



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

North Western Waters Advisory Council

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Georges Hall, Dublin Castle - Ireland

Wednesday 26th March 2014

09:00 - 11:00

Chairman: Bertie Armstrong

Rapporteur: Alexandre Rodríguez

1. Welcome

The Chairman of the NWWAC, Bertie Armstrong, welcomed members, Commission representatives and observers to the meeting.

The full list of participating organisation representatives is detailed in Annex I.

- **Apologies:**

Apologies were received from the following members:

- Jacques Pichon (Vice-Chair, ANOP represented by Julien Lamothe)
- Hugo González (Vice-Chair, ANASOL represented by Purificación Fernández)
- André Gueguen (CNP MEM represented by Caroline Gamblin)
- Víctor Badiola (OPPAO)
- Luc Corbisier (SDVO – Chair of Discards Working Group).

Apologies were also noted from Jesús Lourido (Puerto de Celeiro, WG2 Chair – Obs.).

- **Adoption of the agenda:**

The agenda was adopted without any comments or changes.

- **Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting (Paris, 7 November 2013):**

The minutes were considered to be a true record of the meeting and were formally adopted without comment or change.

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Executive Committee Meeting

Dublin, 26 March 2014



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2. Actions arising from EGA/EGM and Horizontal Working Groups (HWG)

The Executive Committee was requested to endorse the recommendations from the following meetings:

GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA) / EXTRAORDINARY COMPANY GENERAL MEETING (EGM)

Chair: Marc Ghiglia

- The GA members approved the change of name from *North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council* to *North Western Waters Advisory Council*, and the amendment of the relevant provision of the Irish Company rules governing the NWWAC (Memorandum and Articles of Association) so it is aligned with EU law and the legal requirement established by the CFP Regulation EU No 1380/2013.

HORIZONTAL WORKING GROUP ON CFP REFORM: REGIONALISATION

Chair: Bertie Armstrong

1. The NWWAC Chairman sought a mandate from the members of the Executive Committee in order to formulate the following requests and comments at the next Fisheries Directors Meeting of the North West Waters Member States Group in Edinburgh on 8 April:

- The NWWAC would like to be involved in the consultation process with Member States from the outset. Therefore, the NWWAC would like to ask for a statement of intent from Fisheries Directors of Member States to ensure that there will be active participation and involvement of the Advisory Council throughout the whole consultation process.
- The NWWAC is willing to develop a specific proposal for a regional discards plan for two pelagic stocks within its geographical remit of work: Channel (VIIId) sprat and argentine (VI-VII), should the Member States support this initiative. More information regarding format of submission and timescale is required to streamline cooperation and to be considered prior to the submission of a joint recommendation.
- The NWWAC will produce, under its own initiative, a paper on how they see the consultation process. The NWWAC will also work with MS according to the legal framework and recent administrative developments arising from the establishment of the North West Waters Member States Group.

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2. The NWWAC members will submit to the Secretariat their views on how they see the consultation process within a regional management working with the Member States. ClientEarth has kindly offered to assist in the drafting by laying out the legal framework and legal aspects for a regional consultation process. The Secretariat will then prepare a draft paper together with the NWWAC Chair for discussion and, if agreed, adoption at the next Executive Committee meeting in July 2014.

HORIZONTAL WORKING GROUP ON DISCARDS

Chair: Francis O'Donnell (in absence of Luc Corbisier)

1. The Working Group has agreed to set an action plan to develop regional discard plans for the various mixed demersal fisheries in NWW (VI-VII).

The NWWAC will adapt the template developed by the Pelagic Advisory Council for the structure of the plan in combination with the 5 elements that the Commission can include in a discard plan under a delegated act.

1. Definition of fisheries
2. Exemptions of survivability
3. *De minimis* justifications
4. Provisions on documentation of catches
5. Fixing of Minimum Conservation Reference Sizes

It was agreed that the above referred plans will be dealt with by area and allocated to the four existing Geographical Working Groups (West of Scotland, West of Ireland and Celtic Sea, Channel and Irish Sea).

A steering group will be established for each of the areas upon request to frontload work and prepare a scoping paper that can be presented at the July 2014 Meetings. These steering groups will be moderated by the Chairs of the Working Groups and will have a maximum number of 10-15 participants (including scientists, policy makers, etc.). A pragmatic approach and coordination between WGs on shared stocks is required.

The terms of reference and composition of this group will be circulated within the briefest delay with the view of holding a 1-2 day meeting in May/June in the new BIM conference facilities in Dun Laoghaire, Dublin.



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2. The NWWAC will look at gathering fisheries information and start the work in developing regional discards plan with the following timescale:

- For Channel sprat and Argentine: relevant fleet representatives/members of national fleets to provide any relevant information/evidence by May 2014.
- For demersal fisheries, a proposed discards plan agreed by the NWWAC should be submitted to the Member States by April/May 2015.

In order to be able to progress with work in this area, it was agreed that funding must be allocated to hiring a dedicated full time discards research officer for at least a 6-12 month period. The NWWAC will need to look at different sources of income and assess a number of options such as (but not limited to):

- Allocating a (voluntary) contribution of 500 euros by each member organisation (subject to approval)
- Utilising any existing surplus within the NWWAC budget (requires formal amendment of the budget to be approved by the Commission)
- Asking the Member States to include science-industry partnership projects under their national budgets stemming from EFF/EMFF.

3. Review of exchange of correspondence between the NWWAC and the EC/MS

The members acknowledged the responses received from the Commission in relation to a set of three letters submitted on the 4 September 2013 (northern hake, skates and rays, and spurdog and porbeagle) and the two following NWWAC Letters submitted on 6 December 2013:

- Advice on Fishing Opportunities for 2014
- Nephrops management in Porcupine Bank (FU16) for 2014

The above mentioned correspondence is available for consultation on the publications section of the NWWAC website: <http://www.nwwac.org/publications.26.html>

The Commission representatives encouraged the NWWAC to submit the letters earlier in the year as December was too late for them to be considered given the proximity of the Fisheries Council.



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4. Decision regarding procedures and membership

4.1. Application for Executive Committee membership from ClientEarth

According to article 22 of the NWWAC rules of procedure, the General Assembly is the body that appoints the members of the Executive Committee. However, given the fact that there are two vacant seats under the “*other groups of interest*” category of article 22.c), and that the GA had agreed that those vacant seats could be filled any time before the next election procedure, it would be up to the members of the Executive Committee to approve the appointment of any new Executive Committee members for the duration of the present term of mandate (ending 30 September 2014).

ClientEarth, being a member of the NWWAC since September 2013, submitted a formal letter on 14 March 2014 requesting to join the Executive Committee as member of other interest groups¹. The Chairman invited ClientEarth representative, Liane Veitch, to provide a brief overview of the organisation’s activities and the reasons for applying for this seat.

Ms. Veitch explained that ClientEarth is a public interest European environmental law organisation founded in 2006, with its main office in London. The organisation works collaboratively with industry, national and EU administrations and other relevant stakeholders to help provide legal clarification of EU environmental and fisheries law and policy aimed to protect and restore marine ecosystems. Their main area of work at present is related to the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. They believe they can contribute to the NWWAC with their legal expertise in achieving an effective and practical regionalisation process under the new decision making framework.

DECISION: The members of the Executive Committee did not pose any objections and ClientEarth was therefore accepted as an organisation member of the Executive Committee of the North Western Waters Advisory Council with immediate effect.

4.2. New composition of the GA/Executive Committee (60:40)

Alexandre Rodríguez (NWWAC Secretariat) presented two scenarios to adjust the number of members of the Executive Committee in line with the change in the composition of the Advisory Councils from 2/3:1/3 to 60:40 (ratio industry members : other groups of interest) enshrined in the new CFP Regulation.

¹ Letter uploaded as meeting paper in the NWWAC website:

http://www.nwwac.org/fileupload/Papers%20and%20Presentations/2014/ClientEarth_Letter_Application_NWWAC_ExCom_14March2014.pdf



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Mr. Rodríguez also mentioned that the Commission might consider including in its future delegated act an increase in the maximum number of members of the Executive Committee provided that a sufficient and adequate representation of the small scale fisheries representatives was demonstrated.

GROUP CATEGORIES	CURRENT SITUATION (2/3:1/3)	NEW OPTION (60:40) CFP 1	NEW OPTION (60:40) CFP 2
FISHING SECTOR	16	15	18
OTHER GROUPS OF INTEREST	8	10	12

Some members suggested that figures could be rounded off if there is a number between 25 and 30 members. They also recommended taking into consideration the costs involved as a result of the increase in members in relation to the provision of quality advice.

The majority of the members showed their preference for increasing the maximum number to 30 members to avoid losing seats for the existing fishing industry representatives whilst allowing a significant increase of seats for other interest groups (including eNGOs).

Regarding representativeness of small scale fisheries, many members think that it is important to undertake an internal evaluation within the NWWAC associates to show “*who represents who*” and the exact numbers. This would contribute to increase transparency and trust by the Commission and any other interested third parties.

It was considered positive that this exercise of transparency should also be extended to the representatives and constituents of the civil society as well as including environmental NGOs.

It was also stressed that there is not a uniform definition for small scale/artisanal fisheries (varying for each Member State and even within them). Moreover, on many occasions the artisanal and industrial boats are seen as a whole fishing activity in most ports. In the end, all fishing industry members consider themselves as fishers and most have shared concerns on making a living for the future through a sustainable exploitation of the fishing stocks.

ACTION:

The Secretariat will send a note to the Commission informing about the preference of this Advisory Council for setting a number of 30 members in the Executive Committee.



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ACTION:

The Secretariat will compile information received from the NWWAC members regarding representation of Small Scales Fisheries (fishing organisation) and civil society (other interest groups).

5. Presentation of Ecosystem Based Atlas for Fisheries in NWW – L. Dransfield

Leonie Dransfield (Marine Institute) made a presentation of the content of the revised 3rd edition of the “*Ecosystem Based Fisheries Atlas for North Western Waters*”. A link to the electronic version of the draft Atlas is available for consultation on the Marine Institute site².

The atlas basically includes information on the following topics:

- Water movement – climate and sea temperatures
- Area and bathymetric features
- Changes in the ecology
- Sea floor mapping and habitats – MESH Atlantic
- List of vulnerable habitats
- Legislative provisions and MPAs – positions of SACs and closed areas
- Distribution maps of main sea bird species, marine mammals, and reptiles
- Spawning areas and nursery grounds – data compiled by ICES
- Distribution of fishing activity in Irish EEZ (VMS data and logbook information)
- Atlas of fishing activity – a discards atlas has also been developed as part of GEPETO

The atlas is intended to be a live publication regularly updated and it has been funded by the Marine Institute following the completion of the MEFEP0 Project.

The NWWAC members thanked Ms. Dransfield for this presentation and praised the work carried out by the Marine Institute resulting in this useful publication.

ACTION

Leonie Dransfield will send a link to the draft version of the NWW atlas on the Marine Institute website. The Secretariat will circulate this atlas with an open call asking for feedback from the NWWAC members to incorporate any relevant fisheries data or information on fishing activities in the areas of study until the end of April/mid-May 2014. After that, the Atlas will be presented as a joint publication of the Marine Institute and the North Western Waters Advisory Council.

² <https://filesender.heanet.ie/1.6/?vid=77e66f31-db57-eb89-d3ef-00005286e8d2>



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6. Strategy of participation of NWWAC in future EU projects

The Chairman opened the debate stressing that it is urgent to mobilise all necessary resources of support to the work in developing regional fisheries discards plans. The members have proven to be strongly committed to giving priority to this work for the next 12 months. For that reason, it was agreed that hiring a research project officer should take priority. The Secretariat will look at the budget available and make an estimation of costs and all necessary steps to initiate a recruitment procedure (such as initial period and terms of employment). The members should also provide ongoing input from consultation by email, and through discussions held at Steering Groups and Working Groups.

The NWWAC Secretariat was also commissioned to continue looking at possible sources of funding; including EU funded project and national calls from Member States from EFF/EMFF/ERDF. The DG MARE representative, Dominic Rihan, added that the Commission could help in facilitating the process if there are specific technical requirements or evaluations to carry out since the Commission is permitted to send specific requests for advice to ICES/STECF.

ACTION:

The Secretariat will set up a proposal for a framework or strategy to apply for additional funding. This will include a protocol to deal with the increasing number of requests to become partners for EU projects. A suggested protocol together with a draft letter will be circulated for comments and adoption by the members of the Executive Committee.

7. Report on participation at various meetings by RAC representatives in 2014

The designated representatives provided a brief oral report of the following meetings:

- MAREFRAME kick off meeting – Reykjavik, 10-12 February - A. Rodriguez
- ICES Benchmark Workshop on Celtic Sea (WKCELT) – Copenhagen – E. O’Sullivan
- GAP2 Workshop on VIlde Scallops – Brixham, 15-16 April - A. Rodriguez

Reports for all meetings are, or will soon be, available on the NWWAC meeting site.



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AOB (requested by members)

- Rays management

The Channel Working Group 3, Daniel Lefèvre, mentioned that there has been some progress achieved with future management for undulate ray stock as even if it still has zero TAC it has been removed from the list of prohibited species.

A French coalition of organisations in the Western Channel will present a proposal for a management plan to the Commission to prove that a TAC can be restored for this species.

- Adoption of Advice

Eobhlín O'Sullivan asked the members to reach an agreement on procedures for the adoption of position papers when they are diverging positions that are submitted within the last stages of the consultation for adoption. The Chairman agreed with Eibhlín that insertion of minority or diverging positions as last minute contributions merits further reflection. An extreme case or example would be the annual advice on fishing opportunities.

- European Conference on Healthy Oceans and Marine Ecosystem (HOPE 2014)

Johnny Woodlock announced that the DG ENV of the Commission recently held a European Conference on Healthy Oceans and Marine Ecosystems (HOPE) for the Marine Environment. He recommended reading the proceedings and the political declaration as it might be of interest for NWWAC members. It also contains one specific section dedicated to funding. More information is available here: ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/hope-conference/

8. Summary of actions agreed and concluding remarks by the Chairman

The Chairman thanked all participants for their attendance, the Irish Government for hosting the NWWAC meetings in such a nice venue, Dublin Castle staff for their outstanding professionalism and efficiency, the Secretariat for all the assistance provided with the logistics and efforts in the preparation and running of these meetings, and the interpreters for their excellent use of fisheries vocabulary.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 11:00



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ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS		
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ORGANISATION
Bertie	Armstrong	NWWRAC Chairman
Marc	Ghiglia	NWWRAC GA Chair / Honorary President
Jacques	Bigot	France Pêche Durable et Responsable
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Kara	Brydson	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds / Birdlife
Alan	Coghill	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Debbie	Crockard	MCS UK (representing Seas at Risk)
John	Crudden	European Anglers' Alliance
Bruno	Dachicourt	CFTC-ETF
Barrie	Deas	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation
Anton	Dekker	Dutch Fisheries Organisation
Purificación	Fernández	ANASOL-ARVI (<i>replacing Hugo González</i>)
Caroline	Gamblin	Comité National de Pêches Maritimes (<i>replacing André Gueguen</i>)
Konstantinos	Kokosis	European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)
Geert	Meun	Dutch Fisheries Organisation
Eduardo	Míguez	European Association of Ports and Auctions
Sean	O'Donoghue	Kyllibegs Fishermens Organisation
Eibhlín	O'Sullivan	Irish South and West Fish Producers Organisation
John	Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary

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OBSERVERS		
Stéphan	Beaucher	Fisheries Consultant
Tom	Blasdale	JNCC – Scientific observer
Isobel	Bloor	Bangor University – Scientific observer
René-Pierre	Chever	CRPMEM du Finistère
Juan Carlos	Corrás Arias	Pescagalicia-Orpega-Obarco
Richard	Curtin	Bord Iascaigh Mhara
Dave	Cuthbert	New Under Ten Metres Fisheries Association
John	Daly	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Leonie	Dransfield	Marine Institute - Presentor
Ramón	De la Figuera Morales	Ministerio Agricultura - Gobierno de España – MS
Siobhán	Egan	BirdWatch Ireland
José Manuel	Fernández Beltrán	OPP-07-LUGO
Robert	Griffin	DG MARE – European Commission
Irene	Kingma	Dutch Elasmobranch Society
Daniel	Lefèvre	CRPMEM Basse Normandie – WG3 Chair
Olivier	Le Nezet	CRPMEM Bretagne – Active Fisherman
John	Lynch	Irish Fishermen’s Organisation
Laurent	Markovic	DG MARE – European Commission
Alan	McCulla	ANIFPO – WG4 Chair
Kevin	McDonnell	West of Scotland FPO Ltd.
Michael	McLeod	Marine Scotland - MS
Rémi	Méjécaze	DPMEM – France – MS



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Sean	Murray	Irish Administration - MS
OBSERVERS (cont.)		
Stéphanie	Newman	Institute for European Environmental Policy
Francis	O'Donnell	Irish Fish Producers' Organisation – HWG Chair
Miquel	Ortega	Fundació ENT
José Luis	Otero González	Lonja de La Coruña
Brendan	Price	Wildlife Consultant / Irish Seal Sanctuary
Glenn	Quelch	European Fisheries Control Agency
Dominic	Rihan	DG MARE – European Commission
Cathrine	Schirmer	The Pew Charitable Trusts
Sarah	Vandamme	ILVO – Scientific Observer
Liane	Veitch	Client Earth
Antony	Viera	CRPMEM Nord/Pas de Calais/Picardie (<i>replacing Delphine Roncin</i>)

SECRETARIAT		
Michael	Keatinge	BIM – Director
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Alexandre	Rodríguez	Executive Assistant - Policy and Communications
Joanna	McGrath	Executive Assistant – Administration and Finances