NORTH WEST WATERS REGIONAL; ADVISORY COUNCIL

Working Group 1 – West of Scotland (ICESVb & VI)

25 January 2007 Bilbao Summary of Recommendations and Actions

1. The report of the last meeting (2 November, in Paris) was adopted.

2. Review of the December Council decisions.

Each member State representative gave a National view on the outcome.

3. Update on Long-Term Management Proposals.

This was discussed at some length. Spanish representatives expressed a desire to participate fully in the formation of long term management plans for the Area, and to contribute to the provision of information. This was agreed.

Recommendation:

• WG1 continues to support the proposal to collate and examine available data on Area VI fish stocks and fisheries, to assist in formulating proposals for long term management plans and identify gaps in key data.

4. Proposal for Change to Cod Recovery Programme in Area VI.

This Irish proposal was withdrawn by sponsor, on account of the imminent inter RAC Cod Symposium and the Recovery Review.

5. Update on Rockall Mapping Project - Jason Hall Spencer

Recommendation:

• That Jason Hall-Spencer be requested to inform the RAC in writing of details of permissions and agreements in accessing the VMS data (obtained form NEAFC, DEFRA and the Irish Navy) used to support his useful work.

6. Blue Ling Closures.

Recommendation:

• That a small delegation meet with the Commission to ascertain exactly what the Commission proposals for Blue Ling Management are.

7. Crab Management Workshop.

Recommendation:

• That a crab management workshop be called. Scottish Industry offered to arrange the meeting.

8. Discussion of Control Issues.

Given time available, this item was restricted to a very short discussion post Sven Tahon's useful presentation.