



## **REPORT**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Spanish Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries**

**Madrid, 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2009**

Chairman: Sam Lambourn  
Rapporteurs: Alexandre Rodríguez  
Kristel Adriaenssens

#### **1. Welcome**

The Chairman Sam Lambourn welcomed all attendees to the meeting. No apologies were received.

It was noted that the following representatives acted as substitutes of the usual seat holders on behalf of their respective organizations:

- \* Lloyd Austin replacing Kara Brydson (RSPB Scotland)
- \* Ted Breslin replacing Sean O'Donoghue (Killybegs Fishermen Organization)
- \* Caroline Gamblin replacing André Gueguen (CNPMEM)
- \* Louize Hill replacing Iwan Ball (WWF)
- \* Gavin Power replacing Gerard O'Flynn (Irish South West FPO)
- \* Julie Staines replacing Brendan Price (Irish Seal Sanctuary)

The Chairman also welcomed Kenneth Patterson from DG MARE of the European Commission. The list of participants is detailed in Annex I.

#### **Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted with no changes.

#### **Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting (21<sup>st</sup> of April 2009)**

The meeting report was adopted in full and without changes

**Update on the actions agreed at the last meeting:** The Secretariat (Alexandre Rodríguez) briefed members on the state of progress regarding the agreed actions of the previous meeting (see Annex II).

## 2. Reports from the Working Groups

### Working Group 1

The Chairman of Working Group 1 (Bertie Armstrong) provided the meeting with a brief overview of the outcomes of the Working Group and asked the Executive Committee to endorse the following:

- A communication from the NWWRAC providing Advice to the EC on the EC Communication on Fishing Opportunities for 2010;
- An outline of the next steps for the NWWRAC in the development of a Long term management plan (LTMP) for West of Scotland Haddock;
- A letter to the administrations of the UK and Ireland regarding the timing of monkfish surveys in Via;
- The requirement for a Focus Group on MPAs /Natura 2000 network.

The members discussed these items and agreed the following:

In relation to the NWWRAC advice on EC Communication on fishing opportunities for 2010, the membership considered that a revision or “*clean-up*” of the English and French versions was needed. It was also suggested that a paragraph was included mentioning the difficulties experienced by the RACs in their efforts to satisfy the Commission’s request for scientific, evidence-based advice on each action or argument contained in the communication. With these minor changes, it was agreed that the NWWRAC advice should be sent immediately to the Commission.

Regarding the LTMP for West of Scotland Haddock, the members supported the content of the meeting report of the focus group held in Aberdeen last July. It was agreed that Bertie Armstrong would produce a draft letter to the Commission covering the main proposals and conclusions stated in the report. The letter would also make specific note of the fact that as the Spanish fleet have no-quota for this species and do not target nor fish for this species, they should not be subjected to any restrictions or limitations on fishing effort and access to the area.

It was agreed that this letter would be circulated by electronic means initially among Working Group 1 and subsequently among Executive Committee members for comments and endorsement before being submitted to the Commission. An additional note asking France and Ireland to provide the data results from spring observer campaigns would be attached to this letter.

The Commission representative informed the meeting that ICES advice in response to Commission's request for evaluating the proposed harvest control rules for the implementation of a LTMP for Haddock in West of Scotland waters, is expected to be adopted by the ICES Advisory Committee in best case by December

Regarding the letter on monkfish, the Executive Committee agreed that it should be sent to the Commission with no further changes.

Finally, it was the view of the Executive Committee that, a Focus Group on MPAs/Natura 2000 should be deferred until there is a formal consultation on offshore sites which would be of general interest for a number of NWWRAC members from several Member States. It was agreed to ask the Commission for an update on relevant MPAs and the timetable for stakeholder consultation.

**Action:** *WG1 Chairman and Secretariat to make slight amendments to the advice on fishing opportunities; to agree the contents of a letter based on the meeting report of the Haddock Focus Group; to finalize the letter to the UK and Irish administrations on the timing of monkfish surveys; and to send all of the above to the Commission, as soon as possible.*

### Working Group 2

The Chairman of Working Group 2 (Hugo González) provided the meeting with a brief overview of the outcomes of the Working Group and asked the Executive Committee to endorse the following papers and/or actions:

- The formulation of a NWWRAC-SWWRAC Joint Opinion on the EC Proposal for a LTMP for Northern Hake;
- A letter to the Commission proposing a Workshop on EU Market Policy Regulations for Fishing Products;
- A letter to the Commission requesting an update on the status of the Gear Marking Regulation.

The Secretariat reminded the attendees that, due to the unanimous support accorded to the draft by Executive Committee members and in the interests of speed and efficiency, the Joint NWWRAC-SWWRAC opinion on Northern Hake had been submitted to the Commission, European Parliament and Member States on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August. The Secretariat clarified that this paper was endorsed by both the members of the Focus Group and the Executive Committee members of the NWWRAC and SWWRAC by electronic procedure. The members formally ratified and accepted this procedure. The joint opinion document, as submitted, can be found in the publications section of the NWWRAC website.

Regarding the proposed way forward for Celtic Sea Cod, Lorcan O’Cinnéide and Jacques Pichon briefed the members on the reasons why a proposal for a management plan for Celtic Sea Cod had not yet been presented by EAPO.

This has proven to be a difficult process, complicated by the unexpected release of a proposed Regulation from the Commission providing the Group with little time to submit considered comment. Both members voiced their concern on the scope (all of area VII) and the content of the regulation proposed by the Commission. The current proposal was almost unchanged from the one rejected by the RAC last year and continued to have potential implications on effort displacement to the Celtic Sea. It was highlighted that there is a need to find a balance between biological and socio-economic objectives. Any future regulation, therefore, should reflect the reality of the fishing activities (metiers) rather than be focused at vessel level, allowing current fleets to operate, while contributing to the rebuilding of cod stocks.

The representatives of the Spanish fleet restated that they will not accept a reduction in fishing effort ceilings in VIIf and VIlg for their fleet, as they do not have quota nor target or catch cod. They reminded the meeting that the Spanish fleet had been awarded fishing days in areas VIIf and VIlg as a result of the Treaty of Accession of Spain to the EU and the Regulation on fishing effort currently in force. The Spanish delegation wants to keep their historical access rights and their fishing opportunities in these areas for other species.

It was agreed that this was an information point, and that EAPO would circulate their final opinion to Working Group 2 when it is ready, in order to develop an opinion, which can then be put forward to the Executive Committee for endorsement.

In relation to the letter on EU Market Policy Regulations for Fishing Products, the Secretariat reminded the meeting that a letter was sent to ACFA on 22<sup>nd</sup> of April seeking their support to make a joint request to the Commission on the organization of an EU-level workshop on market initiatives linked to Regulation 744/2008. ACFA support was received in a letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> of June. It was agreed that this request should be reinforced with an additional letter directly addressed to the Commission.

The letter on the current status and way forward of the Gear Marking regulation, was adopted without change and agreed to be sent to the Commission immediately.

**Action:** *WG2 Chairman and the Secretariat to make the necessary amendments to the letter requesting a Workshop on Market Policy initiatives and send it, together with the letter on Gear Marking Regulation, to the Commission immediately.*

### Working group 3

The Chairman of Working Group 3 (Daniel Lefèvre) provided the meeting with a brief overview of the outcomes of the Working Group and asked the Executive Committee to endorse the following:

- A memorandum on the minimum landing sizes (MLS) for Scallops in sub-areas VIId and VIIe;
- A review of LTMP for VIIe Sole;
- A letter to the Commission regarding better scientific information on stock status and discard survival rates for VIId Cod, Skates and Ray and Plaice stocks.

In relation to MLS for scallops in VIId and VIIe, the Executive Committee members endorsed the memorandum drafted by Jim Portus (in coordination with Daniel Lefèvre and Luc Corbisier) with one slight change: in points 8 and 9, the word “fish” is replaced by “scallops”. The rationale is that this would result in the requirement of separate stowage only for the scallops and not for all fish caught in this area. With this minor change it was agreed that this memorandum should be sent to the Commission in the form of an Opinion from the NWWRAC.

Regarding review of the LTMP for VIIe Sole, Jim Portus summarized the Opinion submitted by the NWWRAC on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July and the response received from the Commission on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August (both documents are available on the NWWRAC website). In general terms, the Commission accepted the advice from the NWWRAC on suspending the LTMP currently in force, due to abandonment of ICES advice. The members agreed that further consultation will be engaged with STCEF and that Working Group 3 will comment on a recent STCEF report on this issue. The Executive Committee members stated that in any case, a stepwise approach towards  $F = 0.27$  should be adopted to mitigate negative socio-economic impact for fishing communities involved in this fishery. An opinion might be adopted by electronic procedure before the end of the year if needed to be attached to the NWWRAC advice on TAC and effort levels for 2010.

In relation to the letter requesting an improvement in the quality of scientific advice and discard survival rates for stocks of cod, skates and rays and plaice in VIId, it was agreed that the letter would be translated into English and Spanish and circulated after the meeting for detailed review and comment before being sent to the Commission.

Finally, the Chairman of WG3 concluded by informing the Executive Committee of the priority topics for debate at future WG3 meetings: environmental aspects in fisheries management (MPA /Natura 2000 sites, establishment and settlement of wind farms and extractive industries...) and TCM and discard problems related to cod in VIId and VIIe.

**Action:** *The Secretariat will send the memorandum on Scallop MLS to the Commission immediately. If agreed, the Secretariat will send the letter requesting an improvement in the quality of scientific advice and discard survival rates for stocks of cod, skate and rays, and plaice for VIII to the Commission.*

#### Working Group 4

The Chairman of Working Group 4 (Lorcan O’Cinnéide) provided the meeting with a brief overview of the outcomes of the Working Group and in particular the following two points:

- A proposed workshop on science-industry collaboration in review of Irish Sea stocks;
- A proposed workshop on spurdog management.

Regarding the proposed workshop on the review of Irish Sea stocks, the Chairman of WG4 noted that there was a general concern regarding practical problems for different stocks in the Irish Sea. The Chairman of WG4 informed the meeting that, as the NWWRAC had funding available for an additional Focus Group before the end of its financial year, such a meeting would be held in Belfast on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. The main topics of discussion at this meeting will be cod and nephrops, but other stocks of interest (e.g. haddock, sole, whiting, spurdog) might also be considered.

The Chairman of WG4 informed the Executive Committee that there had been ongoing negotiations during the summer regarding the organisation of the Focus Group meeting and that the meeting venue and key participants from the scientific and industry community had been secured. The Secretariat agreed to circulate an e-mail containing all relevant information (i.e. detailed work programme, meeting papers...) of this meeting immediately after the Executive Committee meeting. This information will also be available on the website. A call of interest will be launched for those members who wish to attend.

In relation to nephrops, the members of the Executive Committee voiced their concern about the nature of scientific advice and the discrepancies between scientists on the methodology used to present advice. The members did not agree with the Commission proposal to set  $F_{msy}$  at 0.1 as it was perceived that this goes well beyond is the value of F necessary for the conservation of the stock.

Hugo González said that this was a common problem for other areas, and that Spanish members would present a proposal for spatial-temporal closures for the northern part of the Porcupine bank for discussion at the next meeting of Working Group 2.

The representative of the Commission, Ken Patterson, asked the NWWRAC to give advice on the proposed spatial measures to manage nephrops units in a separate manner for Area VII

**Action:** *The Chairman of WG4 and the Secretariat will: liaise closely to finalize the organization of the Focus Group on the Review and future management of Irish Sea fisheries and will provide members with relevant information of this meeting in due course; produce a letter regarding the views of the NWWRAC on nephrops management in area VII, which will also include comment on any proposals contained in the general advice produced for Area VII.*

### **3. Reports from members on Non-RAC meetings attended on behalf of the NWWRAC**

- EC Seminar on State of European Stocks (Brussels, 23/7/2009):  
Due to the absence of the author of the report, members were encouraged to read the full report available on the website;
- Update on GEPETO Project:  
The SWWRAC Chairman (Victor Badiola), presented a summary of this project conducted under the framework of the Atlantic Arc Trans-national programme. The main objectives of this Project were explained together with the partners involved. It was underlined that sources of funding had been secured from national and regional administrations in France, Spain and Portugal. The first step of this project would be to elaborate an “Atlas of Fisheries”, similar to that developed by IFREMER, comprising all maritime activities (including fishing activities) for French inshore fisheries. It was also clarified that market aspects would not be included in this project. The project leaflet is available on the NWWRAC website.

The Executive Committee members considered this to be an interesting project and the Secretariat reminded the meeting that the NWWRAC had already accepted the request from SWWRAC to collaborate in this project as an associated partner.

NWWRAC collaboration however, was meant to be exclusively limited to the development of a LTMP for Northern Hake (WP5) in case it was selected as a pilot fishery for study. Furthermore, the Secretariat stressed that the NWWRAC would not receive any funding for this project and the costs incurred (e.g. reimbursement of members for attendance to meetings) would be defrayed within the budget of the corresponding year, in line with the NWWRAC work programme.

Finally, the Commission representative informed the Executive Committee that a Project such as GEPETO would not be formally entitled to provide any advice on fisheries management to the Commission or to the Member States. The provision of advice to the Commission must be made through the advisory bodies set up according to Community law, such as ACFA, RACs or STCEF.

#### **4. Reform of the CFP: progress made to-date and calendar of future meetings**

##### **- Development of NWWRAC advice: timeline**

The Chairman of the Horizontal Working Group on the Reform of the CFP (Lorcan O’Cinnéide) briefed the Executive Committee on the deliberations of the first NWWRAC meeting on the subject, held in Paris on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July. It was highlighted that a considerable amount of time was devoted to the discussion of the process and the identification of key areas to be included in future NWWRAC advice. This lengthy process had, however, proved to be very useful and necessary in the achievement of consensus and the production of reliable advice.

The Secretariat informed the Executive Committee that the report drafted by Barrie Deas had already been released for consultation to Focus Group and Executive Committee members and that, once agreed, the final version would be uploaded to the NWWRAC website by the end of September<sup>1</sup>. In relation to this report, Lloyd Austin (RSPB) asked to delete the specific reference to the three-tiered structure model for de-centralised decision-making, presented by Barrie Deas. It was agreed that the wording of this point should remain open so as to allow the merits of several models to be debated. The Executive Committee supported this request and agreed that any alternative models should be discussed in detail both via the NWWRAC website forum and in future meetings.

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<sup>1</sup> Direct link:

[http://www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/NWWRAC\\_REPORT\\_HORIZONTAL\\_WG\\_REFORM\\_CFP\\_PARIS\\_100709\\_EN.pdf](http://www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/NWWRAC_REPORT_HORIZONTAL_WG_REFORM_CFP_PARIS_100709_EN.pdf)



It was unanimously agreed that a follow-up meeting on the reform of the CFP would take place in October. The Secretariat agreed to explore possible dates around the forthcoming General Assembly. In the interim, discussion of the topic would progress via the interactive forum available to all members on the NWWRAC website.

The Secretariat urged members to register on the forum and use the facility to submit their views and upload their own papers.

The Chairman offered to produce a discussion paper intended to focus the debate on a range of key issues. The Secretariat agreed to ensure that this paper would be made available to all members prior to the follow-up meeting proposed for October.

**Action:** *The Secretariat agreed to: explore possible dates around the forthcoming General Assembly for the follow-up meeting; to make all the necessary arrangements for this meeting to take place; and to produce and circulate, a discussion paper prior to this meeting.*

- Joint RAC workshop on Governance within the CFP:

Bertie Armstrong informed the Executive Committee of the terms of reference and arrangements for this workshop. He confirmed that the workshop would be co-organized by 5 RACs (including the NWWRAC) and jointly sponsored by DEFRA and the Scottish Executive. The meeting would be held in Edinburgh (Scotland) on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of November. A draft programme is being finalised and will be presented and uploaded to the NWWRAC website by late September<sup>2</sup>.

## **5. Overview of Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA) activities in 2009 and provisional Work Programme for 2010**

### Overview of CFCA activities in 2009

Pedro Galache, Head of the Operational Coordination Unit of the CFCA, summarized the activities and results of the Joint Deployment Plans (JDPs) and inspections carried out by the CFCA in Western Waters (West of Scotland and Irish Sea) in 2009. It was stressed that one of the main aims of the Agency is to work closely with the RACs on long-term actions in order to enhance a culture of compliance in European waters under the uniform application of EC legislation. The meeting was informed that the complete annual reports for each JDP were available on the CFCA website. The Secretariat agreed to circulate the CFCA presentation by e-mail to all Executive Committee members.

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<sup>2</sup> Direct link:

[http://www.nwwrac.org/Meetings/Meetings\\_ENG/Navigation.php?id=372&language=English](http://www.nwwrac.org/Meetings/Meetings_ENG/Navigation.php?id=372&language=English)

## Provisional Work Programme for 2010

Mr. Galache presented a provisional version of the CFCA Work Programme for 2010. This programme will be reviewed at the Advisory Board meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September and formally adopted at the Administrative Board meeting, to be held in Vigo, in October. Regarding western waters, key areas of work and priority activities will include the Cod fishery in North Sea and Western Waters. CFCA invited the NWWRAC to help the CFCA to improve the communication and dissemination of the results of these activities. The Secretariat agreed to circulate the Presentation of the CFCA work programme by e-mail.

The NWWRAC representatives on the Advisory Board; Jacques Pichon and Hugo González, made the following interventions:

Mr. Pichon regretted that relevant areas of interest for the NWWRAC (e.g. the Western Channel and the Celtic Sea) had not been included in the CFCA work programme. The CFCA representative informed the meeting that the mandate of the CFCA was limited to the implementation of JDPs in accordance with the Commission's requests. A note of the observation made by Mr. Pichon would be reported back to the CFCA.

Mr. González asked for further explanation on the type of infractions detected in north western waters. The CFCA representative indicated that all results are available for consultation on the CFCA website, and that the 10 infractions detected were mainly of an administrative nature. 8 out of 10 infractions occurred at sea and 2 in port. Two thirds of all inspections were made in port. Finally, Mr. Galache noted that 2009 was the first year that the CFCA had worked in areas VIa and VIIa and they needed to work on tuning the timing and activity of the inspection campaigns.

Several Executive Committee members raised the question of the practical difficulties involved with the compliance, by fishermen, of the 5% of margin of tolerance rule. The CFCA was asked to adopt a firm position on this issue and formally provide advice to the Commission regarding the practical difficulties that they see, on the ground, in application of compliance with this rule. The CFCA reminded the Executive Committee that the mandate provided to the CFCA, was clear and that the CFCA were entrusted with the implementation of the rules and providing assistance to Member States and the Commission with any tasks related to adoption of decisions.

Mr. Galache finally welcomed the opportunity for the NWWRAC and the CFCA to work together to organize a workshop on control and compliance, in order to identify and discuss specific difficulties in the application of control rules for this area.

## 6. Administrative and budgetary issues

The Secretariat informed the Executive Committee that, the duties and responsibilities of the Executive Secretary of the NWWRAC are now being carried out by Conor Nolan (Resource Development and Environmental Executive (BIM)/NWWRAC Executive Secretary) with the assistance of Padraig Gordon (Fleet Development Executive (BIM)/NWWRAC Financial advisor). The tasks involved in the daily running of the Secretariat are now managed by Conor Nolan, Padraig Gordon, Alexandre Rodriguez (Executive Assistant - Information and Policy) and Kristel Adriaenssens (Executive Assistant - Administration).

The Secretariat (Padraig Gordon) updated the members on the budget for the current working (Year 4) and on the budget proposal for the financial year commencing the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2009 (Year 5).

With regard to the expenditure of the current working year (Year 4), the Executive Committee was informed that an amendment to the operational costs had been submitted to the Commission and that a potential underspend is forecasted. With regard to income he highlighted the fact that all contributions from members and Members States had been received.

The Executive Committee decided with regard to budget year 4:

- to agree the amendment with the Commission;
- to issue a tender for audit services for the next budgetary year (Year 5);
- to prepare an update on expenditure and an overview of income for the General Assembly.

Regarding the budget of year 3 (2007-2008), the meeting was informed that the amount of the deficit, after appeal by the Secretariat, was revised downward from € 36,719 to €18,505.

The budget for the next working year (Year 5) of the NWWRAC was presented to the meeting. The Executive Committee was reminded that the proposed budget had been communicated to Executive Committee members on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2009. The Executive Committee was informed that the drafting of the budget was a difficult exercise for the following reasons:

- the inclusion of a provision for half of the deficit for Year 3 (10,000 €), resulted in a corresponding deduction of resources available for the Year 5 work programme

- operational expenditure had increased
- the secondment of the Executive Assistant - Policy and Information from the Spanish Department as a contribution-in-kind will end on 31/12/2009.

In this context, the proposal to cap travel costs at €300 was explained as a possible mechanism to stay within budget constraints.

A member of the Executive questioned the proposed capping of travel costs in a context where staff and operational costs have substantially increased. BIM's commitment to host the Secretariat of the NWWRAC was questioned with regard to the increase in operational costs.

The Secretariat underlined the following:

- BIM is totally committed to hosting the RAC Secretariat;
- Increases in operational costs reflect the commercial rates for overheads;
- Increase of staff costs is a consequence of the ending of the period of secondment from the Spanish Ministry of the Executive Assistant (Alexandre Rodriguez) and making provision for this salary cost;
- Although formally requested, no comments were received in writing from the members of the Executive Committee with regard to the capping of travel costs to €300 when communicated to the Executive Committee members on 10 June, 17 June and 24 June 2009;
- Main meeting locations have been secured at no cost to the RAC in the most affordable venues for RAC members;
- Meeting dates will be communicated well in advance so that members can benefit from early booking rates

After discussion on the consequences of the capping of travel costs for some members, the Executive Committee decided with regard to budget year 5:

- to ratify the budget proposal, as agreed by electronic procedure (16/6/2009), so that a new grant agreement with the European Commission can be signed;
- to instruct the Secretariat to develop alternative scenario's for the capping of travel costs to €300, (e.g. higher maximum for travel costs, exceptions for members travelling from remote areas and/or an additional membership contribution), and present these options for consideration at the General Assembly of the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2009.

## 7. Working Programme for year 5

### - Dates of forthcoming Working groups and Executive Committee

The Secretariat (Alexandre Rodríguez) informed the Executive Committee members that the following meeting dates had been provisionally allocated but may be subject to change depending on room availability and national holidays:

#### 2009

- Annual General Assembly: October 28, Dublin Castle;
- Joint RAC Workshop on Decision-Making within CFP Reform: November 3-4, Edinburgh.

#### 2010

- Executive Committee: January 27, Paris;
- Working Groups: March 2-4, Madrid;
- Executive Committee: June 14, Madrid;
- Working Groups: July 13-15, Paris;
- Executive Committee: September 16, Madrid;
- General Assembly: October 2010, Dublin.

**Action:** *The Secretariat will seek the views of members and their endorsement on the full work programme and the proposed meeting dates, for Year 5, at the General Assembly in Dublin.*

### - Call of interest for Focus groups to be agreed for Year 5

The Secretariat informed the meeting that there was funding available for organizing 5 focus groups and the reimbursement of 8 members per meeting. Interpretation services will only be provided, if requested and will depend on contributions-in-kind received from sponsors/donors. A call of interest would be launched soon along with an application form to be completed and signed by Working Group Chairmen. The Secretariat encouraged members to communicate topics of interest, for Focus Groups, to their respective WG Chairmen. It was proposed that the final selection of the Focus Groups to be funded could be made at the Executive Committee meeting to be held in Paris on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010. Should extraordinary circumstances to comply with the actions of the work programme demand an earlier decision, it was agreed that this could be achieved by electronic process.

**Action:** *It was agreed that the Secretariat will facilitate the procedure for the collation of Focus Group topics, for presentation to the Executive Committee at the meeting to be held in Paris on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010.*

- Update on the progress of the Commission work programme

The Secretariat updated the meeting on the Commission's new work programme for the last quarter of 2009 and noted that the most up-to-date work programme would be made available to members by e-mail in the following weeks.

- Update on other meetings proposed with ICES.

The Secretariat updated members on a number of forthcoming meetings within ICES that RACs are welcome to participate as members (i.e. in benchmark meetings) or as observers (i.e. in the advisory review/advice drafting process). Invitations for meetings relevant to stakeholders will be sent to the RACs. Specific calls of interest for each, relevant meeting will be circulated to members, in due time, by e-mail.

**Action:** *Secretariat to liaise with ICES to ensure that all members are informed, in advance, of all meetings of relevance to them.*

## **8. Management of working groups**

The Secretariat (Alexandre Rodriguez) clarified two pending options for the management of working groups on horizontal issues. After discussion, the Executive Committee decided that an extra half-day meeting would be convened for this purpose, as required.

The Executive Committee recognised the requirement for the appointment of additional rapporteurs for Working Groups and requested that Working Group Chairmen and members address this issue prior to and as a point of order at the next Working Group Meetings.

With regard to the duration of the mandate of Chairpersons, the Executive Committee decided to limit the term of office of current incumbents to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2011. Subsequent to this date all Chairpersons would be elected for a term of three years. The Executive Committee instructed the Secretariat to prepare the necessary amendments to the rules of procedure for presentation at the General Assembly to be held in Dublin on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

## **9. Any other Business (AOB)**

There were no issues raised under AOB.



## **10. Close of the meeting**

The Chairman thanked the Spanish Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries for its generosity in providing the meeting room as a contribution-in-kind. The chairman also extended his thanks to all RAC participants, the Commission, CFCA, Secretariat, interpreters and technical staff and closed the meeting at 5pm.

**-----END OF THE MEETING-----**

## ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<b>NWWRAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING -MADRID 8 SEPTEMBER 2009</b>			
<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Status</u>
Kristel	Adriaenssens	NWWRAC Secretariat	NWWRAC Secretariat
Bertie	Armstrong	Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)	Ex.Com. Member - WG1 Chairman
Lloyd	Austin	RSPB Scotland	Ex Com. Member <i>(replacing K. Brydson)</i>
Víctor	Badiola	Organización de Productores de Pesca de Ondarroa	Ex.Com. Member
Jacques	Bigot	ETF	Ex. Com. Member
Ted	Breslin	Kyllibegs Fishermen's Organisation	Ex. Com Member <i>(replacing Sean O'Donoghue)</i>
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale	Ex.Com. Member
Luc	Corbisier	Stichting voor Duurzame Visserij Ontwikkeling	Ex.Com. Member
John	Crudden	European Anglers Association	Ex.Com. Member
Bruno	Dachicourt	CFTC	Observer
Barrie	Deas	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations	Ex.Com. Member
Anton	Dekker	Dutch Fisheries Organization	Ex. Com. Member
Pedro	Galache	Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA)	Expert
Caroline	Gamblin	CNPMEM	Ex. Com. Member <i>(replacing A. Gueguen)</i>
Hugo	González García	ARVI-ANASOL	Ex.Com. Member - WG2 Chairman
Pádraig	Gordon	NWWRAC Secretariat	NWWRAC Secretariat



## NWWRAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - MADRID 8 SEPTEMBER 2009

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Status</u>
Béatrice	Harmel	CRPBN	Observer
Louize	Hill	WWF-UK	Ex. Com Member <i>(replacing Iwan Ball)</i>
Sam	Lambourn	NWWRAC Chairman	Ex. Com Member - NWWRAC Chairman
Daniel	Lefèvre	CRPBN	Observer - WG3 Chairman
Eduardo	Míguez López	European Port and Auctions	Ex.Com. Member
Conor	Nolan	NWWRAC Secretariat	NWWRAC Secretariat
Lorcan	O’Cinnéide	IFPO	Observer - WG4 Chairman
Gavin	Power	Irish South & West FPO	Ex.Com. Member <i>(replacing G. O’Flynn)</i>
Kenneth	Patterson	DG MARE	European Commission
Jacques	Pichon	Association Nationale des Organisation des Producteurs (ANOP)	Ex.Com. Member
Jim	Portus	South West FPO	Observer – WG3 Vice Chair
Alexandre	Rodríguez	NWWRAC Secretariat	NWWRAC Secretariat
Julie	Staines	Irish Seal Sanctuary	Ex. Com. Member <i>(replacing B. Price)</i>
Despina	Symonds	EBCD	Ex. Com. Member
Paul	Trebilcock	CORNISH FPO	Observer

## **ANNEX II. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS EX CO MEETING**

<b>ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Paris, 21/4/09)</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
Letter to Commission regarding measures adopted in TAC & Quotas Regulation	DONE - Letter sent and response received from the Commission (available in publications section - see website)
Letter regarding harmonization of conversion factors to Commission	DONE – same as above
NWWRAC Opinion on discarding in the Nephrops' fleet to EU Commission	DONE – same as above
Letter on EU Market Policy Regulations to ACFA	DONE - Letter sent and replied by ACFA (send another letter to EP to put in place this initiative)
Letter to the Commission seeking clarification on the management of VIId Cod	DONE - Letter sent and response received from the Commission (see publications)
Letter to Commission regarding prohibition of fishing for Rays	DONE – same as above
Letter to Council and Commission on control issues	DONE – Letter sent and response received from the Commission (see publications)
Focus group meetings on Hake, Haddock and MPAs	DONE - The two first have taken place in June-July and the MPAs one has been postponed until further notice (when it becomes relevant)
Letter to Commissioner Borg and DG Fotiadis regarding accounts	DONE - Reply received from Commission: rule of deficit of receipts will not apply for Y4
Secretariat to circulate regarding changes to reimbursement	DONE - Changes in rules accepted by members
Secretariat to circulate email regarding communications (set up of review board...)	DONE - Communications Strategy paper has been renewed for 2009 and review board is formally established (5 members)
Secretariat to develop User guide for forum and circulate to members	ONGOING - First topic for debate online: Reform of CFP