



## North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council

### REPORT

#### **Working Group 2 (WG2) West of Ireland and Celtic Sea Dublin Castle, Tuesday 23 July 2013 16:00 – 18:00**

Chairman: Jesús Lourido  
Rapporteur: Paul Trebilcock

#### **1. Welcome**

The meeting was opened and participants welcomed by the Chairman.

The full list of attendees is shown in Annex I.

- Apologies

There were apologies received from WG2 members Víctor Badiola (OPPAO), Luc Corbisier (SDVO), André Gueguen (OPOB/CNPMEM in this occasion represented by Caroline Gamblin), Jacques Pichon (ANOP, represented by Julien Lamothe) and René-Pierre Chever (CNPMEM Finistère, represented by Jean-Jacques Tanguy).

There was also information on a permanent change in representation for the organisation CRPMEM Bretagne: Olivier Le Nezet is replaced by Ms Sylvie Roux.

- Adoption of Agenda

The Chairman proposed to add a request of an in year review for Northern Hake TAC as item for discussion under agenda point 3. The agenda was adopted by consensus with this amendment.

- Adoption of Report of the Last Meeting

The report of the previous WG2 meeting held in Bilbao on 17 April 2013 was approved as a true and correct record.



## 2. PISCES/Celtic Sea Partnership Projects

Dr Lindsey Dodds (WWF UK) gave a detailed presentation on the PISCES Project and introduced a follow on project titled 'Celtic Sea Partnership' (CSP) project funded through LIFE + funding with an overall budget of 4 million euros. The CSP has just started and is aimed to support transboundary implementation of EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) in the Celtic Seas. It is divided in 4 key work areas or packages and a web portal is currently in preparation.

The full presentation is available on the NWWRAC website for information<sup>1</sup>.

There were a number of concerns raised by the industry members of WG2:

- Given the lack of substantive industry involvement in PISCES, there was a genuine concern that this did not truly represent genuine stakeholders' collaboration;
- Many members of WG2 felt that PISCES was an example of misrepresentation of fishing organisations' wider fishing industry interests;
- There appeared to be significant duplication/overlap with other EU funded projects;
- There was concern that significant funds were being allocated to generic projects like PISCES and now the Celtic Sea Partnership that were neither value for money nor useful to fisheries management specifically;
- It was felt that the Commission (across all DGs) should review the policy objectives and value for money criteria and explicitly clarify the synergies and outputs of certain number of EU funded projects with focus on the Celtic Sea;

### ACTIONS:

**The NWWRAC Secretariat agreed to disseminate information received from CSP project.**

**The NWWRAC should submit a letter to the Commission highlighting its concerns with the content and overlap of some projects and will request that the Commission (across all DGs) should review the policy objectives and value for money criteria and explicitly clarify the synergies and outputs of certain projects with focus on the Celtic Sea.**

## 3. Update on Outstanding Actions from the NWWRAC

### 3.1. EU Action Plan on Seabirds

Dominic Rihan from DG MARE gave an informative presentation on the status and Commission thinking with regard to the EU Action Plan on Seabirds launched in November 2012.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/WG2\\_PISCES\\_PROJECT\\_NWWRAC\\_230713.pdf](http://www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/WG2_PISCES_PROJECT_NWWRAC_230713.pdf)



The full presentation is available for consultation on the NWW RAC website for information<sup>2</sup>.

Some of the key points to emerge were:

- The explicit intention of the Commission was to avoid the pitfalls/problems encountered in the development and implementation of the cetacean by-catch regulations;
- The priority was to identify and quantify specific problem areas and/or fisheries and identify effective mitigation measures;
- The EU Action Plan on Seabirds was a voluntary instrument;
- Effective mitigation measures were important;
- Promotion of good practice on mitigation measures was a key element;
- Ongoing review was essential in line with CFP and EBA;
- Data collection monitoring will be strengthened and seabird by-catches will be included in the new DCMAP regulation with an standardised reporting format;
- The Commission's stated approach was non-confrontational that sought sensible, proportionate and effect measures.

**WG 2 members were content with the approach described by the Commission at this stage. No further action is pursued.**

### 3.2. Deep-water Gillnet Fisheries

Juan Carlos Corrás (PESCAGALICIA-ARPEGA-OBARCO) gave an informative presentation on the revised draft position document he had prepared for the NWWWRAC asking to increase the fishing depth to 800 metres for anglerfish gillnets in EU waters within a transitional period and underpinned by an observer programme. The paper addressed the specific concerns raised at the previous WG2 meeting in some detail and provided some additional scientific evidence quoting outcomes of research surveys and academic publications.

However, there were additional by-catch issues raised by eNGOs regarding deep-sea species in general. Two Spanish fishing organisations (OPPAO – not present at the meeting - and ARVI-ANASOL) also registered general concerns regarding the impact of gillnets activities and gear conflict.

The Chairman of WG2 made it clear that any specific remaining concerns or issues must be transmitted to Juan Carlos Corrás via the NWWWRAC secretariat as a matter of urgency. It was not acceptable to keep raising additional concerns at each WG2 meeting on this issue.

**ACTION: Based on the feedback received, a final draft document would be prepared and presented by Juan Carlos Corrás at the next WG2. In case of not receiving the requested reasoning for concern on this issue from NGOs, OPPAO and Arvi-Anasol, the position document will reflect their opposition based on 'general principles'.**

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<sup>2</sup> [http://www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/WG2\\_EC\\_Seabirds\\_Workshop\\_16May2013\\_DR.pdf](http://www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/WG2_EC_Seabirds_Workshop_16May2013_DR.pdf)

### 3.3. Request for an In-Year Increase of TACs

- Haddock VIIb-k:  
In light of the latest ICES advice for 2014 on this stock, recently released, this request was withdrawn and agreed to not be progressed.
- Northern Hake VI/VII  
In light of the latest ICES advice on this stock, a request should be made for the NWWRAC to write to the Commission asking for an in year TAC adjustment from 55,000t to 69,000t (20% increase).

**ACTION: This request was fully supported by WG2. The Chairman (Jesús Lourido) will draft, with the assistance of the Secretariat, a letter to request an in-year review of the TAC for northern hake for 2013, requesting an increase from 55,105 t to 69,440 t in line with the latest ICES advice ( $F_{msy} = 0.24$ ).**

### 3.4. EC Interpretation of TCMs –Mesh Size and Net Composition

Hugo González reported that he continued to work on a response to this issue and he would present another draft as soon as possible.

It was noted by the Secretariat that the NWWRAC had sent a proposal to DG MARE. The proposal was to appoint a desk officer in the Commission to deal with interpretation issues on the applicable control rules for issues such as implementation of technical measures. This proposal was supported by the Executive Director of the EFCA at the last Advisory Board meeting held in Baiona-Vigo the 25 June 2013 (meeting report expected to be available soon).

### 3.5. Nephrops Management in Area VII

Eibhlín O’Sullivan informed that progress on this issue had been delayed. The Benchmark meeting report was due imminently and the latest ICES advice on Nephrops VII was due in the autumn following receipt of this meaningful work on developing a NWW RAC position will continue.

**ACTION: The nephrops data coordinators, Jane Sandell (SFO) and Eibhlín O’Sullivan (ISWFPO), will draft a scoping paper that will serve as a basis for the development of RAC advice and will be tabled for discussion at a future Working Group and/or Focus Group meeting to be scheduled in October/November. The NWWRAC advice to the Commission will propose a number of management options, with particular reference to the Porcupine Bank area (FU16).**

## 4. Report on Work Progress of Focus Groups/Steering Groups

### 4.1. Hake, Monkfish and Megrin

In absence of the Focus Group Chair (V́ctor Badiola), the meeting rapporteur (Alexandre Rodŕguez) gave a detailed report of the actions as agreed at the Focus Group to WG2 members for comments and endorsement, following our rules of procedure.

The Bilbao meeting was a fruitful one and the main issues discussed there related to the area of data deficiencies and problems with the scientific assessments models. As a result, there were identified a number of areas of work where the fishing industry could help ICES and national scientists either individually or through the NWWRAC data coordinators, in particular at the time of data compilation workshops and preparation of benchmark workshops.

The rapporteur reminded that Anglerfish and Megrin stocks (except Megrin in IVa and VIa) are considered data limited stocks and are classified under category 3. "*Stocks for which survey-based assessments Indicate trends*", applying a margin of precaution that will mean effectively a 20% cut in TACs resulting from precautionary margin if reference levels are unknown.

One of the main agreements was that the NWWRAC would support AZTI's request to the Commission for funding for the development of a project to improve biological assessment of Anglerfish and Megrin stocks in areas VII and VIII where the industry involvement can be accounted for. An updated version of the project proposal of AZTI will be circulated to the NWWRAC.

The meeting report is available on the NWW RAC website for information<sup>3</sup>.

**ACTION: WG 2 members endorsed the actions included in the meeting's report and agreed at the Hake, Monkfish and Megrin Focus Group meeting in Bilbao.**

### 4.2. Celtic Sea (VIIfg)

Focus group is currently working closely with the GEPETO project and in particular Colm Lordan to develop a Long Term Management plan for the mixed fisheries in the Celtic Sea (VIIfg). It was also mentioned that Michael Keatinge (BIM) would help the Focus Group to develop a questionnaire on economic fleet performance indicators.

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[http://www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/MINUTES\\_NWWRAC\\_FOCUS\\_GROUP\\_HMM\\_BEC\\_BILBAO\\_18April2013\\_EN.pdf](http://www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/MINUTES_NWWRAC_FOCUS_GROUP_HMM_BEC_BILBAO_18April2013_EN.pdf)



The reports of both meetings held in Bilbao and Paris are available on the NWW RAC website for information.

**ACTION: WG 2 members endorsed the course of action described above. The Focus Group will meet again in September and will invite the GEPETO Project Leader Coordinator with the view to progress with work towards a proposal for a management plan for the Celtic Sea (VIIIfg).**

## **5. Data Limited Stocks**

To avoid repetition Barrie Deas referred to the presentation he had given in the previous Working Group (WG 1 - West of Scotland). The WG1 report is available on NWW RAC website for information.

**ACTION: The NWWRAC data coordinators will progress with work, contacting their correspondent scientists, providing regular feedback and avoiding the presentation of anecdotal evidence.**

## **6. Summary of Actions Agreed at the Meeting and Those Pending Completion From the Last WG2 Meeting: Recommendations to be put Forward for Adoption at the Executive Committee**

The Chairman, Jesús Lourido, summarised the actions agreed and thanked all the members and observers for attending the meeting, the Secretariat for the preparation and on-going support and the translators for their excellent work.

**The meeting was adjourned at 18:00h.**

## **ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

<b>MEMBERS</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Surname/s</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Jesús	Lourido	<b>WG2 Chairman</b>
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish FPO - <b>Rapporteur</b>
Bertie	Armstrong	NWWRAC Chairman
Juan Carlos	Corrás Arias	Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco
Debbie	Crockard	Seas at Risk
John	Crudden	European Anglers Association
Barrie	Deas	NFFO
José Manuel	Fdez. Beltrán	OPP-07-LUGO
Caroline	Gamblin	CNPMEM
Hugo	González	ANASOL/ARVI
Julien	Lamothe	ANOP/PMA
John	Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Org.
Kevin	McDonnell	West of Scotland FPO
Francis	O'Donnell	Irish Fish PO
Sean	O'Donoghue	Kyllibegs FO
Eibhlin	O'Sullivan	Irish South West FPO
José Luis	Otero	Lonja de la Coruña S.A.
Sylvie	Roux	CRPMEM Bretagne
Jean-Jacques	Tanguy	CCPMEM Finistère
Caitlín	Uí Aodha	Irish South East FPO

<b>OBSERVERS / EXPERTS</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Surname/s</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Richard	Brouzes	OPBN
Alan	Coghill	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Ramón	De la Figuera	MAGRAMA - Spanish Administration
Lyndsey	Dodds	WWF UK
Karin	Dubsky	Coastwatch Ireland
Carmen	Fernández	ICES
Roy	Griffin	DG MARE - Commission
Laurent	Markovic	European Commission
Daniel	Lefèvre	CNPMEM– <b>WG3 Chair</b>
Donal	McWeeney	Galway-Mayo IT
Laurent	Markovic	DG MARE - Commission
Rémi	Mejecaze	DPMEM France - MS rep.
Dominic	Rihan	DG MARE - Commission
Sam	Stone	MCS UK
Hilde	VanHaecke	ILVO
Liane	Veitch	Client Earth
Johnny	Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary

<b>NWWRAC SECRETARIAT</b>		
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Joanna	McGrath	Administration / Finances
Alexandre	Rodríguez	Policy Coordinator