



Working Group 1 West of Scotland and Western Approaches

**Friday 28 October 2011
09:00 - 11:00
The Coach House – Dublin Castle**

Summary of Recommendations and Actions

Outgoing Chairman: Bertie Armstrong
Incoming Chairman: Jane Sandell
Rapporteur: Kara Brydson

1. Welcome

The Acting Chairman, Bertie Armstrong, welcomed the members and representatives of DG Mare, Roy Griffin, María Fuensanta Candela and Sabela Pérez Máiz.

There were three apologies for absence – Víctor Badiola, Marc Ghiglia and Delphine Roncin. The full list of attendees is included as an annex to these minutes.

The agenda was adopted, with the addition of a discussion on technical measures as agenda item 3.

The report of the last meeting (Wednesday 6 July 2011, Dublin) was adopted without comment.

2. Election of Working Group officers

The Secretariat made a brief introduction of the nominations received within the deadline and invited the members to elect the Working Group officers for a 3 year term (1/10/2011-30/9/2014).

- Jane Sandell was unopposed for Chair, and was duly elected.
- Victor Badiola was re-elected as Vice-Chair.
- Kara Brydson was re-elected as Rapporteur.

The new Chair thanked the outgoing Chair and the continuing officials for their efforts.

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3. Technical Measures in Western Waters

The discussion centred on a Draft STECF Report from October 2011 in response to a Commission's request for a review of scientific advice and technical measures by area, species and métiers. This report contained a number of recommendations regarding gear specifications for TR2 (Nephrops fleet) to reduce discards from haddock and whiting in VIa; as well as modification of catch composition regulations. In particular, the STECF recommends the removal of haddock from the catch composition rules associated with the TR1 fleet for this area. The STECF Draft Advice is available for consultation in the NWWRAC website.

The Commission outlined the many elements of the recommendations for the Celtic Seas which offered a range of management options, which included the inclusion of a 120mm square mesh panel located 6-9m from the cod end, the use of a 95mm cod end, the removal of lifting bags and the use of a grid. All these measures had been suggested for adoption by the TR2 fleet in Area VIa. There were no recommendations for the TR1 fleet in West of Scotland.

The WG1 members responded that such proposals of gear modifications required a transitional period for implementation, which the Commission recognised, noting that these were STECF recommendations and not Commission proposals. There followed a discussion on the practical application of gears and their efficacy, which the Commission would check with STECF colleagues. WG1 members called for region-specific solutions rather than general measures imposed by emergency measures across the whole areas VI and VII. The Commission responded that STECF has suggested a range of management options by area, and agreed that the document does not consider regional measures taken by Member States. The Commission highlighted that there is no formal consultation process associated with the introduction of emergency measures¹ as the nature of an emergency regulation was that it should be implemented quickly; however there was provision for Member States and Council to amend any emergency action. Following the introduction of any short term emergency measures, there will be a separate process for discussion and consultation prior to the adoption of more permanent measures in 2012.

There were no recommendations or action points for this agenda item.

¹ A meeting between Commission and NWWRAC representatives was subsequently held on the 10 November 11 to have a comprehensive dialogue and to make clear the position of the NWWRAC on these matters.



4. Discussion of Work Priorities for Working Group 1 for Year 7

Members of WG1 voiced concerns about the volume of proposals for MPAs in the West of Scotland, and asked if a list of proposed MPAs could be identified for consideration in relation to priorities for Year 7.

Action: The Secretariat will report back to WG1 with a list of proposed MPAs in Area VI.

Recommendation: WG1 recommends that the Executive Committee that there should be a NWWRAC Focus Group on MPAs, to be set up when we have enough information on the current proposals. This should be considered at the next round of Working Group meetings of the NWWRAC.

5. EC Proposal of Regulation on Fishing Opportunities for 2012

There was a discussion on the Commission's reply, of 25 October 2011, to the NWWRAC's advice on Fishing Opportunities for 2012, which the NWWRAC submitted in July 2011. It was noted that the Commission has now moved away from a systematic 25% reduction of TACs, but the question remains if a reduction of TAC is an appropriate response to the problem of data poor stocks. WG1 is committed to helping address the issue of data deficiencies in VIa. The Commission confirmed that the automatic reduction was not supported by most Member States and that considerations will be made on stock by stock basis. The Commission said that in that regard, the work by the NWWRAC on data deficiency issues is very helpful.

There followed a discussion on review of fisheries science (e.g. use of language and methodology) and the translation of science into advice. The Commission advised that if there was evidence that the recommendations made in the proposal of Regulation would cause increased discards, then this written evidence should be submitted to the Commission. The Commission reported that a majority of Member States support the Commission's commitment to the MSY deadline where possible, therefore not including data poor stocks lacking reference points. The Commission clarified that the agenda for November Council does not include fishing opportunities, so this was likely to remain the business of December Council.

There were no recommendations or action points for this agenda item, as it was felt that the position of WG1 had been made strongly in the advice to the Commission.

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6. Data deficiency issues for stocks assessment

There was a report from some WG1 data coordinators for VIa stocks on work progress in relation to the identification of data needs by stock, data sources and availability and data management procedures.

Appointed stock data coordinators to date are:

- Northern Hake (VI-VII) - Víctor Badiola
- Monkfish and Megrin VIa - Mike Park
- Cod VIa - Sean O'Donoghue
- Haddock VIa - Sean O'Donoghue / Alan Coghill
- Whiting VIa - Bertie Armstrong

Whiting VIa: Bertie has established contact with the ICES WG dealing with whiting, and reported on discard sampling and observer schemes to verify avoidance measures for cod. Availability of landings data is not problematic. There is a new time series of method to assess these stocks. This stock will be benchmarked next year.

Monk and Megrin VIa: Mike has asked Marine Scotland in relation of the state of play of both stocks. An assessment is now ongoing and Mike will resume contact later in the year once the update is available.

Haddock VIa: Alan has been liaising with the Marine Lab (Marine Scotland) on the LTMP, but events have overtaken this progress.

Action: Stock data coordinators will feed back to WG1 at the next meeting. The Chair and the Secretariat will oversee the work of the coordinators to ensure that any gaps are filled, and to keep up the momentum of the project.

INFORMATION POINTS

7. Focus Group on the review of the cod recovery plan for the West of Scotland (Dublin Castle, 27 Oct)
Bertie Armstrong reported on the outcomes of this meeting, where there had been long and robust discussions with the Commission on the failures of the Plan and how to resolve the fundamental issues.

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8. Regulatory framework for West of Scotland Haddock

Bertie Armstrong gave an update on this topic and the development of a future proposal for a management plan. Progress on the LTMP has been stalled due to the arguments between the European institutions concerning co-decision.

9. DEFRA-Marine Scotland Pilot Project to develop fisheries management measures in UK waters

Kara Brydson gave an update on the workshop held in Glasgow on 20th October to consider possible fisheries management measures in the Stanton Bank SAC. The minutes from this meeting will be passed to the Secretariat for circulation. A further meeting of the DEFRA-Marine Scotland Pilot Project is scheduled for November.

10. Concluding remarks

The new elected Chairwoman, Jane Sandell, thanked all the members and observers for attending the meeting, and closed the meeting at 10:50 h

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ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<u>MEMBERS</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname/s</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Bertie	Armstrong	Acting Chair - SFF
Jane	Sandell	Elected Chair - SFO
Víctor	Badiola	Vice Chair OPPAO-CEPESCA
Kara	Brydson	Rapporteur - RSPB / Birdlife International
Alan	Coghill	SFF / Orkney FPO
Juan Carlos	Corrás Arias	Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco
John	Crudden	European Anglers Association
Barrie	Deas	NFFO
José Manuel	Fernández Beltrán	OPP-07-LUGO
Caroline	Gamblin	CNPMEM
Hugo	González	ANASOL
Jesús A.	Lourido García	Puerto de Celeiro S.A.
Alan	McCulla	ANIFPO Ltd.
Kevin	McDonnell	West of Scotland FPO

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<u>MEMBERS (cont.)</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname/s</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Lorcan	O’Cinnéide	Irish Fish PO
Sean	O’Donoghue	Kyllibegs FO
Eibhlin	O’Sullivan	Irish South West FPO
José Luis	Otero	Lonja de la Coruña S.A.
Michael	Park	SWFPA Ltd.
Jacques	Pichon	ANOP-PMA

OBSERVERS		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname/s</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Richard	Brouzes	OPBN
Fuensanta	Candela Castillo	DG MARE –Commission
RénéPierre	Chever	Comité Pêches Guilvinec
Debbie	Crockard	Seas at Risk
Edward	Fahey	Journalist
Cécile	Fouquet	EBCD
Raphael	Gallimard	FROM Nord
Roy	Griffin	DG MARE - Commission

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OBSERVERS (cont.)		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname/s</u>	<u>Organization</u>
André	LeBerre	CRPMEM Bretagne
Eamon	Mangan	DPMAM - France
Sabela	Pérez Máiz	DG MARE - Commission
Pieter-J.	Schon	ICES – AFBINI
William	Stewart	CFCA
Mireille	Thom	WWF
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish Fish PO
Héctor	Villa González	SEGEMAR – MMARM Spain

NWWRAC SECRETARIAT		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname/s</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Alexandre	Rodríguez	Executive Assistant, Policy

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