



REPORT

North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council

STEERING GROUP MEETING CELTIC SEA MIXED DEMERSAL FISHERIES

Thursday 30 May 2013

14:00-17:00

CNPMEM Offices – Paris

Chairman: Jacques Pichon

Rapporteur: Paul Trebilcock

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed participants and gave a brief introduction and background to the meeting.

1.1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Barrie Deas, Hugo González and Alexandre Rodríguez. The full list of participants and apologies is appended to the report.

1.2. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

2. Collaborative Work between the NWW RAC and GEPETO Project Celtic Sea Case Study (WP3)

Dr Colm Lordan (Marine Institute) gave an update on the GEPETO project Celtic Sea Case Study and some of the current thinking emanating from various ICES working groups at the moment. This update was followed by a wide ranging discussion amongst the participants.



The following observations/comments/concerns were raised:

- ICES are looking at mixed fisheries advice using F-cube matrix;
- F-cube matrix approach highlights conflicts within single species advice;
- F-cube matrix approach is a broader multi-species MSY approach assessing how to manage stocks together;
- The GEPETO project should have some ideas to table in the Autumn of what a multi species plan might look like using the F-cube matrix approach;
- However this July ICES will give single stock advice as usual;
- There is a clear understanding that genuine progress towards mixed fisheries management advice is essential especially given the emerging CFP reform package;
- GEPETO was also looking at métier behavior in the Celtic Sea; including individual vessel changing métier in year, effects of regulation and métier economic were all being assessed;
- It was highlighted that economic parameters and therefore profitability levels were different in each Member States;
- The economic performance indicators and the differences in them between Member States was recognized and it was agreed that this area of work needed to be addressed;
- The MSY objectives must be in terms of Fmsy as Bmsy is scientifically not possible. It was strongly felt that work on a LTMP should stop now if B MSY was a stated objective;
- It is envisaged that an outcome of the GEPETO project and subsequently the LOT1 Project will to be to contribute to the development of clear objectives/aspirations of a LTMP and an assessment of a range of management tools to deliver them;
- It will then be the NWW RAC that will have to address governance issues, implementation and 'trade-offs' in terms of delivering;
- Ultimately there will have to be a degree of well-reasoned and defined compromise and pragmatism if anything meaningful is to be delivered in terms of a LTMP;
- Any future landings obligations (including flexibilities, survival rates and *de minimis* by catches) would be an important regulatory factor to consider in LTMP development;
- If regulatory discards are perceived to be high now in certain species and/or fisheries then it is logical that significant increases in respective TACs will have to be delivered;
- The Area VII Nephrops advice from ICES will be delayed until the Autumn in line with the NWW RAC proposals;

ACTIONS:

- **The members of the Celtic Steering Group and Focus Group will give feedback on GEPETO work circulated by Colm Lordan.**
- **An economic fleet survey questionnaire will be developed/drafted and circulated by Michael Keatinge to fishing industry representatives from each of the Member States involved to assist in gathering appropriate economic data by the summer.**
- **The appropriate organizations and/or institutions in each member state should be approached to assess what economic data they hold at national level.**



3. Coordination and Funding of Research Initiatives in Celtic Sea

There was no additional or new information to report since the last meeting of the Focus Group in Bilbao under this agenda item.

4. Technical Measures and Development of a Regional Discards Plan for the Celtic Sea

Given the emerging CFP reform package the issue of improving selectivity and development of regional discard plans is an increasingly important area of work.

In the first instance it was agreed that the various projects (either planned or ongoing) in different Member States should be identified. In addition any international projects should also be identified.

The NWWRAC could then look to co-ordinate future work to ensure optimal use of resources in terms of time, money and outcomes.

Meeting was adjourned at 17 h.



LIST OF ATTENDEES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jacques Pichon (Chairman)	Pêcheurs de Bretagne – France
Paul Trebilcock (Rapporteur)	Cornish FPO – United Kingdom
Colm Lordan	Marine Institute – Scientific Advisor
Caroline Gamblin	CNPMEM - France

ATTENDING BY WEB CONFERENCE (WEBEX)

Emiel Brouckaert	Rederscentrale – Belgium
Michael Keatinge	Scottish Fishermen’s Federation – Scotland UK
Sean O’Donoghue	Killybegs Fishermen’s Association – Ireland

APOLOGIES

Barrie Deas	NFFO – United Kingdom
Hugo González	ANASOL/ARVI – Spain
Alexandre Rodríguez	NWWRAC Secretariat