

## REPORT

*Draft*

Meeting: **NSAC/NWWAC Social Aspects FG**

Parties: **NSAC/NWWAC FG members**

Date & time: **16 November 2022, 9.30 CET**

Location: **Zoom**

Chair: **Kenn Skau Fischer**

Rapporteur: **Tamara Talevska**

### 1. Welcome and introduction

The Chair welcomed the participants. This was the first meeting facilitated by the NSAC, continuing the joint AC FG work on social aspects of the CFP.

Apologies were presented for Jasmine Vlietinck and Sander Meyns from Rederscentrale. Bruno Dachicourt, ETF, informed he would be leaving at 10.00 CET.

Agenda was approved without amends.

### 2. Report of the previous meeting

There were no comments to the report. The action point in which the NWWAC Secretariat was to restructure the advice document with the Chair, taking into account latest discussions, and circulate it to the FG before the next meeting, was deemed complete.

### 3. Review of current draft NWWAC/NSAC advice on Social Aspects

The Chair informed the FG that the latest advice with David Curtis' (EAA) comments had been circulated to the Group. The FG agreed to go through the text suggestions and the Chair invited participants to comment. The Chair mentioned that no changes had been made in terms of the content, the redrafting mostly concerned the structure.

The aim of the advice is to introduce the FG and the work on social aspects of the CFP to the Commission, taking into account social, alongside the environmental and economic aspects, as stipulated by the CFP.

David Curtis introduced his changes and noted they mostly included structure reformulation to ensure coherence. He felt that some definitions could be better formulated. It was not always clear what the advice is trying to cover when fisheries sector/seafood sector are mentioned. The Chair confirmed that when the term 'fisheries' is used, normally the whole spectrum is meant, but that sometimes the term related to the catching sector. He agreed on the need to ensure that this is correctly reflected.

Peter Breckling, German Fisheries Association, suggested to use the same terminology as used by the Commission in the regulations to prevent any misunderstanding. The Chair suggested to use Technical Measures Regulation to ensure that the right terms are utilized.

David Curtis further noted that the paragraph listing social aspects is not easy to follow. He suggested putting them in a list to render it more readable.

The Chair suggested to move the "latest economic figures on fleet" paragraph to data collection. He noted that introductory texts to different paragraphs are a welcome introduction by Curtis.

The Chair suggested "Training of fisheries" to be re-worded to "Education and training".

Curtis asked whether the intention of the advice is simply to flag to the Commission to pay attention to identified aspects or to request them to e.g. provide funding, collect data etc. The Chair confirmed that this advice is about introducing a list of issues to be attentive to. The advice as such illustrates the different social aspects when dealing with fisheries.

Curtis added that while for some of these it is difficult to collect data, for some data collection would be useful, for example on fishers' mental health. The Chair informed that there (in DK?) will be a project on mental preparedness for CCTV resulting in guidelines. He noted that while it is difficult to collect data, the guidelines are more easily produced.

Johnny Woodlock (ISS) commented that the list of social aspects is useful and provides a good outline. He agreed that aspects like mental health and wellbeing are difficult to quantify. He added that there is a programme on BBC reporting on the wellbeing of fishers, the impact of recreational fishing on people etc., which can be a useful approach to highlighting mental/lifestyle aspects.

Gerald Hussenot (Blue Fish) agreed that these are interesting points as complementary issues to social aspects and would be useful to cover in the future.

The Chair mentioned that the list seems appropriate, and that the FG might return to it if new aspects are identified.

The sentence on "appropriate impact assessment" was simplified.

On "New entrants to the fisheries sector", Curtis clarified that he thought the section would be better standing alone instead of placing it within the rest of the body text. The Chair asked for clarification on the term "entrants" and suggested to use different wording, e.g. "employment/recruitment/engagement".

Johnny Woodlock suggested that fishers are leaving the sector due to perceived new threats (such as offshore renewables, new regulation etc.). He explained that the fact that they “won’t be their own bosses anymore” is an important aspect which discourages them from continuing in the profession. He added that the number of fishers involved in the catching sector is declining, both inshore and offshore.

Norah Parke (KFO) said that one of the huge problems in recruitment is, among others, persistent negative publicity the fishers are being subject to. Offshore renewable energy will be affecting recruitment as well. Lots of vessel owners are seeing no options but to leave the industry due to all the pressures. This was echoed by Gerald Hussenot and Johnny Woodlock.

The Chair suggested to improve this part of the text with the aspects raised by Woodlock and Parke.

Woodlock added that the industry had made lots of efforts to improve the PR of fisheries (i.e. fishers contributing to sustainable resources), but the fact that commercial industry had been showed in a negative light for a number of years is a significant factor that is difficult to override.

Parke added that parents are educating their children out of the fishing industry. The Chair echoed this, clarifying that parents encourage children to study and become academics rather than fishers.

Peter Breckling added that attractiveness to the sector depends also on possibilities to develop and introduce new technologies and innovations, as can be observed in the pelagic sector. Technological advances would attract young people. As an example he mentioned agricultural sector in Germany, which is reportedly the only traditional business with an increasing number of interested young people. This is so because they are able to follow the technological advances and are savvy in handling them. Breckling highlighted that is not impossible to have the same developments in fisheries.

The Chair suggested to have Data collection as a separate chapter.

Woodlock recalled a seminar in Dublin castle, where a reference was made to human discards. In the past the emphasis was on fish discards, and little interest given to human discards, crews and vessels put out of work. The aim of the seminar was to discuss economic, both monetary and human, and social aspects. Such seminars might be an opportunity to raise this question. Woodlock agreed with Breckling that new technology would attract young people, and also contribute to improving data collection.

Curtis mentioned that the European Parliament report provides economic data, but there is no requirement by MS or the Commission to collect data.

Curtis questioned the part on coverage of recreational fisheries in fisheries assessments. He agreed that this might be relevant in some cases, but believed it was not relevant for this paper on social aspects. The Chair agreed with deletion of this part.

Woodlock noted on this that there are very few stocks that recreational angling takes a significant amount from, except perhaps the pollock, where the impact on the stock remains fairly minimal.

Gerald Hussenot disagreed and mentioned that recreational fishing constitutes an important pressure in some cases, i.e. the seabass. Parke agreed this to be part of the document, saying that data on the impact of recreational fishing is lacking and should be improved. The Chair agreed to this and suggested to find a way to include this point.

In paragraph “*Commercial fishing in the EU is estimated to generate a contribute to the overall economy with 6.3 billion EUR and 92 298 full-time equivalent jobs. The marine recreational fishing in Europe contributes considerably to social and economic activity in this field with an estimated 8-10 million recreational sea anglers potentially supporting an industry valued at €10.5 billion and 99,000 full-time equivalent jobs*” Curtis explained that study was focused on different regions of the EU, so “Europe” should be replaced by “EU”.

Woodlock commented that the contribution of recreational fishing to coastal is one of the most important social aspects of recreational fisheries and overrides the financial aspect.

Curtis agreed that expression of value of recreational fisheries sector must be tied with its value for coastal communities, rather than just GDP. Chair agreed that regional/local contribution and value are important. The Chair suggested to be cautious about which data is being compared. A further look into the figures was advised. The EP report should be looked into. **(Action)**

Curtis questioned the recommendation on the Commission acting as international role model, explaining that it does not communicate why this is important or what needs to happen in order to achieve this. It is not simply the acknowledgement of social dimension that will do this. There is no underpinning of the sentence. The Chair agreed to reflect on better wording.

The Chair sought clarity regarding gauge rules. Gerald responded that gauge rules are set by the Commission as the maximum gauge rules and volume of the vessels, which is what is standing in the way of technological as well as safety and working conditions improvements. The Chair agreed that better formulation is needed.

The Chair reminded that the advice recommendations need to be reflected in the text. New aspects should not be introduced in recommendations. Mo Mathies explained that some recommendations are from presentations held in the FG.

Curtis commented on Recommendation 6 requesting improved data collection on recreational fisheries, reflecting that more regular surveys could be an opportunity to collect socio-economic data in addition to catch data.

The members agreed that the structure of the paper is moving into the right direction. The Chair confirmed that the paper will be finalized by the FG Chair and the NWWAC Secretariat and sent for consultation in the FG via written procedure, followed by consultation in horizontal WG (for NWWAC) and respective ExCOMs. The advice is intended to be adopted before Christmas. **(Action)**

#### 4 Review of new proposal for TOR under NSAC

This section was dedicated to review of the new TOR. David Curtis said he was not aware that the new TOR were being produced and will therefore review it until next FG meeting. In general, the new TOR seemed straightforward and capturing the main aspects to be covered by the FG.

Peter Breckling intervened with information on the ESG (environmental and social governance finance products) observing some important impacts down to small companies. It concerns a new system linked to taxonomy for finance products. Breckling asked whether some participants had been confronted with this issue and if they are aware whether fisheries are included here. He further clarified that it includes additional effort for reporting for all supply chains of products, which can become an issue. He suggested to ask the Commission whether it is relevant on the social level.

The Chair responded he had not heard about it, and agreed to check with the Commission – the first possible occasion being the Inter-AC meeting on the 17 November. A discussion to be tabled at the next meeting, including the review of the terms of reference. **(Action)**

#### 5 Identification of further work and timelines

The Chair asked the members, observing the timeline in the TOR, what should be the next FG topic following the finalization of the current advice.

After a pressing issue of rising fuel prices, which has been addressed several times already, a presentation of socio-economic data collection and practical application/implications by STECF could ensue. A point of interest would be the price level of fuel that would imply difficulties for fisheries, where the STECF proposed a higher level than what was perceived as problematic by fishers. **(Action)**

Woodlock agreed that fuel prices are one of the factors severely affecting fishers, alongside increasingly limited access to fishing grounds, extending their working hours due to longer trips which translates to social challenges.

#### 6 AOB & date and time of next meeting

No AOB was raised.

The Chair suggested to Secretariat to circulate a doodle for a date in January 2023. **(Action)**

#### 7 Actions



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN  
WATERS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA  
LAS AGUAS  
NOROCCIDENTALES



Action	Responsible party
A further look to be taken into the figures on economic and social values of recreational fisheries. The EP report should be looked into to ensure consistency in reporting figures.	NWWAC Secretariat
The current advice paper to be finalized by the FG Chair and the NWWAC Secretariat and sent for consultation in the FG via written procedure, followed by a consultation in horizontal WG (for NWWAC) and finally by respective ExCOMs.	NSAC Chair, NWWAC/NSAC Secretariats
Enquire with the Commission concerning the ESG (environmental and social governance finance products) at the next Inter-AC, or else before the next FG meeting. A discussion to be tabled at the next meeting.	Peter Breckling, NSAC Secretariat
The new TOR to be reviewed and adopted at the next FG meeting.	NSAC Secretariat, FG members
Table a presentation of socio-economic data collection and practical application/implications by STECF. A point to be raised: the price level of fuel that would imply difficulties for fisheries, as proposed by STECF.	NSAC Secretariat, FG members
The NSAC Secretariat to circulate a doodle to determine the date and time of the next meeting (in January).	NSAC Secretariat

## 8 Participants

First Name	Last Name	Organisation
Peter	Breckling	German Fisheries Association
David	Curtis	EAA
Bruno	Dachicourt	ETF
Gerald	Hussenot	Blue Fish
Patrick	Murphy	Irish South & West Fish Producers Organisation
Norah	Parke	KFO
Kenn Skau	Fischer	NSAC
Johnny	Woodlock	ISS
Alexandra	Philippe	EBCD
Mo	Mathies	NWWAC
Tamara	Talevska	NSAC

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