



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Printworks – Dublin Castle
Wednesday 16th of September 2015
10:30 – 12:00

Chairman: Bertie Armstrong
Rapporteur: Barbara Schoute

1. Welcome and introductions

Bertie Armstrong welcomed members, Commission and Member State representatives, and observers to the meeting.

Apologies were received from the following members: John Crudden (European Anglers Association), Anne-Marie KATS (AIPCE, France), Sean O'Donoghue (Killybegs FPO), Marc Ghiglia (CNPMM is represented by Kevin Charlot), Hugo González (ANASOL is represented by Purificación Fernández), Jacques Pichon (ANOP is represented by Thierry Guigue). Two Organisations have recently left the NWWAC and are therefore not present at this meeting: EAFPA – represented by Eduardo Miguez and SDVO – represented by Luc Courbisier.

The agenda¹ was adopted as drafted.

The Chairman presented the action points from the last meeting (Edinburgh, July 2015). Most points had been acted upon, others will be dealt with in the current meetings.

One action remained outstanding: WG1 had asked for a letter to be sent to the relevant Member States (MS) to ask them to provide data on skates and rays.

ACTION: The Secretariat with the assistance of the ISWPO (Eibhlín O'Sullivan) will draft a letter for MS.

2. Work programme year 11 (October 2015 – September 2016)

The Chairman presented the main points that the NWWAC will need to concentrate on:

Priority:

1. Landing obligation (LO)
 - Implementation 2016;
 - Advice 2017 and beyond;
 - Project Development and Communications Manager (formerly "Discard officer").

¹ All relevant documents to the meeting can be found at the NWWAC website: [link](#)



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2. Development and implementation of MAPs

3. TACs and quotas

4. Management measures by species:

Northern Hake, Anglerfish and Megrim, Nephrops, Sole (VId), Skates and Rays complex, Seabass.

General work areas:

a) Improving the quality of scientific and economic data

- Irish Sea benchmark
- DAMARA project
- MAREFRAME project

b) Control and compliance

- Technical Measures revision
- EFCA

c) Regionalisation

d) Marine Spatial Planning

e) Working procedures

- Improving the efficiency of the AC,
- Communications and Outreach

The Chairman emphasised that regionalisation would be an important new aspect of the advisory system. Whereas output from the AC used to be directed to the Commission, the NWW regional group of MS represented a more specific audience. The Chairman emphasised that it was important that the AC did not become a ritual attendee, but evolved to become a full partner in the management development process.

Additionally, the Chairman presented the outline of the new position in the Secretariat, formerly described as 'the Discard officer'. In order for the Secretariat to provide the input for the new challenges of the discard plan, it was proposed that the position be broadened from being overly specific to the landing obligation and encompass this and other duties as a 'Project Development and Communications Manager'. The core functions of this position would be to generate input to the AC advice drafting process on the implementation of the LO and to conduct background research on fisheries issues. The officer would also present research outcomes to the AC, canvass opinions and expertise of AC members, and summarise discussions at AC and other relevant meetings.

Additionally, this person will be asked to identify funding possibilities and to evaluate external offers to join consortia, and to work on the communication strategy of the AC.

Decision: The meeting supported the description of the position and associated duties and Responsibilities presented by the Chairman.

3. Improving the efficiency of the AC

Thinking from previous meetings

Barrie Deas (NFFO) presented a discussion document on the structure and functioning of the AC. At the last ExCom meeting in Edinburgh, it was concluded that the current process was not considered to be an efficient way to produce high quality advice. The main problems were identified and being those related to the approach regarding horizontal issues, where duplication of discussions between Working Groups was recognised. This influenced both the quality and quantity of the advice. Examples of good



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practice were also identified particularly small focus and advice drafting groups, which worked well to produce advice.

It was concluded that new procedures for setting up and hosting focus groups were needed improve the development of advice from the AC. This would mean that the emphasis in the meeting schedule would shift from Working Groups (WGs) to Focus Groups (FGs) where any sub-regional issues could be dealt with in break-out groups. For this structure to succeed and be productive, appropriate scientists should attend each meeting, and it was also suggested that permanent rapporteurs would be an efficient way to facilitate the process

The discussion document highlighted the fact that recognition of the problem is needed as well as a willingness to change the current process.

The Chairman then presented a list of the main discussion points and decision options.

The meeting agreed to expand the ways in which topics and groups were proposed, to allow GA members to ask ExCom members directly as well as Working Groups providing recommendations to ExCom, as currently.

Under this structure ExCom would:

- Identify and authorise the establishment of focus or drafting groups;
- Define:
 - Clear Terms of Reference (Output) and timeframe;
 - The appointment of a Chair and rapporteur;
 - The allocation of resources.

The meeting highlighted that the availability of interpretation is an essential requirement of all meetings, but would depend on the subject and interest of different regions and nationalities as well as budget.

The possibility of changing the role of sub-regional Working Groups was discussed. The group concluded that abolishing WGs would not be an option. The reason for setting up the WGs was recalled: WG members are representatives of regional stakeholders and as such they are important for collecting input and communicating output from the AC.

It was considered important to deal with subjects on the right scale: horizontal issues should not be dealt with in different groups and sub-regional issues that are of importance (e.g. local stocks, small scale fishermen) need to be represented also.

The meeting agreed to:

- Restrict the role of WGs to that of dealing with issues of direct significance to sub-areas;
- Only hold WG meetings, if relevant agenda items are available;
- Reduce the frequency of WG meetings.

It was noted that this will mean a rationalisation of WG agendas, which The Secretariat would help WGs and WG chairs to co-ordinate.

With regard to the reduction of the meeting frequency **the meeting agreed** that more correspondence work by email would be needed to make it possible to react quickly and should also reduce meeting costs. It was noted that although more correspondence work would incur more translation costs, it



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would also result in less reimbursement and interpretation costs. **The Secretariat** agreed to investigate web-based interpretation options to facilitate web-based meetings in this context and in the context of reducing operational costs

The meeting also agreed that it is not always necessary to produce meeting minutes. For meetings producing draft advice it was agreed that there was no need for detailed minutes, the advice drafted would suffice as meeting output.

In order to reduce costs, the number and process for determining the members of Focus Groups was discussed as the cost and efficiency of working in small groups would be lost if membership was open. It was considered difficult to decide, in advance, on the maximum number of attendees at a meeting, or to decide who should or should not attend. **It was concluded** that this issue should be decided on a case-by-case basis between the chair of the meeting and the Secretariat.

With regard to general cost efficiency, members reiterated that translation and interpretation are vital for AC work. Where savings were required, members agreed that although a maximum on the total number of per diems was acceptable, a maximum relating to travel costs was not and should be avoided. In this context members agreed that reductions in travel costs could be achieved by providing as much advance notice of meetings as possible to allow the most economic bookings to be made.

4. ACRUNET presentation

Norah Parke (KFO) presented the results of the Interreg project Atlantic Crab Resource Users Network ([ACRUNET](#)). Although the project funding was now finished, the intention is to carry on with the collaboration.

The project aimed to ensure and sustain the economic viability of the European brown crab industry through transnational co-operation. This was realised by forming a transnational industry network to identify and address factors to improve brown crab competitiveness through co-operation, communication and innovation, in cooperation with scientists.

The project recognised the varied backgrounds and cultures of fisheries and consumer organisations within the countries involved in the project. Management regulations between countries were compared and topics to align items such as Minimum Landing Size, pot limits, days at sea (which was considered not to be efficient as a control but was still in force). Adoption of the Marine Stewardship Council model was discussed within the project but so far no progress had been made because this was a non-TAC-regulated fishery.

Although the project was in regular contact with the AC through WG3 it was recognised that the issues relating to brown crab extend throughout North Western Waters.

The ACRUNET project asked the NWWAC to consider the Joint Policy Statement (uploaded on the AC meeting website), and to help devise a management strategy for brown crab fisheries.

The meeting welcomed the project cooperation between industry/science/management and it was suggested that the similar establishment of a group for scallop would be helpful. It was noted that the transnational structure of the project had helped international communication, which had been



problematic before.

The meeting agreed to have the ACRUNET document and proposal circulated, with the intention for a decision to be determined by correspondence.

5. Celtic Seas Partnership (CSP) information point

The meeting was informed that the NWWAC had been approached by the CSP to explore options for cooperation. **The secretariat will** distribute further information when it becomes available.

6. Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted

- 1) **ACTION: The Secretariat with the assistance of the ISWPO (Eibhlín O’Sullivan) will draft a letter for MS.**
- 2) **The meeting supported** the description of the ‘Project Development and Communications Manager’ position and associated duties and responsibilities presented by the Chairman.
- 3) **The meeting agreed** to expand the ways in which topics and groups were proposed, to allow GA members to ask ExCom members directly as well as Working Groups providing recommendations to ExCom, as currently.
- 4) **The meeting agreed to:**
 - Restrict the role of WGs to that of dealing with issues of direct significance to sub-areas;
 - Only hold WG meetings, if relevant agenda items are available;
 - Reduce the frequency of WG meetings.
- 5) **The meeting agreed** that more correspondence work by email would be needed to make it possible to react quickly and should also reduce meeting costs.
- 6) **ACTION: The Secretariat** agreed to investigate web-based interpretation options to facilitate web-based meetings in this context and in the context of reducing operational costs.
- 7) **The meeting agreed** that it is not always necessary to produce meeting minutes. For meetings producing draft advice it was agreed that there was no need for detailed minutes, the advice drafted would suffice as meeting output.
- 8) **The meeting concluded** that in order to reduce costs, the number and process for determining the members of Focus Groups should be decided on a case-by-case basis between the chair of the meeting and the Secretariat.
- 9) **ACTION: The meeting agreed** to have the ACRUNET document and proposal circulated, with the intention for a decision to be determined by correspondence.
- 10) **ACTION: The secretariat will** distribute further information from the CSP when it becomes available.



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Annex 1: Participants list

Members		
Bertie	Armstrong	North Western Waters AC
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Kara	Brydson	RSPB Scotland
Kevin	Charlot	CNPMEM
Debbie	Crockard	Seas at Risk
Bruno	Dachicourt	European Transport Federation
Barrie	Deas	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation
Ross	Dougal	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Purificación	Fernández	Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Pesca de Gran Sol
Thierry	Guigue	Association Nationale des Organisations des Producteurs
Konstantinos	Kokosis	European Bureau for Conservation and Development
Thierry	Leprêtre	France Pêche Durable et Responsable
Jesús	Lourido García	Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP-77
Geert	Meun	Dutch Fish Product Board
Eibhlin	O'Sullivan	Irish South & West FPO
Liane	Veitch	ClientEarth
John	Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Observers		
Anne-Margaret	Anderson	The Scottish White Fish Producers Association
John	Anderson	Scottish Fishermen's Organisation
Stéphan	Beaucher	Consultant
José Manuel	Beltrán	Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Lugo (OPP-7)
Lydia	Chaparro	Fundació ENT
Alan	Coghill	Orkney Fish Producers Organisation
Hugo	Boyle	Irish South & East FPO
Richard	Brouzes	OPBN
Gonzague	de Moncuit	Ministère de l'écologie, du développement durable et de l'énergie
Paul	Duane	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority
Siobhán	Egan	Birdwatch Ireland
Robert	Griffin	European Commission
Irene	Kingma	Dutch Elasmobranch Society
Daniel	Lefèvre	CRPMEM de Basse Normandie
Olivier	Le Nezet	CRPMEM de Bretagne
John	Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation
Laurent	Markovic	European Commission
Kevin	McDonnell	West of Scotland Fish Producers Organisation
Francis	O'Donnell	Irish Fish Producers Organisation
Norah	Parke	ACRUNET Project
Dominic	Rihan	European Commission
Dimitri	Rogoff	Comité Départemental des Pêches et des Élevages Marine: CDPMEM 14
Dominique	Thomas	Coopératives Maritimes Etaploises & Armement Cooperatif Artisanal du Nord
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish Fish Producer's Organisation
Sara	Vandamme	ILVO
René-Pierre	Chever	EDPMEM29
Delphine	Roncin	CRPMEM Nord Pad de Calais / Picardi
Mike	Park	SWFPA



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Juan Carlos	Corrás Arias	Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco
Juan Luis	Otero Gonzales	Lonta de la Coruna SA
Luis Francisco	Marin	OPPAO - Ondarroa (Vizcaya)
Richard	Pellerin	CDPMEM 22
Jim	Portus	South West FPO
NWWAC Secretariat		
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Barbara	Schoute	Deputy Executive Secretary
Joanna	McGrath	Executive Assistant - Finance and Administration