



North Western Waters Advisory Council
West of Scotland Working Group Meeting (WG1)

MINUTES

Budongo Lecture Room - Edinburgh Zoo
Thursday 3 July 2014
09:00 – 10:30 h

Chairman: Jane Sandell
Rapporteur: Kara Brydson

1. Welcome

- Welcome and introductory remarks by WG1 Chair
The Chairwoman, Jane Sandell, welcomed attending members, observers and representatives from the Commission to Edinburgh.
- Apologies were received from Michael Keatinge (BIM), Alan McCulla (ANIFPO), Francis O'Donnell (IFPO represented by John Ward), José Luis Otero (Lonja de la Coruña represented by Severino Ares), Jesús Lourido (Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP-77), Luis Francisco Marín (OPPAO) and Konstantinos Kokosis (EBCD). The list of apologies is appended.
- The agenda of the meeting was adopted without change or comment.
- The report of the last WG1 meeting (Paris, 8 November 2013) was adopted without change or comment.

2. ICES Advice on West of Scotland stocks

- **Analysis and comments on key stocks**

Sean O'Donoghue (SOD) made a number of comments in relation to:

Cod VIa

(i) This stock has had zero TAC for several years and yet there remains a major discarding issue (around 90% of total catches). If F was set in accordance with MSY would we be in a better position? SOD felt that ICES was not prepared to give a view.

(ii) It was queried what percentage of total mortality of cod relates to seal predation. This had been discussed by several WGs over a number of years, and some figures from Scotland and from Ireland were available, but there was felt to be a lack of information from the ICES Marine Mammal Working Group.

(iii) In light of movement/mixing of stocks between area IV and VIa, SOD queried whether and how area VIa Cod was tied into the North Sea cod assessment. There was no clear conclusion, so this question should be raised with ICES.

Whiting VIa

There was a similar question regarding mixing of stocks between areas IV and VIa as there was some surprise that discard levels were so high (particularly for TR2 fleet) and catch data were not reflecting a reduction in discards.

Anglerfish VI

There is no specific advice for monkfish in area VI. There were concerns that the change of survey from spring to autumn, ostensibly due to the availability of human resources, could have an impact in the building of historical data/time series.

ACTION: The NWWAC Secretariat will request feedback from ICES WG Marine Mammals on seal predation impact data in relation to cod stocks. The Secretariat will also request and circulate information from the Scottish Government on the seal predation, and will ask Mike Park and Marine Scotland for the outline of the Scottish WoS Cod project.

ACTION: The Secretariat will request clarification from ICES on mixing/migration of cod between areas VIa and IV.

ACTION: The NWWAC Secretariat will ask ICES for clarification on the timing of anglerfish surveys in Area VI, and any impact this change may have on the time series.

- **EC Fishing Opportunities for 2015**

The Commission's Communication on Fishing Opportunities for 2015 was published on 26 June. The Commission representative, Roy Griffin (RG), explained that stakeholders are invited to present their views to the Commission by 30 September. When asked how the Commission expects all stocks in a mixed fishery to be managed under MSY, RG said that policy intention is to manage stocks in this way.

He was not aware that the EC will introduce new effort regimes as the intention is to focus on MAMPs and regional discard plans.

There were questions from the floor as to why the advice was presented in a stock by stock format when in fact we are dealing with multispecies fisheries, and the intentions behind ICES presenting the 5 different scenarios for mixed fisheries advice in the North Sea and West of Scotland. RG explained that the scenarios are illustrative examples of possible catches. The mixed fisheries advice is exploratory and for information only, and the Commission still considers the single species advice and therefore is not considered for inclusion into TAC and quotas.

Miquel Ortega explained that the eNGOs are preparing a joint paper on the Communication to be fed to the Secretariat for drafting an advice on fishing opportunities.

Bertie Armstrong informed WG1 that EFF funding for Scotland has been approved to carry out a survey on abundance and distribution of demersal species, with deadline end of 2015. A fisheries scientist from Spain has been employed to manage this project.

ACTION: Members are requested to send comments to the secretariat by the end of the month. A NWWAC position will then be drafted and circulated for comment.

3. Implementation of landing obligation

- State of play of review of EC Reg. No 1342/2008
No progress here due to the negotiations between Parliament and Council.
- Report and actions of previous meetings
- Work on developing a regional discard plan: next steps

SOD and the Secretariat (Alex Rodriguez AR) summarised reports and outcomes from previous Focus Group and Steering Group meetings. These reports are available on the NWWAC website. Key points include that we have less than 12 months to develop a plan to implement the Landings Obligation in area VIa. Work must begin now to develop evidence-based advice to feed in to the Member States group.

Liane Veitch (LV) urged that as time is short we should not reinvent the wheel, but instead look at art 15 of CFP Regulation as well as STECF papers about what can and cannot be included in discard plans. This prompted a discussion about STECF having an advisory role and how this may allow flexibilities in our own interpretations of discard plans, for example that technical measures should be one tool in the box.

Barrie Deas (BD) began a discussion about how we engage with the Member State Groups. The NWWAC is making progress on developing our own position on discard plans, but this is an iterative process which requires communication with both individual Member States and with the Member States Group. The Member States Group has stated that there will be opportunities for the ACs to engage with member States at a 'working level'.

Many members agreed that there is a need coordinate all input coming from different WGs to develop a homogeneous and standard process to develop regional discard plans. This might be carried out by the regional discards coordinator project.

ACTION: Members should provide the Secretariat information on fisheries and target species in their Member States. If this is completed in time, a paper will then be drafted and circulated in advance of the September meetings of the NWWAC.

ACTION: WG1 supports and endorses the recommendation made in WG4 that the NWWAC should ask the Commission and Member States that discard plans should include provisions for technical measures as management tools.

ACTION: NWWAC members to help the Secretariat to engender a more collaborative approach with Member States, and to reiterate our willingness to work with the Member States Groups.

4. Report on MAREFRAME FP7 Project – West of Scotland Case Study

The Secretariat (AR) summarised the report on the MAREFRAME FP7 Project. The report is available in full on the NWWAC website.

5. Report on Deep-sea species and work of Blue Fish

The issue of deep sea fishing has been subject to recent scrutiny in the European Parliament and individual member states. The EP has already taken a position. Portugal has recently introduced a ban on deepsea trawling and, in France, Scapêche has pledged to stop deep-sea bottom trawling at depths of more than 800 meters. The European Parliament has now taken its position on deep-sea trawling and the issue is not on in the agenda for the term of the Italian Presidency of the Council (2nd half of 2014). It is possible that the European Parliament will want the issue to be reopened for discussion, depending on the wishes of the Fisheries Committee.

Mike Park informed WG1 that the Scottish White Fish Producers Association is now a member of 'Blue Fish' – a fishing industry lobby established in Brussels to create networks in the EP and influence public opinion. The full name of BLUEFISH is the European Association for the Promotion of Sustainable and Responsible Fisheries.

END



ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<u>WG1 MEMBERS</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname/s</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Jane	Sandell	WG1 Chair – Scottish Fishermen's Organisation
Kara	Brydson	WG1 Rapporteur – RSPB Birdlife International
Bertie	Armstrong	NWWAC Chairman
Severino	Ares	Lonja de A Coruña
Alan	Coghill	Scottish Fishermen's Fed.
Juan Carlos	Corrás Arias	Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco
John	Crudden	European Anglers' Association
Barrie	Deas	NFFO
Purificación	Fernández	ANASOL-ARVI
Caroline	Gamblin	CNPMEM
Marc	Ghiglia	UAPF – NWWRAC President
John	Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation
Kevin	McDonnell	West of Scotland FPO
Sean	O'Donoghue	Kyllibegs FO
Eibhlín	O'Sullivan	Irish South & West FPO
Mike	Park	Scottish Whitefish PA
Jacques	Pichon	ANOP-PMA



<u>MEMBERS (cont.)</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname/s</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Mercedes	Rodriguez Moreda	OPP-07-LUGO
John	Ward	IFPO

WG1 OBSERVERS		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname/s</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Stéphan	Beaucher	Consultant
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Tom	Bryan-Brown	Mallaig North West FA
Andrew	Clayton	The Pew Charitable Trusts
Bruno	Dachicourt	ETF
Ramón	De la Figuera	MAPA – Spain
Iain	Glasgow	DEFRA
Roy	Griffin	DG MARE – Commission
André	Gueguen	Pêcheurs de Bretagne
Melanie	Gomes	BirdWatch Ireland
Guy	Lemoigne	CDPMEM29
Laurent	Markovic	DG MARE – Commission



WG1 OBSERVERS (Cont.)		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname/s</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Rémi	Méjeczaze	DPMA – France
Miquel	Ortega	Fundació ENT
Colm	O’Súilleabháin	DAFM - Ireland
Glenn	Quelch	European Fisheries Control Agency
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish Fish PO
Cathrine	Schirmer	The Pew Charitable Trusts
Sara	Vandamme	ILVO
Liane	Veitch	Client Earth
John	Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary
NWWAC SECRETARIAT		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname/s</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Joanna	McGrath	Executive Assistant – Administration & Finances
Alexandre	Rodríguez	Executive Assistant - Policy and Communications