



MINUTES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY / AGM

NORTH WESTERN WATERS REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Coach House, Dublin Castle

Thursday 27th October 2011

09.30-12.30

Chairman: André LeBerre

Rapporteur: Alexandre Rodríguez

1. Welcome and introductions

- Opening speech from the Honorary President of the NWWWRAC, Mr. Le Berre:

André LeBerre, Honorary President of the NWWWRAC and Chairman of the General Assembly, welcomed all participants to the 7th Annual General Assembly of the NWWWRAC. He reminded the Assembly that this would be his last meeting as Chairman as he had decided not to stand for re-election after two consecutive terms of mandate. He thanked the Secretariat for its work and for the support received during the last six years and wished his successor all the best for the future.

In his opening speech, Mr. LeBerre highlighted the importance of the forthcoming CFP in pursuing not only the biological sustainability of the fishing stocks but also the socio-economic stability for fishing activities and fleets operating in Europe. Mr. LeBerre also stated that the CFP reform should foresee an enhanced role of the RACs (or ACs according to the terminology of the Commission's proposal) within the framework of a regionalised decision-making. Finally, as last year, he reiterated the importance of effectively consulting fishermen during the process of designation and implementation of Marine Conservation Zones. Also, the interaction between fishing and other marine activities, such as oil, gas or gravel extraction, must be carefully considered.

1 of 20



The complete list of participants is provided in Annex I.

A transcript of Mr. Le Berre's complete speech is provided in Annex II.

- Adoption of the Agenda and Minutes of the last Meeting:

The agenda for the meeting was adopted without changes or comments.

Similarly, the report of the 6th GA/AGM meeting, held in Dublin the 27th of October 2010, was accepted as a true record and was approved without comment.

2. Annual report from the Chairperson of the NWWRAC

Sam Lambourn, acting Chairperson of the NWWRAC, in accordance with articles 19 and 38 of the NWWRAC rules and procedures¹, presented to the General Assembly the annual report for Year 6 and the annual strategic plan (work programme) for Year 7.

Decision: Both the annual report and the annual strategic report were approved by consensus by the members of the General Assembly.

The full content of the presentation from the Chairman is available on the NWWRAC website².

2.1. Overview of the Year 6 work programme (1.10.2010-30.9.2011)

Mr. Lambourn provided a review of the meetings which were either held by the NWWRAC or involved NWWRAC participation. The review also included the actions carried out in accordance with the work programme, as well as the letters, opinions and advice submitted by the NWWRAC in Year 6. Mr. Lambourn recognised the amount of time and dedication invested by the members, and stressed the good work achieved in relation to the review on the structure and functioning of the NWWRAC.

¹ NWWRAC Website/About Us/Rules and Procedures:

http://www.nwwrac.org/About_NWWRAC/About_Us_ENG/Rules_and_Procedures.html

² Link:

http://www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/Annual_Report_Chairperson_NWWRAC_Work_Progress_GA_Dublin_271011_EN.pdf



In particular, the idea of grouping meetings of the four sub-regional working groups in one day and appending an Executive Committee meeting afterwards for ratification/endorsement of outstanding actions has proved to work well. It has also proved to be more cost-effective in terms of finances and travel time for members.

2.2. Presentation of the work programme for Year 7 (1.10.2011-30.9.2012):

Mr. Lambourn stated that the main body of work for the NWWRAC will rely on five key areas:

1. CFP reform:

The NWWRAC will carry out a comprehensive analysis of the proposals (legislative packages) made by the Commission, and submit its views to the Council and European Parliament, with particular insight into regionalisation and the role of the RACs.

2. Multi-annual management plans:

The NWWRAC has initiated work, during Year 6, in relation to the adoption of a multi-species approach in the context of mixed demersal fisheries for a circumscribed area in the Celtic Sea (VIIfg). This is likely to be extended to other areas in the future such as the West of Scotland or the Irish Sea. However, assessment on a single species will continue in Year 7, and specific input will be provided in the ongoing review of management plans for stocks such as Cod (VIa, VIIa and VIId) or Western Channel Sole.

3. Technical Conservation Measures and Discards:

The NWWRAC will participate in any future consultation on the review, amendment or change of regulations on technical measures currently in force (namely EC Regulation 850/1998 and transitional measures established in Regulation 1288/2009 and extended on an EP-Council Regulation of 2011). Specific focus and comment will be given to any potential emergency measures that can be implemented with the aim to protect or rebuild the stocks.

4. Data deficient stocks:

The NWWRAC has made significant progress in 2011 in working with scientists from ICES in identifying and overcoming data deficiencies. Two workshops were held in the first quarter of 2011 to set the terms of reference for establishing regional task forces in North Western Waters and identify data needs and suggest remedial actions. A number of NWWRAC members have been appointed data coordinators for priority stocks in an attempt to close the gap with scientists and Member State, and ensure a continuing dialogue. The NWWRAC coordinators are entrusted with following up work between RAC meetings and give periodical feedback to the membership. The main aim is to improve data quality and contribute to mitigate problems related with data uncertainties.



5. Marine Spatial Planning: The NWWRAC will continue participating and being actively involved in those national consultations related to the designation and the implementation of marine protected areas. As an example, NWWRAC representatives are currently participating in a project lead by Marine Scotland, DEFRA and JNCC designed to discuss implementing measures to manage SACs in two areas: Stanton Bank and Haig Frás.

Comments from the GA members:

- Collaboration between RACs / CFP reform:

Cooperation between the RACs should be fostered for the development of initiatives of common interest in topics such as CFP reform or stocks management in mixed fisheries.

The Secretariat replied that, in compliance with Commission rules and as a result of existing practices, there are currently four elements of cooperation in place between RACs:

- 1) InterRAC meetings: Although they do not have formal or legal status, the Secretariats, the Chairmen and/or Vice Chairs of the RACs meet at least twice a year to deal with administrative and financial issues of common interest for all RACs.
- 2) Coordination meetings between the RACs and the Commission: These meetings are organised by the Commission and held in Brussels at least twice a year. The main aim is to exchange views on work priorities and streamline agendas and consultations as well as discuss any relevant topic that is of common interest for the RACs, both in terms of content (review of CFP and role of the RACs) or in administration and finances.
- 3) Joint RAC workshops or seminars / other meetings: A number of high-profile meetings have been co-organised by several RACs to bring world class expertise and provide a forum for exchanging views on topics of common interest. These types of meetings involved a wide range of participants (i.e. EU institutions, Member States, policy makers, scientists, stakeholders (including fishing industry representatives and eNGOs...)). Some illustrative examples are the Cod Symposium (Edinburgh, March 2007); the Seminar on Long Term Management Plans (Nantes, September 2008); or the InterRAC workshop on decision making within the CFP reform (Edinburgh, November 2009).

Furthermore, ICES has included in its work programme an annual meeting with the RACs (MIRAC) to explore areas of cooperation and coordinate work plans and schedules to improve interaction between stakeholders and science.



- 4) Joint recommendations, in reply to Commission's consultations, on issues of common interest to two or more RACs (as provided by article 8 of Council Decision 2004/585) → some examples would be the NWWRAC-NSRAC-SWWRAC Opinion on Deep sea Species or the NWWRAC-SWWRAC Opinion on northern hake.

The members highlighted the fact that the reform of the CFP could be one of the areas where cooperation between RACs might be further explored. It would be beneficial to analyse all existing RAC advices and find common arguments or grounds for collaboration. However, it was made clear that any recommendations made in this context must be reverted to each RAC for decision. In this respect, a clear and transparent procedure, with detailed terms of reference, must be set in place, avoiding creating conflict or additional structures or layers of bureaucracy.

- Multi-annual management plans

Serious concerns were expressed in relation to the continuance of the institutional deadlock in decision making between the Council and European Parliament concerning the clarification of the scope and extent of their powers for the elaboration and adoption of multi-annual management plans. The delay in the adoption of decisions regarding the management plans for certain stocks (such as blue whiting or West of Scotland haddock) has had detrimental effects both in terms of commercial activity and conservation of the stocks.

There is a need to involve the stakeholders from the earliest possible stage so their views may be incorporated into the plan. Any management plan must be fit for purpose and for that it is essential to have a clear and accurate picture of the fleet distribution (by areas, metiers, etc.) and fishing activity. A socio-economic evaluation of the potential impacts of suggested measures is a pre-condition for the adoption of the plan, applying the "most favourable management option" wherever possible.

- Marine Spatial Planning

A horizontal working group or technical focus group could be set up in 2012 to maintain momentum and define the degree of participation of the RAC in light of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.



2.3. Proposed calendar of meetings for Year 7

The NWWWRAC Chairman informed the GA members of a preliminary calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2011 and first half of 2012. This calendar is available on the NWWWRAC website and in the NWWWRAC work programme³. The GA members approved the provisional calendar as a part of the annual strategic plan for Year 7, on condition that sufficient prior notice is given to allow members to plan their travel arrangements at minimum cost.

Mr. Lambourn stated that the more flexible and adaptive approach taken in Year 6 in the scheduling of Working Groups and Focus Groups, as a result of the review of the structure and functioning of the NWWWRAC, has proven to be successful and will continue in Year 7. This approach will ensure that topics of discussion are relevant and tailored to the specific needs of the NWWWRAC each time.

Finally, the Focus Group meetings will be established, according to work priorities and budget availability, based on proposals coming from Working Groups. Where funding is not available, the Secretariat will seek sponsorship or financial support from public, national, regional and local authorities and/or private organisations.

3. Report from Secretariat on budget and company issues

Padraig Gordon, BIM Financial Advisor to the NWWWRAC, in conformity with articles 38 and 48 of the NWWWRAC rules and Procedures, presented an overall budget update on behalf of the Secretariat.

3.1. Review of the income and expenditure for Year 6

Mr. Gordon provided an overview of the current position on the income and expenditure for the NWWWRAC Financial Year 6 (1 October 2010 - 30 September 2011).

³ The meetings calendar is available together with the Chairman's presentation (see footnote 2)



The main points made were as follows:

❖ Year 6 Income

- The final instalment of the EU grant will be paid in January 2012 and is dependent on the audit and approval of accounts as well as receipt by the Commission of the final report.
- The NWWWRAC received, within the requested deadline, all subscriptions from the six Member States. There was an increase in the income of membership fees which was due to the addition of 4 new organisations joining the NWWWRAC during Year 6.
- The importance of benefit-in-kind contributions cannot be overstated. As in previous years, the NWWWRAC depends heavily on these contributions, which include mainly BIM staff time, BIM office overheads and meeting facilities in various international venues.
- The final part of the deficit for year 3 (€ 8,940) has been collected and the situation is now resolved.

❖ Year 6 Expenditure

- Reimbursement costs were lower than originally foreseen and this is mainly due to the new structure and organisation of meetings, whereby the grouping together of meetings has proven to be more cost-effective for the NWWWRAC.
- Savings in reimbursement costs were used, in part, to offset meeting, interpretation and translation costs, which proved considerably higher than originally budgeted.
- An Amendment to the Specific Grant Agreement S12.579263 for Year 6 was approved by the Commission in September 2011. The Amendment reflected several changes between budget headings arising mainly from the additional income received from new member organisations.

Mr. Gordon advised the General Assembly of the next steps involved in completing the financial procedures related to Year 6. These include submitting the accounts for audit and submitting a final report to the Commission by 31 January 2012.



3.2. Proposed budget for Year 7: ratification

Mr. Gordon provided an overview of the estimated income and expenditure for the NWWWRAC Financial Year 7 (1 October 2011 – 30 September 2012). The General Assembly was informed that this provisional budget for Year 7 had already been adopted in principle at the Executive Committee meeting in Madrid, 16 September 2011 and was subsequently submitted to the Commission on 23 September 2011. The following points were made by Mr. Gordon:

❖ Year 7 Income

Membership fees will contribute €47,850 to the budget and member state contributions will contribute €26,400. Overall, this represents an additional €13,000 compared with the Year 6 budget and is mainly a result of an increase of €50 on each membership category as well as €700 on each Member State contribution (increases follow the decision adopted at the last GA⁴).

- Also, since the outstanding deficit from Year 3 has now been cleared, the NWWWRAC budget will be fully utilised for the completion of the work priorities in Year 7.
- All 57 member organisations of the NWWWRAC have paid their fees for Year 7.
- Payment had been received from 1 Member State; letters of commitment were received from 3 others and a letter of commitment or payment is still outstanding from 2 Member States.
- Given the current and prospective economic climate and the decision of the Commission to postpone any potential increase in the amount of the grant until the entry into force of the new Financial Regulation in 2013, contributions in kind are likely to remain an essential element of funding for the NWWWRAC.

❖ Year 7 Expenditure

- Staff costs remain in line with those of Year 6;
- The amount allocated for reimbursement for members has been significantly increased in the region of €13,000 in respect to the original budget submitted in Year 6;
- An increase of €16,000 has been allocated to interpretation and translation costs in order to meet members' demands and match the expected workload.

⁴ See item 3.4 "*Proposals to increase NWWWRAC income in future years*" of Minutes GA 2010 – Pages 7-9.
http://www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/MINUTES_NWWWRAC_GA_2010_271010_EN.pdf



Mr. Gordon also announced that any proposal for an increase in membership fees for Year 8 (2012/2013) has been deferred pending the outcome of the ongoing CFP Reform and review of existing financial rules of the RACs.

Decision: The presentation ended with a request from Mr. Gordon to the General Assembly for the ratification of the Year 7 budget. The GA fully endorsed the proposed budget.

3.3. Overview on changes in membership

Joanna McGrath, Executive Assistant of the NWWRAC Secretariat for Administration and Finance, provided members with a brief overview of the current status of NWWRAC membership as well as the variations in membership trends during the 7 years of the NWWRAC's existence. The overview included a breakdown by category of membership (i.e. GA, ExCom, WGs) since Year 1, as well as the current (Year 7) distribution of members from the fishing industry and members belonging to other interest groups.

Ms. McGrath also highlighted the most recent changes in membership for Years 6 and 7, stating that there had been a significant increase on expressions of interest from organisations wishing to join the NWWRAC. For this reason, she expressed thanks on behalf of the Secretariat, to all members who, following a request from the Secretariat at the General Assembly in October 2010, helped to engage new organisations by encouraging them to apply for NWWRAC membership.

The presentation is available for consultation on the NWWRAC website⁵

4. Election of NWWRAC positions for three year mandate (October 2011-September 2014)

Alexandre Rodríguez, Executive Assistant of the NWWRAC Secretariat on Policy Issues, reminded the members of the procedures established in the NWWRAC governing rules for the nomination of candidates (i.e. legal basis, terms of mandate, criteria for eligibility, deadline for applications).

⁵ Link:

http://www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/Update_NWWRAC_Membership_Y6_Y7_October2011_EN.pdf



Mr. Rodríguez asked the GA members to take a decision concerning the election of the following NWWRAC positions:

- Honorary President and Chairman of the General Assembly:

The current President, André LeBerre, announced at the last GA that he did not intend to run for a third mandate. The French delegation (ANOP-FROM Bretagne-OPOB-CNPMEM) nominated Marc Ghiglia (UAPF) as their candidate to occupy this position. Mr. Ghiglia was invited to take the floor and make a brief introduction to the members on his motivation to become Chairman of the NWWRAC. The Secretariat informed members that this was the only nomination received within the deadline and invited them to make any comments. The Secretariat also asked if there were any objections to Mr. Ghiglia as a candidate.

Decision: No objections were made and therefore Marc Ghiglia was elected as Honorary President and Chairman of the General Assembly of the NWWRAC by unanimity of all GA members present at the meeting.

- Executive Committee members

The Secretariat received expressions of interest from the 20 organisations that are currently members of the Executive Committee of the NWWRAC to maintain their seats for a further period of 3 years. The organisation “France Pêche Durable et Responsable” applied for a seat under “other fishing groups” (2/3) that is currently vacant as a result of the withdrawal of membership in Year 6 from Mna na Mara (Women at Sea). A copy of their statutes and governing rules and a letter of support by the French Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries accompanied this application. Regarding the 1/3 for “other interest groups”, the Secretariat noted that there are still three vacant seats but these may be filled at a later stage, if new NGOs were to join the NWWRAC. The deadline for applications closed on the 31st of August and all 21 applications received are now put forward for election of the General Assembly.

Decision: No objections were made and therefore the 21 organisations candidates were elected as members of the Executive Committee of the NWWRAC by unanimity of all GA members present at the meeting.

A detailed list of the new Executive Committee members, including the name of organisations and its main representative is included in Annex III.



5. Procedure for the election of remaining NWWRAC positions

Alexandre Rodríguez informed the members of the General Assembly on the state of play in relation to the election procedures launched for all remaining NWWRAC positions following the end of the deadline for nominations and/or expressions of interest established for the 31st of August 2011.

The decisions for the election of the below positions will be taken at the newly constituted Executive Committee, following the General Assembly meeting.

- Chairperson of the NWWRAC and Chairperson of the Executive Committee:

The acting Chair, Sam Lambourn, at the Executive Committee meeting in Madrid on 16 September 2011, had already expressed his intention to stand down as Chairman at the end of his mandate⁶. The Secretariat received, within the requested deadline, one formal nomination and secondment from two Spanish members of the Executive Committee (ANASOL-ARVI and OPPAO). The nominated candidate is Bertie Armstrong (SFF), current Chair of NWWRAC Working Group 1 (West of Scotland).

As a result of the decision taken at the last Executive Committee meeting held in Dublin Castle (7 July 2011) to continue paying fees to the Chairman, a procurement procedure for services was launched following the deadline for nominations (31 July 2011) to ensure that the election would be in accordance with Commission's financial rules.

A presentation will be provided by the Executive Secretary at the Executive Committee meeting on the outcome of the procurement procedure.

- Vice-Chair persons and rapporteur of the Executive Committee:

The three current Vice-Chairs, Jacques Pichon (ANOP-PMA), Hugo González (ANASOL-ARVI) and Iwan Ball (WWF) communicated to the Secretariat their decision to stand for re-election as First, Second and Third Vice-Chair, respectively. No other expressions of interest were received within the established deadline (31st of August). The election will be held at the newly established Executive Committee meeting in the afternoon.

⁶ See [minutes of the Executive Committee meeting in Dublin Castle](#) (7 July 2011)



No nominations were received for the position of rapporteur of the Executive Committee, which remains vacant. The Secretariat will continue to fill this position in the absence of a representative from the membership.

Following the procedure established in article 53 of NWWRAC rules of procedure, the NWWRAC presented a proposal of amendment to the rules of procedure to the General Assembly members for comment. The proposal consisted of aligning the term of office of the vice-chairpersons and the rapporteur with that of the NWWRAC Chairman, so all the Executive Committee officers would have a term of mandate for 3 years.

Decision: The members of the General Assembly thought this was a reasonable proposal and supported by unanimity, providing the Secretariat with the task of amending the rules of procedure accordingly by inserting this change and putting it forward to the Executive Committee, European Commission and Member States for endorsement.

- Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the sub-regional Working Groups:

According to the article 13.1 of the NWWRAC rules of procedure regarding sub-area working groups, the decision of the NWWRAC Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Rapporteurs relies on the membership of each respective Working Group, which must select a Chairperson from their members.

The nominated candidates will be presented at each Working Group, and a decision will be taken at the Working Group meetings scheduled for 28th of October 2011.

In the same vein as the previous item, and given that there is currently no specific term of office for the officers of sub-area Working Groups, the Secretariat proposed the GA members to align the terms of office with those of all other NWWRAC positions, i.e. for a defined period of 3 years.

Decision: The members of the General Assembly supported by unanimity this proposal, providing the Secretariat with the task of amending the rules of procedure for the Sub-regional Working Groups accordingly by inserting this change and, in accordance to article 20 of these rules, putting it forward to the Executive Committee for endorsement.

- NWWRAC Secretariat:

The GA members were informed that the administration Board of Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) submitted a letter in July 2011 indicating its willingness to continue hosting the NWWRAC Secretariat for a further term of 3 years.



No other applications were received within the agreed deadline of 31st of August, and the Executive Committee members, who met in Madrid in September 2011, adopted the decision to support Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM – Irish Sea Fisheries Board) as host organisation of the NWWRAC Secretariat for a further three-year period (1.10.2011-30.9.2014).

The presentation of the Secretariat for agenda items 4 and 5 is available for consultation in the meetings section of the NWWRAC website⁷

6. Summary of actions and closing remarks by the Chairman:

The Secretariat will proceed to:

- Confirm those dates and venues that have been tentatively indicated for the first quarter (October-December 2011) and second quarter (January-March 2012) of Year 7 in the NWWRAC calendar of meetings approved by the General Assembly.
- Finalise all administrative arrangements and paperwork related to the closing of accounts for the Year 6 budget and advance on work related to the budget for Year 7 (ratified by the General Assembly).
- Ensure that the newly appointed NWWRAC officers follow up on outstanding actions and assist in providing the content of agendas ahead of the meetings to ensure efficiency in dealing only with those topics that might be of interest.
- Adapt work priorities and Focus Group to the changing circumstances and needs of preparation of NWWRAC advice while keeping coherence with the work programme for Year 7 as approved by the General Assembly.
- Explore alternative methods of cooperation with other RACs in topics of common interest, such as the reform of the CFP, while respecting internal procedures and ensuring transparency.
- Amend the rules of procedure in order to insert changes to improve consistency of the text and align all NWWRAC positions for a term of mandate of 3 years.

⁷ Link:

http://www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/Procedures_Election_NWWRAC_Positions_October2011_EN.pdf



The acting Honorary President, Mr. LeBerge thanked the attendees, the Secretariat for their work in preparing the meetings and presentations, the Irish Government and Dublin Castle authorities for hosting this event, and the interpreters for their professionalism and contribution to the success of the meeting. The acting President concluded by encouraging the NWWRC members to continue producing excellent work such as that already carried out in the last six years. Given that the meeting finished earlier than expected, the members agreed that the forthcoming Executive Committee meeting would start half an hour ahead of schedule, at 13:30 instead of 14:00 h.

Meeting closed one hour ahead of schedule at 11:30 h



Annex I. List of members and participating observers

André Le Berre	Acting President of the General Assembly
Marc Ghiglia	Elected President of the General Assembly
Sam Lambourn	NWWRAC Chairman

GA Members from the Fishing Sector

Bertie Armstrong	Hugo C. González García
Víctor Badiola	Daniel Lefèvre
Jacques Bigot	Jesús Ángel Lourido García
Emiel Brouckaert	Alan McCulla
Richard Brouzes	Kevin McDonnell
Kara Brydson	Eduardo Míguez López
René-Pierre Chever	Lorcán O’Cinnéide
Alan Coghill	Sean O’Donoghue
Luc Corbisier	Eibhlin O’Sullivan
Juan Carlos Corrás Arias	José Luis Otero González
Bruno Dachicourt	Michael Park
Barrie Deas	Jacques Pichon
José Manuel Fernández Beltrán	Jane Sandell
Caroline Gamblin	Paul Trebilcock
Antón González	



GA members from other interest groups

Kara Brydson	Cécile Fouquet
Debbie Crockard	Brendan Price
John Crudden	Mireille Thom
John Daly	John Woodlock

Secretariat

Conor Nolan
Alexandre Rodríguez
Joanna McGrath
Christine O'Connor

NWWRAC Board of Directors

Sam Lambourn
Conor Nolan

Observers

Fuensanta Candela	DG MARE – European Commission
Robert Griffin	DG MARE – European Commission
Eamon Mangan	DPMEM – Ministère de l'Agriculture de France
Sabela Pérez Máiz	DG MARE - European Commission
Héctor Villa	SEGEMAR – MARM – Spain
Edward Fahey	Journalist - Ireland



Annex II. Opening Speech from the President of the General Assembly,

Mr. André Le Berre

Annual General Meeting of the North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council – Dublin, 27th of October 2011

Mr Chairman of the Executive Committee,

Mr Director of the NWWRAC,

Representatives of the European Commission,

Members of the North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council,

Dear friends and colleagues of fishing and fishermen,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is not without a twinge of sadness that I have the pleasure of welcoming you to this new Annual General Meeting of the North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council. Indeed, last year, I announced my decision not to stand again for election as Chairman of this annual general meeting. In a few moments, you will therefore name my successor.

Before that, I would like to address the important issues that await us next year with the reform of the CFP.

Fishing has a future but the form that it takes will be shaped through the new CFP. Shall we give priority to socio-economic stability, employment and a multi-functional field of activity? Or shall we throw ourselves into the adventure of the financialisation of fishing rights and the concentration of production tools? The response to these questions is essential and the future of European fishing will depend on it.

For my part, and for many of my colleagues in Brittany and France, we think that excessive liberalisation would be detrimental to the profession in the long term. Not only is the future of fishing at stake, but also the food security of European consumers.



The reform could also be important for the North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council. The project presented this summer leaves the RACs with limited powers and even removes the “R” from regional in our organisation. Nevertheless, many voices in Europe have pleaded for greater regionalisation of fisheries management and more prerogatives for the RACs. Our general meeting today must clearly position itself in relation to this issue.

I also wish to reaffirm my concern in relation to the implementation of “Marine conservation zones”. I have the feeling that fishermen are not being listened to and that their interests are not being taken into consideration. Last year, my call for vigilance did not receive much of an echo. It is essential that this subject be seriously addressed this year

Before handing over, I would like to thank the NWWRAC team for these years of collaboration and I wish them well with a new team at the head of the annual general meeting and the Executive Committee.

May you all work well, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

André LE BERRE

Chairman of the North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council



**Annex III. List of Members of the Executive Committee elected at the GA
2011 for a three-year period (1.10.2011-30.9.2014)**

MEMBERS OF THE NWWRC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (2/3 Fishing industry)				
	Category	Member State	Organisation	Main Representative
1	Catching Sector	Belgium	Rederscentrale	Emiel Brouckaert
2	Catching Sector	Belgium	Stichting voor Duurzame Visserij Ontwikkeling (SDVO)	Luc Corbisier
3	Catching Sector	France	Association Nationale des Organisations de Producteurs (ANOP)	Jacques Pichon
4	Catching Sector	France	Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins (CNPMEM)	André Gueguen
5	Catching Sector	Ireland	Irish South and West Fish Producers' Organisation (IS&W FPO)	Eibhlín O'Sullivan
6	Catching Sector	Ireland	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO)	Sean O'Donoghue
7	Catching Sector	Netherlands	Stichting van de Nederlandse Visserij (Dutch Fisheries Organisation) (1)	Anton Dekker
8	Catching Sector	Netherlands	Stichting van de Nederlandse Visserij (Dutch Fisheries Organisation) (2)	Geert Meun
9	Catching Sector	Spain	Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Pesca de Gran Sol (ANASOL)	Hugo C. González García
10	Catching Sector	Spain	Organización de Productores de Pesca (OPPAO) / CEPESCA	Victor Badiola
11	Catching Sector	United Kingdom	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation (NFFO)	Barrie Deas
12	Catching Sector	United Kingdom	Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)	Bertie Armstrong
13	Fishing Sector Other	EU	AIPCE-CEP	Mike Short
14	Fishing Sector Other	EU	European Association of Fishing Ports and Auctions (EAFPA)	Eduardo Míguez López
15	Fishing Sector Other	EU	European Transport Federation (ETF)	Jacques Bigot
16	Fishing Sector Other	France	France Pêche Durable et Responsable	Bruno Dachicourt

19 of 20



MEMBERS OF THE NWWWRAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (1/3 – Other Interest Groups)				
	Category	Member State	Organisation	Main Representative
17	Other Interest Group	EU	European Anglers' Alliance (EAA)	John Crudden
18	Other Interest Group	EU	European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)	Cécile Fouquet
19	Other Interest Group	EU	World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	Iwan Ball
20	Other Interest Group	Ireland	Irish Seal Sanctuary (ISS)	John Woodlock
21	Other Interest Group	United Kingdom	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), representing Birdlife International	Kara Brydson
22	Other Interest Group	–	VACANT SEAT	–
23	Other Interest Group	–	VACANT SEAT	–
24	Other Interest Group	–	VACANT SEAT	–