



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
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LIST OF ACTIONS AND WORK PLAN

Steering Group on West of Scotland Fisheries BIM Dublin, Thursday 22 May 2014 2:30 – 4:30pm

What is the aim of this meeting?

To start thinking on the “skeleton” for developing a regional discards plan for mixed demersal fisheries in the West of Scotland (ICES VIa) as a result of the implementation of the landings obligation (LO) as follows:

- What needs to be done (elements) and by who (responsible persons)
- Timescale: From now until May 2014 (1 year)
- Next steps: To prepare a draft proposal for discussion at the WG1 meeting in Edinburgh on 3 July – once agreed, submit to NWW MS Working Group.

What happens with the work done to date?

The concept paper is shown as useful background information.
This will be further developed over time.

List of actions

1. Identify the particular fisheries and métiers:
 - 1.1. National fleet representatives (UK, IE, FR, ES, BE, NE) to work with their scientific institutes in clearly defining the fisheries/métiers.
 - 1.2. Compile existing information from ICES WGMIX/STECF
2. Secure a flexible and sensible interpretation on the scope and extent of the LO, i.e. what to retain on board – i.e. Targeted species only or also by-catch species?
3. Agree on a list of species to be included in a phased (stepwise) approach for implementation of LO along the period 2016-2019 - 8 species were initially identified to be included in the plan for dealing with on Year 1 (2016), with a possibility of be aggregated for management purposes:
 - Whitefish mix - Cod, Haddock, Whiting, Saithe
 - Nephrops
 - Common Sole and Plaice
 - Hake



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Other species in the longer term will be Anglerfish, Megrim.
What do we do with those pelagic species not dealt with by the PelAC in NWW (e.g. sprat, Argentine, bluefin/albacore tuna)

4. Define what “*de minimis*” provisions apply to exactly:
 - 5% of total annual catches or on a trip by trip basis?
 - Is the 5% a ceiling or a maximum?
 - How will TAC uplift operate in practice and how will be the interaction between TAC for different species/fisheries?
 - How this will affect to relative stability allocation keys for national fleets?
 - Will there be a multispecies component covering overall quotas across a range of species or it is rather based on individual species?
 - What happens with those MS having no quota for some species?
 - How exemptions apply (sensitive species, survivability)?
 - How the issue of the choke species will be tackled?
5. Submit proposals on quota convertibility, i.e. 9% interspecies flexibility between Member States. Assist MS in finding an agreement on the basic principles at regional level. Find a definition of safe biological limits in the EU Regulations.
6. Develop and include in the plan discard reduction strategies, particularly for cod, haddock and whiting: develop a specific suite of measures to avoid catching cod where possible – as this is a non-target fishery, secondary approaches might be considered: avoidance plans, spatial/temporal closures, gear selectivity...
7. Include in the plan a chapter on control and enforcement: reversing the burden of the proof putting onus on the industry, fully documented fisheries, etc.

Next steps:

The NWWAC to put basic ideas in writing in a discussion paper to be presented to the MS before further work is developed. The NWWAC will submit its agreed paper to the NWW Member States Group so we can have initial discussions with headlines of how to approach to a future discards plan. It is important that we get a good understanding and work together with Member States.