



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

MINUTES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY / AGM

Printworks – Dublin Castle
Wednesday 16th of September 2015
09:00 – 10:00

Chairman: Olivier Le Nezet
Rapporteur: Barbara Schoute

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chairman of the General Assembly and President of the NWWAC, Olivier Le Nezet, welcomed members, Commission representatives and observers to the meeting.

Apologies were received from the following members: Severino Ares (FREMSS, Spain), John Crudden (European Anglers Association), Dave Cuthbert (NUTFA, UK), Marc Ghiglia (UAFF, France), Anne-Marie KATS (AIPCE, France), Sean O'Donoghue (Killybegs FPO), Jim Portus (South West FPO, UK), Hugo González (ANASOL was represented by Purificación Fernández), Paul Françoise (CDPMEM 14 was represented by Dimitri Rogoff), Jacques Pichon (ANOP was represented by Thierry Guigue)

A welcome was issued to: Lydia Chaparro (Fundació ENT new representative), The European Commission Representatives, The Member State Representatives, and the following Observers: Paul Duane (Sea Fisheries Protection Agency) and Sara Vandame (ILVO).

The agenda and the minutes from the last Ordinary GA/AGM (Dublin, 17 Sept. 2014) were adopted as presented.

The action points from the last meeting were presented by the Secretariat:

- Confirm dates and venues for Year 10;
- Finalise all administrative and financial arrangements relating to the budget for Year 10;
- Update the NWWAC rules of procedure and call for an Extraordinary General Assembly/EGM to make the necessary amendments and proceed with technical alignments in light of the new Commission's delegated act once this enters into force (e.g. number of members of the Executive Committee, reimbursement rules);

The first two points were completed. On the last point the Secretariat explained that the Delegated act on Advisory Councils from the EC ([\(EU\) 2015/242](#)) came into force beginning of 2015. The Secretariat implemented the Delegated act in part and has requested clarification from the Commission before updating and finalising changes to the rules of procedure.

ACTION: Following clarification from the Commission, the Secretariat will update the rules of procedures based on the Delegated act and circulate for the approval of the GA by electronic procedure, once complete.



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

2. Annual report from the NWWAC Chairman (Bertie Armstrong)

The Chairman, presented the annual report for Year 10 (1 October 2014 – 30 September 2015) and the annual strategic plan (i.e. work programme) for Year 11 (1 October 2015 – 30 September 2016), in accordance with articles 19 and 38 of the NWWAC Rules of Procedure as amended in January 2013. The presentation made by the Chairman is available on the NWWAC website¹.

Work completed in Year 10

The Chairman provided a review of the meetings, actions and products from the NWWAC in Year 10. The Chairman highlighted the fact that, although anticipated, the preparation for the Landing Obligation (LO) and drafting of the discard plan together with NWW member states, had put great pressure on the schedule and budget of the AC. The Secretariat had been under additional pressure because Alexandre Rodriguez had left the Secretariat in December, and the new Deputy Executive Secretary, Barbara Schoute, started at the end of May.

Work priorities for Year 11

The Chairman introduced this topic, stating that the work with Member States and the Commission in the implementation of the landing obligation and the development of multi-annual plans (MAPs), in close collaboration with relevant scientific experts, will be the two biggest challenges for the NWWAC in the next 3 to 5 years.

The Chairman summarised the main body of work for the NWWAC in the following key areas:

Priority:

1. Landing obligation (LO)
 - Implementation 2016;
 - Advice 2017 and beyond;
 - Project Development and Communications Manager.
2. Development and implementation of MAPs
3. TACs and quotas
4. Management measures by species:
Northern Hake, Anglerfish and Megrim, Nephrops, Sole (VlId), 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,

¹ Link: <http://www.nwwac.org/listing/general-assembly-and-agm.1839.html>



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

- Communications and Outreach

The NWWAC Chairman encouraged all members to provide their input and contributions as early as possible and assist the Secretariat with the necessary preparatory work in relation to their ideas or proposals to streamline NWWAC finances and expertise.

Proposed calendar of meetings for Year 11

The NWWAC Chairman presented members with a preliminary calendar of both confirmed and planned meetings for Year 11. This calendar is available both on the NWWAC website and in the NWWAC work programme². The AGM and GA members approved the provisional calendar as a part of the annual strategic plan for Year 11, on the condition that sufficient prior notice is given to allow members to plan their travel arrangements at minimum cost. It was a decision of the AGM and GA members that Focus Group meetings will be established, according to work priorities but would be limited by budget availability. Where funding is not available, the Secretariat will seek sponsorship or financial support from public, national, regional and local authorities and/or private organisations.

Decision: Both the annual report of Year 10 and the annual strategic report for Year 11 (i.e. Work Programme including the calendar of meetings) were approved by consensus by the AGM and members of the General Assembly.

3. Report on Membership and Budget (Secretariat)

The Secretariat (Joanna McGrath; Executive Assistant - Finance and Administration) presented an overview of the membership and an overall budget update on behalf of the Chairman and the Secretariat, in accordance with articles 38 and 47 of the NWWAC Rules of Procedure.

Overview on changes in membership

Although there were 4 new members that joined in the Years 10/11 (OP COBRENORD, Blue Fish, FEDOPA and Orkney Fish Producers Organisation), 3 Organisations left the AC in Year 11 (OPOB, SDVO and EAFPA). All members had paid their fees for Year 11. Members were informed that there were 21 members in the Executive Committee with one vacant seat for the Belgian catching sector, one vacancy in the fishing sector “other” and one vacant seat within the “other interest groups”.

Review of Income and Expenditure for Year 10

❖ Year 10 Income

- The NWWAC received the following eligible income in Year 10: €200,000 from the European Commission; €26,970 from the contributions of six Member States; €59,418 from membership fees and a small amount of interest accrued on the NWWAC deposit account.
- The final instalment of the EU grant (i.e. €50,000) will be paid at the end of 2015 and is dependent on the submission and approval of the final, audited financial accounts, as well as receipt of the final Year 10 substantive report from the NWWAC.

² The meetings calendar is available in the Chairman’s presentation (see footnote 1)



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

❖ Year 10 Expenditure

- The NWWAC is on target to spend as close as possible to 100% of the Year 10 budget.
- An Amendment to the Specific Grant Agreement for Year 10 to adjust expenditure under budget headings was approved by the Commission in August 2015.
- The main differences between the original budget and the amended budget were in relation to translation and reimbursement costs. The substantial increases in these areas were the result of the additional expenditure incurred by the requirements of the landing obligation and meetings with the NWW MS Group during Year 10.

Ms McGrath advised the General Assembly of the remaining steps in completing the financial procedures relating to Year 10 specifically the submission of the audit certificate of the company accounts and the submission of a final financial and substantive report to the Commission by 30 November 2015.

Proposed Budget for Year 11: Ratification

The General Assembly were informed that the provisional budget for Year 11 had been adopted, in principle, by the Executive Committee by electronic procedure and was expected to be submitted to the Commission, along with the grant application, before 30 September 2015.

The following financial summary was presented by the Secretariat (Ms McGrath):

❖ Year 11 Income

- **Non-eligible:** €77,532 in benefit-in-kind was provided by Member States in support of the NWWAC. This includes the nominal cost of meeting facilities provided by Member States, as well as the financial contribution from BIM towards overheads and rental costs of the Secretariat, and the time of the Executive Secretary and other BIM staff. These contributions-in-kind are an essential element of funding for the NWWAC.
An amount of €3,190 from the Commission represents reimbursements for AC staff attendance at Commission meetings.
- **Eligible:** The six member states supporting the AC provided individual contributions of €4,400 resulting in a total of €26,400. €250,000 was received under the Commission's Specific Grant agreement and €56,950 in Membership fees was received from 67 members.

❖ Year 11 Expenditure

- **Non-eligible:** Income from this source was estimated to be similar to that of year 10.
- **Eligible:** Estimated as being similar to last year, with the most notable differences being:
 - An increase in Staff costs, to provide for the recruitment of a Project Development and Communications Manager;
 - A decrease in reimbursements due to the budgeting of only 3 main meetings for Year 11, rather than the usual 4;
 - As a consequence of 1 less meeting in Year 11, Interpretation and Translation costs have also been decreased;
 - An increase in Fees, due to the deferral of Chair fees (€10,000) from Year 10 to Year 11.



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

It was brought to the attention of members that these adjustments were mainly due to budgetary constraints caused by the requirements of the Landing Obligation and meetings with the NWW Member States group during Year 10.

Based on this presentation, some members considered it appropriate that the annual contributions of Member States to the NWWAC be increased, especially now that the main pressure on the budget is caused by the NWWAC's involvement in the development of the regional Discard plan and the Landing obligation component. It was also considered that MS may have to be asked to make some kind of contribution to the costs incurred by the AC in the provision of advice to the MS group.

ACTION: **The AC will write to the MSs supporting the NWWAC to request an increase in their annual contribution, in order to assist the NWWAC to cover the additional costs of engagement in the development of the regional Discard plan (i.e. Translation into all working languages, travel and subsistence).**

Members were informed that the pressure on the budget caused by the NWWAC's commitment to the NWW MS Group's development of discard plans would result in lack of funding for additional focus groups. This issue and the need for more additional funding for emergency groups was highlighted and discussed. The meeting also acknowledged the need to reduce expenses of meetings by allowing sufficient time for the participants to book flights well in advance, and to look for low cost venues and locations in order to reduce travel and subsistence costs.

Decision: **The presentation ended with a request from the President of the NWWAC (Mr Le Nezet) to ratify the Year 11 budget. The AGM and members of the General Assembly fully endorsed the proposed budget for Year 11.**

The Executive Secretary reminded those in attendance of the legal status of the meeting and the fact that the meeting constituted the Annual General Meeting of the company, which is a legal obligation under Irish law as well as the Annual General Assembly of members. The meeting was informed that the presentations made at this meeting represent the accounts and annual report of the Company.

The Executive Secretary acknowledged an intervention from the floor regarding a change of name requirement imposed on all Irish registered companies by the new Companies Act 2014. The act required the Company to define its type and associate an extension to the company name to reflect this change, if necessary, before the end of 2016.

The meeting was informed that any changes required would be determined by the Company auditors prior to the end of 2015; that procedures required by Irish Company Law would be followed should change of name be required and that the Company would have any such changes made by the deadline contained in the Companies Act 2014.

ACTION: **The Secretariat, will instruct the Company Auditors to action the requirements of the Irish Companies Act 2014 to make changes to the Company name should this be required. Requirements of such action will be communicated to, as appropriate.**



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

4. Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted

- 1) **ACTION:** Following clarification from the Commission, the Secretariat will update the rules of procedures based on the Delegated act and circulate for the approval of the GA by electronic procedure, once complete.
- 2) **Decision:** Both the annual report of Year 10 and the annual strategic report for Year 11 (i.e. Work Programme including the calendar of meetings) were approved by consensus by the AGM and members of the General Assembly.
- 3) **ACTION:** The AC will write to the MSs supporting the NWWAC to request an increase in their annual contribution, in order to assist the NWWAC to cover the additional costs of engagement in the development of the regional Discard plan (i.e. Translation into all working languages, travel and subsistence).
- 4) **Decision:** The presentation ended with a request from the President of the NWWAC (Mr Le Nezet) to ratify the Year 11 budget. The AGM and members of the General Assembly fully endorsed the proposed budget for Year 11.
- 5) **ACTION:** The Secretariat will instruct the Company Auditors to action the requirements of the Irish Companies Act 2014 to make changes to the Company name should this be required. Requirements of such action will be communicated to, as appropriate.

Annex 1 : List of Participants

Members	
Olivier Le Nezet	Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins de Bretagne
Bertie Armstrong	Scottish Fishermen's Federation (1)
Emiel Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Konstantinos Kokosis	European Bureau for Conservation and Development
Bruno Dachicourt	European Transport Federation
Debbie Crockard	Seas at Risk Organisation
Thierry Guigue	Association Nationale des Organisations de Producteurs
Dimitri Rogoff	CDPMEM 14
René-Pierre Chever	CDPMEM du Finistère
Richard Pellerin	CDPMEM des Côtes d'Armor
Kevin Charlot	CNPMEM
Daniel Lefèvre	CRPMEM de Basse Normandie
Delphine Roncin	CRPMEM du Nord / Pas de Calais / Picardie
Dominique Thomas	Coopératives Maritimes Etaploises & Armement Cooperatif Artisanal du Nord
Richard Brouzes	Copeport Maree OPBN
Thierry Leprêtre	France Pêche Durable et Responsable
John Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation
Francis O'Donnell	Irish Fish Producers Organisation
John Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Hugo Boyle	Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation
Eibhlin O'Sullivan	Irish South and West Fish Producers Organisation
Irene Kingma	Dutch Elasmobranch Society
Geert Meun	Stichting van de Nederlandse Visserij / Dutch Fisheries Organisation
Purificación Fernández	Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Pesca de Gran Sol



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

Lydia Chaparro	Fundació ENT	
José Luis Otero Gonzalez	Lonja de La Coruña S.A.	
Luis Francisco Marín	Organización de Productores de Pesca de Ondarroa	
José Manuel F. Beltrán	Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Lugo (OPP-7)	
Juan Carlos Corrás Arias	Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco	
Jesús Angel Lourido García	Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP-77	
Liane Veitch	ClientEarth	
Paul Trebilcock	Cornish Fish Producers Organisation	
Barrie Deas	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations	
Alan Coghill	Orkney Fish Producers Organisation	
Kara Brydson	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, representing Birdlife International	
Ross Dougal	Scottish Fishermen's Federation (2)	
John Anderson	Scottish Fishermen's Organisation	
Mike Park	The Scottish White Fish Producers Association (1)	
Anne-Margaret Anderson	The Scottish White Fish Producers Association (2)	
Kevin McDonnell	West of Scotland Fish Producers Organisation	
Observers		
Stéphan Gonzague	Beaucher de Moncuit	Consultant Ministère de l'écologie, du développement durable et de l'énergie
Paul	Duane	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority
Dominic	Rihan	European Commission
Sara	Vandame	ILVO
Secretariat		
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Barbara	Schoute	Deputy Executive Secretary
Joanna	McGrath	Executive Assistant - Finance and Administration