



REPORT

North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council Working Group 2 (WG2) West of Ireland and Celtic Sea

**Thursday 7 November 2013
14:00-15:30
CNPMM Paris**

**Deputy Chairman:
Rapporteur:**

**Paul Trebilcock
Paul Trebilcock / Alex Rodríguez**

1. WELCOME

Due to the late and unexpected absence of Jesús Lourido (Chairman of Working Group 2) the Vice-Chair André Gueguen nominated Paul Trebilcock to deputise for this meeting. This was unanimously agreed.

The meeting was opened and participants welcomed by the Deputy Chairman. The full list of attendees is shown in Annex I.

- **Apologies**

There were apologies received from WG2 members José Luis Otero (Lonja de la Coruña), Mercedes Rodríguez Moreda (OP-7-LUGO, on this occasion represented by José Manuel Fernández Beltrán), Colm Lordan (GEPETO Project, Marine Institute), Norman Graham (LOT 1 Celtic Sea Project Coordinator – Marine Institute) and Al Kingston (University of St. Andrews).

- **Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

- **Adoption of Report of the Last Meeting**

The report of the meeting held in Dublin on 23 July 2013 was approved as a true and correct record.

2. DEEP-WATER GILLNET FISHERIES

Proposal on Management Measures for Deep-water Gillnets

Juan Carlos Corrás summarised the latest draft proposal on management measures for deep-water gillnet fisheries. It had been significantly redrafted in light of comments and concerns made by WG2 members at the previous meeting. A copy of the redrafted version of the letter was made available among members and uploaded on the NWWRAC website¹.

The Deputy Chairman explained that this amended proposal has been extensively circulated within the last four months and that it was necessary for WG2 to take a decision on whether it was possible to fully endorse and support the proposal or not.

A number of concerns were raised:

- From an eNGO perspective it was felt that there was a lack of definitive scientific information on deep-sea species and related by-catch issues and that without significant research to address the uncertainty in this area they would not be able to support this proposal. The eNGO position was not to support the proposal despite all of the scientific evidence presented and cited in the amended proposal.
- From a fishing industry perspective there was not support for harmonization of mesh size included in the amended proposal.
- There were concerns raised regarding the potential for creating/increasing gear conflict issues with other sectors such as the trawl sector.
- There was a suggestion that the timing of such a proposal was unfortunate. Perhaps waiting until the adopted text on the imminent EU deep-sea species regulation would assist in resolving this issue.

Given the high number of legitimate concerns raised it was agreed that this proposal would have to be on hold as it was not possible to achieve the necessary level of agreement or support at this time.

The Deputy Chair explicitly recognised the hard work and time Juan Carlos Corrás had put in on this proposal. It was disappointing that consensus could not be achieved at this time on this issue.

¹

http://www.nwwrac.org/admin/publication/upload/DRAFT_NWWRAC_Letter_Proposal_Deepwater_Gillnet_Fisheries_July2013_EN.pdf

3. MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR CELTIC SEA MIXED DEMERSAL FISHERIES (ICES VIIIfg)

The last Focus Group (FG) was held in Dublin during September 2013.

The FG had primarily been an information exchange exercise for modeling assessment methodologies for mixed fisheries including the F-cube approach.

This was still work in progress and was being developed by the GEPETO Project and it was felt that it was important for supporting any LTMP for mixed fisheries.

Traction and real progress has been difficult because of resource and time constraints. The Celtic Sea LTMP was progressing along similar lines as the Irish Sea LTMP.

The other main area of discussion was the assessment of the emergency selectivity measures (square mesh panels) introduced by the Commission into fisheries the Celtic Sea during 2012 and also assessment of selectivity measures taken by Belgian beam-trawlers.

ACTIONS:

- **It is necessary to convene the FG in early 2014 to re-focus its work. This would be best done following the outcomes of the first meeting with LOT1 Project coordinators have been agreed.**
- **The ToR and intention of the FG would remain the same: To Develop a Multi Annual Management Plan (MAMP) for the mixed fisheries in the Celtic Sea. It was underlined due to concerns expressed that the proposals will not be discriminatory against any part of the fleet.**
- **There was a clear requirement for additional staff time/resource. The NWW RAC Secretariat will closely monitor the developments of the additional staff proposal made by Michael Keatinge in BIM to ensure that any synergies can be fully utilized.**
- **NWW RAC would request that the Commission/STECF provide an update on the selectivity measures introduced in 2012**

4. EC PROPOSAL OF REGULATION ON FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2014

WG2 members were asked to contribute their comments/thoughts/evidence so that they could be incorporated into a NWW RAC response to the Commission.

Haddock VIIb-k

It is imperative to address the proposed reduction of 75% in TAC for Haddock VIIb-k for 2014. It was felt the assessment model used by ICES was not fit for purpose as it was not able to handle the sporadic spikes in recruitment associated with this stock. It was suggested an alternative might be used such as the Icelandic methodology being used in Vb. In addition the effects of the selectivity measures imposed and discard patterns must be taken into account.

Anglerfish VII

The ICES scientific assessment of this stock supports the TAC to be held at its current level and indeed suggests a small increase in TAC was compatible with sustainability objectives.

Northern Hake

It was noted that the NWW RAC had written to the Commission requesting an upward revision of the Northern Hake TAC for 2013. There was some disappointment expressed that not all member states had supported this position.

However the Deputy Chair made it very clear the NWW RAC had written to the Commission requesting the upward revision of the TAC in 2013 in line with the request of WG2. Any deviation from this position was down to Member States and not the NWW RAC.

Data Limited Stocks

There was opposition to the blunt and general approach taken by the Commission on stocks falling into this category with proposed reductions of 20% in TACs. Stocks included in this were Pollack VII and Skates and Rays.

ACTIONS:

- **NWWRAC Secretariat to prepare a draft position statement on the EC Proposal of Regulation on Fishing Opportunities for 2014 based on the discussions and comments raised during WG2 meeting.**
- **Members of WG2 were given the opportunity to submit any additional comments to the NWWRAC Secretariat within a week for incorporation into the position.**



5. RULES ON USE OF PINGERS IN UK

The Deputy Chair briefly summarized the position in UK. Since the introduction of the Council Regulation No 812/2004 fishermen from CFPO and researchers from St. Andrews University's Seal and Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) have been working to develop a reliable, robust and cost effective pinger.

The outcome of this collaboration was a larger DDD pinger with a greater range of acoustic deterrence. This larger pinger was more cost effective and more practical for vessels to handle. A specific derogation had been sought and given from the EU Commission for the use of these DDD pingers.

The Deputy Chair apologized for the lack of clear communication on the work that had been done in the UK and that other Member State fishermen did not know of this work.

It was noted that UK fishermen had to carry a specific letter of derogation for the use of DDD pingers.

The relevant people from St. Andrews University have agreed to attend the next meeting of WG2 if required.

Guidance documents produced by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in the UK will be circulated by the NWW RAC secretariat for information.

ACTIONS

- **The NWW RAC Secretariat will circulate MMO guidance documents.**
- **The NWW RAC Secretariat will invite the relevant researcher/s from St Andrews University to the next WG2 meeting to enable a more detailed and technical discussion on the DDD pingers, including displacement effects on porpoises.**

The Deputy Chair thanked all attendees, interpreters and Secretariat.

Meeting was closed at 15:35 h



ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS		
Name	Surname/s	Organization
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish FPO – Deputy WG2 Chair / Rapporteur
André	Gueguen	OPOB / Pecheurs de Bretagne – WG2 Vice-Chair
Bertie	Armstrong	NWWRAC Chairman
Víctor	Badiola	OPPAO – CEPESCA
René-Pierre	Chever	CDPMEM Finistère
Juan Carlos	Corrás Arias	Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco
Debbie	Crockard	Seas at Risk
John	Crudden	European Anglers Association
Dave	Cuthbert	NUTFA
Barrie	Deas	NFFO
José Manuel	Fdez. Beltrán	OPP-07-LUGO
Caroline	Gamblin	CNPMEM
Marc	Ghiglia	UAPF – NWWRAC Honorary President / GA Chair
Hugo	González	ANASOL/ARVI
John	Lynch	Irish Fishermen’s Org.
Alan	McCulla	ANIFPO NI
Kevin	McDonnell	West of Scotland FPO

MEMBERS (CONT.)		
Name	Surname/s	Organization
Jennifer	Mouat	SWFPA Ltd.
Francis	O'Donnell	Irish Fish PO
Sean	O'Donoghue	Kyllibegs FO
Eibhlin	O'Sullivan	Irish South West FPO
Jacques	Pichon	ANOP – PMA – Pêcheurs de Bretagne
Jim	Portus	SWFPO
Caitlín	Uí Aodha	Irish South East FPO
OBSERVERS / EXPERTS		
Name	Surname/s	Organization
Giles	Barlett	WWF UK
Victoria	Beaz	EBCD
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Stephen	Cederrand	EFCA
Alan	Coghill	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Ramón	De la Figuera	MAGRAMA - Spanish Administration
Paul	Francoise	FFSPM
Francois	Hennuyer	FROM Nord
Roy	Griffin	DG MARE - Commission



OBSERVERS / EXPERTS (CONT.)		
Name	Surname/s	Organization
Daniel	Lefevre	CNPMEM Basse Normandie
Laurent	Markovic	DG MARE - Commission
Rémi	Mejecaze	DPMEM France - MS rep.
Dominic	Rihan	DG MARE - Commission
Philip	Taylor	RSPB Birdlife
Liane	Veitch	Client Earth
Johnny	Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary

NWWRAC SECRETARIAT		
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Joanna	McGrath	Administration / Finances
Alexandre	Rodríguez	Policy Coordinator