



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

27 September 2023



www.nwwac.org

Agenda

| | | | |
|---------------|-------|---|--|
| 09:00 – 09:20 | _____ | 1 | Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome from the Chair (Emiel Brouckaert)• Apologies• Adoption of the agenda• Action points from the last meeting (05 July 2023, Ghent) |
| 09:20 – 10:00 | _____ | 2 | Approval of action points from the Working Groups |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | _____ | 3 | Dialogue with DG MARE– Thomas Brégeon, Deputy Head of Unit MARE C5 |
| 11:00 – 11:15 | _____ | | COFFEE BREAK |
| 11:15 – 11:30 | _____ | 4 | Dialogue with NWW Member States Group – Marissa Giessen, Nanou Beekman, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality Netherlands |
| 11:30 – 12:00 | _____ | 5 | NWWAC Work Programme and Budget update Year 18 |
| 12:00 – 12:45 | _____ | 6 | Future meeting schedule |
| 12:45 – 12:50 | _____ | 7 | AOB |
| 12:50 – 13:00 | _____ | 8 | Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair |

Action points from the last meeting

1. Secretariat to collect ExCom members written suggestions, add RoP definition of FG, draft amendments and present to ExCom for written approval to submit to GA in September.
2. Members to send additional questions for Director Donatella and additional comments on his intervention to the Secretariat for written follow up.
3. Secretariat to forward NWWAC outstanding list of topics as raised in the first half of the year, adding question if Celtic Seas fishing opportunities will be discussed, to NWW MSG presidency.
4. Secretariat to liaise with performance review team regarding structure of final report.
5. Secretariat to add “ecosystem based management” to WG3, adjust in WP FGs in brackets and add WG as originator in NWWAC WP.

Action points Working Group 1 – Irish Sea

- 1 Members to send comments on the choke traffic light tool to the Secretariat
- 2 Chair and Secretariat will follow up on haddock de minimis exemption
- 3 Secretariat to draft letter to the Commission and Member States regarding the non-consideration of the spurdog exemption
- 4 Members to provide the Secretariat with written comments on the UK Discards Plan by the 20 September

Action points Working Group 2 – Celtic Sea & West of Scotland

- 1 Members will send input to the consultation to the Secretariat by 20 September, matching the consultation format available online as much as possible. The Secretariat will then check which response format is possible and prepare draft advice based on previous advice and comments received from members.
- 2 The Secretariat will share an updated version of the traffic light choke spreadsheet after the meeting. Members will review it and send comments on West of Scotland stocks to the Secretariat.
- 3 Following up from the hake workshop held in June 2023, the pending issues of catch composition and application of the technical measures regulation across MS will be addressed with EFCA directly.
- 4 The Secretariat will draft letter to the Commission requesting that ICES and STECF are asked to look into mesh sizes and derogations for hake respectively.
- 5 The Secretariat will draft a letter to the Commission on the need of constructive collaboration, specifically on technical matters.
- 6 Following the meeting on 26 September organised by DG MARE on VMEs, the AC will discuss how to follow up on this topic during ExCom meeting on 27 September.

Action points Working Group 3 – Channel

- 1 The CNPMEM will get in touch with the Secretariat following the meeting in France on red mullet with an updated proposal.
- 2 Inputs from members on the choke risks will be collated by the Secretariat and reviewed by the Focus Group Landing Obligation to prepare advice. The Secretariat will share an updated version of the spreadsheet with members for further comments if necessary.
- 3 Members to send comments on FMPs to Secretariat by 20 September. One response to be prepared for Seabass/Channel demersal non-quota species/Southern North Sea and eastern Channel mixed flatfish, and one additional each on scallops and whelk.
- 4 Secretariat to draft a letter on impacts of UK HMPAs to the Commission.

Action points Horizontal Working Group

- 1 Secretariat to draft advice on Irish Sea MPA/ORE/SPA plan, based on KFO / ISEFPO document provided and HWG members' response to input request.
- 2 HWG members to propose dates for Mission Atlantic stakeholder meetings in 2024 upon receipt of topics for discussion.
- 3 Propose discussion at ExCom whether or not NWWAC to reply directly to UK consultations on FMPs, REM & Discards plans.
- 4 Organise continuation of a Brown Crab FG.
- 5 Follow up on Seafood/ORE group membership

3 Dialogue with DG MARE– Thomas Brégeon, Deputy Director MARE C5



COFFEE BREAK

1:05 – 1:15 CET





4 Dialogue with NWW Member States Group –
Marissa Giessen, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature
and Food Quality Netherlands

Topics addressed at last MS Technical Group

- 1 Draft letter to the Commission on rollover request for technical measures in the Celtic Sea (submitted week of 11 September)
- 2 Draft letter to the Commission on rollover request on red seabream management (submitted week of 11 September)
- 3 Discussion on preparation of a joint recommendation on directed fisheries for squid. Ireland unable to support current text so further discussions needed
- 4 NWWAC Secretariat:
 - Provided update on membership
 - Mentioned planned NWWAC/EFCA workshop
 - Enquired re. UK FMP consultations (MS agreed to respond individually)
 - Mentioned NWWAC/PelAC anniversary event March 2024



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Work Programme Year 18



NWWAC meetings Year 18

- 63 meetings:
- 1 General Assembly
 - September (virtual)
- 3 Executive Committee
 - March (Santiago de Compostela), July (Ghent), September (virtual)
- 9 sub-regional Working Groups
 - March (Santiago de Compostela), July (Ghent), September (virtual)
- 3 Horizontal Working Group
 - March (Santiago de Compostela), July (Ghent), September (virtual)
- 12 Focus and Advice Drafting Groups
 - 33 virtual meetings
 - 1 in person workshop
 - 1 hybrid workshop
 - 1 virtual workshop
 - 2 virtual trainings

Members are informed of all meetings via the monthly update available online in the Members Area on www.nwwac.org. Details of meetings can also be found in both the Members Area and under the Meetings tab.



Year 18 – NWWAC meetings – September 2023

- 12 Meetings between the ExCom Chair, Vice-Chairs and the Secretariat (virtual, Oct, 2x Nov 2022, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May 2x Jun, Aug 2023)
- 1 Management Team – Secretariat – Performance Review Team (virtual, 19 Oct 2022)
- 4 Landing Obligation (in person Nov 2022, virtual Feb, Mar, Jul 2023)
- 5 Skates and Rays (virtual, Oct, Dec 2022, 2x Mar, Sep 2023)
- 6 Social Aspects (virtual, Oct, Nov 2022, Feb, Mar, Jul, Sep 2023)
- 1 Whelk (virtual, Dec 2022)
- 5 Brown Crab (virtual, Oct, Nov 2022, Jan, Feb, Mar 2023)
- 1 Scallop (virtual, Jan 2023)
- 2 CFP (virtual, May, Jun 2023)
- 2 Control & Compliance (virtual, May, Jul 2023)
- 1 WebGIS (virtual, Oct 2022)
- 1 ACFishMap Training Workshop (virtual, Dec 2022)
- 5 Inter-AC Brexit Forum with PelAC, NSAC, LDAC, MAC (virtual, Oct, Dec 2022, Feb, May, Jun 2023)

External meetings with NWWAC participation – September 2023

- 10 North Western Waters Member States Group (virtual, Oct 2022, 2x Feb, 3x Apr, May, Jun, 2x Sep 2023)
- 2 EFCA Advisory Board (hybrid, Oct 2022, in person Apr 2023)
- 3 EU Commission finance meetings (virtual Oct, Nov 2022, Apr 2023)
- 2 Inter-AC meetings (virtual Nov 2022, in person Mar 2023)
- WKEMBY (virtual, October 2022)
- EFCA Seminar on the Five-Year Independent External Evaluation of the European Fisheries Control Agency (Vigo, Oct 2022)
- WKRRCOD (Edinburgh, Nov 2022)
- SEAwisE workshop (virtual, Nov 2022)
- DG ENV MSFD workshop (Brussels, Nov 2022)





- MSE Optimizing sustainable fishing on rebuilt fish stocks (virtual, Nov 2023)
- 'Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030": an Atlantic-Arctic lighthouse (Cork, Nov 2023)
- ICES ADGVME2 (virtual, Nov 2023)
- Mesa de la Ciencia Pesquera (Vigo, Dec 2022)
- Roundtable discussion with Commissioner Sinkevičius to (Brussels, Dec 2022)
- AC Chairs & Secretariats meeting (Copenhagen, Jan 2023)
- MIAC / MIACO (Copenhagen, Jan 2023)
- Launch of EFCA's chartered patrol vessels (Vigo, Jan 2023)
- Seafish meeting on UK Fisheries Management Plans (virtual, Jan 2023)
- NMCI Seafarer's Conference 2023 (Limerick, Feb 2023)
- Northern Fishing Alliance Spatial Squeeze WG (London, Feb 2023)

External meetings with NWWAC participation – September 2023 (cntd.)

- ICES WGMIXFISH (virtual, Mar 2023)
- ICES ADGVME (virtual, Mar 2023)
- CABFISHMAN final symposium (Bilbao, 22 March 2023)
- OREDP II (Dundalk, 24 March 2023)
- EFARO Webinar: the future of the bottom trawl (virtual, 31 March 2023)
- Pre WGNSSK (virtual, 12 April 2023)
- Mesa Ciencia Pesquera (Vigo, 12 April 2023)
- ICES App training (virtual, 13 April)
- EFARO Webinar: WEBINAR on Offshore Wind Farms and how we monitor their impact in Europe (virtual, 14 April 2023)
- EFCA Advisory Board (virtual, 19 April 2023)
- Commission update on the review of the VME list (virtual, 25 April 2023)

External meetings with NWWAC participation – September 2023 (cntd.)

- DG ENV Marine Strategy Coordination Group (hybrid, 11 May 2023)
- ICES WKSTIMP (hybrid, 16–18 May 2023)
- ICES WKRRCOD (Edinburgh, 23 May 2023)
- European Maritime Day (Brest, 24 – 25 May 2023)
- **Commission launch** of the partnership on the Energy Transition in the EU fisheries and aquaculture sector, (Brussels, 16 June 2023)
- SEAwise workshop (virtual, 15 June 2023)
- **Commission launch** of the partnership on the Energy Transition in the EU fisheries and aquaculture sector, (Brussels, 16 June 2023)
- BIM Strategic Leadership Team (Dun Laoghaire, 19 June 2023)
- DHLGH Advisory Group Ecological sensitivity analysis of the western Irish Sea to inform potential future designation of MPAs (virtual 19 June 2023)

External meetings with NWWAC participation – September 2023 (cntd.)

- Commission Fishing Opportunities meeting (virtual, 19 July 2023)
- Mission Atlantic (virtual, 22–23 August 2023)
- Northern Fishing Alliance (Boulogne sur Mer, 22–23 August 2023)
- MMO English Offshore MPA Management Meeting: non-UK Fisheries Stakeholders (virtual, 06 September 2023)
- COM/DEFRA FMP meeting (hybrid, 06 September 2023)
- CIBBRiNA project kick-off meeting (Amsterdam, 06–08 August 2023)
- ICES Annual Science Conference (virtual, 11–14 September 2023)
- DECC DMAP (Youghal, 19 September 2023)
- TG Seabed (virtual, 21 September 2023)
- Blue Forum Workshop (virtual, 25 September 2023)
- Commission VME meeting (virtual, 26 September 2023)
- EBCD Understanding OECMs to achieve the 30 by 30 target (Brussels 29 September 2023)

Recommendations YR18

| No | Issue/subject | Link with the CFP | WG/FG at the origin of the recommendation | Planned date of adoption (if available) | State of Play |
|----|---|---------------------|---|---|--|
| 1 | Advice on Addressing Choke Risk in the NWW after exemptions | Article 2, 14, 15 | WG1, WG2, WG3 | December 2022 | Delivered 09/12/2022 |
| 2 | Advice following the finalisation of the Discard Plan 2021 – 2023 | Article 2, 14, 15\e | Focus Group Landing Obligation | May 2023 | NWWAC advice on the 2023 Joint Recommendation Discard Plan delivered 17/04/2023 |
| 3 | Advice following the Joint workshop on the Landing Obligation Compliance Evaluation in relation to CFP evaluation | Article 2, 14, 15 | Focus Group Landing Obligation | March 2023 | NWWAC advice on CFP reporting delivered 24/10/2022 |
| 4 | Advice on the implementation of the EU Technical Measures Regulation, including directed fisheries definition | Article 2, 10 | Horizontal Working Group | June 2023 | Advice on hake management in the Celtic Sea in development NWWAC letter to DG MARE on climate change implications in the scientific assessment for cod stocks in the Celtic Seas ecoregion delivered 09/05/2023 |
| 5 | Advice on Technical Measures as a topic in the execution of the TCA | Article 2 | WG1, WG2, WG3, HWG | July 2023 | n/a |

Planned recommendations YR18 (continued)

| No | Issue/subject | Link with the CFP | WG/FG at the origin of the recommendation | Planned date of adoption (if available) | State of Play |
|----|---|---------------------------|---|---|---|
| 6 | Advice on management measures for sea bass 2023 | Article 2, 14, 15, 16 | Focus Group Sea bass | November 2022 | Cancelled NWWAC letter to DG MARE on catch reporting for commercial shore netting in relation to seabass management delivered 28/04/2023 |
| 7 | Advice on the management of Brown Crab | Article 2 | Focus Group Brown Crab | June 2023 | Delivered 22/09/2023 |
| 8 | Advice on the management of Scallops | Article 2 | Focus Group Scallops | June 2023 | In development |
| 9 | Advice on the management of Whelks | Article 2 | Focus Group Whelks | April 2023 | Delivered 02/02/2023 |
| 10 | Advice on Fishing Opportunities 2024 | Article 2, 14, 15, 16 | WG1, WG2, WG3, Focus Group Landing Obligation | July 2023 | Delivered 09/08/2023 Joint NWWAC-PelAC advice on sprat in the English Channel delivered 26/05/2023 |
| 11 | Advice on the management of skates & rays | Article 2, 10, 14, 15, 16 | Focus Group Skates & Rays | November 2022 | Advice on the management of picked dogfish fishery in the NWW in 2023 delivered 09/03/2023 Joint NWWAC/NSAC letter on the prohibited species list delivered 06/04/2023 Joint NWWAC/NSAC advice on skates & rays management delivered 02/05/2023 |

Planned recommendations YR18 (continued)

| No | Issue/subject | Link with the CFP | WG/FG at the origin of the recommendation | Planned date of adoption (if available) | State of Play |
|----|--|-------------------|--|---|---|
| 12 | Advice relating to SCF issues: technical measures, non-quota species etc. | Article 2, 14, 15 | Horizontal WG, WG3, Focus Group Whelk, Focus Group Scallop | December 2022 | Advice on Whelk management submitted on 02/02/2022 Advice on Scallop management in progress Proposal for advice on red mullet |
| 13 | Advice related to climate & environment topics, e.g., EU Biodiversity Strategy, EU Green Deal, Farm to Fork Strategy | Article 2 | Focus Group Climate & Environment | January 2023 | NWWAC/PelAC advice on impact of underwater noise and offshore wind energy delivered 11/10/2022 Feedback on energy transition delivered 01/12/2022 Response to the consultation on the Energy Transition Partnership for EU fisheries and aquaculture delivered 15/09/2023 |
| 14 | Advice on social aspects related to fisheries in the NWW | Article 2 | Focus Group Social Aspects | February 2023 | Delivered 20/12/2022 NSAC/NWWAC Advice on the Evaluation of Directive 97/70/EC on harmonised safety regime for fishing vessels of 24 metres in length and over delivered 11/05/2023 |

Additional recommendations (September 2023)

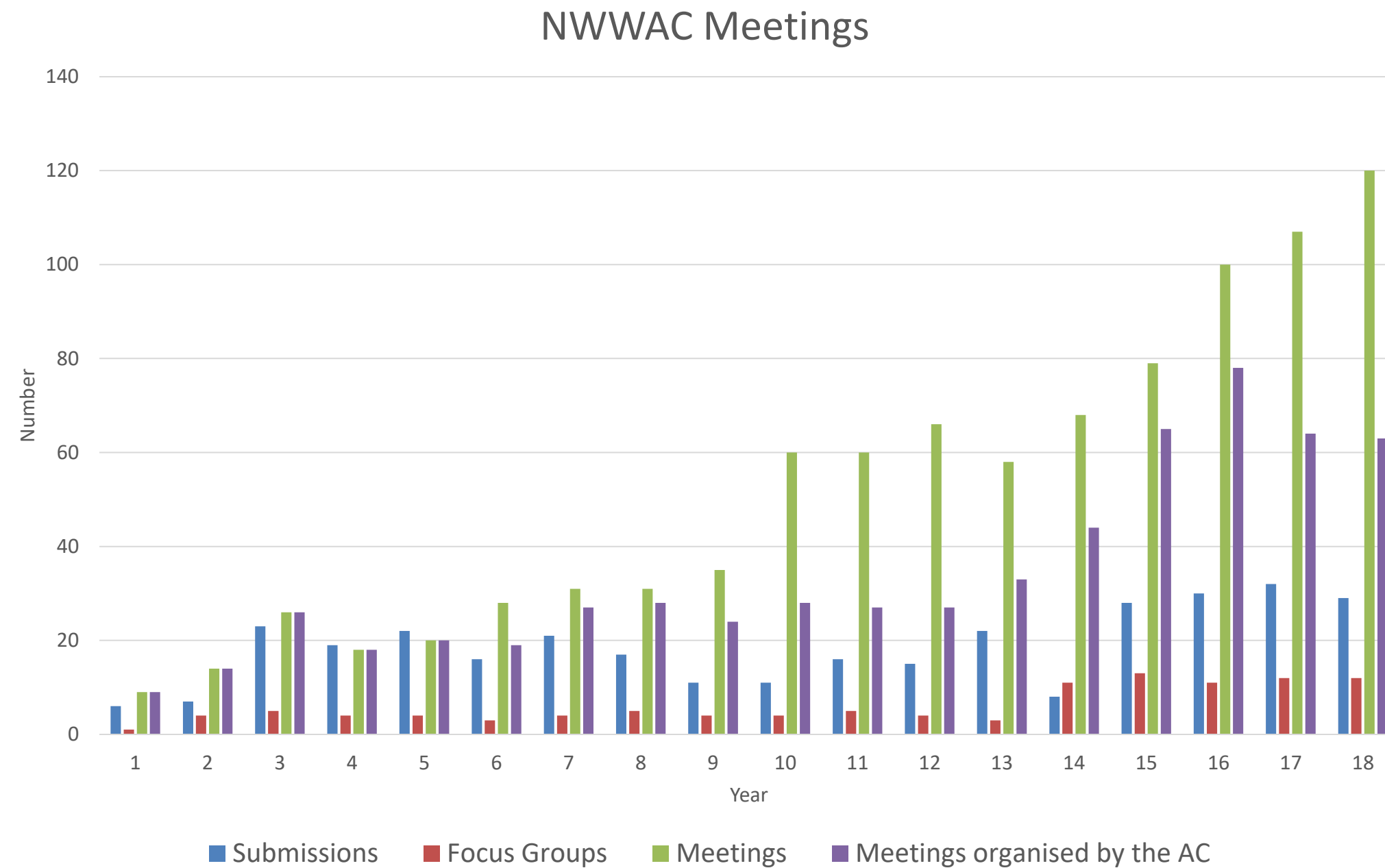
- Joint NWWAC/SWWAC letter on stakeholder engagement over the implementation of the Deep-sea Access Regulation (10 November 2022)
- NWWAC letter on the display of fisheries management related data (09 December 2022)
- Joint ACs letter to the Commission on promotion of Advisory Councils (03 February 2023)
- AC response on the targeted consultation on the Western Waters Multiannual Plan (09 March 2023)
- NWWAC letter on the joint special group on implementing the Marine Action Plan (06 June 2023)
- NWWAC letter to DG MARE on difficulties with the landing obligation (13 June 2023)
- NWWAC letter to EFCA on the report on evaluation of compliance with the landing obligation in the NWW (19 June 2023)
- NWWAC letter on EFCA-NWWAC cooperation (31 July 2023)
- NWWAC Advice on the Communication from the Commission “Sustainable fishing in the EU: State of play and orientations for 2024” COM(2023) 303 (09 August 2023)

Year 18 Workshop reports (September 2023)

- Report on the NWWAC/PelAC Briefing
- Report on the NWWAC/NSAC Workshop on the Management of Skates & Rays
- Report on the NWWAC/NSAC/MAC Workshop on Brown Crab
- Report on the NWWAC Hake Workshop



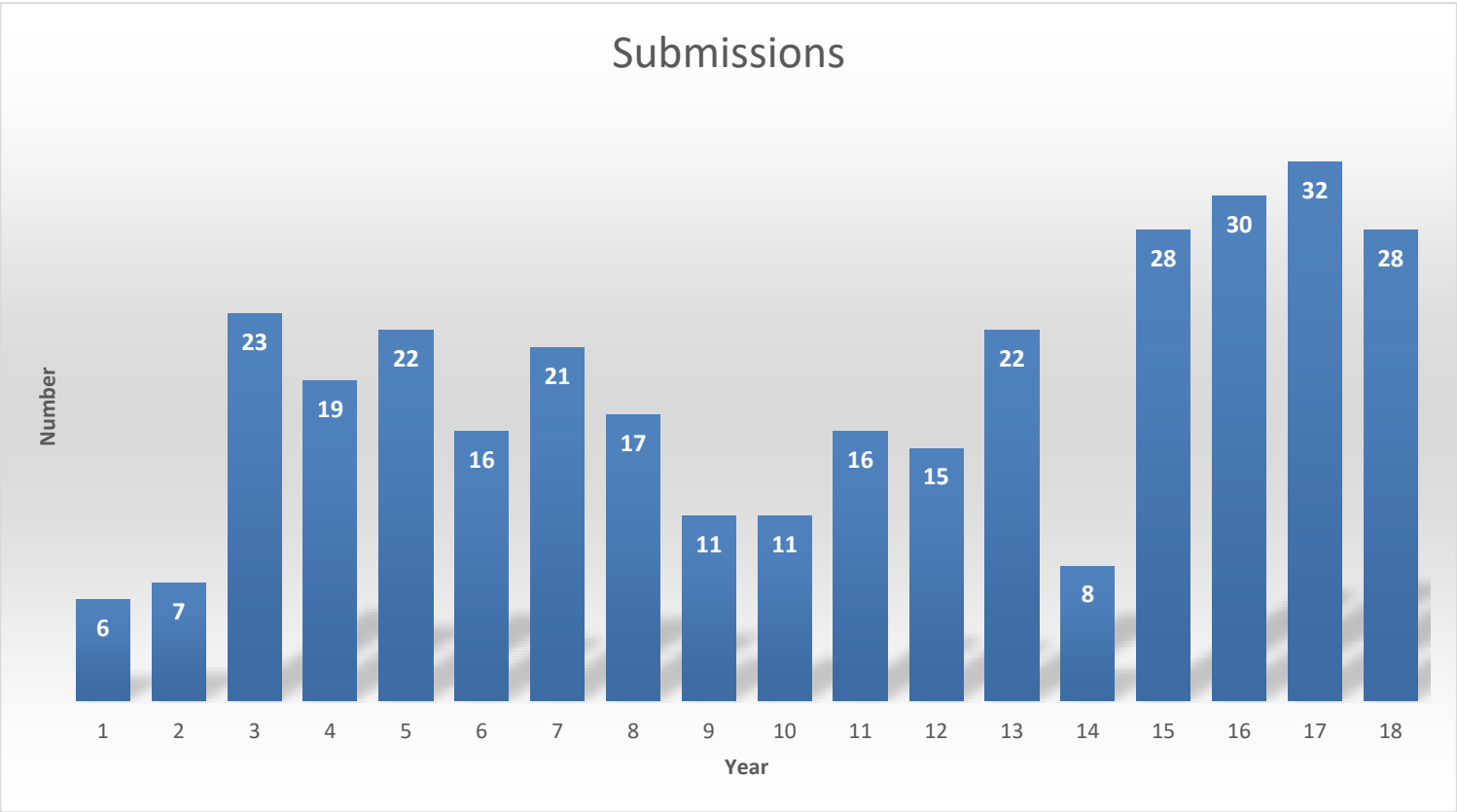
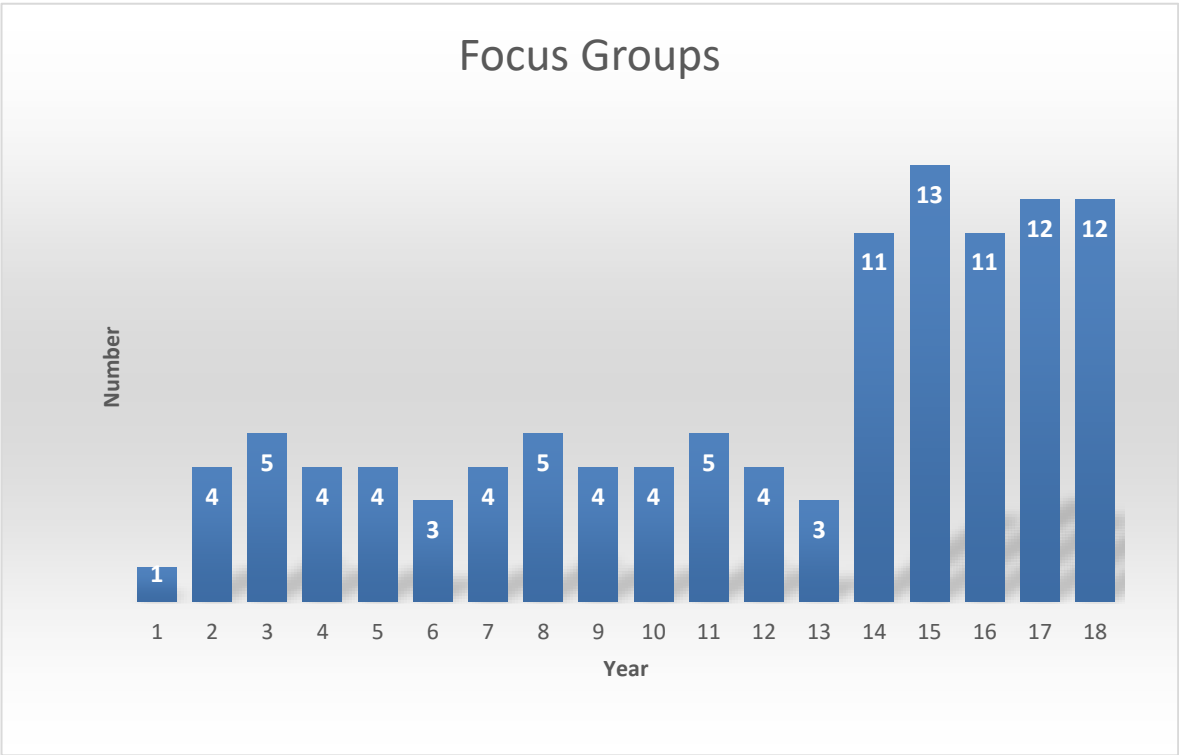
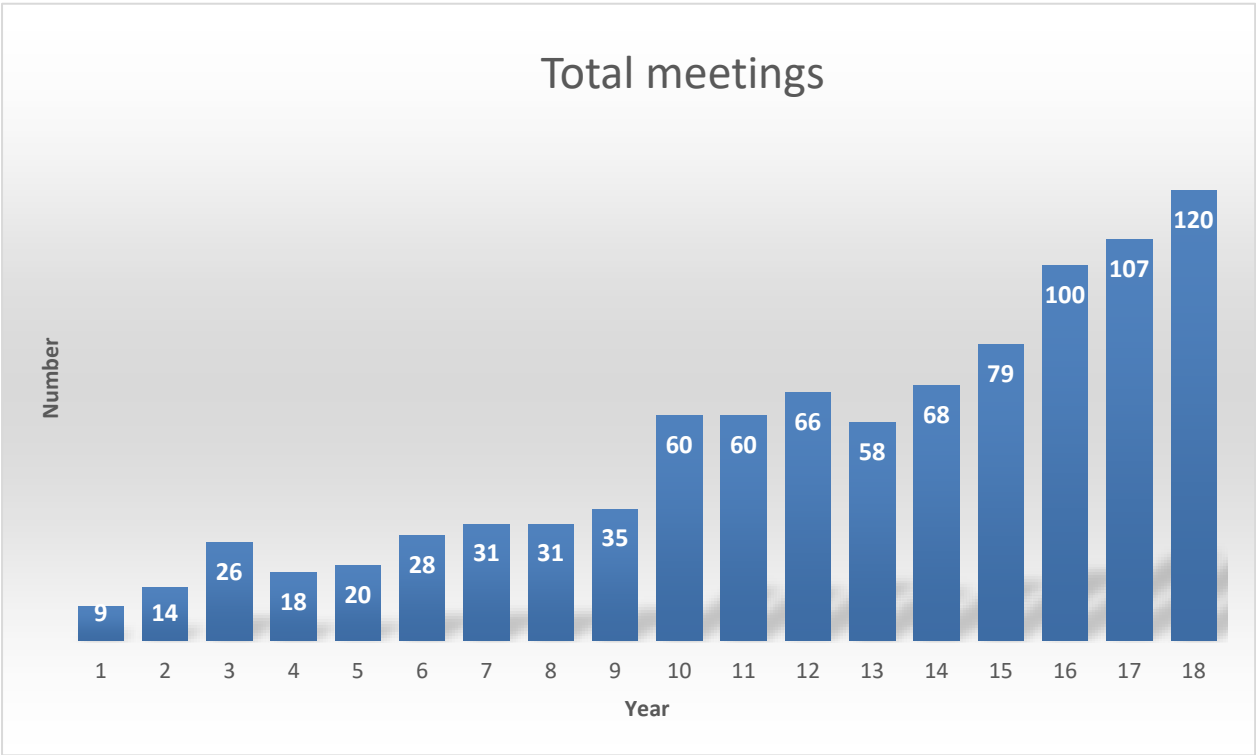
Year 18 WP Meetings (September 2023)



As part of the Work Package the NWWAC advised that 28 meetings would be organised in Year 28.

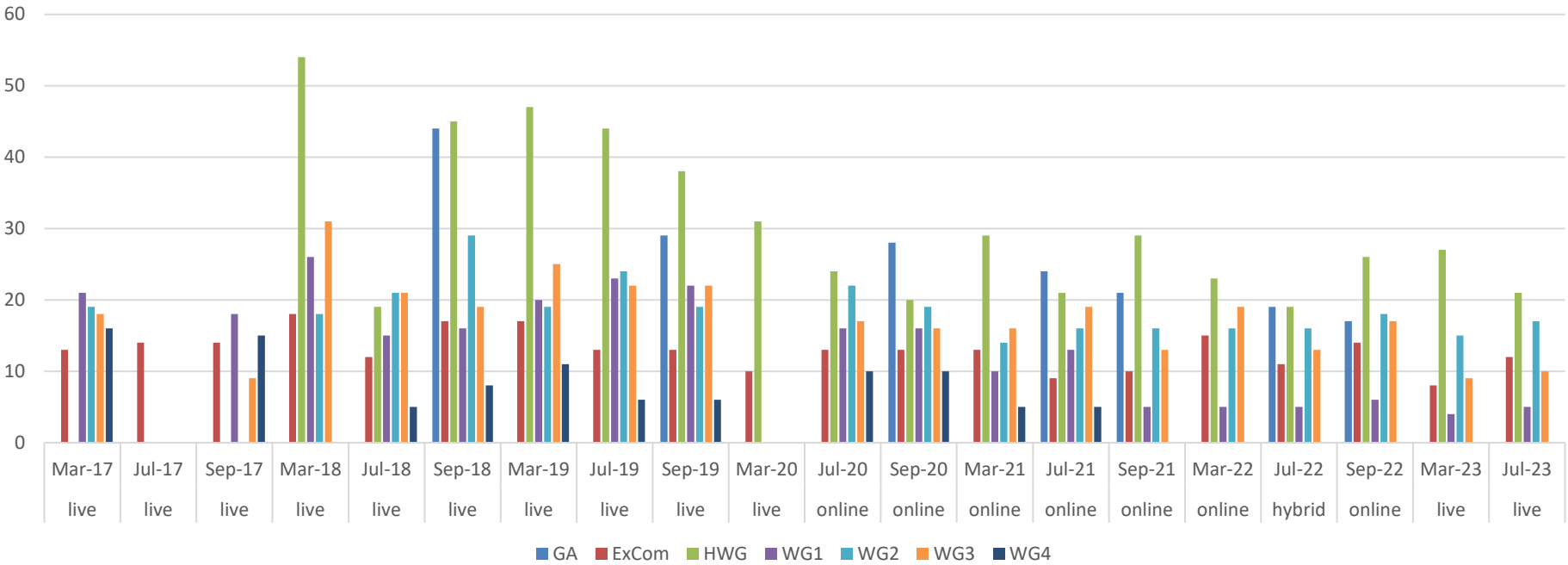
The total number of meetings organised by the AC is 63.

Activity Overview Year 18

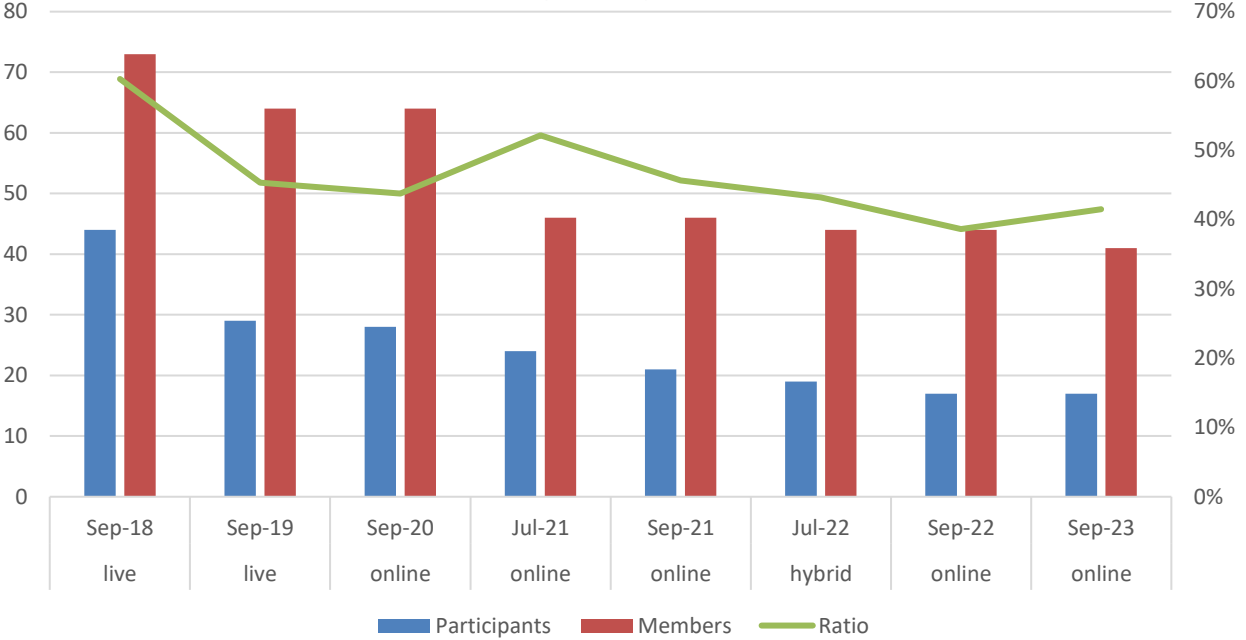


Activity Overview Year 18

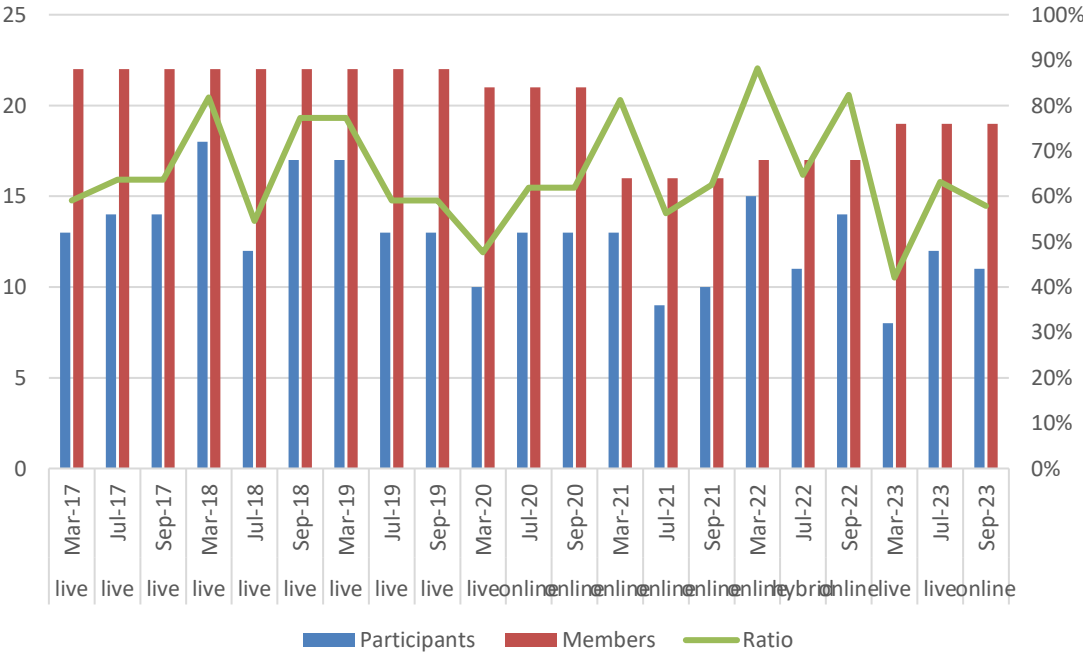
NWWAC overall participation



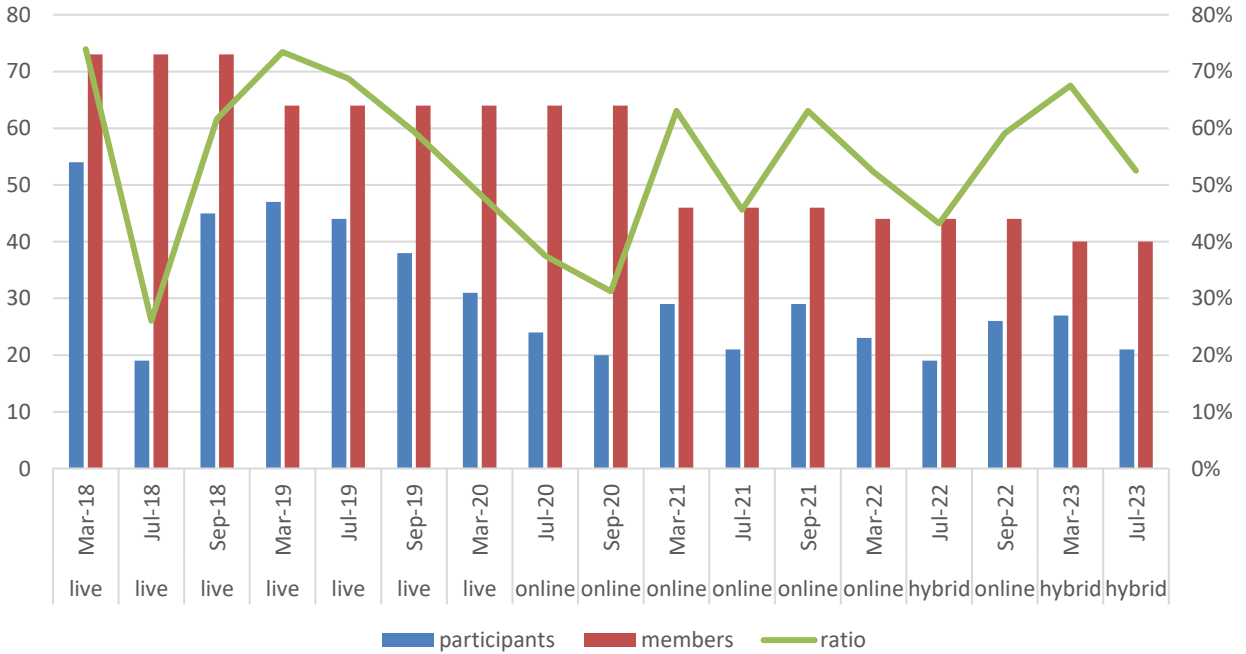
NWWAC GA participation



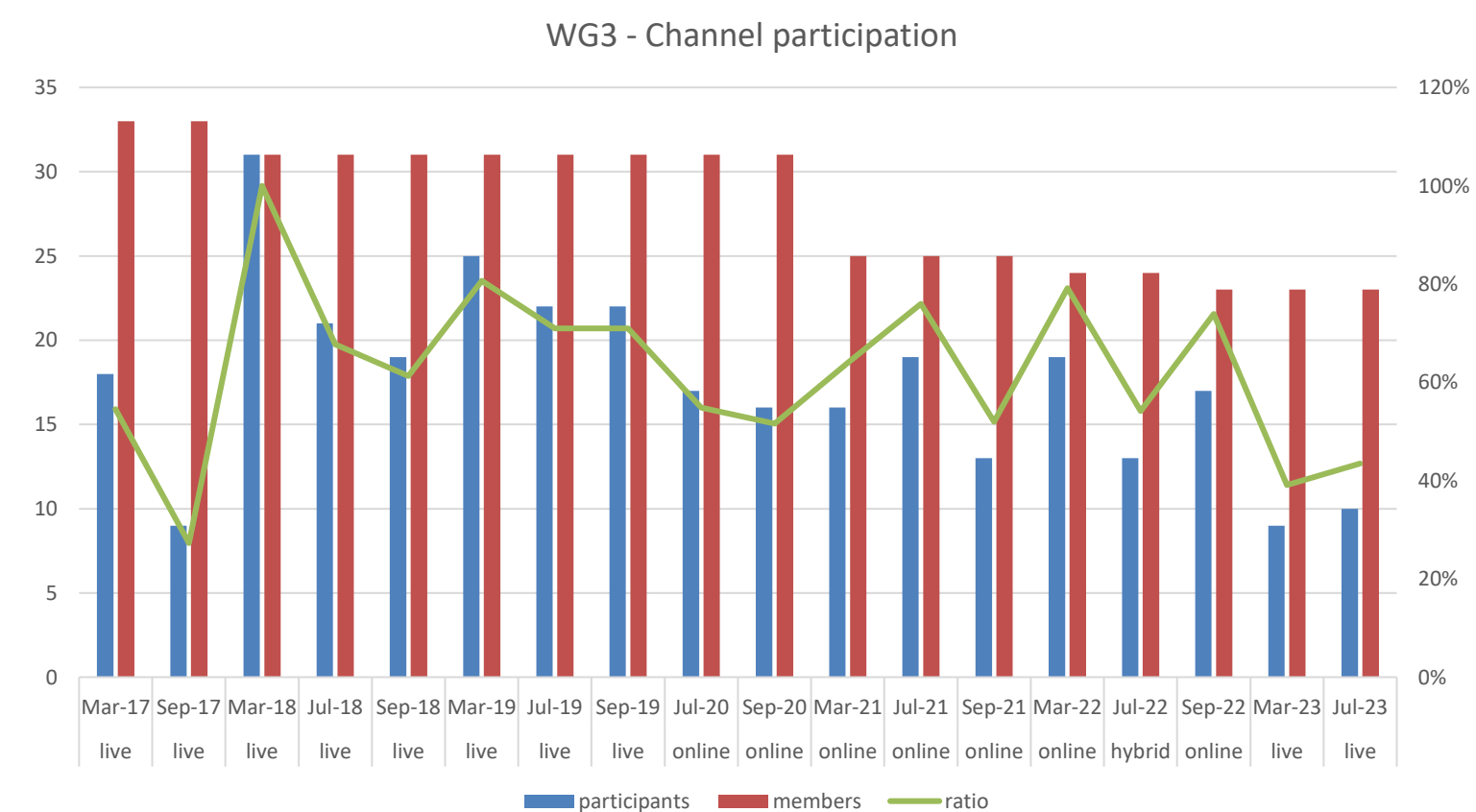
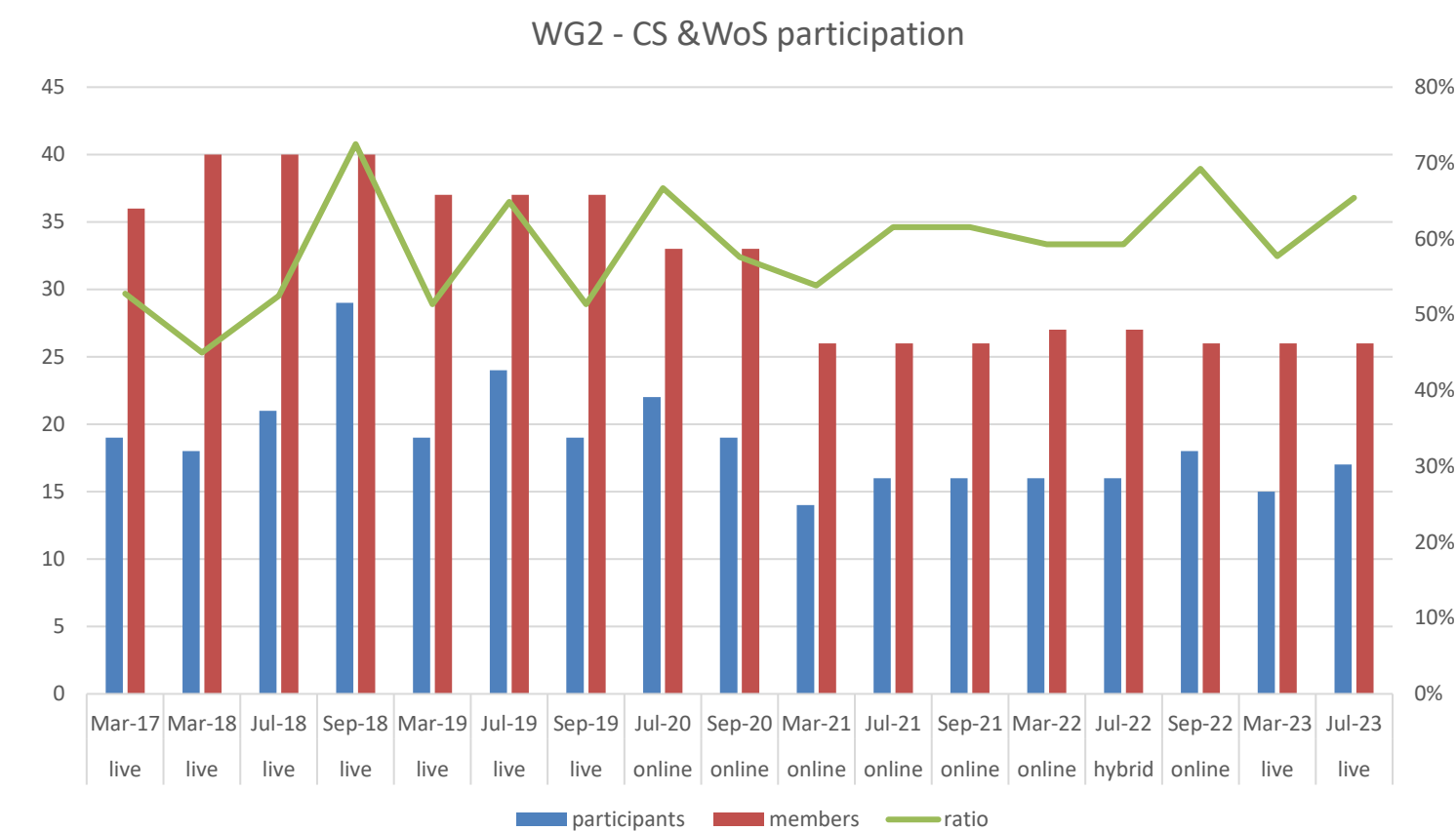
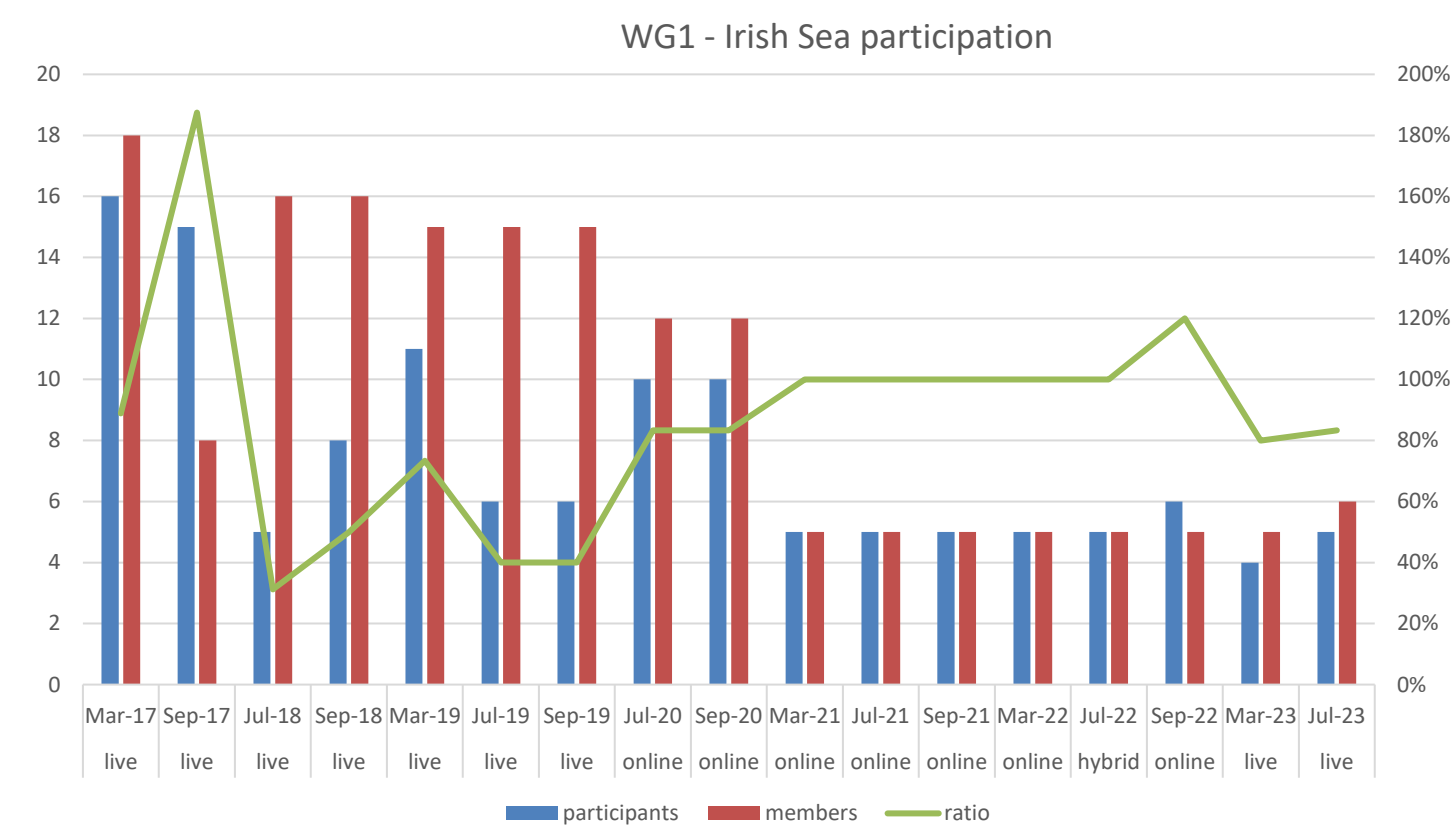
NWWAC ExCom participation



NWWAC HWG participation



Activity Overview Year 18



Upcoming NWWAC meetings – September 2023

- NWW MSG (05 October 2023)
- COM Special Group Marine Action Plan (06 October 2023)
- Inter-AC Brexit Forum (09 October 2023)
- DG MARE Inter-AC (10 October 2023)
- ICES WKAFPA Workshop on stakeholders' perceptions in ICES advice (virtual 10-12 September 2023)
- Blue Forum Workshop (16 October 2023)
- NWW MSG (01 November 2023)
- NWWAC-PelAC Anniversary event planning meeting (07 November 2023)
- NWW High Level Group (04 December 2023)
- MIAC/MIACO (Copenhagen, January 2024)
- NWWAC WGs and ExCom (Dublin, 13 – 15 March 2024)

Proposal for change to NWWAC meeting calendar

- Current meeting calendar
 - 01 October start of financial year
 - Six months into WP: first WGs and ExCom in March
 - Four months later: Second WGs and ExCom in July
 - Two months later: Final WGs and ExCom in September, ending financial year with GA
- Issues
 - WG discussions only start halfway through the WP
 - Second and third round of meetings too close together, also cover the summer break so little work can be carried out
- Proposal for new meeting calendar
 - First WGs and ExCom in October of financial year to review new WP and direct work
 - Second WGs and ExCom in March
 - Final WGs and ExCom in July
 - GA in September

NWWAC/PelAC Anniversary Event March 2024

- Joint NWWAC/PelAC event celebrating the 20th anniversary of Council Decision 2004/585/EC establishing the NWWAC & the PelAC
- 14 March 2024 – Dublin Castle The Printworks
 - 08:30 – 13:00 Joint NWWAC/PelAC Horizontal WG addressing overarching issues
 - 14:00 – 17:00 Celebratory event with panel discussion
 - 17:00 – 18:30 Reception
 - 19:00 – 23:00 Celebratory Dinner in Dublin Castle St Patrick's Hall
- Invitees: President Michael D. Higgins, Commissioner Sinkevičius, Director-General Vitcheva, Belgian Presidency of the Council of Fisheries Ministers, MS Ministers and administration, Ambassadors, Research Institutes
- Total estimated budget: €35,000 – €40,000
 - Technical aspects: approx. €15,000
 - Interpretation: approx. €3,000
 - Catering: approx. €15,000 (entire day)
 - Entertainment: approx. €4,000
 - Graphic Design: €2,200

UPDATE ON YEAR 18 ACCOUNTS

Year 18 – Income – Current Position

| | Original Budget 01 October 2022 | Actual Income at 26 September 2023 | Outstanding |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Member States | € 22,000 | € 22,000 | € 0 |
| Commission | € 330,000 | € 264,000 | Balance EU-grant* € 66,000 |
| Member's Fees + interest on fees + misc. income | €38,750 | € 32,600 | |
| Total | € 390,750 | € 314,200 | € 66,000 |

* Commission income agreed at €330,000 under new lumpsum approach. 100% grant once work programme is achieved.

Year 18 – Expenditure – Current Position

| | Eligible Predicted Budget 01 October 2022 | Actual Expenditure up to 26 September 2023 | Estimated actual expenditure 30 September 2023 |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Staff | € 170,466.85 | € 166,365.86 | € 175,520 |
| Reimbursements | € 82,002.50 | € 49,307.50 | € 49,307.50 |
| Interpretation & Translation | € 60,472.66 | € 58,562.52 | € 69,032.52 |
| Meetings and Information | € 8,234 | € 8,180.77 | € 8,180.77 |
| Operating costs | € 23,674.00 | € 23,762.05 | € 23,762.05 |
| Chairman Fees / Audit | € 20,000.00 | € 15,804.38 | € 15,804.38 |
| Other contracts | € 25,900.00 | € 38,410.66 | € 40,910.66 |
| Total | € 390,750 | € 360,393.74 | € 382,518.27 |

BIM – NWWAC agreement

- New agreement approved by BIM Board 18 September 2023
- BIM moving premises in 2023 / 2024
- New plans based on open plan office approach
- NWWAC will be provided with access to a
 - hot-desk office on an occasional basis
 - car parking for staff and visitors
 - meeting rooms; reception service
 - BIM business centre and all associated equipment and IT support for same
- BIM will cease providing Payroll for NWWAC from 01/01/2024 – this will be outsourced to a specialist agency
- Annual fee of € 15,000
- Signed 25 September 2023



- 7 AOB
 - 8 Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair
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Thank you.

North Western Waters Advisory Council 