

North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dublin, 26 September 2012

14:00 - 16:00

Chairman: Bertie Armstrong
Deputy Chair: Jacques Pichon
Rapporteur: Alexandre Rodríguez

1. Welcome

Due to the unexpected departure of Mr. Armstrong from Dublin for personal reasons, the First Vice Chair of the NWWRAC, Jacques Pichon, kindly took over chair duties. Mr. Pichon welcomed the members, the coordinators of the EU FP7 Projects MYFISH and GAP2, and the representatives of the DG MARE from the European Commission, María Fuensanta Candela and Laurent Markovic.

The full list of attendees is included as an annex to these minutes.

- Apologies were received from Bertie Armstrong, NWWRAC Chairman and Dr. Conor Nolan, Executive Secretary of the NWWRAC.
- Adoption of the agenda: The agenda was adopted by the members without comments.
- Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting (Dublin Castle, 5 July 2012):

Jesús Lourido asked that his name was included under the apologies. The Secretariat informed of a typographic error in the Spanish version of the minutes when referring to article 54 of Regulation 850/1998 instead of article 45.

The report was considered to be a true record of the meeting and was formally adopted incorporating the amendments above.

2. Presentation of EU Projects

2.1. GAP2 Project¹ - <http://gap2.eu/>

Presenter: Dr. Steven Mackinson (Project coordinator - CEFAS)

2.1.1. Project overview:

Dr. Mackinson presented the GAP2 Project, *“Bridging the gap between science, stakeholders and policy makers”* - Phase 2: Integration of evidence-based knowledge and its application to science and management of fisheries and the marine environment.

This FP7 project is a continuation of GAP Project (2007-2009) and has a period of duration of 4 years (1 April 2011-31 March 2015). GAP2 involves a consortium of 37 partners from 11 different European countries and has a total budget of 7.6 million euros. Five RACs are also members of the project Steering Committee.

The main purpose of GAP2 is to demonstrate the role and value of stakeholder driven science within the context of fisheries’ governance by facilitating the dialogue and strengthening work relationship between scientists and fishermen beyond conventional or existing tools (e.g. FSP).

The project is structured in 6 Work Packages (WPs) lead by different members of an interdisciplinary team. This includes one WP dedicated to coordination to facilitate knowledge transfer, information exchange and budget efficiency. 13 research project (*“case studies”*) have been developed to demonstrate collaboration between scientists and fishermen is feasible on the ground. One case lead by UK industry is of interest for the NWWRAC as it assesses the sustainability of brown crab stocks in the English Channel.

GAP2 considers the RACs an optimal channel to uptake outcomes of research between the national and the European scale, and shorten the gap and facilitate exchange of information between them. A quick overview was made in relation to the work carried out already with some of the RACs such as the Baltic Sea RAC. In terms of activities with stakeholders’ participation in 2012, a series of Workshop on regionalisation at different RACs and a Seminar on LTMP (Brussels 5 July) were highlighted as landmark events 2012.

Dr. Mackinson offered support from GAP2 to the NWWRAC to continue existing work on developing a MAMP for Celtic Sea mixed demersal fisheries. In particular, GAP2 could provide support for a workshop bringing industry, scientists and other stakeholders together to help define the content and specific information/ knowledge required for the development of a LTMP (MAMP). Continued support for the technical development of the plan might be available (at least in part) through the MYFISH project, since the Celtic Sea mixed fisheries feature as a case study in that project.

¹ www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/GAP2_Project_Phase2_NWWRAC_26Sept2012.pdf

2.1.2. Exchange of views from the floor / Questions and answers:

The project and ideas were well received by the NWWRAC members.

The **Executive Committee members** posed a number of specific queries:

- * Daniel Lefèvre asked if he could provide more information on the brown crab stocks test case in the Channel.
- * Bruno Dachicourt asked if there were any work package dealing with socio-economic effects and impact assessment of management measures for the fleets.
- * Hugo González wondered what level of acceptance and support had this project from the Commission.
- * Sean O'Donoghue requested more information on the offer to assist with the funding for developing a Celtic Sea MAMP as well as if there were coordination between the EU projects dealing with similar topics.

Dr. Mackinson thanked the NWWRAC members for their interest in the project and answered some of the questions as follows:

- * All progress reports of the brown crab test case are available for consultation in the GAP2 website.
- * GAP2 has not presented at this stage any specific outputs to the Commission.
- * There is a good exchange of information and degree of coordination between some EU projects, such as GAP2 and MYFISH. Other EU projects seem to have either a narrower or broader scope, covering different topics (e.g. ACRUNET deals with all phases of both the value chain “from the sea to the table”). Informal meetings between project coordinators also take place on a regular basis.

María Fuensanta Candela, Commission's representative, announced that, following a request from the NWWRAC, a call of tender for a study to develop a decision-support tool aimed to assess management options for Celtic Sea mixed demersal fisheries is expected to be launched before the end of the year. This tool should be able to analyse the combination of a number of factors in a context of mixed fisheries such as: the range of species; the number of métiers and exploitation patterns; fishing opportunities (TACs); changes in the stock; return in the fisheries and the ports. The duration of such study would be in the region of 18-24 months, including the work of collecting the necessary biological and economic data.

Action: *It was agreed that the NWWRAC would establish regular communication and be informed of progress on GAP2 projects, with the possibility of having it some dedicated funding for supporting initiatives in north western waters such as multiannual mixed fisheries management plans for Celtic Sea (VIIIfg), West of Scotland (VIa) or Irish Sea (VIIa).*



2.2. MYFISH Project² – <http://www.myfishproject.eu/>

Presenter: Dr. Raúl Prellezo (AZTI-Tecnalia)

Dr. Prellezo gave a general overview of MYFISH – “*Maximising yield of fisheries while balancing ecosystem, economic and social concerns*”, which is a 3 year project (July 2012-June 2015) funded under FP7. This project looks specifically at the concept of Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) and its legal basis. It tries to ascertain what is and what is not MSY from a political, scientific, economic and social perspective; it also analyses and identifies the problems to set MSY as a management target.

The purpose of this project is to go beyond the current interpretations and (re)define MSY variants and identify the priorities by regional areas. The Western waters have been identified as one of those areas and they are divided in Celtic Sea, Bay of Biscay and Iberian waters.

A kick-off meeting of this project (Workshop with stakeholders) took place in Vigo in April 2012; and the NWWRAC was represented there through its appointed representative.

Proposal: *MYFISH would like to invite the NWWRAC to be involved in the process of defining MSY objectives and constraints in a technical work with the aim to develop an operational management plan. MYFISH might in turn assist the NWWRAC in providing scientific support on multi-species and mixed fisheries in relation to MSY.*

Action: *The members endorsed the proposal submitted by the MYFISH coordinator by consensus.*

The Chairman thanked both speakers for their presentations.

3. Decision on ongoing actions by the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee was requested to decide on some outstanding actions:

- Response to EC Consultation Paper on Role and Functioning of the Advisory Councils
The Secretariat will draft a NWWRAC response to the Commission’s consultation paper on the role and composition of the Advisory Councils. NWWRAC advice will be based on the outcomes of the discussions held at the General Assembly meeting on this topic and will take into consideration as well the content of previous NWWRAC submissions to the Commission on regionalisation and role of the Advisory Councils. The draft response will be distributed to all members of the NWWRAC for comments and feedback in order to generate approved NWWRAC advice, which is submitted within the deadline as requested by the Commission (end of October-mid November).

² www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/MYFISH_Project_NWWRAC_26Sept2012.pdf

- Response to EC Communication on Fishing Opportunities for 2013
Following the accords reached at the last Executive Committee meeting in July, the Chairman and the Secretariat prepared a response to the EC Communication that compiled the views expressed by the members on the following topics:
 - * State of stocks – general trends;
 - * Rules and principles for setting TACs;
 - * Data limited stocks – application of precautionary margin (new ICES approach);
 - * MSY in single and mixed fisheries;
 - * Review of effort regimes;

The paper was circulated for comments among all NWWRAC members prior to the meeting and the revised version was included as meeting paper in the NWWRAC website and put forward for endorsement here.

Decision: *The NWWRAC members adopted the draft response as presented without any further comments. The response will be submitted immediately as the NWWRAC written contribution to the consultation launched by DG MARE in July.*

- NWWRAC representative at MAIA Project Conference on MPAs in the Atlantic Arc
The Secretariat (Alexandre Rodríguez) informed the members that the NWWRAC had received an invitation to provide at the event above a presentation on their views on the stakeholders' participation at consultation processes for designation and management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). This workshop will take place in early December in Arcachon (France). The Chairman (Bertie Armstrong) and the Secretariat had requested the Third Vice-Chair of the NWWRAC and Chairman of the NWWRAC Focus Group on Marine Spatial Planning, Iwan Ball, to represent and convey the views of the NWWRAC at this meeting.

Decision: The Executive Committee members endorsed the nomination put forward by the Chairman and the Secretariat, and Iwan Ball was appointed the NWWRAC representative at this meeting.

- Proposal of a Joint Focus Group on Deepwater Fisheries
The Secretariat (Alexandre Rodríguez) made a brief report on the outcomes of the stakeholders' workshop of FP7 Projects DEEPFISHMAN and CORALFISH in Galway on the 31st of August. The NWWRAC was represented there by the Focus Group Chairman, Marc Ghiglia and Alexandre Rodríguez on behalf of the Secretariat.

A request was made from several fishing industry members of the NWWRAC to set up a Focus Group before the end of 2012 to analyse/deal with three aspects:

1. Overview of state of deepwater stocks and related management decisions (TACs and technical measures) for the biannual period 2013-2014.

2. Preparation of a joint RAC response to Commission's proposal for Regulation establishing specific conditions to fishing for deep-sea stocks in the North East Atlantic and repealing Regulation (EC) 2347/2002.

3. Collaboration between industry and scientists for a sustainable management of deepwater habitats and stocks: Recommendations of DEEPFISHMAN Project.

Action: *A Focus Group on Deepwater Fisheries (Species and Habitats) will be convened before the end of the year. The NWWRAC Secretariat will look after the logistics and contact its counterparts from the South Western Waters, North Sea and Long Distance RAC Secretariats to extend the invitation to organise a Joint RAC meeting.*

- Proposal of a Focus Group on Northern Hake, Anglerfish and Megrin

The NWWRAC Chairman and several members of the Executive Committee asked to set up a Focus Group to look at hake, anglerfish and megrim fisheries jointly under a single Focus Group sometime in the first half of 2013. This topic has been included at the NWWRAC work programme for Year 8 and will address, amongst other, collaboration with scientists to overcome data deficiencies and own initiative industry measures to improve management and conservation of these stocks.

Eibhlín O'Sullivan took the floor to present a letter that she addressed earlier in the month to the NWWRAC on behalf of the Federation of Irish Fishermen asking for a review of the ICES assessment for anglerfish stock in Area VII. This request to develop an alternative assessment method already used for megrim in Areas IV and VIa to achieve an analytical assessment for this stock for 2013 and avoid application of precautionary approach. This letter of request should be sent to the national scientific institutes of Spain, France and Ireland.

Action: *The Secretariat will circulate letter received from Eibhlín by fast track procedure with the view of having it endorsed and sent to the relevant addressees by mid October.*

- Cooperation with ICES on data deficiencies: WKDDRAC3

The Secretariat reminded the audience that the NWWRAC had submitted in July an annual work progress report on data deficiencies for demersal stocks in VI-VII to ICES ACOM. This report also contained a proposal to set up a third coordination meeting between ICES stock data coordinators, Member States and concerned (North Western Waters, North Sea and South Western Waters) RACs by the end of the year or early 2013. This request would be discussed at the ICES ASC in Bergen, and the Secretariat will inform the members on any news received from ICES.

- Participation in EU Projects

This point has already been covered under item 2.

4. Update on Commission's work programme and consultations

4.1. EC work priorities in relation to North Western Waters for the second half of 2012

María Fuensanta Candela (Head of Unit J2 DG MARE) gave an overview of the Commission's calendar of legislative proposals and non-legislative acts that might be of interest to the NWWRAC for the second half of 2012. A link to the Commission's full programme is available for consultation on the NWWRAC website³.

The following items were highlighted by the Commission representative for interest of this RAC:

- Long Term Approach for the Celtic Sea;
- Fishing opportunities for 2013 in the Atlantic;
- Interim amendments to cod management plan (EC Reg. 1342/2008);
- Interim proposal ("*lisbonisation*") and long term approach to technical conservation measures (review of EC Reg. 850/1998);

4.2. Exchange of views from the floor

This topic was not covered due to the lack of time.

5. Progress report on recent meetings with NWWRAC participation

- NWWRAC-DG MARE bilateral meeting on fishing effort (Brussels, 13 July)
The acting Chairman signaled to the members that a comprehensive report of this meeting is available as background paper at the NWWRAC meeting site⁴.
- West of Scotland and Irish Sea Cod Focus Group meeting (Dublin, 31 July)
The Focus Group Chair, Sean O'Donoghue briefed the members on the main conclusions reached at the meeting and the ongoing work. He also encouraged the Ex.Com. members to read carefully the Focus Group meeting report which is available in the NWWRAC website⁵.
- Workshop on Deepwater Habitats and Species (Galway, 31 August)
This topic has already been covered under item 3.

³ www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/4_EC_Calendar_Planned_Initiatives_2ndHalf2012.pdf

⁴ Report of DG MARE-NWWRAC meeting on fishing effort:
www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/5_NWWRAC_Report_Mtg_DGMARE_Fishing_Effort_13July2012_EN.pdf

⁵ Cod Focus Group Meeting Report:
www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/5_MINUTES_NWWRAC_FG_COD_RECOVERY_BIM_DUBLIN_3107_12_EN.pdf



- EP-PECH Public Hearing on Review of Cod Management Plan (Brussels, 17 September)
At request of the EP Fisheries Committee, Sean O' Donoghue participated at this meeting and provided a presentation reflecting the NWWRAC proposals of short term amendments to the Regulation 1342/2008. Mr. O'Donoghue also had some time to explain the long term strategic approach to break the cycle of decline for cod fisheries in the West of Scotland.
- France-UK industry meeting on Scallops management in the Channel (Paris, 18 September)
Daniel Lefevre reported the Executive Committee that, following decisions adopted at the last Ex.Com. in July, a follow up meeting was convened to try to progress on negotiations and reach an accord on joint sustainable exploitation of the scallops stocks in the Channel (Vilde). Mr. Lefevre explained that, despite the efforts made, the positions were still quite distant and that the approaches taken by both parties were substantially different in terms of management and market measures. In conclusion, no agreement was reached at this meeting.

6. Summary of actions agreed and concluding remarks by the Chair

The Deputy Chairman, Jacques Pichon, asked the rapporteur to summarise the main actions referred above and thanked all participants for their attendance, the Irish Government for providing the venue, the staff of Dublin Castle for their assistance and the team of interpreters for their work.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 16:15 h

ANNEX I.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS		
First Name	Last Name	Organisation
Jacques	Pichon	NWWRAC Deputy Chairman
Víctor	Badiola	OPPAO – CEPESCA
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Kara	Brydson	RSPB-Birdlife International
Alan	Coghill	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Luc	Corbisier	Stichting voor Duurzame Visserij Ontwikkeling
John	Crudden	European Anglers' Alliance
Bruno	Dachicourt	CFTC-ETF (<i>replacing Jacques Bigot</i>)
Anton	Dekker	Dutch Fisheries Organisation
Anthony	Delahunty	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation (<i>replacing Barrie Deas</i>)
Cécile	Fouquet	European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)
Hugo	González	ANASOL-ARVI
André	Gueguen	Comité National de Pêches Maritimes
Anne-Marie	Kats	AIPCE-CEP
Thierry	Lepretre	France Peche Durable et Responsable
Eduardo	Míguez	European Association of Ports and Auctions
Sean	O'Donoghue	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation
Eibhlin	O'Sullivan	Irish South & West Fish PO
Mireille	Thom	World Wildlife Fund (<i>replacing Iwan Ball</i>)
John	Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary

OBSERVERS		
Richard	Brouzes	Copeport Marée OPBN
María Fuensanta	Candela Castillo	DG MARE – European Commission
René-Pierre	Chever	CDPMEM29
Maurice	Clarke	Marine Institute
Juan Carlos	Corrás Arias	Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco
John	Daly	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Ramón	De la Figuera Morales	Ministerio Agricultura - Gobierno de España
Caroline	Gamblin	CNPMEM
Marc	Ghiglia	NWWRAC GA & Honorary Chair
Sarah	Goddard	GAP2 - WWF
Béatrice	Harmel	CRPMEM Basse Normandie
Rory	Keatinge	Coastwatch
Daniel	Lefèvre	CRPMEM Basse Normandie – WG3 Chair
Jesús	Lourido García	Puerto de Celeiro, S.A.
John	Lynch	Irish Fishermen’s Organisation
Steve	Mackinson	GAP2 - CEFAS
Laurent	Markovic	DG MARE – European Commission
Alan	McCulla	ANIFPO – WG4 Chair
Sean	Murray	DAFM - Ireland
Francis	O’Donnell	Irish Fish Producers’ Organisation
Jose Luis	Otero	Lonja de La Coruña, S.A.
Jim	Portus	South West Fish Producers Organisation
Raul	Prellezo	MYFISH - AZTI Tecnalia
Brendan	Price	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Delphine	Roncin	CRPMEM Pas de Calais/Picardie
Jane	Sandell	Scottish Fishermen’s Organisation – WG1 Chair
Dominique	Thomas	CME OP
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish Fish PO
Caitlín	Uí Aodha	Irish South & East FPO
Ilaria	Vermini	AquaTT

SECRETARIAT		
Alexandre	Rodríguez	Executive Assistant – Policy Issues - Rapporteur
Joanna	McGrath	Executive Assistant – Admin. and Finances