

NORTH WESTERN WATERS REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Working Group 1 West of Scotland and Western Approaches (ICES Vb & VI) Tuesday 17th February 2009 09.30-13.00 Madrid

Summary of Recommendations and Actions

Chairman: Bertie Armstrong
Rapporteur: Kara Brydson

1. Introduction

The chairman welcomed members. The report of the last meeting and agenda for this meeting were adopted without comment.

2. Assessment of TAC and Quotas

Recommendations to the Executive Committee:

- WG1 proposes that the NWWRAC writes to the Commission stating its disappointment in the Commission's eleventh hour proposal to close West of Scotland fisheries, despite commitments to frontloading.
- The letter should also request that the Commission addresses NWWRAC concerns regarding the 'French line' with a view to revision. It should be noted that these concerns do not relate to the aim of the line, but to practical difficulties in compliance due to depth anomalies in relation to bathymetric contours.
- The letter should also propose fast-tracking of exemptions to effort control (days at sea regime) under Article 11 of Regulation 1342/2008 on the new Cod Recovery Plans for those fisheries genuinely not affecting cod recovery – those catching less than 1.5%.
- Further comments to the Commission include:
 - A request for clarification on apparent inconsistencies between the Regulations on Cod Recovery Plans and Annex III of TAC & Quota Regulation.

- A request for clarification on Regulations requiring skippers to distinguish between the eleven ray species subjected to TAC and Quotas.

WG1 proposes that detailed graphic information (images) of the different species could be circulated to aid identification. There is also little explanation from the Commission on the grounds based to discriminate species and put the selected ones under TAC and Quota regime.

- A request for information on the meeting held in Brussels the 13th of February on Managing Stocks without Option Catch Tables and use of CPUE data. WG1 proposes that CPUE data could be integrated into the anglerfish stock assessment for area VIa, with the possibility of being extended also to other stocks without option catch tables.
- A request for explanation for the reduction of 5% in northern hake TAC.

Actions:

- A drafting group was formed to draft this letter, to be approved by WG1 by email before being presented to the Executive Committee.
- Ian Gatt will be attending an ICES Workshop in Aberdeen looking at hake, anglerfish and megrim, and kindly offered to relay WG1 concerns.
- WG1 noted words of caution from Hugo Gonzalez Garcia on the potential implications on fishing effort of using CPUE data in stock assessments.

3. Long term management plans

The Chairman thanked the Secretariat for setting the scene and giving to the members a general overview of the current status of actions related to LTMP and proposed way forward. He also praised the document on funding options for developing LTM Projects; and thanked Barrie Deas¹ for his report on the ICES STECF joint meeting on LTMPs held in Copenhagen in January.

Recommendations to the Executive Committee:

- WG1 proposes that the Secretariat should carry on with the work on exploring funding possibilities for the NWWAC to pursue projects on LTMPs.

¹ Absent at the meeting.

- WG1 does not endorse the Commission's draft request to ICES on a LTMP for Area VI Haddock. WG1 proposes that the NWWRAC writes to the Commission asking that it amends its draft request. The letter should state that the Area VI plan should not be rolled over from the template of the North Sea Haddock plan. ICES should consider the unique situation of the Area VI stock and include additional measures other than mere harvest control rules.
- WG1 proposes that there should be a Focus Group on a LTMP for Area VI haddock.

Actions:

- The Chairman will submit a request to the Executive Committee for there to be a NWWRAC Focus Group on LTMP on Area VI Haddock. The Scottish Fishermen's Federation offered to host this meeting if convenient.

4. Proposal of harmonization of conversion factors

Recommendations to the Executive Committee:

- WG1 recommends that the NWWRAC asks the Commission what efforts have been made to standardise harmonisation rules. WG1 proposes that harmonisation should be made on a regional basis.

Actions:

- The WG1 will submit to the Executive Committee for endorsement a letter asking the Commission what the current situation is in relation to harmonization of conversion factors and suggesting that it would be advisable to be made on a regional basis.

5. Presentation on Marine Protected Areas by JNCC

The Chairman thanked JNCC for attending, and for its very welcome update on the offshore MPA process. It was pointed out by Ian Gatt that lessons of the recent past, on the value of consultation with industry at the planning stage before the launch formal consultation, had not been learned.

Recommendations to the Executive Committee:

- WG1 recommends that the NWWRAC pursues improvements in the exchange of information on MPAs, including a better flow of data from fishermen and Member States, and formal consultation with RACs earlier in the process.



Actions:

- The Secretariat will request from JNCC a timetable on the various MPA ongoing and future consultations to ensure that the NWWRAC is able to provide relevant data within the timescales.
- The Scottish Fishermen's Federation offered to circulate its work on the current sites' consultations.

END OF THE MEETING

ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Status</u>
Bertie	Armstrong	Scottish Fishermen's Federation	WG1 Chairman
Armando	Astudillo	DG MARE	European Commission
Tom	Blasdale	Joint Nature Conservation Committee	Scientific
Kara	Brydson	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Member / Rapporteur
Juan Carlos	Corrás Arrias	Pescagalicia Arpega	Member
John	Crudden	European Anglers Association	Member
Thomas	Diaz	CAPSUD	Observer
Alvaro	Fernández	Instituto Español de Oceanografía	Observer
Antonio	Flórez Lage	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, Medio Rural y Marino (MARM)	Observer
Ian	Gatt	Scottish Fishermen's Federation	Member
Marc	Ghiglia	UAPF	Member
Hugo	González	ANASOL	Member
Davy	Hill	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations	Member
Charlotte	Johnston	Joint Nature Conservation Committee	Scientific
Sam	Lambourn	NWWRAC Chairman	NWWRAC Chairman
André	Leberre	NNWRAC Honorary President	NWWRAC President
Joe	Maddock	Irish Fishermen Organisation	Member
Conor	Nolan	BIM	Observer
Gerard	O Flynn	Irish South & West Fish Producers Organisation	Member

<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Status</u>
Sean	O'Donoghue	Killybegs Fishermans Organisation	Member
José Luis	Otero	Lonja de la Coruña S.A.	Member
Jacques	Pichon	ANOP	Member
Brendan	Price	Irish Seal Sanctuary	Observer
Dominic	Rihan	BIM	Observer
Mercedes	Rodríguez Moreda	OPP-07-LUGO	Member
Alexandre	Rodríguez	NWWRAC Secretariat	Secretariat
Peigi	Ryder	Mna Na Mara	Observer
Delphine	Roncin	CRPM Nord-Pas de Calais	Member
Stéphanie	Tachoures	CNPMEM	Member
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish Fish Producers Organisation	Observer
Juan Carlos	Velay Fábregas	Fisherman	Observer
Juan M.	Velay Calo	Fisherman	Observer