

NWWRAC MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING HORIZONTAL WORKING GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The overarching **purpose and objectives of this group** should be:

- To consider the various initiatives for establishing managed areas within North Western Waters, and to define a role for the NWWRAC in relation to the designation of an overall network of managed areas and the operational parameters for its management.
- To define the information required and the criteria to be applied in preparing a NWWRAC response to particular proposals for managed areas within the North Western Waters, or which the NWWRAC would like to see other bodies apply in relation to such proposals.
- To identify best practices for spatial planning and to consider the implications of such for fisheries.
- To consider the establishment of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and managed/closed areas in North Western Waters in the context of spatial planning and to test support and generate advice from the NWWRAC.
- To consider the role of sustainability impact assessment (= 'sustainability appraisal') for North Western Waters fisheries (which, if carried out properly, will also meet the requirements of the SEA Directive for the environmental pillar of sustainable development), and to identify legal and policy drivers

Reporting: The Marine Spatial Planning Horizontal Working Group (MSPHWG) will report and put forward its recommendations to the Executive Committee of the NWWRAC for endorsement. It will be assisted by the NWWRAC Secretariat.

The MSPHWG can, and as appropriate and with prior notification to and approval by the NWWRAC Executive Committee, arrange workshops, hearings, etc. to involve other stakeholders in its work. This will be in any case subjected to budget availability.

The MSPHWG will follow the draft Protocol for Advice prepared for the NWWRAC.