

North Western Waters Advisory Committee

Channel (WG3)

MINUTES

Thursday 13 November 2014

11:00 - 12:30

CNPMEM, Paris

Chairman: Daniel Lefèvre

Rapporteur: Jim Portus

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed members, observers and invited guests to Paris. The full list of participants is appended (Annex I).

- Apologies were received from: Michael Keatinge, (NWWAC Director), Luc Corbisier (SDVO, Belgium), Konstantinos Kokosis (EBCD, represented by Sandra Sanmartín) and Miquel Ortega (Fundació ENT, represented by Stéphan Beaucher);
- Adoption of Agenda: The Agenda was adopted;
- Adoption of the report from the last meeting (Edinburgh, Wednesday 2nd July 2014): The meeting report had been circulated beforehand among all WG3 members. The Chairman asked for a correction regarding the Scallop report. The meeting had proposed full evaluation of landed quantities, i.e., “total catches”, instead of the current wording about “capacity” regarding Scallop activity in the Channel VIIde.
- Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur of WG3 for next term of mandate (1 October 2014 – 30 Sept. 2017)
Daniel Lefèvre indicated he would like to continue as Chair for a further and a final term of 3 years before retiring.
Jim Portus indicated he would be happy to continue as Vice-Chair and Rapporteur for this Group.
No other candidates were nominated and the members unanimously approved the re-election of Daniel Lefèvre and Jim Portus.

2. Management Framework for Channel Scallops (VIIde)

The Chairman thanked the GAP2 Project leaders, Giles Bartlett and Erin Priddle for convening this very useful meeting. The report of the meeting should be available soon in French and the CNPMEM coordinator, Delphine Ciolek, was asked to validate and revise the text in coordination with the Secretariat. Alex Rodriguez confirmed the French version would be available within 2-3 weeks. All comments received from French members had been incorporated and the report would be uploaded to the NWWAC website.

Outcomes of the GAP2 meeting

Giles Bartlett (WWF UK) provided an update on the GAP2 workshop and the proposed next steps, including a second GAP2 meeting to be hosted in France. (The presentation is available on the NWWAC website).

Erin Priddle (EDF UK) summarised the recommendations and explained the roadmap and way forward. (Her presentation is also available on the NWWAC website).

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the first Channel Scallops WG actually took place in London in 2009, but at that time members were not ready to come together and harmonise technical measures and management regimes. He urged the full collaboration of members at a second meeting of GAP2 in Lower Normandy in early 2015.

ACTION GAP2 Channel Scallops Steering Group to organise a Channel Scallops workshop by late January – mid February 2015, which would include all relevant stakeholders in the fisheries and liaison with CNPMEM representatives and the Secretariat. The development and use of Technical Measures will be included in the agenda for this workshop.

It was noted that the Success of the GAP2 initiative was important to the industry on both sides of the Channel.

John Hermse agreed that the outcomes of the GAP2 meeting in Brixham were good but the main problem remained a lack of good scientific data. In addition it was noted that there were issues to be addressed regarding the effort and management regimes for vessels over and under 15m, harmonization of technical measures and food safety.

Alain Coudray advocated that scientists from both sides of the Channel, i.e. FR and UK, must also be present.

Giles Bartlett explained that the estimated budget for organising such a meeting would be approximately GBP 35,000 and that WWF on behalf of GAP2 Project had a budget allocation of about GBP 25,000 for this event. The project therefore requested co-funding from French colleagues and the NWWAC.

3. Seabass Management

- Report of Inter-AC workshop on Seabass (Dublin, 18 September 2014)

Bertie Armstrong, Barrie Deas (NWWAC and NSAC co-chairs of the meeting) and Alexandre Rodriguez (lead coordinator, NWWAC Secretariat) provided an overview of the discussions and outcomes of the Inter-AC Workshop on Seabass hosted by the NWWAC, that was held in Dublin Castle on 18 September 2014.

All relevant information regarding the meeting (i.e. summary of actions, papers and presentations and link to the questionnaire) is available on the NWWAC website.

- Next steps: advice on EU management proposals

Members spoke in favour of restrictions to catches from recreational fisheries as well as commercial sectors.

Concerns were expressed about whether or not Seabass would be considered as a pelagic species under the Landing Obligation because it is part of the catch limits. There was no clear response from the Commission; Seabass could be included but it was considered that this would open a “Pandora’s box”.

ACTION SEABASS: AC Secretariats to continue dialogue with NSAC and SWWAC to organize a Seabass Workshop before the end of 2014 or early in 2015;

4. Update on ACRUNET Project on Brown Crab – René-Pierre Chever

The presentation provided is available on the NWWAC website.

Members expressed the view that this was a valuable project, which should be continued to a second phase.

The presentation raised questions about Latent Capacity in the UK and how it is restrained from activation.

Mr Chever explained that the licensing system for crab in France is stringent and no increase in effort is possible. However, the systems in the UK and Ireland are not so rigid, and in theory, these fleets could change their activity, eventually displacing their effort from whitefish to crab.

Jim Portus clarified the licensing requirements in the UK where a “potting” licence exists and there is limited landing permitted by unlicensed vessels. Fishermen fishing for whitefish would not be able to transfer to pots and as such there seemed to be a misunderstanding about the regulations. This is an area where ACRUNET needed to conduct further work with each of the Member States involved in this fishery.

ACTION ACRUNET: invites Jim Portus or another UK NWWAC member to participate in future ACRUNET WG to clarify regulations between Member States on their licensing systems.

5. Implementation of the landing obligation in Channel fisheries

Bertie Armstrong (NWWAC Chair and main representative of the AC to the NWW Member States Group) summarised the discussions to date. The aim of the NWWAC was to influence the debate at the NWW MS Group. The AC had been invited to contribute to the Technical Group and a specific request was made to guide this group on the direction of development of discard plans in accordance with the requirements of the Landing Obligation. In this context, species and fisheries-based approach were the two realistic alternatives.

Following discussion members considered that a phased approach was needed to avoid very detrimental socio-economic consequences.

Members also agreed that the LO raised complexities with likely unintended consequences. It was considered vital to identify areas of agreement. Sequential phasing was considered crucial on the basis of clear justification and motives. Progression over a phase-in period was necessary in order to avoid social and economic fall-out.

It was considered essential that there be a balanced implementation of new regimes of fisheries management. Members advocated that such regimes should be simple, avoid a long list of species, avoid high risks and contain an appropriate, phased, work schedule, which would represent a balance between a species and fisheries approach. It was of particular concern that discard plans allowed for some flexibility in order to minimize detrimental impacts, while ensuring the delivery of intended benefits.

ACTION: Implementation of the Landing Obligation: To convene a drafting group to: seek consensus on an AC approach (fisheries or species approach), agree a

phasing period and justification and consider associated advantages and disadvantages.

6. EC fishing Opportunities for 2015

- **UNDULATE RAY**

Members expressed a wish to fish this species in 2015.

Irene Kingma agreed with the very good study and scope for the AC letter.

ACTION Submit to ExCom a revised letter on undulate ray management which included the comments made by Irene Kingma and Caroline Gamblin;

- **SKATES AND RAYS**

The meeting was informed that Member States may consider a TAC by individual stocks rather than a species-based TAC. Caution was advised regarding this approach given the possible detrimental impacts on Relative Stability.

The Commission representative present explained that these fisheries are data deficient and that although data is available, there is still a deficit regarding the minimum of 4 years of data required. This being the case it was noted that there is a potential for skates and rays to act as choke species with the associated risk of closing fisheries. Reference was made to a new proposal from the French on the subject and the AC was advised that if it wanted to have any influence, it should submit a proposal immediately.

- **SHARKS**

Members expressed concerns that Longliners were taking all the burden for by-catch of these species.

- **VIIId SOLE**

UK members expressed satisfaction that Belgian members have taken the initiative and put in writing their concerns about the future management of this stock to DG Mare.

Members supported the drafting of a NWWAC management plan for VIIId Sole and agreed to liaise to confirm data from the UK inshore fleet for static gears and to share experiences from previous work on VIIe and North Sea Sole.

For their part the Commission agreed with the MAMP approach developed by MS.

- VIIe SOLE

Jim Portus explained that this was one of only 4 stocks with a proposed increase in TAC and that it would be justified, but improbable to seek an increase beyond 2%.

Paul Françoise communicated that for VIId sole he would agree, but for cod, undulate ray and other stocks in VIId, French fishermen are totally against the decision taken by EC and legislators.

7. Summary of actions and proposals for the Executive Committee

CHANNEL SCALLOP

- GAP 2 Project - Channel Scallops Group be established to organise a follow-up workshop in late January or early February 2015, which would include all relevant fisheries stakeholders from UK, France, Belgium and Ireland. A CNPMM officer will act as liaison and the Steering Committee will coordinate organisational and financial aspects. Outputs and objectives, as presented by Erin Priddle, will be used as a basis for the agenda and a specific debate on Technical Measures would be included.

BROWN CRAB *ACRUNET* PROJECT

- The Group supports the work developed by *ACRUNET* to date and endorses the development of an *ACRUNET II* project proposal.
- Jim Portus, Dave Cuthbert and all other interested NWWAC members to participate in future meetings of the *ACRUNET* WG in order to clarify the regulations between MS on licensing system for brown crab in UK.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LANDING OBLIGATION

- To convene a drafting group to: seek consensus on an AC approach (fisheries or species approach), agree a phasing period and justification and consider associated advantages and disadvantages.

EC FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2015

Include in the advice the following comments:

Skates and rays

- Invite Member States to reflect on having a TAC by individual stock rather than a single TAC for all skates and rays stocks (e.g. *Raja clavata*, *Raja undulata*).

Undulate rays

- Submit a revised Letter on undulate ray management to the Executive Committee, aiming for a regulated reopening of the fishery including comments made by NGO representatives (coordinator: Irene Kingma) and industry (coordinator: Caroline Gamblin). Reflect the minority position from the NGOs that have contributed to the process in the main body of the text and not as an annex.

VIIId Sole

- The Group supports a letter from the NWWAC, drafted by Emiel Brouckaert, containing a proposal to develop a management plan for VIIId Sole with the addition of data from UK inshore fleet for static gears, French passive gears and Belgian trawlers (beam).
- Exchange views on best practices and the sharing of know-how and experiences from previous work on VIIe and North Sea Sole.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 13:10.



ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS		
Name	Surname	Organisation
Daniel	Lefèvre	CRPMEM Basse Normandie – WG3 Chairman
Jim	Portus	South West Fish Producers' Organisation – WG3 Vice Chair and Rapporteur
Bertie	Armstrong	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Giles	Bartlett	World Wildlife Fund
Stéphan	Beaucher	Fundació ENT
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Richard	Brouzes	Copeport Marée OPBN
René-Pierre	Chever	CDPMEM du Finistère
Alain	Coudray	CDPMEM des Côtes d'Armor
John	Crudden	European Angler's Alliance
Dave	Cuthbert	New Under-Ten Fishermen's Association (NUTFA)
Barrie	Deas	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO)
Caroline	Gamblin	Comité National des Pêches Maritimes
André	Gueguen	OPOB – Pêcheurs de Bretagne
François	Hennuyer	FROM Nord
John	Hermse	Scallop Association
Irene	Kingma	Dutch Fisheries Organisation
Olivier	Leprêtre	France Pêche Durable et Responsable



John	Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation
Geert	Meun	Dutch Fisheries Organisation
Jacques	Pichon	Pêcheurs de la Manche et d'Atlantique
Delphine	Roncin	CRPMEM Nord / Pas de Calais / Picardie
Sandra	Sanmartin	European Bureau for Conservation and Development
Dominique	Thomas	CME OP
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation
Caitlín	Uí Aodha	Irish South and East Fish Producer's Organisation

OBSERVERS		
Name	Surname	Organisation
David	Beard	Manx Fish Producer's Organisation
Delphine	Ciolek	CNPMEM
Angus	Cragg	DEFRA, UK
Gonzague	De Moncuit	Direction des Pêches – France
Marta	García Merchán	SGPESCA - Spain
Marc	Ghiglia	UAPF / NWWAC GA President
Iain	Glasgow	DEFRA
Laurent	Markovic	DG MARE – European Commission
Alan	McCulla	ANIFPO
Miquel	Ortega	Fundació ENT
Erin	Priddle	Environmental Defence Fund
Glenn	Quelch	European Fisheries Control Agency
Liane	Veitch	ClientEarth



NWWAC SECRETARIAT		
Name	Surname	Organisation
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Alexandre	Rodríguez	Executive Assistant – Policy and Information
Joanna	McGrath	Executive Assistant – Finance and Administration