

# North Western Waters AC Horizontal Working Group

14 March 2022



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
SEPTENTRIONALES

**NORTH WESTERN  
WATERS**  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA  
LAS AGUAS  
NOROCCIDENTALES

10:30 – 10:40	<b>1. Welcome and introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome from the Chair (Emiel Brouckaert)</li> <li>• Apologies</li> <li>• Adoption of the Agenda</li> <li>• Action points from the minutes of the last meeting (13 September 2021, virtual)</li> </ul>
10:40 – 10:45	<b>2. Elections of Chair and Vice-Chair</b>
10:45 – 11:45	<b>3. COM overview on ongoing dossiers and upcoming advice requests – tbc</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Fishing Opportunities 2022, <u>TCA</u> and work of the Specialised Committee on Fisheries</li> <li>b. UK Technical Measures</li> <li>c. Action Plan to Conserve Fisheries Resources and Protect Marine Ecosystems</li> <li>d. MSFD</li> <li>e. Functioning of the ACs</li> <li>f. AOB</li> </ol>
11:45 – 12:15	<b>4. Collaboration with the NWW MSG – tbc</b>
12:15 – 12:30	<b>5. Update on <u>SEAwise</u> workshop – Jochen <u>Depestele</u>, ILVO</b>
<b>LUNCH (12:30 - 13:30)</b>	

# Action points from the last meeting (13 September 2021)

- 1 Follow up on the DG MARE Action Plan to Conserve ecosystem and Fisheries Resources and the TM report putting forward actions around this. Check NWWAC involvement in DG MARE / DG ENVI cooperation around this
- 2 Secretariat to list all topics on NWW MSG agenda and clearly identify which NWWAC WG / FG is addressing which topic to prepare advice and the work plans around this
- 3 Members to review the CIBBRiNA work program and presentation to respond to the potential for the NWWAC to be present at the Advisory Board of this project
- 4 Set date for FG LO to address the preparation of the choke risk advice
- 5 HWG suggests to approve NWWAC participation in the SEAwisE project
- 6 Secretariat to submit the joint NWWAC/NSAC/MAC advice on brown crab to the ExCom for approval
- 7 Proposal to establish a joint FG with the NSAC on the review of the MSFD consultation
- 8 Proposal to the ExCom to set up a Focus Group on Social Aspects
- 9 Secretariat to distribute the Terms of Reference for the blockchain webinar for members to comment on prior to submission to ExCom
- 10 Proposal for the NWWAC to monitor the work on green claims initiatives and potentially develop advice on the PEFCR (Product Environmental Footprint Categorisation Rules), specifically in the FG Climate & Environment

# Commission overview on ongoing dossiers and upcoming advice requests

- Fishing Opportunities 2022, TCA and work of the Specialised Committee on Fisheries
- UK Technical Measures
- Action Plan to Conserve Fisheries Resources and Protect Marine Ecosystems
- MSFD
- Functioning of the ACs
- AOB – Commission invitation to register experts for recently launched STECF Meeting of an Expert Working Group on “Assessment and advice for non-quota stocks, to support the development of multi-annual strategies in the context EU-UK” (EWG 22-04), 9 – May 2022- <https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ewg2204>

# Update on the work of the NWW Member States Group

## NWW Regional Member States Technical Group

9 February 2022 – virtual

First meeting under the new Belgian Presidency

### Topics:

- Landing Obligation
- Technical Measures
- CFP & CMO consultations
- Eel advice request
- AOB

## LANDING OBLIGATION

- Joint Recommendation Discard Plan 2023
- Post 2023 future
- Control of the LO: letter on infringement procedures
- Questionnaire on implementation of LO in 2021  
(NWWAC contribution sent on 4 March)

## TECHNICAL MEASURES

- Presentation on STECF EWG report on technical measures Celtic Sea
- Continue work in the Celtic Sea
- Role of Specialised Committee on Fisheries
- Coherence of measures across EU-UK border
- UK measures notification period

## CFP & CMO TARGETED CONSULTATIONS

Three steps approach of the consultation process:

- MS response by 28 February
- In-depth discussions at regional level from April onward
- stakeholder event 10th of June



## EEL ADVICE REQUEST

- ICES 0 catch advice for European eel
- Deadline 4<sup>th</sup> of April
- Importance of EU-UK dimension

## AOB

- Directed fisheries for squid: no progress and no consensus position
- Danish seines in area 7d:
  - no progress yet, Scheveningen Group still waiting for COM legal interpretation on definition of Danish seine, anchor seine and flyshoot
  - COM preparing a delegated act clarifying that the intention was to apply the exemption to anchor seine only

13:00 – 13:30 CET  
LUNCH / DEJEUNER / COMIDA



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13:30 – 15:00	<p><b>6. Advice and Focus Groups Update</b></p> <p>Joint NWWAC/NSAC advice MSFD          Joint AC letter on weight of AC advice          CFP/CMO review          Eels          Landing Obligation          Skates &amp; Rays          Brexit          Climate &amp; Environment          Control and Compliance          Crab          Social aspects          Seismic &amp; Wind</p>
15:00 – 15:30	<p><b>7. Choke Mitigation Tool</b> (Michael Keatinge)</p>
15:30 – 15:50	<p><b>8. NWWAC Online Fisheries Management Chart development – Jacob Ashton, Mindfully Wired Communications – Jacob Ashton, Mindfully Wired Communications</b></p>
15:50 – 16:00	<p><b>9. Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair</b></p>

## Joint NSAC/NWWAC Advice MSFD

- Led by NSAC, final approval and submission facilitated by NWWAC Secretariat
- Chair Sofie Smeedegard Mathiesen, Danmarks Fiskeriforening
- 6 virtual meetings (Oct, Nov, Dec 2021, 2x Jan, Feb 2022)
- Draft advice agreed in FG in February
- Draft advice approved by HWG 04 March
- ExCom approval expected 22 March followed by submission to European Commission

## **Joint AC letter on weight of AC advice**

- Led by PelAC
- Supported by PelAC, NWWAC, MAC, CC RUP, LDAC, MEDAC, AAC, NSAC, CCS, BISAC
- Submitted 07 March

## **CFP/CMO review**

- CMO review led by MAC
- CFP review response approved by ExCom due to be submitted today

## Commission request for AC advice on eel management

- Request received 10 December 2021
- Circulated to all members 15 December 2021
- Collaboration explored with SWWAC and NSAC
- Collaboration agreed with NSAC
- Draft advice document developed by NSAC
- NWWAC facilitating joint ADG Eel meeting on 15 March
- Deadline for submission of advice 04 April 2022

## Focus Group Landing Obligation

- Chair Emiel Brouckaert, Rederscentrale
- Advice addressing choke risk in the NWW after exemptions submitted on 9 December 2021
- Meeting on 9 February 2022 – first comments on advice on Joint Recommendation Discard Plan 2023
- Letter in response to COM questionnaire on Landing Obligation sent on 4 March 2021



# Joint NWWAC/NSAC Focus Group Skates & Rays

- Led by the NWWAC
- Chair John Lynch, IS&EFPO, Vice-Chair Johnny Woodlock, Irish Seal Sanctuary
- 2 virtual meetings (December 2021, February 2022)
- Submission of supporting information for the setting up of an STECF Expert Working Group on Skates & Rays in January 2022
- Commission proposal to STECF on establishment of EWG contains all elements proposed by
- Discussion on EU wide harmonization of identification guides for skates & rays

## Inter-AC Brexit Forum

- PelAC, NWWAC, NSAC, MAC, LDAC
- First meeting held 10 February, facilitated by PelAC
- Next meeting scheduled 05 May, facilitated by NWWAC
- Draft Joint-AC letter on stakeholder engagement in Specialised Fisheries Committee approved by Forum members
- Sent to relevant Executive Committees for approval 10 March, approval expected 30 March

## **Focus Group Climate & Environment**

- Chair Jacopo Pasquero

## **Focus Group Control & Compliance**

- Chair Sean O'Donoghue

## **Considerations regarding the potential establishment of a new Focus Group Brown Crab**

- Norah Parke

# Joint NWWAC/NSAC Focus Group Social Aspects

- Led by the NWWAC
- Chair Bruno Dachicourt, ETF, Vice-Chair Jasmine Vlietinck, Rederscentrale
- 4 virtual meetings (Nov 2021, Jan, Feb, Mar 2022)
- Approval for draft Terms of Reference delayed due to current crisis
- Development of urgent draft submission to European Commission regarding the current crisis, approved via fast-track procedure in both NWWAC and NSAC ExComs
- Submitted to European Commission 14 March
- Action point: proposed update of NWWAC Rules of Procedure to include processing of emergency submissions

# Joint NWWAC/PelAC Proposal for virtual workshop on the impacts of seismic and offshore wind energy developments

- Led by NWWAC
- Submissions made from Joint NWWAC/PelAC Focus Group in July and December 2020 (supported by the NSAC)
- Both requests were turned down by the Commission, but additional direct discussions were offered
- Continued follow up by NWWAC Secretariat led to presentations made at Inter-AC meeting 19 January
- Commission agreed to dedicated virtual workshop to address ACs' concerns
- Proposed date 10 May 2022

## Purpose of the workshop

- Bring together experts for in-depth discussion (DG MARE, DG ENV, ICES, European Marine Board, researchers and scientists from relevant national research institutes)
- Information dissemination of findings and recommendations from two important recent publications
  - Overview of the effects of offshore wind farms on fisheries and aquaculture” (EASME/EMFF/2018/011 Lot 1: Specific Contract No. 03
  - European Marine Board report “Addressing underwater noise in Europe” (Future Science Brief No 7 October 2021)
- Evaluation and discussion of findings and development of priority list of issues for further Commission directed research

## Target audience

- Members of the NWWAC and PelAC, as well as other relevant Advisory Councils
- European Commission and other relevant/interested (EU) institutions (e.g., EP)
- Experts and other interested stakeholders

## Resources, inputs and external sources

- Foreseen budget: €3,000 (simultaneous interpretation 2 languages/3.5 hours)
- kind collaboration between the NWWAC and PelAC, and with the European Commission and possibly other Advisory Councils (North Sea AC, South Western Waters AC etc.)

# AOB

## AC work on the impact of war in Ukraine

- LDAC Proposal for setting up of a joint Focus Group on the impact of the invasion of Ukraine for the EU fishing sector and the economy
- MAC holding informal exchanges with MARE A4 about the different effects on fisheries and aquaculture; addressing the topic formally at WG2 meeting on 28 March