

## **MINUTES**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **CNPMEM –PARIS**

**27<sup>th</sup> of January 2011**

**16:00 - 17:00**

Chairman: Sam Lambourn

Rapporteur: Alexandre Rodríguez

### **1. Welcome**

The Chairman of the NWWRAC, Sam Lambourn, welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

The full list of participants and the organisations represented is detailed in Annex I.

Mr. Lambourn explained that there were two reasons why this Executive Committee meeting had been organised so early in the year and under a new format (i.e. considerably shorter duration than previous Executive Committee meetings):

- 1) The need to progress strategic issues and to have a clear vision of the work priorities for Year 6, as approved by the General Assembly in Dublin on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October, 2010. A common understanding of the distribution of workload (i.e. topics to be discussed and allocation of tasks and responsibilities) will be essential in achieving the objectives of the annual work programme.
- 2) Following discussions held in the second half of 2010, regarding the review of the structure and functioning of the NWWRAC, it was agreed that short format or “mini” Executive Committee meetings would be focused on making immediate decisions on minor actions (e.g. the endorsement of letters) arising from immediately preceding Working Groups and/or Focus Groups. The organisation of Executive Committee meetings will be more flexible from now on and such mini-Executive Committee meetings will be organised immediately following Working Group or Focus Group meetings, as required.

- Apologies: Alexandre Rodríguez (AR), from the Secretariat, relayed apologies for absence from the following members: Bertie Armstrong (SFF), Barrie Deas (NFFO), Kara Brydson (Birdlife International) and Jacques Bigot (ETF).

- Adoption of agenda: The agenda was adopted with no changes or additions.

- Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting (Madrid, 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2010):

Hugo González praised the quality and detail of the meeting report. However, the last paragraph of point 7 “Report on work progress from the Community Fisheries Control Agency” did not reflect his oral intervention, whereby he did not agree with the initiative suggested by Jacques Pichon on sending a letter to the CFCA demanding the implementation of a Joint Deployment Plan for Western Waters. Mr. González requested that his intervention be clearly recorded in the report.

The above request was accepted by the Chairman and the members. With this change, the meeting report from the previous meeting was approved and adopted.

**Action:** Secretariat to amend point 7 of the meeting report to reflect Mr. Gonzalez’s position.

## 2. Key horizontal areas of work for the NWWRAC in 2011

- General overview:

The Secretariat (AR) informed the meeting that this item was included to ensure that the priorities established in the Work Programme for Year 6, as agreed by all members, was included to focus members on the responsibilities of the NWWRAC in 2011. The final version of the NWWRAC Work Programme, endorsed by the Commission, has been uploaded on the website and provides a roadmap for actions to be carried out during the year. Members were encouraged to refer to it, with the current emphasis on the NWWRAC commitments for the first half of 2011.

A number of strategic topics extracted from the Work Programme were included in the agenda to help inform the discussions. The Secretariat informed the meeting that this should be regarded as an open-ended list where the hierarchy and order of topics could be modified.

- Discussion from the floor on the work priorities for Year 6:

- Reform of Common Fisheries Policy:

Members agreed that one of the most relevant issues to be dealt with this year would be to inform discussions on the Reform of the CFP and in particular, those on regionalisation and governance, including the role of the RACs in the future CFP. The Chairman asked Lorcan O’Cinnéide if any progress had been made on developing a NWWRAC position on regionalisation, which indicated a preference for regional models and if any actions were pending for completion from the last Horizontal Group on this matter held in Dublin in October 2010. Mr. O’Cinnéide committed to address these questions and report to the Executive Committee as soon as possible.

**Action: Lorcan O’Cinnéide to report to the Chairman and members of the Executive Committee on any outstanding actions for the development of a NWWRAC position on regionalisation, within the future Common Fisheries Policy.**

- Long Term Management Plans (LTMP):

Members identified the development of LTMPs as being of the utmost importance to the success of the NWWRAC in 2011. In order to avoid repeating discussions and to both economise efforts and achieve budget efficiency, Sean O’Donoghue suggested that the debates on discards and the socio-economic aspects of fisheries management be included under this heading, so that all three topics can be dealt with as a whole. The members of the Executive Committee present supported this proposal and deemed it as sensible given the current, financial constraints.

**Action: Whenever possible, the issues of discards and the socio-economics of fisheries management within the remit of discussions on Long Term Management Plans.**

- Marine Spatial Planning:

It was agreed that this topic is a work priority for Year 6, given the importance of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Ecosystem-Based Approach to Fisheries Management and the significance of actions by national agencies in Member States in recent years regarding the identification and designation of sites for protection of marine areas.

It is likely that the NWWRAC will engage in national consultations, regarding proposed management measures on fishing activities, in sites already designated by Member States and endorsed by the Commission.

- Control and compliance of CFP rules:

Jacques Pichon proposed that Hugo González takes over as the principal NWWRAC representative for the Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA) given that most of the meetings take place in Vigo, Spain. Jacques will act as the alternative representative to CFCA meetings where Hugo cannot attend. Members of the Executive Committee voiced no objections to this proposal and it was subsequently adopted.

The Secretariat (AR) provided a brief overview on the exchange of correspondence between the NWWRAC and the Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA), as a result of the action agreed in the previous Executive Committee meeting, that the NWWRAC would request a review of the CFCA work priorities and the development of joint deployment plans (JDPs) in North Western Waters<sup>1</sup>.

A letter was sent to the CFCA on the 27th of September 2010 with a statement of the key areas of cooperation and target fisheries for JDPs. It was included as a working paper for discussion at the CFCA Administrative Board held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2010 in Vigo. A positive response was received from the Executive Director of the CFCA, Mr. Koster, on the 25th of November. In particular, the CFCA supported the NWWRAC proposal to organise a joint seminar on control and compliance of CFP rules in north western waters.

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<sup>1</sup> See point 7 of Meeting Report:

[http://www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/REPORT\\_NWWRAC\\_Executive\\_Committee\\_Madrid\\_090910\\_EN.pdf](http://www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/REPORT_NWWRAC_Executive_Committee_Madrid_090910_EN.pdf)

**Action:** Hugo González to act as principal NWWRAC representative for the CFCA. Jacques Pichon will deputise for the principal representative as required.

**Action:** NWWRAC and CFCA to engage in dialogue and hold a preparatory meeting in the first quarter of 2011 to discuss organisational arrangements for the planning of a joint seminar on control and compliance of CFP rules in North Western Waters.

- Other work priorities:

The following actions were also agreed to be completed in the medium-term:

- 1) Interim arrangements for Technical Conservation Measures relevant to sub-areas VI&VII
- 2) Commission proposals regarding the review of the western waters regime (Council Regulation No. 1954/2003). It was noted that some specific amendments and the inclusion of technical conservation measures in this review are likely to have detrimental effects on the protection of cod stocks.

**Action:** 1) Secretariat to collate proposed interim measures in relation to Technical Conservation Measures, currently under discussion by the European Parliament and Council of Ministers. The Secretariat will circulate the interim measure to the membership seeking their views and positions and compile them in a summary note for discussion.

**Action:** 2) Should timing be appropriate, that the Secretariat arrange a Focus Group or a Horizontal Working Group on Technical Conservation Measures linked to the review of the western waters regime, to be held during the NWWRAC meetings scheduled for Dublin (5 - 7 July 2011).

### 3. Work priorities for Working Groups and Focus Groups in 2011

- Focus Group on Celtic Sea

This topic had been discussed at length during the meeting earlier in the day, which all members present had attended.

As the main actions of the Focus Group had been already clearly stated by the Chairman and the rapporteur (see Focus Group meeting report for more information<sup>2</sup>), the Chairman with the support of the members cancelled the requirement for a report from this Focus Group from the agenda.

- Working Group 1 (West of Scotland and Western Approaches)

As the Chairman of WG1 (Bertie Armstrong), was not able to attend the meeting, the Secretariat (AR) read a written statement from the Working Group Chairman, describing WG1 work priorities.

The details of this statement are as follows:

- WG1 supports the overall RAC work plan for Year 6 and will contribute where appropriate;
- Long Term Management Plans are of particular interest to this geographical working group;
- WG1 wishes to see the LTMP for VIa Haddock adopted as soon as possible and will work to that end;
- The transitional arrangements for Technical Conservation have created an unworkable plan for Area VI. There is a time-limited opportunity to modify this. This will be proposed as a topic for the WG to consider;
- The work of the Celtic Sea Focus Group is of great interest to every geographical area, but particularly Area VIa, as an example of best practice. WG1 should consider whether, in light of the experience of the Focus Group, they should undertake a similar project.

The Vice-Chairman of WG1 (V́ctor Badiola), proposed the inclusion of an updated discussion on the management measures for blue ling, particularly regarding the seasonal closures for spawning aggregations.

- Working Group 2 (West of Ireland and Celtic Sea)

The Chairman of WG2 (Hugo González) provided the following overview of the priority topics for discussion in WG2:

- Follow-up of work progress and initiatives arising from the Celtic Sea Cod Focus Group;
- Northern Hake management: As there is some confusion and uncertainty regarding the timetable and intentions of the Commission to develop a long term management plan for this stock, the WG will remain vigilant on any progress on this topic;

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<sup>2</sup> Meeting site: [http://www.nwwrac.org/Meetings/Meetings\\_ENG/Navigation.php?id=446&language=English](http://www.nwwrac.org/Meetings/Meetings_ENG/Navigation.php?id=446&language=English)

- Management measures for Nephrops fisheries including a special interest in the Porcupine bank;
- Marine Protected Areas; Concern was expressed about the report from the Commission on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2011, regarding enlargement of the Natura 2000 network of protected areas in EU waters, to include more than 700 new sites covering nearly 27,000 square kms.

- Working Group 3 (Channel)

The Chairman of WG3 (Daniel Lefèvre), provided the following overview of the priority topics for discussion in WG3:

- Develop a NWWRAC opinion on new species, likely to be assessed in the future by ICES and managed by the Commission. The first species to receive attention will be European seabass, but other species (e.g. black sea bream) might follow in future meetings;
- Marine Spatial Planning; focus on historical rights within 6-12 miles, in the UK;
- Landing ban for some species of rays (e.g. undulate ray) and sharks (e.g. spurdog);
- Crustacean management: e.g. scallops, lobster, crab;
- Review of the LTMP for Western Channel Sole.

- Working Group 4 (Irish Sea)

The Chairman of WG4 (Lorcan O’Cinnéide), provided the following overview of the priority topics for discussion in WG4:

- Review of the cod recovery plan in the Irish Sea;
- Utilisation of the outcomes of the LTMP for the Celtic Sea to inform and serve as a template for practical actions in the Irish Sea;
- Review the strategy to manage nephrops through the use of Functional Units;
- Complete the WG4 Work Programme by the end of September 2011.

Mr. O Cinnéide noted some criticism received on the work of WG4. He affirmed that he was happy to take on board comments from people who regularly attend or participate at the Working Group meetings but not from those who were rarely involved or active in the Group. He encouraged those who had objections to attend meetings and voice them there.

A number of the members of WG4 acknowledged and appreciated the fact that the Secretariat had regularly distributed information in relation to the Irish Sea Conservation Zones project (e.g. newsletters, outcomes of stakeholders' workshops and progress reports). This project aims to submit recommendations on candidate sites for Marine Conservation Zones in parts of the Irish Sea.

- Other topics of interest: horizontal working groups

\* *Cod recovery plans and nephrops management*

A letter, drafted by Lorcan O'Cinnéide and addressed to DG MARE, asking for the NWWRAC to be party to discussions on 1) a comprehensive review of the existing cod recovery plans in West of Scotland, Irish Sea and Eastern Channel and 2) the issue of the management of nephrops by functional units, was presented for the endorsement of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee approved the letter.

The letter, presented to the Executive Committee is included in Annex II of this report.

**Action: The Chairman of WG4 would submit the letter to the Secretariat, which would then be forwarded, by the Secretariat, to DG MARE.**

\* *Marine Spatial Planning*

Following a request made by the NWWRAC Chairman, Iwan Ball agreed to organise a further Horizontal Working Group on this topic to that held in Madrid, in March 2010.

Paul Trebilcock and Sean O'Donoghue proposed that a letter be sent to the three, relevant, coastal states in north western waters (i.e. Ireland, France and UK) requesting an update on the current position regarding Natura 2000 and designation of marine protected areas and conservation zones.

**Action: Secretariat to submit a letter to Ireland, United Kingdom and France requesting an update on the current position regarding Natura 2000 and the designation of marine protected areas and conservation zones.**



*\* The impact of fuel costs on fishing activities*

It was requested by Hugo González that, budget permitting, this topic be dealt with in future meetings.

*\* Fishing Opportunities for 2012*

Sean O'Donoghue encouraged members to follow the good practices of previous years to develop a NWWRAC position in relation to the EC Policy Statement on Fishing Opportunities for 2012. This outcome was deemed to be a key action of the NWWRAC, as it provided a direct input to the process, principles and categories involved in the allocation of fishing opportunities.

*\* Management measures for spurdog, porbeagle sharks and rays*

Paul Trebilcock asked that this topic be included for discussion in all of the Working Groups where the issue had relevance. He reminded members that two letters had been drafted by him outlining the issues involved, the difficulties and the possible alternatives for management and technical measures for spurdog, porbeagle sharks and rays. These letters were circulated to all NWWRAC members in July 2010.

Due to the diversity of views received from both the fishing industry and NGOs, it was considered that this topic merited further reflection in the next meeting of Working Group 2.

#### **4. GEPETO Project**

The Executive Secretary of the South Western Waters RAC (Benoit Guerin) was present at the meeting and asked Executive Committee members to give their support to the GEPETO project. A presentation had previously been given to the Celtic Sea Focus Group held earlier in the day. Mr. Guerin invited members to consider the possibility of the NWWRAC becoming a partner in this project.

The Chairman and some members agreed that they needed further information concerning the scope of this project and, in particular, the budgetary and administrative implications for the NWWRAC should it agree to participation.

It was also agreed that the NWWRAC should keep control and enjoy full autonomy in developing its work in the Celtic Sea demersal fisheries, since this is one of the key elements of the annual work programme of the NWWRAC, which has been endorsed by the Commission. Any involvement of the NWWRAC should be compatible with the objectives and interests set out in the work programme.

Some members recalled that the NWWRAC had received numerous requests for participation in several similar projects. The members voiced concern that there are legitimate considerations to be made by the NWWRAC, to ensure that the NWWRAC is capable of delivering the results demanded through commitment to such projects, whilst still being able to satisfy the requirements of the NWWRAC work programme.

**Action:** It was agreed that a project proposal, clearly detailing the commitment required from the NWWRAC, would be provided, to the NWWRAC by GEPETO, for the consideration of the Executive Committee. This proposal will request the collaboration of the NWWRAC and include a specific guarantee that any work developed for the Celtic Sea, within the project, would be attributed solely to the NWWRAC.

##### 5. Chairman's summary of actions agreed

- Minutes of previous Executive Committee meeting: The Secretariat will amend the minutes to reflect Mr. Gonzalez's position on point 7.

- Work priorities for the NWWRAC for Year 6:

\* *CFP Reform*: Lorcan O'Cinnéide to report to the Chairman and members on any outstanding action for the development of a NWWRAC position on regionalisation within the future CFP.

\* *Long Term Management Plans*: Will include discards and socio-economic aspects of fisheries management within the remit of discussions on LTMPs, whenever possible.

\* *Control and compliance*: Hugo González will act as the principal NWWRAC representative for CFCA meetings; The NWWRAC and the CFCA will engage in dialogue and hold a preparatory meeting in the first quarter of 2011 to discuss organisational arrangements for the planning of a control seminar for North Western Waters.

\* *TCMs*: Secretariat to collate proposed interim measures in relation to Technical Conservation Measures, currently under discussion by the European Parliament and Council of Ministers. The Secretariat will circulate the interim measure to the membership seeking their views and positions and compile them in a summary note for discussion. Should timing be appropriate, that the Secretariat arrange a Focus Group or a Horizontal Working Group on Technical Conservation Measures linked to the review of the western waters regime, to be held during the NWWRAC meetings scheduled for Dublin (5 - 7 July 2011);

\* *Cod recovery plans and nephrops management in VII*: The Secretariat will submit a letter drafted by the Chairman of WG4 (see Annex II) to DG MARE, following adoption by the Executive Committee.

\* *Marine Spatial Planning*: The Secretariat will submit a letter to Ireland, United Kingdom and France, requesting an update on the current position regarding Natura 2000 and the designation of marine protected areas and conservation zones.

\* *Geographical Working Groups*: Will action the key topics identified for discussion.

- GEPETO Project:

A project proposal, clearly detailing the commitment required from the NWWRAC, would be provided to the NWWRAC by GEPETO for the consideration of the Executive Committee. This proposal will request the collaboration of the NWWRAC, including a specific guarantee that any work developed for the Celtic Sea, within the project, would be attributed solely to the NWWRAC.

**The meeting was adjourned at 17:05**

## **ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS TO THE MEETING**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Víctor	Badiola	OPPAO
Iwan	Ball	World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
Arianna	Broggiato	EBCD
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
John	Crudden	European Anglers Association
Hugo C.	González García	ARVI-ANASOL
André	Gueguen	CNPMEM
Sam	Lambourn	Skipper
Eduardo	Míguez López	EAFPA



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS (cont.)		
Sean	O'Donoghue	Kyllibegs Fishermen's Organisation
Eibhlin	O'Sullivan	Irish South & West FPO
Jacques	Pichon	ANOP
Paul	Trebilcock	NFFO

<b>OBSERVERS</b>		
<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Alain	Biseau	IFREMER
Marc	Ghiglia	ACFA
Benoît	Guerin	SWWRAC Secretariat
Michael	Keatinge	BIM-NWWRAC Director
Daniel	Lefèvre	CRPMEM Basse Normandie
Joseph	Maddock	Irish Fishermen's Organisation
Eamon	Mangan	DPMA France
Ségolène	Monteillier	DPMA France
Lorcan	O'Cinnéide	IFPO – WG4 Chairman

<b>OBSERVERS (cont.)</b>		
<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Marina	Santurtún	AZTI Tecnalia
Marie	Sébire	SWWRAC Secretariat
Borja	Velasco	SEGEMAR - MARM Spain

<b>NWWRAC Secretariat</b>		
<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary, NWWRAC Secretariat
Joanna	McGrath	Executive Assistant, Administration and Finances - NWWRAC Secretariat
Alexandre	Rodríguez	Executive Assistant, Policy Coordinator - NWWRAC Secretariat





## **ANNEX II. LETTER PRESENTED BY LORCAN O'CONNÉIDE**

Dear Director General,

The NWWRAC is aware that a comprehensive review of the cod recovery programmes is envisaged under the agreement reached at the Council of Fisheries Ministers in December 2010.

While acknowledging that the Commission, with STECF and ICES will lead the review, the NWWRAC wishes to play a full part in providing the highest quality input from the various stakeholders in relation to the areas within its compass.

To this end, the NWWRAC and in particular the Working Groups dealing with Area VI and Area VII which are currently the subject of Cod Recovery plans wish to liaise with your services with regard to the work programme envisaged so as to schedule the NWWRAC's work programme for 2011.

We also are concerned with the further work envisaged in relation to the potential for functional unit management of Nephrops in Area VII.

Perhaps we could add these issues to the agenda for the proposed meeting on CFP reform planned for March 2 or some alternative arrangement as you might suggest.

Yours sincerely

Sam Lambourn

NWWRAC Chairman