgent advice.
2	Secretariat to initiate the submission of this letter to both ExComs for comment and approval.
3	Secretariat to update Terms of Reference and circulate for written approval

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