

REPORT

North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council Working Group 2 (WG2) West of Ireland and Celtic Sea

**Wednesday 4 July 2012
14:00-15:50
Dublin Castle**

**Deputy Chairman: André Gueguen
Rapporteur: Paul Trebilcock**

1. Welcome

The meeting was opened and participants welcomed by the acting Chairman, André Gueguen, who invited to introduce themselves in a *tour de table*. The full list of participants is included as an annex to this report.

Apologies

There were apologies received from Delphine Roncin, Mercedes Rodríguez and Jesús Lourido. It was agreed that Andre Gueguen (Vice-Chair of WG2) would chair the meeting in Mr. Lourido's absence.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda previously circulated was approved without amendment.

Adoption of Report of the Last Meeting

The report of the meeting held in Paris on 28 February 2012 was approved as a true and correct record.

2. Overview of Exchange of Recent Correspondence

- Management Measures for Nephrops in Area VII

WG2 noted the response from the Commission on this topic. It was agreed that a further response to Nephrops management in Area VII would be part of the NWW RAC response on fishing opportunities for 2013 to the Commission. This would incorporate and involve comments from other working groups, particularly WG4 (Irish Sea).

- Gear Marking

WG2 were given an update and summary of letters on this topic. A draft letter from the NWW RAC was presented. A number of non-contentious amendments from the French industry were suggested. It was agreed that these would be incorporated and a final version would be presented to the NWW RAC Executive Committee for adoption.

- Technical Measures in the Celtic Sea

The Commission informed WG2 that, following accords reached at the Council, it was its intention to introduce technical measures in the Celtic Sea under emergency procedures by comitology before the autumn.

The French administration stated that the proposed EU regulation should be consistent with the NWW RAC proposals and the French national measures that had already been implemented and that are in line with the December Council Declaration.

Action: *It was agreed that the NWW RAC secretariat would circulate the regulation from the Commission to members when it is published.*

3. Implementation of Technical Measures in Force

Spanish members of WG2 requested clarification of EU regulations No. 494/2002 (net mesh size carriage requirements) and No. 517/2008 (twine thickness).

Action: *It was agreed that Hugo González would draft a letter detailing this clarification request on behalf of WG2.*

4. Management Plan for Celtic Sea Mixed Demersal Fisheries

The Chairman of the NWW RAC Celtic Sea Focus Group, Jacques Pichon, gave an overview of progress since the last meeting. Meeting reports and papers are available on the NWW RAC website for information.

The main unresolved issue remained funding. The Commission reminded that there are EMFF funding for science-industry partnerships that might be accessible for the RACs but this involves a co-financing of 20% of the total cost of the project.

Action: *It was agreed that the NWW RAC should write to the Commission expressing the urgency and significance of the funding issue.*

Action: *It was also agreed the NWW RAC secretariat would continue to explore other funding opportunities.*

5. Data Deficiency Issues for Stock Assessments

Barrie Deas gave an overview of progress to date on this issue.

The following data coordinators gave updates on specific stocks:

- Haddock VIIb-j – Sean O’Donoghue
- Megrim VII – Hugo González
- Anglerfish VII – Caroline Gamblin
- Nephrops VII – Eibhlin O’Sullivan

Action: *It was agreed that the NWW RAC Secretariat would produce a report collating the work of the data coordinators in all of the Working Groups and submit it to ICES. The report will also include a proposal to set up a third coordination meeting between ICES and the RACs (WKDDRAC3) to maintain momentum and progress with existing work. It was hoped that this event would take place before the end of the year.*

6. Exchange of views between WG2 and DGMARE

- Northern Hake (ICES Sub-areas VI & VII)

WG2 members were concerned that little or no progress had been made on this stock. There was no new scientific information available, indeed and perhaps more worryingly the ICES benchmarking of this stock had appeared to have increased uncertainty in the assessment.

The Commission stated that this remained a priority area of work and progress would be made in the near future.

- Skates and Rays

NWW RAC work was ongoing on this issue through a focus group that had been established since September 2011.

New ICES advice was expected to be released on these stocks in October 2012 and there would be no Commission proposals until then. The Commission stated that they would follow ICES advice where possible but in reality management of these stocks would be influenced as much by political considerations as scientific advice.

The Commission welcomed the ongoing efforts of the NWW RAC in developing sensible proposals of management measures for these stocks.

7. Update on MAIA Project Workshop - Haig Fras SAC

A meeting report of the Haig Fras Workshop held in Rennes on 24 November 2011 was available on the NWW RAC website for information.

WG2 members heard that the JNCC (UK) was currently drafting proposed management measures for the Haig Fras SAC site. It was expected that the UK Government will come forward with official management proposals later in year around October/November.

Action: *It was agreed the NWW RAC secretariat would circulate any proposals as soon as they are received.*

8. Summary of Actions and Recommendations to be put forward to the Executive Committee.

The rapporteur provided a summary overview of all actions agreed.

The Chairman thanked all the members and observers for attending the meeting, the Secretariat and the translators for their excellent work.

The meeting was adjourned at 15:50 h as planned

ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS		
Name	Surname/s	Organization
André	Gueguen	OPOB / Pecheurs de Bretagne – Deputy Chairman (<i>replacing Jesús Lourido</i>)
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish FPO - Rapporteur
Bertie	Armstrong	NWWRAC Chairman
Victor	Badiola	OPPAO-CEPESCA
René-Pierre	Chever	CDPMEM Finistère
Luc	Corbisier	SDVO
Juan Carlos	Corrás Arias	Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco
John	Crudden	European Anglers Association
Barrie	Deas	NFFO
Caroline	Gamblin	CNPMEM
David	Gatt	SWFPA Ltd.
Marc	Ghiglia	UAPF
Antón	González	Wales and West Coast FPA
Hugo	González	ANASOL/ARVI
Olivier	Le Nezet	CRPMEM Bretagne

MEMBERS		
Name	Surname/s	Organization
John	Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Org.
Francis	O'Donnell	Irish Fish PO
Sean	O'Donoghue	Kyllibegs FO
Eibhlín	O'Sullivan	Irish South West FPO
José Luis	Otero	Lonja de la Coruña S.A.
Jacques	Pichon	ANOP-PMA
Jim	Portus	South West FPO
Caitlín	Uí Aodha	ISEFPO

OBSERVERS / EXPERTS		
Name	Surname/s	Organization
Iwan	Ball	World Wildlife Fund
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Richard	Brouzes	OPBN
Kara	Brydson	RSPB – Birdlife
Alan	Coghill	SFF
Ramón	De la Figuera	Spanish Administration
Helen	Dobby	ICES / MarineLab
Paul	Duane	SFPA Ireland
Paul	Francoise	FFSPM
Roy	Griffin	European Commission
Raphael	Grollemund	FROM Nord
William	Hazel	Coastwatch
Daniel	Lefèvre	CNPMEM Basse Normandie – WG3 Chair
Jonathan	Lemeunier	DPMEM France - MS rep.
Peter	Leonard	IS&WFPO
Laurent	Markovic	European Commission
Alan	McCulla	ANIFPO – WG4 Chair

OBSERVERS / EXPERTS (cont)		
Name	Surname/s	Organization
Kevin	McDonell	WSFPO
William	Stewart	EFCA
Pieter-Jan	Schon	AFBI / ICES
Joel	Vigneau	IFREMER/ICES

NWWRAC SECRETARIAT		
Joanna	McGrath	Executive Assistant
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Alexandre	Rodriguez	Executive Assistant – Policy Coordinator