



## North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council

### Working Group 3 (Channel - VIId) BEC BILBAO

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013  
1600-18:00 h

Chairman: Daniel Lefèvre  
Rapporteur: Jim Portus

#### 1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed members, observers and invited guests to Bilbao for the NWWRAC Working Group 3. The full list of participants is appended (Annex I).

- Apologies were received from Caroline Gamblin (CNP MEM), Victoria Beaz (EBCD), Jeremy Percy (NUTFA) and Dominique Thomas (CME).
- Introductions: A round around the table.
- Adoption of Agenda: The Agenda was adopted without changes or additions.
- Adoption of Report from last meeting (Paris, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2013):  
The meeting report was circulated beforehand among all WG3 members and approved without changes.

#### 2. Review of the Cod Recovery Plan (CRP) as it affects ICES Area VIId:

In the absence of the rapporteur, Caroline Gamblin, this item was jointly presented by Alexandre Rodríguez and Daniel Lefèvre.

##### Background:

The meeting was reminded that Cod VIId is treated as part of Cod IV and management considerations are similar to those in Area VI and VIIa. Following earlier workshops and discussions at the Paris meeting, two lines of work had been identified. The first was to produce a document proposing improvements for implementation of the EC Reg. No. 1342/2008. This had been submitted to Commission and copied to Diane Dodds MEP for the EP Fisheries Committee.

Daniel noted that one of the outstanding actions is to resume discussions with the Commission and propose to develop a management approach specifically for VIId, including technical measures and separate management from IV Cod – this work is ongoing.

NWWRAC Working Group 3 meeting  
Channel VIId  
Bilbao, 17 April 2013  
1 of 8



It was pointed out that although there is equal per vessel effort in each of areas IV and VIId, there are not equal quotas per Member State under the relative stability of the CFP. Thus each Area of the stock should be treated separately.

**Action:**

***Members agreed this work is best progressed in the main stock working groups.***

### **3. Non quota species**

#### **3.1 Presentation from ACRUNET Project on Brown Crab**

The Chairman introduced this topic, emphasizing that Brown crab is in a particular situation in relation to fishing effort, similar to scallops fishery. He welcomed Norah Parke from KFO, who provided a presentation of the scope, objectives and timetable of the project. The presentation from Ms. Parke can be found in the NWWRAC website<sup>1</sup>

#### **Discussion around the table**

Daniel Lefèvre commented that brown crab is an important product from an economic point of view – i.e. commercialization, employment and marketing. However, as production increases so the market has problems and prices have dropped. For many years there have been friendly discussions with UK sectors leading to cohabitation agreements. Most economic problems stem from lack of regulation of production and management.

Although the meeting broadly agreed with the intentions and purpose of ACRUNET, many commented that regulation of the production and markets had not been given sufficient emphasis.

Norah Parke agreed the single biggest issue is management and brought the subject to prominence. Excess capacity and effort is worrying, certainly in Ireland and UK. However, the shift from almost free access to limited production and market access would risk depriving some people of their livings. There is need to control access carefully.

There were many varied comments from the floor, with broad support for the project and its intentions; to achieve a common understanding of the problems and agreement for the controlled management of this stock. It was proposed there would be an incremental and progressive approach within a regionalized context.

**Action: *The NWWRAC will keep up momentum and maintain communication with ACRUNET.***

---

<sup>1</sup> [www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/ACRUNET\\_Project\\_NWWRAC\\_Bilbao\\_WG3\\_April2013\\_NP.pdf](http://www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/ACRUNET_Project_NWWRAC_Bilbao_WG3_April2013_NP.pdf)

### 3.2. ICES advice and EC proposals on management measures for sea bass and other species

The Commission representative, Robert Griffin, said there are no proposals to apply TAC and quotas to Sea Bream or Red Mullet. Sea Bass has been considered for TAC and Quotas and Member States and scientific experts would meet in May for further discussions. The Commission would have to publish by September for any new species to come into the TAC and Quota system for 2014.

Barrie Deas questioned the value or not of a TAC that would apply to part only of the fishing mortality, given the high level of recreational sector involvement. With the advent of landings obligations and MSY approach to fisheries we have to ask if the customary way of managing the stocks by TACs will be viable, if ever it was. Many would prefer simplifying TAC system rather than adding new species to the list. There are difficulties already with those known as “choke” stocks.

Laurent Markovic (DG MARE) revealed that there will be a meeting in mid-May of experts on sea bass. Difficulties are anticipated to decide a TAC for sea bass. The new CFP discards ban may only apply to certain species, so not clear if it's going to be applied to sea bass.

## 4. **Scallops fishery management and Western Waters Effort**

### 4.1. Report on outcomes of UK-France fishing industry meeting on effort regime

Daniel Lefèvre introduced this topic and Jim Portus provided some background information.

A bilateral meeting between UK and French fishing industry representatives has been organised in Paris in September 2012 with the aim to explore a possible effort swap in kilowatts day in exchange for closing areas in the Channel. Discussions have not resulted in any outcome at that meeting. The French delegates have subsequently transmitted via CNPMM their proposed closed areas to the British by email in January 2013.

The UK Scallop Association put forward its own proposals. Further to this, at the mid-Channel Conference to resolve conflict of gears, suggestions came that maybe some areas in VIIe could be set aside for French static gear alone to assist the bi-lateral swap negotiations.

A new meeting has been programmed among the different concerned parties.

#### **Action:**

***The representatives will inform the NWWRAC on the outcomes of the multilateral UK-FR-IE meeting on a shared approach to scallops management in the Channel, including negotiations on seasonal closed areas and kilowatts-day. A document from UK has been tabled prior to a meeting that is hoped will take place with the French industry in Portsmouth before the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, i.e. the start of the closed-season. Invitations will be extended to Ireland/Eire and Belgium. The meeting will look to secure a “gentlemen’s agreement”; and then seek national administrations’ support to sign a formal agreement between Member States. The proposal would involve a transfer of French scallop effort to the UK in exchange for the closures.***

NWWRAC Working Group 3 meeting

Channel VIIde

Bilbao, 17 April 2013

3 of 8

#### 4.2. Request for amendment of EC Regulation 850/1998 for cuttlefish

Jim Portus confirmed that the NWWRAC letter had been adopted and submitted to the Commission by the Secretariat prior to the meeting (15 April). The letter asks for an amendment to Art 10(b) of Reg. 850/98 with regard to by-catch percentage of “molluscs” (cuttlefish) caught as by-catch when dredging for scallops.

#### **5. Data deficiencies for stock assessments**

There was insufficient time to discuss this item.

#### **6. Update on the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) process in UK waters: Channel**

The Chairman asked the JNCC representative, Declan Tobin, to provide a brief update on the state of play of Marine Conservation Zones in the Channel. He also requested correction of two jurisdictional lines in the areas called Aurelie and Garnesse located near Jersey Ireland and the Anglo-Norman Channel – these areas are in French and not UK waters, so the line must be corrected accordingly.

The JNCC presenter said that he was unaware of this situation and, in case of being correct, it will be fixed. He asked the Chairman or any WG3 member to send a formal proposal in writing if possible. He also clarified that all these maps are official.

Mr. Tobin noted that the public consultation launched by DEFRA finished in the month of March, but representatives from fishing industry in Spain, France and Belgium provided a response in due time.

He also highlighted the influence of Hugh’s “Fish Fight” TV campaign and the strong public support for an increasing number of MPA. This is considered to be a big issue at this moment in the UK (e.g. there is another campaign titled “127”).

Mr. Tobin announced that DEFRA will be drafting its proposal soon but there is not still an exact timetable.

#### Comments from the floor

Jim Portus said that UK consultation is closed now. The French will have enough MCZ themselves. He expressed hope they have an international dimension as the UK had.

#### **Action:**

***None required.***



## **7. AOB**

The Chairman proposed to the NWWRAC to endorse a letter in support of ACRUNET Project from the Conference Mid Channel that has been uploaded as paper in the meeting site.

Jim Portus expressed that SWFPO is not in a position to accept it, as they were not informed sufficient before the meeting. He said that his organisation does not represent any crustacean fleet.

Eibhlín O'Sullivan also expressed her wish to discuss this proposal within the organisation she represents before endorsing the letter.

In view of the comments above, the Chairman decided to withdraw this proposal.

## **8. Chair's summary of actions and proposal to be put forward to the Executive Committee for adoption**

The Chairman gave an overview of the list of actions agreed as indicated on each of the items above, and thanked all attendees for their participation, the interpreters for their work and the Basque Government and BEC for hosting the meeting.

**The meeting was adjourned at 18:25 h**



## ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<b><u>MEMBERS</u></b>		
<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Surname</u></b>	<b><u>Organisation</u></b>
Daniel	Lefèvre	CNPMEM Basse Normandie – <b>WG3 Chairman</b>
Jim	Portus	South West Fish Producers’ Organisation – <b>WG3 Vice Chair and Rapporteur</b>
Bertie	Armstrong	Scottish Fishermen’s Federation
Jacques	Bigot	CFTC-ETF
Richard	Brouzes	Copeport Marée OPBN
René-Pierre	Chever	CDPMEM Finistère
John	Crudden	European Anglers Alliance
Bruno	Dachicourt	France Pêche Durable et Responsable
Barrie	Deas	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO)
Thomas	Diaz	Pêcheurs de la Manche et d’Atlantique (PMA)
Paul	Francoise	Fédération Française des Syndicats Professionnels Maritimes (FFSPM)
André	Gueguen	Organisation des Pêcheries de l’Ouest Bretagne (OPOB)
John	Lynch	Irish Fishermen’s Organisation
Jennifer	Mouat	Scottish White Fish Producers’ Association (SWFPA)
Delphine	Roncin	CRPMEM Nord / Pas de Calais / Picardie
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish Fish Producers’ Organisation
Caitlín	Uí Aodha	Irish South & East Fish Producers Organisation

<b><u>OBSERVERS</u></b>		
<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Surname</u></b>	<b><u>Organisation</u></b>
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Alan	Coghill	Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)
Grant	Fulton	European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)
Marc	Ghiglia	<b>NWWRAC GA President / UAPF</b>
Robert	Griffin	DG MARE – European Commission
Laurent	Markovic	DG MARE – European Commission
Rémi	Méjécaze	Direction des Pêches – Administration Française
Norah	Parke	KFO / ACRUNET Project - <b>Presentor</b>
Jacques	Pichon	Association Nationale des Organisation des Producteurs (ANOP)
Brendan	Price	Wildlife Consultant
Declan	Tobin	Joint Nature Conservation Committee - UK
Hilde	Vanhaecke	ILVO
Johnny	Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary



<b><u>NWWRAC SECRETARIAT</u></b>		
<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Surname</u></b>	<b><u>Organisation</u></b>
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Alexandre	Rodríguez	Executive Assistant – Policy and Information
Joanna	McGrath	Executive Assistant – Administration Finances