



North Western Waters Regional Advisory Committee

Working Group 3 (Channel) Dublin Castle, 6th July 2011

Chairman: Daniel Lefevre
Rapporteur: Jim Portus

1. Welcome

- The Chairman welcomed members, observers and invited guests to Dublin for NWWRAC Working Group 3.
- Apologies were recorded.
- Adoption of Agenda: The Agenda was approved as drafted.
- Adoption of Report from last meeting (Bilbao 13th April 2011): approved without comments.

2. Review of Cod Recovery Plan (CRP) as it affects ICES Area VIIId (Caroline Gamblin):

Caroline Gamblin reported the CRP discussions held in Dublin Focus Group meeting the 30/5/2011. Outcomes were reported from the ICES/STECF EWG in Hamburg. A NSRAC and NWWRAC Position Papers had been submitted for STECF and EU Commission consideration and comment. It is evident that reductions in fishing effort and reductions in TACs do not necessarily yield reductions in Fishing Mortality (F). In this fishery at the moment, discarding is at the rate of X5 landings. There must be renewed incentives for Cod avoidance. French delegates expressed concerns that restrictions aimed at improving Cod exploitation and stock recovery in the North Sea would be applied without sensitivity to the differences in stock biology in ICES Area 7d. The meeting was reminded that one-size does not fit all circumstances.

ACTION re 7d Cod: Await the STECF report of the Review of the Cod Recovery Plan in hope that it matches expectations with regard to ICES 7d.

3. Update on Western Channel Sole (J. Portus)

DG MARE published a non-paper on the future of the LTMP for this stock. Jim Portus presented to WG3 an opinion for adoption. This opinion is available in the NWWRAC website. The opinion noted the STECF SGMOS report of October 2010 "...that F is at or very near the long term management target..." and "...recommends...keeping the target fishing mortality of the plan as it is: 27%..."

After due and suitable discussions with comments from ICES, UK, French regional and national delegates, the WG3 adopted the opinion unchanged for submission to the Executive Committee.

ACTION re 7e Sole: Submit Opinion to Executive Committee for immediate adoption.



4. **Proposals for a Management Plan for Rays in ICES Area 7 (Caitlin Uí Aodha)**

Caitlin Uí Aodha, ISEFPO representative, presented an Irish proposal that expressed the importance of Ray species to Irish fishermen. In their opinion, Rays that are killed should be landed whole, not winged and, to the extent possible, those caught below 50cms MLS should be returned to the sea alive. Discarding of live Rays should be recorded in logbooks to aid increase in fish stock knowledge. Seasonal and area-based closures should also be used to aid stock recovery. She confirmed that the Marine Institute from Ireland assisted with the production of the draft plan.

Barrie Deas welcomed the plan for its differentiated approach compared to Commission “blanket” measures, but warned that there are well-defined sub-area stocks, such as around the Channel Islands, that need careful consideration and sympathetic treatment. French delegates confirmed their concerns for the well-being of Ray species and urged the collection and interpretation of scientific data quickly to enable an acceptable plan to be developed. The meeting Chairman welcomed the report as work-in-progress on Ray species and suggested establishment of a NWWRAC Focus/ Study Group because the different stocks and their areas covered more than one of the NWWRAC Working Groups. Alex Rodríguez confirmed that ½-day would be set aside for Focus Group in Madrid in September.

ACTION re Area 7 Skates and Rays: Focus Group establishment at Madrid meeting in September.

5. **Information points:**

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs):

The Chairman asked for an update on this subject since the previous report at Bilbao WG3.

Jim Portus gave an oral report of the progress by Finding Sanctuary Project (FSP) in UK. The final FSP design iteration is due out in days, with submission to UK Minister later this summer and designation in summer 2012 after further and fuller consultation.

Vincent Toison (French Agency on MPAs) presented in PPT the French national strategy for Marine Protected Areas. This presentation is available in the NWWRAC website.

It was commented that the French Minister for Fish is not also the Minister for Marine Environment as in the case of UK.

Three types of MPAs were identified:

- **Natural Marine Parks** (two projects in the Channel): They are vast MPAs in extension that have a double objective of protection of the environment and sustainable development.
- **Natura 2000 network**: In France it is based on three types of measures: voluntary contractual agreement, coherent application of public policies and development of regulations.



- Fish reserves: The main aim is to preserve the fish stocks through limitation of mortality and protection of functional areas (spawning and feeding grounds). All activities having an impact on these areas will be analysed and considered.

It was also made clear that any regulatory measure must be adopted within the framework and procedures established by the CFP. The measures adopted beyond 12 nautical miles or where there are historical fishing rights will be the object of adoption or validation at EU level.

6. **Agreed proposals and actions as presented to the NWWRAC Executive Committee:**

- 7d Cod: Await the report of the Review of the CRP in hope that it matches expectations with regard to ICES 7d.
- 7e Sole: Submit Opinion to Executive Committee for immediate adoption.
- 7 Skates and Rays: A Focus Group will be established in September Madrid meetings.

Meeting closed at 16:00

ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

| <u>MEMBERS</u> | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <u>Name</u> | <u>Surname</u> | <u>Organisation</u> |
| Daniel | Lefèvre | CNPMEM Basse Normandie |
| Jim | Portus | South West Fish Producers Organisation Ltd |
| Bertie | Armstrong | Scottish Fishermen's Federation |
| Richard | Brouzes | OPBN |
| Jacques | Bigot | CTFC |
| Arianna | Broggiato | EBCD |
| John | Crudden | European Anglers Association |
| Bruno | Dachicourt | France Pêche Durable et Responsable |
| Barrie | Deas | National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations |
| Paul | Francoise | FFSPM |
| Caroline | Gamblin | CNPMEM |
| André | Gueguen | OPOB |
| John | Keating | Irish Fishermen's Organisation |
| Jacques | Pichon | FROM Bretagne |
| Delphine | Roncin | CRPMEM Nord/Pas de Calais/Picardie |
| Paul | Trebilcock | Cornish Fish Producers Organisation |
| <u>OBSERVERS</u> | | |
| <u>Name</u> | <u>Surname</u> | <u>Organisation</u> |
| Maurice | Clarke | Marine Institute |
| Alan | Coghill | Scottish Fishermen's Federation |

| <u>OBSERVERS (cont.)</u> | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| <u>Name</u> | <u>Surname</u> | <u>Organisation</u> |
| John | Daly | Irish Seal Sanctuary |
| José Manuel | Fernández Beltrán | OPP-07-LUGO |
| Alvaro | Fernández | MAMRM |
| Grant | Fulton | CFCA |
| Hugo | González | ANASOL-ARVI |
| Sam | Lambourn | NWWRAC Chairman |
| Eamon | Mangan | Ministère Agriculture et Pêche de France |
| Eduardo | Míguez | EAFPA |
| Sean | O'Donoghue | Kyllibegs Fishermen's Organisation |
| Eibhlín | O'Sullivan | Irish South & West FPO |
| Pieter-Jan | Schon | ICES - AFBINI |
| Vincent | Toison | Agence des Aires Marines Protégées |
| Caitlín | Uí Aodha | Irish South and East FPO |
| Héctor | Villa González | Ministerio Medio Ambiente, Rural y Marino |
| <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 | Exec. Assistant – Administration and Finances |