
Work on Data Deficiencies in North Western Waters (VI-VII)

Alexandre Rodríguez, Eibhlín O'Sullivan and Caroline Gamblin

ICES WGMARS

Resilience Centre - Stockholm, 4 November 2013





SEPTENTRIONALES

CUNCI

NOROCCIDENTALES

Intro: Review of cooperation ICES-RAC

- ❑ Increased scientific input and participation in RAC meetings:
 - > Development of Mixed Fisheries MAMPs (WoS, CS, IS)
 - > Review of existing LTMPs (Cod recovery plan, Sole VIIe)
 - > Streamlining of both informal and formal cooperation.

- ❑ Better understanding by stakeholders of how ICES works
 - > Internal procedure for the development of advice (structure)
 - > Methodology and basis for advice (MSY, PA)
 - > Translation of advice into fishing opportunities

- ❑ Regular attendance of NWWRAC representatives to ICES (ADG, WK) meetings



Background

- ❑ Idea started in early 2010 from North Western Waters and North Sea RACs – what can the RACs and the industry do to help to improve quality of data for stock assessments?
- ❑ Institutional dialogue with ICES started in Q4 2010 and two meetings (WKDDRAC1 and WKDDRAC2) were held in Q1 2011
- ❑ Continuation of work at each RAC in discussions at Annual Coordination Meetings ICES-RACs (MIRAC) in 2012 and 2013
- ❑ Initiative publicly supported by DG Evans in 2011 and reflected this year on EC Communication on Fishing Opportunities for 2014



Chronology

WKDDRAC1 – 26-27 January 2011

“Brainstorming session”

WKDDRAC2 – 31 March – 1 April 2011

Adoption of broad principles, framework/ToR for RTFs

Analysis and Identification of priority stocks (22 out of 60)

NWWRAC Working Group meetings (April-July 2011)

Appointment of fishing industry representatives as RAC Data Stock Coordinators to maintain dialogue with ICES coordinators

Discussions on Data Deficiencies at MIRAC 2012 and 2013

Annual Reports to ICES on Work Progress

(July 2011 / July 2012 / *December 2013*)



Aims

- ❑ To establish “regional task forces” to enhance collaborative work and continuous dialogue between MS, scientists and stakeholders – both at ICES and NWWRAC!
- ❑ To be pragmatic and focus on those data limited stocks where progress can be made
- ❑ To decide where data needs (gaps) are and to analyse where responsibilities lie within each identified group (MS/S/I)
- ❑ To propose remedial actions and put in place a multiannual work plan (timetable, deliverables)

Actions: things are moving forward!

- ❑ Appointment of stock data coordinators responsible to liaise with ICES and coordinate work and avoid duplication
- ❑ Regular Participation at ICES benchmark workshops (Flatfish, Roundfish, Cod, Nephrops)
- ❑ Increased stakeholders' participation in observer capacity at ICES (ADG, ACOM) groups
- ❑ Production of (*pro forma*) Annual Reports on work progress
- ❑ Standardised format for data provision (table)
- ❑ Training courses on stock assessment
available for RAC members



Role of NWWRAC data coordinators

- ❑ Link / contact with counterparts in ICES
- ❑ Ensure smooth and stable communication
- ❑ Identify and review type of data deficiencies
- ❑ Follow up required actions to resolve data issues
- ❑ Gather information from and report back to RAC members at (geographical) Working Groups
- ❑ Secretariat acting as “engine room” / facilitator between ICES and RAC coordinators

Main stocks of interest for NWW ICES (EC)Vb-VIa-VII

- ❑ Northern Hake
- ❑ Anglerfish
- ❑ Megrin
- ❑ Cod, Haddock and Whiting
- ❑ Nephrops
- ❑ Sole and Plaice
- ❑ Elasmobranchs
(Skates, Rays and Sharks)



What needs to be improved?

- ❑ Still certain confusion about who to address in ICES
- ❑ Lack of proactivity by some RAC data stock coordinators in providing written evidence
- ❑ Reluctance from fishermen/POs to provide sensitive data (e.g. areas of catches, discards...)
- ❑ Dynamic nature of fisheries
- ❑ Changes in scientific assessments (models)
- ❑ New ICES methodology for DLS



Benchmark Workshops: suggestions

- ❑ Importance of data compilation workshops – preparation of data 2-3 months in advance to the benchmark workshop
- ❑ Stakeholder input at the beginning of the meeting (1st day): explaining ToR, framework for and issues with uncertainty data deficiencies
- ❑ Main constraints observed:
 - ❑ Language (no resources for interpretation);
 - ❑ Time (duration of meetings);
 - ❑ Terminology (scientific jargon);
 - ❑ Location;



Benchmark Workshops: Challenges

- ❑ Involvement of Fishers' Data and Knowledge:

 - Need for the industry to provide reliable and accurate series of data in due time prior to ICES meetings;

- ❑ Guidelines for the format and type of data required by ICES for insertion into assessment models.

 - > Indicate which non-conventional data are acceptable and valid;
 - > Overview of existing data collection practices;
 - > Report back on the use of data to the providers / fishermen.

- ❑ Data coordinators feedback to the RAC membership

- ❑ Manage excess of expectations!

CFP Reform legislative framework: future challenges

- Regionalisation of decision making – development of multiannual management plans
- Implementation of landings obligation (discards ban)
- Achievement of MSY for all (commercial) species, where possible, by 2015
- Fully documented fisheries: control aspects
- Multispecies / mixed fisheries approach:
 - West of Scotland (VIa)
 - Celtic Sea (VIIfg)
 - Irish Sea (VIIa)





Thank you for you attention

www.nwwrac.org



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF
RÉGIONAL POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

**NORTH WESTERN
WATERS**
REGIONAL ADVISORY
COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO
REGIONAL PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES