



North Western Waters Regional Advisory Committee

Working Group 3 (Channel – ICES VIIde)

**Wednesday 24th of July 2013
09:00 - 11:00 h**

DUBLIN CASTLE

Chairman: Daniel Lefèvre
Rapporteur: Jim Portus

1. WELCOME

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

- Apologies: Noted and listed (Annex I).
Noted from WG3 members Iwan Ball (WWF UK is represented by Lyndsey Dodds); Anton Dekker (Dutch Fisheries Organisation); Luc Corbisier (SDVO - Belgium); Jacques Pichon (ANOP - France, represented today by Julien Lamothe); André Gueguen (OPOB); and René-Pierre Chever (CNPMEF Finistère is represented by Jean-Jacques Tanguy).
- Introductions: round around the table.
- Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was adopted without changes.
- Adoption of Report from last meeting (Bilbao 17th of April 2013): the meeting report was circulated beforehand among all WG3 members and approved without changes.

2. REVIEW OF THE COD RECOVERY PLAN

2.1. Implementation of the cod management plan – EC Reg. 1342/2008

The Chairman introduced this topic and gave the floor to Alex Rodriguez (Secretariat) to summarise the work of the NWWWRAC carried out during the first quarter of 2013. He reported good progress.



Discussions are being held now at the EP and the Council to consider incorporating certain amendments to the Cod Management Plan (EC Reg. 1342/2008) in response to industry concerns voiced through both NSRAC and NWWRAC.

It was noted that, according to ICES advice and insofar as this WG3 is concerned, the VIId part of the Cod stock in Eastern Channel seems to be recovering and evidently the plan might be starting to bear fruits.

ACTION: WG3 will follow developments on legislative process aiming for a review of the current cod management plan with an insight and specific focus in the approach to be adopted for the Eastern Channel area

2.2. Discussion on a management framework for the Channel from a mixed fisheries perspective

The WG3 Chairman set the scene and invited members to consider proposing a management plan covering several species in the Channel. He suggested there are problems in the area with quotas and technical regulations to be implemented that might better be resolved with a MAMP.

It was noted that already management in the Channel is driven by the Cod Plan in east (7d) and the Sole Plan in west (7e). Fishing effort management is also used for scallops, with closed seasons and limits on days at sea.

French commentators suggested their support for a global management plan for the Channel involving TAC and non-TAC fisheries and including scallops and crustaceans. It was noted that the Western Waters regime will be reviewed after the CFP reform process is completed (2014).

The Chairman agreed with his French compatriots about the need to think of a wider management plan for the Channel. This area is considered sometimes as a transition between the Celtic Seas and the North Sea. Its abundance of species with majority non-TAC makes it attractive for displacement from the restrictions of other areas. Some Member State fleets have started novel activities e.g. Danish seiners active under non-regulated framework. There are ongoing issues of cohabitation leading on occasions to conflicts at sea or at ports.

In response for the UK, Barrie Deas expressed concerns about the scale of ambition. An integrated approach for the Channel fisheries sounds a desirable outcome but when looking at component parts we should be careful. TAC and non-TAC fisheries in the context of the landing obligation may advance new problems for so-called choke species. Introducing new TAC species is counter-intuitive. Removing species from TAC obligations would be more helpful and acceptable. The solutions to the issues of cohabitation and gear conflict are dialogue and communication rather than a new top-down management regime.



Jim Portus, in support of Barrie Deas, suggested the NWWRAC should lead the review process of the Western Waters Effort regime. The TAC and quotas regime had caused displacement. The open nature of access to fisheries in the Channel had caused friction. We should welcome serious consideration of the problems caused by displacement and review quickly the WW regime, but not simply establish new TAC and quotas.

The meeting was informed of initiatives involving French and Dutch advocates to resolve cohabitation problems in Nord-Pas-de-Calais. There is willingness to arrive at concordat.

ACTION: The WG3 will continue discussions on a framework plan for the Channel. The WG3 will follow and be informed of the outcomes of dialogue between Dutch and French to resolve problems of cohabitation. The review of WW regime and regionalisation will be also included in the agenda.

3. NON-QUOTA SPECIES

3.1. Update on ACRUNET Project on Brown Crab Management

Norah Parke (KFO – Project coordinator)

ACRUNET seeks to achieve a sustainable and economically viable European brown crab industry. It is composed of three pillars all interlinked, not dealt with in isolation: 1. Management; 2. Quality; and 3. Market; 7 actions to achieve progress.

Ms. Parke reported that there was a partners' meeting at France AgriMer HQ in Paris 29-30 May 2013. The presentation can be summarised as follows:

Activities 2 and 8 – promotion and dissemination of information

- There were translation issues – No budget to do deliverables in different languages of member partners

Decision to translate into all languages deliverables

- Factsheet
- Website
- Newsletter

Activity 3 – Science-industry interface

- No input in Paris as ICES Crab WG was taking place that same week.
- Marine Scotland will become a full partner;
- Stakeholder meetings held around the coast in UK, France and Ireland



- No way to come up with management structures from ACRUNET, but bring coordination and coherence to national options; objectives will be the same but means different.
- Possibility of using MSC framework as basis for Ireland – could be adapted to provide HCR for individual stocks; not looking for MSC certification but see merit in using the framework.

Activity 4 – Quality

- Standards for quality
- UK, France and Ireland all have a seafood standard.
- Huge market pressure in all countries for ISO 65 (Ireland has it already)
- European Crab Standard now written
- Next step bring it down under ACRUNET umbrella
- 20 vessels will be brought to ISO 65 standards – Ireland 5, France 5, UK 10

Activity 5 – Brown Crab system

- Seafish in UK is the lead partner
- Have a complete overview of the system
- After this work is done, will give a good idea of where the industry is

Activity 6 – Improving the business (transport, handling, interaction between catching and processing sector, etc.) - Hull University is a full partner now

- Questionnaires prepared to be completed by end August
- Waste options being explored

Activity 7 – Market and consumer education – lead partner: Agrimer

- Questionnaire developed to respond the needs of industry in promoting brown crab
- Markets to be targeted – France, UK, south Europe; China and Hong Kong;
- Topics how to cook, prepare, process crab; sustainable fishing practices; health benefits and nutritional qualities.

Way forward: Next partner meeting planned in Vigo for late October

Q&A – Comments from the floor

Jean-Jacques Tanguy – Former President of the Commission of National Crustaceans in France: Congratulates Norah Parke for the work of the project; we are near to start a new era in the crab management. ISO 65 is the norm – French very favourable to achieve this quality certification.

Norah Parke (KFO): since January 2013, project has progressed steadily and gained momentum; ISO 65 is not a step too far, everyone who has already a good practice in the fishery will obtain the standard; will help fishermen in the market place.



Alan Coghill (SFF): SFF is full partner in ACRUNET. Problem of accreditation would be the cost; small vessels with limited budget; whole project is well supported; if groups go together they can cut costs to manageable.

Conor Nolan (Leader of team in seafood quality area in BIM): EMFF used in national scheme to bring onboard prime movers from sectors that have ISO 65;

3.2. Sea bass management

The Chairman introduced the topic. Sea bass is an important species of high value for French fishermen; need to have in place a concerted global management framework; Colleagues from UK, Scotland and Ireland could participate;

Jim Portus (SWFPO) reminded the meeting that the EC proposed a TAC for sea bass in a non-paper in 2012. His organisation, SWFPO is against setting a TAC, but proposed EU-wide seasonal closures of the fishery, adding to UK nursery closures and a UK ban on pair-trawling inside 12 miles. The Republic of Ireland has had a complete closure for bass for many years. In light of its evident importance, restrictive management measures must be implemented very strongly through the Channel bass fishery. One of the reasons of concern is perhaps the unrestricted and high level of exploitation by French vessels.

The Chairman responded that although this is a free access non-TAC fishery, there is a will from France to regulate, manage and encourage reconversion of fleets targeting this species. He recommended a toolbox of management measures including greater MLS, access licenses and seasonal closures.

Richard Brouzes (COPEPORT) suggested that sea bream should be considered for management restriction in the same context.

Caitlin Kelly (ISEFPO) confirmed that sea bass cannot be targeted, caught or landed in Ireland and must be discarded even as by catch. Welcomed start to discussions to find alternative solutions.

Roy Griffin (DG Mare) commented that the Commission proposed a TAC in line with data and information available; one expert group met in May 2013; MS have been asked to produce positions by 7 July and to come forward with alternative management measures that can be considered in lieu of a TAC.

Alex Rodriguez (NWWRAC Secretariat) confirmed the RACs have been contacted by the Commission. Some MS have been asking for feedback or input to the debate. It would be worthwhile to be informed of the current national positions from the different MS concerned.



The 'omnibus regulation' expected to be adopted soon by the Commission, perhaps provides a future opportunity for MS to raise this issue during negotiation of this proposal, but ultimately they would need the support of Parliament before it could be included.

5. DATA LIMITED STOCKS – BARRIE DEAS

Data deficiencies have significant implications for TACs that are set every year; some RACs have reacted to that and started to work to mitigate data deficiencies and appointed stock data coordinators; this initiative has been praised by the Commission in several forums and recognises the work of the RACs.

The data coordinators hold a key role as a firm link with ICES WGs scientists on a species by species base. Their role is to identify problems and remedial measures where this is possible; a new format and table has been prepared by the Secretariat so data coordinators can report periodically in a systematic and standard fashion; Last MIRAC meeting (January 2013) underlined the importance of RAC active involvement and participation in data compilation workshops which precede the benchmarks.

REPORT FROM RICHARD BROUZES – DATA COORDINATOR FOR PLAICE VIId and POLLACK
Contact has been made with IFREMER. Economic cut-backs of scientists are noted. As well as Plaice and Pollack, data work is needed for Skates and Rays.

ACTION: Data coordinators continue with work on data limited stocks and fill the table provided by the Secretariat;

6. SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TO BE PUT FORWARD TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE / CLOSING

The list of actions agreed is indicated on each item above.

The Chairman thanked the Irish Government for providing the venue, Dublin Castle staff and technicians for their professional work, interpreters for the quality of the services provided and Secretariat for organising this meeting efficiently.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11am.



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
Victoria	Beaz	European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)
Richard	Brouzes	Copeport Marée OPBN
John	Crudden	European Anglers Alliance (EAA)
Bruno	Dachicourt	France Pêche Durable et Responsable
Barrie	Deas	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO)
Lyndsey	Dodds	World Wildlife Fund (WWF UK)
Caroline	Gamblin	Comité National des Pêches Maritimes (CNMEM)
John	Hermse	Scallop Association
Julien	Lamothe	Pêcheurs de la Manche et d'Atlantique
John	Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation
Jennifer	Mouat	Scottish White Fish Producers' Association (SWFPA)
Delphine	Roncin	CRPMEM Nord / Pas de Calais / Picardie
Sylvie	Roux	CRPMEM Bretagne
Jean-Jacques	Tanguy	CDPMEM du Finistère



<u>MEMBERS (cont.)</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation
Caitlín	Uí Aodha	Irish South & East Fish Producers Organisation

<u>OBSERVERS</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Stephen	Cederrand	European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)
Alan	Coghill	Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)
Debbie	Crockard	Seas at Risk
Ramón	De la Figuera	MAGRAMA - Spain
Robert	Griffin	DG MARE – European Commission
Rory	Keatinge	Coastwatch Ireland
Laurent	Markovic	DG MARE – European Commission
Rémi	Méjeczazé	Direction des Pêches – Administration Française
Norah	Parke	KFO / ACRUNET Project - Presentor
Dominic	Rihan	DG MARE – European Commission
Sam	Stone	Marine Conservation Society
Hilde	Vanhaecke	ILVO
Liane	Veitch	Client Earth
Johnny	Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary



<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