



North Western Waters Regional Advisory Committee

Working Group 3 (Channel)

Wednesday 4th July 2012

16:00-18:00 h

DUBLIN CASTLE

Chairman: Daniel Lefèvre

Rapporteur: Jim Portus

1. Welcome

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

- Apologies: Apologies were note from Cécile Fouquet (EBCD).
- Adoption of Agenda: The Agenda was approved as drafted.
- Adoption of Report from last meeting (Paris 28th February 2012): The meeting report was circulated beforehand among all WG3 members and approved without changes.

2. Review of the Cod Recovery Plan as it affects ICES Area VIId - Report of Cod Focus Group:

Caroline Gamblin Informed the meeting that subsequent to the EC Workshop meeting in March, the RACs involved had submitted proposed amendments to the Cod Management Plan; now we are all waiting for STECF advice by the end of July and a Proposal of Regulation will be launched to be dealt with by co-decision procedure.

STECF EWG June – Analysing the areas that will comprise a mixed fisheries management plan. Questions arise about VIId. Whether or not it is considered linked to North Sea, to Celtic Sea, or on its own. Report will come out in July for the Plenary Session.

Richard Brouzes mentioned difficulties with Technical Conservation Measures and suggested an increase from 80 to 100 mm instead of days at sea limits. This was already included in the proposal of interim measures in the paper.

Barrie Deas raised uncertainties about the Cod effort regime – meeting 13 July; uncertainty of TACs – ICES advice suggests 20% reduction. VIId will be affected by EU-Norway discussions; uncertainty of management plans – must go through co-decision, makes it very difficult for industry to cope.

ACTION: Barrie and Caroline will submit a letter to reflect uncertainties surrounding Cod in VIId.

NWWRAC Working Group 3 meeting

Channel (VIId)

Dublin Castle, 4th of July 2012

1 of 7



3. Update on LTMP for Western Channel Sole VIIe:

Joel Vigneau (ICES WGCSE Co-Chair) informed the members that Sole VIIe was benchmarked in 2012 for second time; evaluation has confirmed stability of the stock; it is now robust advice; Biomass is within the reference level; decrease of fishing effort in VIIId, particularly from English fleets; stock quite healthy.

Jim Portus showed its gratefulness on behalf of the industry to be able to participate in ICES and STECF meetings via the NWWRAC; helpful to contribute the knowledge on anecdotal basis; report now very accurate of industry's observations; Dover sole fished at (possibly even below) the MSY level; Commissioner Damanaki has quoted on several occasions the good work made by English fleet in relation to this stock. Increase in TAC is anticipated.

In terms of data deficiency, this was considered a Data Limited Stock (DLT); but we can now take this stock out of the list of data deficiencies because of full assessment.

Discussion followed about the long-term multi annual management plan (MAMP).

It is noted in the WG document and ICES advice that some changes have taken place in the fishing industry with gear technology and location of fishing grounds to catch this species more selectively. Nobody is suggesting abandoning the plan. By definition it is moving from recovery to management, to reach a level of exploitation at MSY and maintain; industry anticipates continuation of the plan. The Commission commented in agreement and suggested any changes would be considered as part of effort regime review.

With regard to Plaice VIIe, there was further good news. There have been 2 consecutive strong Year Classes as indicators of improved state. This is attributed anecdotally to the success of the 7e Sole MAMP.

4. Scallops: Effort regime in Western Waters

The Chairman gave a background brief.

There had been a number of ad hoc meetings. Scallops in the Channel are the premier species in EU for value and tonnage landed. French industry has asked for harmony of their season over many years. UK now has shortage kw-days under Western Waters (WW) effort regime. Previous NWWRAC WG3 meeting in February agreed that separate bi-lateral industry meetings would take place in London. Meeting on 29th of March considered 7d seasonal closure and introduced other French ideas in exchange for transfer of surplus effort from France. It was proposed there that UK industry would withdraw from VIIId to coincide with French season, in exchange for WW effort being transferred to UK. Swap amount to be negotiated on the basis of strategic withdrawal so both sides would achieve their objectives.



However, the French seasonal closure applies to the whole of the French coast, not only in VIIId. Counter proposal from France was for a complete closure of the Channel (VIIId and VIIe) if effort was going to be transferred into UK. That was not acceptable for UK, as any present need for additional effort would change. UK industry would have to migrate outside the WW regime – i.e. to North Sea and WoS.

The UK industry is still interested in achieving a swap of effort and still propose to withdraw activity in VIIId during the seasonal closure as was originally requested by France. A swap for 2012 could yet be negotiated.

The French professionals got the message clear from UK, but they counter-proposed closure VIIId, UK vessels to be forbidden in Baie de Seine and the French waters of VIIe. UK waters north of the VIIe area would remain open. They wish to ensure there is no increased fishing effort to make up for the closed season.

John Hermse explained his mandate from industry to negotiate seasonal closure. The proposal is still on the table and he would like to discuss it further with the French. However, it is important to remember if we are going to negotiate further that there are other non-RAC organisations that would need to be consulted. We must try to be beneficial to French and UK scalloping sector for marketing and conservation. However, closure of French 7e is not under consideration at this time.

Explained UK has encouraged diversification away from TAC species. There are balances here; each MS benefits when TACs increase that may not have been the result of fleet changes by all MS.

French demand a written management plan with common management measures for fishing of scallops before agreeing transfer of fishing effort. Expressed concerns that 1 million kw-days is quite considerable. It might be justified but as counterpart UK should stop fishing in the Eastern Channel closed season.

ACTION: WG3 agreed that a further industry meeting to negotiate an agreement shall take place before the end of year. There will be an open agenda and participants will be only the professionals concerned with this fishery. This meeting will be independent of the NWWRAC.

5. Data deficiencies for stock assessments

Jim Portus, data coordinator for 7e Sole, suggested that this stock should be removed from the list of data deficient stocks. Joel Vigneau agreed that the data gap has closed. He suggested for 7d there needs a longer time series.

Richard Brouzes expressed concerns about the lack of data for Pollock assessment. Joel Vigneau suggested a dedicated expert should be appointed to this stock to assist the data-gap filling process.

6. Non-quota species: proposals for management measures

Joel Vigneau reported there are a number of species under consideration for TACs. ICES WKNEW is working to provide a benchmark for each suggestion. Bass is in focus now. The Commission explained its intention to make progress on Bass before December. As identified in the ICES assessment there is a number of knowledge gaps for this stock, it is too early for a definitive setting of areas and any allocation key will need to be discussed and agreed by the Member States. The interest to recreational fisheries needs to be also fully explored.

Comments from the floor suggested there is no appetite for new TACs when it is known that some present TACs are still data deficient. Single-stock analysis and assessment caused problems in past. Setting new TACs should not be priority until after CFP reforms and after data gap has been filled for all other data deficient stocks. It is important to predict unintended consequences, such as displacement and an increase in discards.

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

The UK government is at forefront of marine planning. The French are engaged with JNCC. Their planning arrangements and data have not yet been insinuated into international MPA plans.

8. Chair's summary of actions and proposals to be put forward to the Executive Committee:

- Review of Cod Management Plan for Eastern Channel: Barrie and Caroline to draft a letter.
- Western Channel Sole: No further action required.
- Effort regime for Scallops: An ad hoc meeting between UK and French industry will take place in Paris and will be initiated by Daniel Lefèvre. Establish Scallops management ideas for a future working party. This meeting will be independent of the NWWRAC.
- Data deficiencies: Remove 7e Sole from the list. Appoint "expert" on Area 7 Pollock.
- MPAs in UK waters: Report any progress to future meetings.
- Non-quota species: Consider Bass consultation and respond in due course.

Concluding remarks

The WG3 Chairman, Daniel Lefèvre, thanked all the members and observers for attending the meeting, and the translators for their excellent work.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:05 h

NWWRAC Working Group 3 meeting
Channel (VIIdc)
Dublin Castle, 4th of July 2012
4 of 7

ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<u>MEMBERS</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Daniel	Lefèvre	CNPMEM Basse Normandie – WG3 Chairman
Jim	Portus	South West Fish Producers’ Organisation – WG3 Vice Chair and Rapporteur
Bertie	Armstrong	Scottish Fishermen’s Federation
Iwan	Ball	World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
Richard	Brouzes	Copeport Marée OPBN
René-Pierre	Chever	CDPMEM Finistère
Luc	Corbisier	SDVO
Deborah	Crockard	Seas at Risk
John	Crudden	European Anglers Alliance
Barrie	Deas	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO)
Paul	Francoise	Fédération Française des Syndicats Professionnels Maritimes (FFSPM)
Caroline	Gamblin	CNPMEM
Raphael	Grollemund	FROM Nord
André	Gueguen	OPOB
Béatrice	Harmel	CRPBN
John	Hermse	Scallop Association
Olivier	Le Nezet	CRPMEM Bretagne
Jacques	Pichon	FROM Bretagne

<u>MEMBERS (cont.)</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Luc	Ramet	CRPMEM Nord/Pas de Calais/Picardie (<i>substituting Déphine Roncin</i>)
Dominique	Thomas	Coopératives Maritimes Etaploises & Armement Coopératif Artisanal du Nord
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish Fish Producers Organisation

<u>OBSERVERS</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Alan	Coghill	SFF-Orkney Fisheries Association
Helen	Dobby	ICES / Marine Lab
Marc	Ghiglia	NWWRAC GA President / UAPF
Roy	Griffin	DG MARE – European Commission
Jonathan	Lemeunier	DPMA - Ministère Agriculture de France
William	Stewart	European Fisheries Control Agency
Joel	Vigneau	ICES / IFREMER



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