

MINUTES

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NORTH WESTERN WATERS REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Georges Hall, Dublin Castle, Ireland

Tuesday 25th March 2014

09.00 - 10.00

Chairman: Marc Ghiglia

Directors: Bertie Armstrong, Conor Nolan

Rapporteur: Alexandre Rodríguez

1. Welcome and introductions

1.1. Opening remarks by the Honorary President of the North Western Waters RAC, Marc Ghiglia

Marc Ghiglia, Honorary President of the NWW Rac and Chairman of the General Assembly, welcomed all participants to this Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) and GA of the NWW Rac.

The following apologies were noted:

Michael Keatinge (NWW Rac Director, Ireland)	Louis Morvan (FIPS, France)
Victor Badiola (OPPAO, Spain)	Jacques Pichon (ANOP, France)
Tom Bryan-Brown (Manx FPO, Isle of Man - UK)	Dominique Thomas (CME-OP, France)
Luc Corbisier (SDVO, Belgium)	Paul Trebilcock (Cornish FPO, UK)
Javier Garat (CEPESCA – Spain)	Jesús Lourido (Puerto de Celeiro, Spain)
André Gueguen (OPOB, France)	Jim Portus (SWFPO, UK)
John Hermse (Scallop Association, Scotland UK)	Hugo González (ANASOL, Spain represented by Purificación Fernández)

The complete list of participants is provided in Annex I.

1.2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda for the meeting was adopted without change or comment.

The President and GA Chair of the NWWRAC gave the floor to the Secretariat of the NWWRAC (Conor Nolan and Alex Rodriguez) to continue the business of the meeting.

2. Change of company name

The Executive Secretary and Company Director, Dr Conor Nolan, introduced this item and informed the members that, following the change of “Regional Advisory Councils” to “Advisory Councils” within the new CFP, and in accordance with Irish Company Law, the NWWRAC has been obliged to hold this Extraordinary General Meeting to amend its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Secretariat submitted these amendments to all NWWRAC members by email on 26 February 2014, who received a 21-day statutory notice in writing of the meeting. The following Special Resolutions are pursued:

1. That the company changes its name to **North Western Waters Advisory Council**.
2. That the main object for which the Company was established will remain unaltered and will be in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the Common Fisheries Policy. This act has effectively repealed Council Regulations (EC) No 2371/2002 and (EC) No 639/2004 and Council Decision 2004/585/EC.
3. That the relevant provisions of the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company be hereby amended.

Should there be no objections, the Secretary and Board of Directors of the NWWRAC will instruct the company accountant to ensure that this change is reflected in a revised Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The Executive Secretary handed the floor over to the RAC President to request the members’ approval to pass these resolutions.

Decision: The presentation ended with a request from the Chairman of the GA of the NWWRAC to the members of the General Assembly/EGM to pass the resolutions. The special resolutions were approved by consensus by the members.

3. Report from Secretariat

The Executive Assistant and Policy Officer, Alexandre Rodríguez, provided an overview of the following sub items for information.

3.1. Updated calendar of meetings for Year 9

An updated calendar of meetings for the NWWRAC financial year 9 (running until 30 September 2014) was presented. The calendar is available for consultation on the NWWRAC Website.

It was confirmed that the two next sets of ordinary meetings are confirmed for July and September 2014. A full set of Working Group meetings and an Executive Committee plus the presentation of ICES advice are expected to take place in the first week of July (Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd) in Edinburgh. Both the GA and the Executive Committee will be held in Dublin Castle on the 17th of September, with a possible additional day on the 18th for Working Groups and/or Focus Groups budget permitting.

For the second quarter of 2014, and following extensive work by the Organising Committee and Steering Group, a GAP2 Project Workshop on Channel Scallops management in collaboration with the NWWRAC has been confirmed for 15-16 April in Brixham (Devon – UK). Agendas and letters of invitation have already been sent to the relevant industry representatives in UK and France, and more information will follow by email.

Pending budget availability, there is also the possibility of holding 2-3 extra Focus Groups (of half a day each) in May or June.

3.2. Information on new membership

A brief update was given on NWWRAC membership to inform of new members since the last General Assembly held on 18 September 2013.

The NWWRAC currently has 63 members - this includes the addition in Year 9 of the following four organisations (one fishing industry and three other interest groups):

1 Fishing industry

- CEPESCA (member of GA only) - Spain

3 Other interest groups

- ClientEarth (member of GA and WG4) – EU
- Fundació ENT (member of GA and WG2) - Spain
- BirdWatch Ireland (member of GA and WG2) - Ireland

This number also includes the re-joining in Year 9 of two organisations that were previously members of the NWWRAC and whose membership for Y9 was uncertain pending an internal review: Wales & West Coast FPO (fishing sector) and WWF UK (other interest groups)

There are also two eNGO applications in the pipeline:

- The Dutch Elasmobranch Society (GA and WG3)
- The PEW Charitable Trusts (GA and WG3)

The representatives of the new organisations members Fundació ENT (Miquel Ortega) and Birdwatch Ireland (Siobhán Egan) and the candidate organisations The Dutch Elasmobranch Society (Irene Kingma) and The PEW Charitable Trusts (Cathrine Schirmer) introduced themselves and provided a brief overview of their reasons and interest in joining the NWWRAC.

Provided that these applications are approved by Member States and the Executive Committee, the total number of organisations belonging to the NWWRAC General Assembly will be 65, which is the highest number of members ever since the NWWRAC was established.

With regards to the Executive Committee membership, there are 2 seats which currently remain vacant in the 1/3 group (Other Interest Groups). ClientEarth have expressed an interest to occupy one of these seats and will make a presentation before the Executive Committee members.

3.3. Update on new website

The new NWWRAC website is currently at its final stages of completion and it is going through comprehensive testing to ensure adequate performance and proper visualisation in different devices (i.e. desktop PCs, tablets and mobiles). It is planned to go live by the end of April/early May and the following domain names are registered for exclusive use:

www.nwwac.org / www.nwwrac.org / www.nwwac.eu / www.nwwrac.eu

This is a brief summary of the work progress in the different areas:

1. The website layout (*front end*) will be very similar to the existing one, with improvements and upgrades in the design that will make it more user-friendly. It will be structured under the same categories as in the current one and it will maintain the publications section and the meetings table.
2. The new website has been built with a *custom responsive design*, meaning that it will automatically adjust format for contents to be displayed in tablet and mobile devices. The new web has also the potential of developing new features and functionalities in the near future such as online registration to meetings, or web conferencing systems.
3. For the administrators' site (*CMS - content management system*), all documents and attachments (e.g. rules of procedure, publications, meeting papers, advices...) from the existing website have now been migrated in the three languages to the new website with no loss of information.
4. Enhanced web security and IT support features have been also added.

3.4. Election of positions (1 October 2014 – 30 September 2017)

In accordance with the rules of procedure of the NWWRAC as amended in January 2013, the term of mandate for all NWWRAC positions is 3 years - this includes the GA/Honorary President, the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairpersons, the members and the rapporteur of the Executive Committee; the Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteurs of the Working Groups; and the Secretariat.

The current term of office ends on 30 September 2014. The Secretariat will send a call for expressions of interest for these positions and will provide a presentation of the procedures for the nomination of candidates at the NWWRAC meetings in July. The elections will take place in the GA/Executive Committee meetings in Dublin on 17 September 2014 and the appointed candidates will commence their term the 1st of October 2014.

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

In accordance with art 45 and Annex III of the new CFP Regulation (EU Regulation No 1380/2013), the Advisory Councils now have the following composition:

- 60% of seats for the GA/Executive Committee are allotted to (industrial and small scale) fishermen and other fishing sector representatives (processing, marketing, trade unions...)
- 40% of seats for the GA/Executive Committee are allotted to other groups of interest (including environmental NGOs, consumer groups and recreational fishermen).

The ACs are still waiting on information regarding the implementing rules that will be laid out by the Commission through a delegated act, and that might set a limit for the maximum number of members of the Executive Committee.

The Secretariat has prepared a table with three likely scenarios (“statu quo” of 24; increase to 25 or 30 members) for discussion at the Executive Committee meeting. Depending on the outcome of the Executive Committee, the NWWRAC could submit a proposal regarding its preferred option to the Commission prior to the EC delegated act being adopted.

3.6. Comments on Additional Sources of Funding

Since the last meetings in November, the Secretariat has been active in pursuing funding from European sources and has provisionally accepted, in agreement with the Chair and subject to endorsement of the Executive Committee, to become a full partner in three candidate consortia that are submitting a project proposal to a H2020 specific call on implementation of landings obligation.

The NWWRAC is also currently an associate partner of the GEPETO Project (for developing a management plan for the Celtic Sea) and with allocated funding to the FP7 Project MAREFRAME on practical implementation of an ecosystem based approach to fisheries management.

The Secretariat will further investigate the possibility of benefiting of dedicated funding for the ACs under the EMFF Regulation (once it is adopted) and through their implementing national development programmes at Member State level.



4. Summary of actions and decision

The GA members passed the special resolutions discussed under item 2 and as a result 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 NWWRAC (Memorandum and Articles of Association) so it is aligned with EU law and the legal requirement established by the new CFP Basic Regulation (1380/2013).

The meeting closed at 9:30 h, half an hour ahead of schedule

Annex I

List of members and participating observers

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS			
Member State	Organisation	Representative	Status
France	Union des armateurs de la pêche en France (UAPF)	Marc Ghiglia	NWWRAC President
UK	Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)	Bertie Armstrong	NWWRAC Chairman
EU	European Anglers' Alliance (EAA)	John Crudden	GA Member
EU	Seas at Risk Organisation	Debbie Crockard	GA Member
EU	European Transport Federation (ETF)	Bruno Dachicourt	GA Member
EU	European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)	Konstantinos Kokosis	GA Member
EU	European Association of Fishing Ports and Auctions (EAFPA)	Eduardo Míguez López	GA Member
EU	ClientEarth	Liane Veitch	GA Member
Belgium	Rederscentrale	Emiel Brouckaert	GA Member
France	Copeport Maree OPBN	Richard Brouzes	GA Member
France	Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins du Finistère	René-Pierre Chever	GA Member
France	Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins	Caroline Gamblin	GA Member
France	Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins de Basse Normandie	Daniel Lefèvre	WG3 Chairman

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS (cont.)			
Member State	Organisation	Representative	Status
France	France Pêche Durable et Responsable	Thierry Lepêtre	GA Member
France	Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins de Bretagne	Olivier Le Nezet	GA Member
France	Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins du Nord / Pas de Calais / Picardie	Antony Viera	GA Member
Ireland	Birdwatch Ireland	Siobhán Egan	GA Member
Ireland	Irish Fishermen's Organisation (IFO)	John Lynch	GA Member
Ireland	Irish Fish Producers' Organisation (IFPO)	Francis O'Donnell	GA Member
Ireland	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO)	Sean O'Donoghue	GA Member
Ireland	Irish South and West Fish Producer's Organisation (IS&W FPO)	Eibhlin O'Sullivan	GA Member
Ireland	Irish Seal Sanctuary (ISS)	John Woodlock	GA Member
Netherlands	Stichting van de Nederlandse Visserij / Dutch Fisheries Organisation (SVNV)	Anton Dekker	GA Member
Netherlands	Stichting van de Nederlandse Visserij / Dutch Fisheries Organisation (SVNV)	Geert Meun	GA Member

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS (cont.)			
Member State	Organisation	Representative	Status
Spain	Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Pesca de Gran Sol (ANASOL-ARVI)	Purificación Fernández	GA Member
Spain	Fundació ENT	Miquel Ortega Cerdá	GA Member
Spain	Lonja de La Coruña S.A.	José Luis Otero Gonzalez	GA Member
Spain	Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Lugo (OPP-7)	José Manuel Fdez. Beltrán	GA Member
Spain	Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco	Juan Carlos Corrás Arias	GA Member
UK	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), representing Birdlife International	Kara Brydson	GA Member
UK	Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)	Alan Coghill	GA Member
UK	New Under Ten Fishermen's Association (NUTFA)	Dave Cuthbert	GA Member
UK	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation (NFFO)	Barrie Deas	GA Member
UK	Anglo-North Irish FPO	Alan McCulla	WG4 Chairman
UK	West of Scotland FPO	Kevin McDonnell	GA Member
UK	Scottish Fishermen's Organisation (SFO)	Jane Sandell	WG1 Chairwoman

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OBSERVERS			
First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Status
Stéphan	Beaucher	Consultant	Technical Advisor
Isobel	Bloor	Bangor University	University
John	Daly	Irish Seal Sanctuary	eNGO
Ramón	De la Figuera	Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente	Member State Rep - Spain
Robert	Griffin	DG MARE – Unit C2	European Commission
Irene	Kingma	Ducth Elasmobranch Society	eNGO
Michael	McLeod	Marine Scotland	National Administration – Scotland
Rémi	Méjecz	Ministère de l'écologie, du développement durable et de l'énergie	Member State Rep - France
Stephanie	Newman	Institute for European Environmental Policy	Scientific Institute
Cathrine	Schrimer	The Pew Charitable Trusts	eNGO
Sara	Vandamme	ILVO	Scientific Institute

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