

Terms of Reference

Title: Inter-AC Forum on Brexit

Review proposed: May 2023

General details

Chair: Alternating chairmanship per meeting between PelAC, LDAC, NWWAC, NSAC and MAC

Rapporteur: Respective Secretariats.

Working language: English only

Remit: The Inter-AC Brexit Forum falls under the remit of the Executive Committees of the participatory ACs: PelAC, LDAC, NWWAC, NSAC and MAC.

Aim & objectives

Aims:

- To discuss and develop joint-advice to the European Commission and Member States on behalf of stakeholders on Brexit-related matters commonly affecting the five ACs impacted by Brexit (PelAC, LDAC, NWWAC, NSAC and MAC).
- To provide structured input to relevant horizontal agenda items discussed in the Specialised Committee on Fisheries (SCF) between the EU and UK.

The Inter-AC Brexit Forum will operate under the following general principles:

- The 'Inter-AC Brexit Forum' will advise the European Commission on ongoing work in the Specialised Committee on Fisheries that is of horizontal nature, whilst individual ACs remain the Commission's main liaison for specific issues falling within their respective competencies and responsibilities.
- Through the 'Inter-AC Brexit Forum', the ACs seek to discuss, align and structure collective input to relevant SCF discussions. To this end, the Forum is willing to help develop appropriate working procedures together with the Commission to make this possible.
- The 'Inter-AC Brexit Forum' wishes to be one of the stakeholder entities to be consulted in the context of the SCF, but is by no means seeking exclusivity in this respect.
- The 'Inter-AC Brexit Forum' will limit its input to management, scientific and market matters, data collection issues and will not cover discussions on quota allocations, exchange of fishing possibilities vis á vis the UK both on bilateral and on trilateral level (including Norway), or Coastal State negotiations.

- The ACs composing the ‘Inter-AC Brexit Forum’ will alternate organisation and chairmanship of meetings on a rotation basis. The Pelagic AC chaired the first meeting held February 10th 2022.
- The ‘Inter-AC Brexit Forum’ requests a direct dialogue between the Forum and the Commission on EU-UK fisheries management and markets issues, held separately from the existing Inter-AC Coordination meetings with the Commission. Affected ACs consider that discussions on Brexit merit specific focus and detailed discussions, which are of limited relevance to the other ACs present in the broader Inter-AC meetings.

Time frame and organisation of work

Inaugural meeting held in February 2022, and aims to meet in conjunction with timelines of relevant SCF meetings, as appropriate.

The meetings will be organised, chaired and rapporteured by the ACs on a rotation basis.

Each individual AC has the responsibility to report on the specific activities and actions resulting from the inter-AC Brexit Forum to other members of that AC.

Once a year the Brexit FG will perform an informal ‘pulse check’ on the ToR to determine if any updates are required.

Members

Membership in the “Inter-AC Brexit Forum” is open to all ACs affected by Brexit and interested in contributing to the aims and objectives of the Forum.

Each participating Advisory Council nominates three permanent representatives for membership on this Forum in addition to their Secretariats.

In light of the sensitive nature of the topics discussed at this Forum as well as the informal role this Forum is currently playing, no observers shall be allowed unless specifically invited by the group. This condition will be re-evaluated in the course of the work of the group.