

North Western Waters Regional Advisory Committee

Working Group 3 (Channel)

Thursday 23rd April 2015

1330-1500

Bilbao BEC

Chairman: Daniel Lefèvre

Rapporteur: Jim Portus

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed members, observers and invited guests to Bilbao for the NWWRAC Working Group 3. The full list of participants is appended (Annex I).

- Apologies: received from Michael Keatinge, (BIM / NWWAC Director). Jacques Pichon (FROM Bretagne): Noted.
- Welcome: new members Rachel Lagièrre (PO COBRENORD, attending) and Marina Legrun (not attending)
- Adoption of Agenda: The Agenda was adopted.
- Adoption of Report from last meeting (Paris Thursday 13th November 2014): the meeting report had been circulated beforehand among all WG3 members.

2. SEABASS MANAGEMENT:

- Commission decision: Emergency measures had been introduced. The Chairman congratulated CION for taking into account activities of sea anglers by maximizing their take to 3 fish per day. He confirmed NWWAC would participate in a multi-AC group to provide professional advice.
- Outlook for 2016: The CION informed the group that no new regulations are formulated to start after 30th April. New proposals are being discussed in the EU interservice consultations. ICES advice will come out at the end of June. Evaluating the current Emergency measures is important. In the long term the stock may be in a MAP (single or multi species, but not before 2017). Input from the AC after the ICES advice end of June would be welcome. Proposals for measures to reduce discarding would be welcome.

- Planning: A second inter-AC workshop in May is under discussion with other ACs. This group would be welcomed to come up with agenda items for this meeting. An inter-AC proposal could be foreseen in July which would help.
- **ACTION: SEABASS: Secretariats to plan inter-AC meeting** - Possible dates: last week of May or first week June – Paris would be a possible venue
- Suggestions for the agenda include
- look at new ICES science,
- review current measures,
- comment on Cion's proposal,
- arrive at a common advice text.
- invite relevant scientists if the meeting takes place before the advice is released.

3. Implementation of landing obligation in the Channel fisheries:

- **Omnibus Regulation:**
- **Discussion:** It was suggested that there had been much discussion and involvement of AC members in Member States and in other for a. Further discussion now was not invited. The Chairman supported comments from the floor that drafted ADG texts should be circulated to AC members for comments. The NWWAC secretariat agreed to look into ways of using the members' area of the website for such pre-publication drafts.

ACTION: IMPLEMENTATION OF Landing Obligation:

Draft documents to be made available in members' area of the NWWAC website.

4. Eastern Channel 7d Sole fishing: The Chairman asked the Belgian delegate to lead on the subject. He reported the ad-hoc meeting on 12th February in Port en Bessin. He presented a short document summary. This followed a Council decision in December 2014 that imposed Emergency measures onto the Belgian and French fleets that were intended to initiate recovery of the Sole VIId stock.

The UK delegate reported on the Sole VIIe experience of developing a long-term MAMP that led quickly to Fmsy. It was agreed that the lead on VIId Sole should come from the MS with largest interest in the fishery, as was the case with VIIe.

The CION urged the timely provision of catch and landings data from all MS, with an appropriate plan to be drafted in time for the July WGs and Ex-Com in Edinburgh.

The WG3 members agreed a "Focus" Group to study the background ICES advice on VIId Sole, to consider MS fleets exploitation patterns and technical strictures and to formulate a NWWAC "advice" document for early adoption in time for STECF consideration in advance of ICES advice for 2016. Emiel Brouckaert agreed to chair the group. A meeting date and venue would be set by the secretariat.

ACTION: Establish a Focus Group to provide advice note to Ex-Comm *“Towards a Management Strategy for the sustainable exploitation of the stock of sole (Solea solea) in ICES Division VIIId (East Channel)”*

5. Undulate Ray: It was discussed that a great deal of work mainly by French and IFREMER had now led to the CION proposal for a limited TAC in ICES areas VII and VIIId. These limited possibilities for 2015 have not yet resulted in re-opened fisheries, but there is optimism. Some members argued a precautionary approach. Others pleaded that the fish would die of old age if limited exploitation was not resumed.

The CION conceded that a by-catch quota is appropriate, with tightly regulated amounts thus avoiding the risk of a “choke”.

6. GAP2: Due to time constraints, this item was carried over for full report at the next WG3 in Edinburgh.

7. Haddock: There was no input on this subject at this time.

8. AOB: France: consultation on the North Sea multi-species management plan: Has the WG3 an opinion on the cooperation with the NSAC on this matter? The NSAC noted the “overlap” insofar as ICES advice is concerned, but agreed that the remit of the plan should not necessarily include VIIId. There is opening for discussion on this. The item was left for further consideration at next WG3 in Edinburgh.

8. Summary of actions and proposals for the Executive Committee

- **ACTION: SEABASS: Secretariats to plan inter-AC meeting** - Possible dates: last week of May or first week June – Paris would be a possible venue
- **ACTION: IMPLEMENTATION OF Landing Obligation:** Draft documents to be made available in members’ area of the NWWAC website.
- **ACTION:** Establish a Focus Group to provide advice note to Ex-Comm *“Towards a Management Strategy for the sustainable exploitation of the stock of sole (Solea solea) in ICES Division VIIId (East Channel)”*

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1500.



ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Members		
Daniel	Lefèvre	CRPMEM Basse Normandie
Jim	Portus	South West FPO
Bertie	Armstrong	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Richard	Brouzes	OPBN
Romain	Le Bleis	CDPMEM du Finistère
Luc	Corbisier	Stichting voor Duurzame Visserij Ontwikkeling
John	Crudden	European Anglers Alliance
Dave	Cuthbert	New Under Ten Fishermen's Association
Barrie	Deas	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations
Paul	Françoise	Comité Départemental des Pêches et des Élevages Marine: CDPMEM 14
Thierry	Guigue	Pêcheurs de la Manche et d'Atlantique
John	Hermse	Scallop Association
Rachel	Lagiere	OP COBRENORD
John	Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation
Geert	Meun	Dutch Fisheries Organisation (2)
Miquel	Ortega	Fundació ENT
Delphine	Roncin	CRPMEM Nord/Pas de Calais/Picardie
Anne-Margaret	Stewart	The Scottish White Fish Producers Association
Dominique	Thomas	Coopératives Maritimes Etaploises & Armement Cooperatif Artisanal du Nord
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish Fish Producers Organisation
Observers		
David	Beard	Manx Fish Producers Organisation
Nuala	Carson	DEFRA
Andrew	Clayton	The Pew Charitable Trusts
Gonzague	De Moncuit	Ministère de l'écologie, du développement durable et de l'énergie
Robert	Griffin	European Commission
Laurent	Markovic	European Commission
Liane	Veitch	ClientEarth
Johnny	Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Marc	Ghigua	UAPF
Bruno	Dachicourt	ETF
Sara	Vandamme	ILVO
Iris	Lewis	Oak / Finding FISH
NWWAC Secretariat		
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Barbara	Schoute	Deputy Executive Secretary
Joanna	McGrath	Executive Assisstant - Finance and Administration