



## **MINUTES**

### **Working Group 3**

#### **Channel (Vilde)**

#### **The Coach House – Dublin Castle**

**Friday 28 October 2011**

Chairman: Daniel Lefèvre

Deputy Rapporteur: Alexandre Rodríguez

#### **1. Welcome**

- Opening remarks from the Chair and introductions:

The Chairman opened the meeting welcoming members, observers and invited experts for NWWRAC Working Group 3 and invited them to quickly introduce themselves before starting the discussions. The full list of participants and the organisations they represent is available in Annex I.

- Apologies were recorded from Jim Portus (SWFPO), Paul Francoise (FFSPM) and Delphine Roncin (CRPMEM Nord/Pas de Calais/Picardie).
- Agenda: The proposed agenda was adopted with the addition, at request of the Chairman, of a presentation of a map including all marine activities (reflecting marine users) in the Channel.
- Adoption of Report from last WG3 meeting (Dublin Castle, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011): the report was approved without comments.

#### **2. Election of Working Group 3 officers:**

##### **2.1. Nominations received:**

The Secretariat informed about the nominations received within the established deadline. Daniel Lefèvre has indicated that he is willing to continue for a new term of mandate as WG3 Chair and Jim Portus also expressed his interest in remaining as Vice-Chair and Rapporteur. No other applications were received.



## 2.2. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur:

The present members of Working Group 3 reelected by unanimity Daniel Lefèvre for the role of Chairman and Jim Portus for the role of Vice-Chair and Rapporteur.

The reelected Chairman thanked the members for their support and had words of gratitude for the outgoing Chairs of the General Assembly (André LeBerre) and the Executive Committee (Sam Lambourn) of the NWWRAC, for the excellent work carried out.

## 3. Discussion of work priorities for WG3 for Year 7

Eastern Channel Cod and Western Channel Sole were identified as the two priority stocks that will be dealt with by WG3 in NWWRAC year 7. They both are under ongoing review of the management plans in force which have proven to do not deliver the desired outcomes in terms of recovery of the stock.

Particular insight was also devoted to non-quota species, as they represent  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the commercial species in the Channel. In particular, sustainable management measures (i.e. exploitation, regulation on fleet activities and markets) for scallop and crustaceans such as brown crab were highlighted as priority topics as both of these species have great commercial interest by the fleets represented in WG3. Other species that would merit further discussions in forthcoming WG3 meetings would be sea bass and gilt-head bream.

Some members wondered if it would be suitable at this particular timeframe of CFP reform to develop and propose to the Commission far reaching proposals for non-quota species.

The Chair said that this should not hamper progress on work, and that any measures agreed by the NWWRAC did not necessary have to be adopted at European level (for example, there could be submitted as recommendations of agreements between concerned MS with fishing rights in the area). The idea therefore would be to reflect, for each stock concerned, the potential benefits of a more regulated regime (not necessarily quotas) while recognizing those fleets that have historical fishing rights within French territorial waters *vis-à-vis* other fleets with fishing activity in the Channel as a result of the displacement of effort originated by regulations (early consumption of quota, exhaustion of days at sea in other areas).

The Chair suggested the possibility of setting a focus group meeting to deal with some of the above stocks. Alexandre Rodríguez encouraged members, for an optimum use of available resources, to discuss these topics at WG3 level whenever possible. He also reminded that a Focus Group could be put forward to the Executive Committee whenever there was budget available and the following requirements were met:

- It is proved to be an issue of common interest for several working groups;
- Preparatory work by a steering group is essential before the meeting;
- Key members and relevant scientific experts are identified and their attendance.



The Secretariat informed that it had submitted the NWWRAC Work Programme to the Commission at the end of September in compliance with its internal procedures. The work programme took on board comments made by the Executive Committee members and mentioned the above discussed topics including a general reference to non-quota species.

#### **4. Review of the cod recovery plan for Eastern Channel (VIId)**

Caroline Gamblin, on her capacity of rapporteur of the Cod Focus Group, summarised the timescale and process that started in April 2011, with specific focus on the outcomes reached by the Study and Focus Groups that lead to a NWWRAC position paper on this matter. This document was submitted to STECF in advance to its EWG meeting held in Hamburg in June. The Commission organized subsequently a seminar in early October to analyze STECF recommendations and the need to carry out a review of the regulation. This seminar was attended by several NWWRAC members. Finally, discussions were held at the NWWRAC Focus Group meeting on the way forward the 27 October.

Ms. Gamblin stressed the fact that, according to the Commission, an amendment or review of this plan is not feasible in the short term. The review process will be launched at the STECF scoping meeting held in Edinburgh in February 2012. The NWWRAC Focus Group members agreed that, until no new information is available, the NWWRAC will present again its position paper adopted in June 2011 for information at the Edinburgh meeting.

**Action:** A delegation of NWWRAC representatives will attend the forthcoming STECF meeting in Edinburgh and NWWRAC Secretariat will send the position paper adopted in June

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

Considering that this topic was not dealt with at the previous WG3 meeting held in July, the following members were appointed as NWWRAC stock data coordinators:

- Caroline Gamblin and Paul Trebilcock – Skates, Rays and Sharks
- Jim Portus – Sole VIIe
- Richard Brouzes and Luc Corbisier – Plaice VIId and Pollock
- Paul Trebilcock - Red mullet

The first task of the coordinators will be to establish contact with the appropriate ICES stock coordinators and exchange views in relation to where data deficiencies lie and who is responsible for that. The Commission reminded the members that a request has been received for ICES to evaluate the advice for sea bass and red mullet.

**Action:** The appointed NWWRAC data coordinators will establish contact with the ICES stock coordinators and report on work progress at the next WG3 meeting.



## 6. Update on review of management plan for Western Channel sole

In absence of Jim Portus, Alexandre Rodriguez provided an overview of the state of play and exchange of correspondence between the NWWFAC and the Commission regarding the review of Council Regulation 509/2007. He also reported that Jim would complete this information with an explanatory note that should be ready for circulation after the meeting.

In particular, the following aspects were highlighted:

- Two STECF scoping meetings took place in 2010 and one in 2011.
- There is a generally agreed perception that the stock is recovering.
- The NWWFAC submitted in July an opinion in reply to the EU public consultation launched by the Commission in May 2011
- The NWWFAC advocates maintaining F at 0.27, and is waiting for a reply from the Commission which is expected to happen in February 2012.
- A benchmarking will take place in parallel in March 2012 to review existing knowledge and methodology used to measure the stock.

The Commission stated that the NWWFAC has time in 2012 to discuss this topic and assess the different options provided by ICES and STECF.

**Action:** Jim Portus to provide an explanatory note updating the recent developments in relation to Western Channel sole.

## 7. Outcomes of the Focus Group meeting on Skates, Rays and Sharks

It was noted that an oral report of this meeting was already provided in Working Group 2. A focus group meeting on this issue took place the 16 September in Madrid to discuss the proposal from the Irish fishing industry on setting up a multi annual management plan for skates and rays in Areas VI and VII. It also served as forum to exchange views and share experiences in relation to industry-driven management measures for skates and rays.

It was concluded that a better scientific knowledge and explanation of the rationale behind ICES advice was required by the NWWFAC to gain a better understanding of the dynamics of populations and specificities of the different species of rays.

A revised paper drafted by Maurice Clarke, scientific advisor of the Irish proposal, was circulated in mid-October with an initial three week deadline for preliminary comments. However, it was considered that the NWWFAC members need to carry out an assessment of each ray species before taking a final decision or discuss the content of the proposal itself.

**Action:** The Secretariat will invite members of ICES Working Group on Elasmobranchs to provide a presentation on the state of the ray stocks in the next Focus Group on this matter.



## **8. Marine Spatial Planning in the Channel**

The WG3 Chairman presented a map that displays the environmental (Natura 2000, MPAs, Marine Parks ...) and industrial (extraction of granulates, windmills, etc.) initiatives that are currently taking place in the Channel both from the French and from the UK (MCZ Projects carried out by JNCC...) sides. The areas proposed by the UK are still under discussion and might be still modified before the 31 December 2012.

The Chairman presented this map for showing the difficulties and constraints faced by UK and French fishermen to continue with their fishing activities within the Channel given the implementation of all the above referred new environmental areas and new industrial activities (windmills, extraction of granulates, discards at sea of sediments, ports, etc.)

The map is included as Annex II of the minutes.

## **9. Concluding remarks**

The Chair summarised the actions agreed in the meeting and closed the meeting thanking participants, Secretariat, hosts and interpreters for its success.

**Meeting was adjourned at 16:00 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
Jacques	Bigot	CTFC
Richard	Brouzes	OPBN
Luc	Corbisier	SDVO
John	Crudden	European Anglers Association
Bruno	Dachicourt	France Pêche Durable et Responsable
Barrie	Deas	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations
Caroline	Gamblin	CNPMEM
Raphael	Grollemund	FROM Nord (replacing Thierry Missonier)
John	Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation
Mireille	Thom	World Wildlife Fund
<b><u>OBSERVERS</u></b>		
<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Surname</u></b>	<b><u>Organisation</u></b>
Fuensanta	Candela	DG MARE – European Commission
John	Daly	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Karin	Dubsky	Coastwatch Europe
Edward	Fahy	Free lance journalist
Roy	Griffin	DG MARE – European Commission



<b><u>OBSERVERS (cont.)</u></b>		
<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Surname</u></b>	<b><u>Organisation</u></b>
Colm	Lordan	Marine Institute
Eamon	Mangan	Ministère Agriculture et Pêche de France
Alan	McCulla	ANIFPO
Sabela	Pérez-Máiz	DG MARE – European Commission
Brendan	Price	Environmentalist
Pieter-Jan	Schon	ICES – AFBINI
William	Stewart	Community Fisheries Control Agency
John	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

## ANNEX II. MAP OF MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING IN THE CHANNEL

