



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

MINUTES

FOCUS GROUP

Western Waters Multi-Annual Plan Consultation

Printworks – Dublin Castle

Thursday 17th September 2015, 11:00 – 12:30

1. Welcome and introductions

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

The agenda¹ was adopted as drafted.

The Chair explained that the purpose of the meeting was to draft a response to the Commission Consultation on Western Waters Multi-Annual Plans (see [link](#)). This Consultation was aimed at the general public as well as fisheries organisations, NGOs and all other stakeholders. The original deadline for the response was 11th September, but in consultation with the Commission it was agreed that the NWWAC could respond by 12th October. Additionally, Terms of Reference were to be drafted for the Focus Group dedicated to draft the response.

2. Presentation on the STECF pre-assessment regarding the impact of MAPs in Western Waters

The Secretariat (Barbara Schoute) presented the conclusions from the STECF report on Multiannual management plans for SWW and NWW ([STECF-15-08](#)).

3. AC response

In the preparation for the discussion at the meeting, two documents had been prepared – one following the consultation document with general questions and one summarising the main points on the topic. Both documents had been drafted from a different view point that of the industry and ‘other interest groups’. In order for the meeting to agree on the component parts of the response to the consultation a presentation was made based on points from both documents.

The meeting agreed that the nature of the questions was very general which made it difficult to use the consultation document as a basis to present an AC position. It was noted that although there were some points of agreement on possible answers, there was a need to develop a specific position for the NWW, possibly in a text rather than answering a vague, generic and badly constructed questionnaire. The group agreed that this was too important a subject to be rushed to conclusions.

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



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After the initial discussion it was decided that the group could not reach agreement on answering the questions in the consultation at this stage. Those that had spent time on the preparation of discussion documents were thanked for their input and the Secretariat was asked to consider a different approach for this type of discussion in future, specifically the consideration of group size and the need to engage scientific experts during the meeting.

The evaluation by STECF provided a good basis for further work but it would take more time in a Focus Group to discuss these conclusions. A question that arose was the fact that the NWW were modelled using the Celtic Sea alone. The group considered that areas such as the Irish Sea and West of Scotland should be included as well to be more representative of the whole area and that it should include 'choke' species. Although the group agreed to draft advice in response to the more specific consultation that was referred to in the preface of the consultation document, the Commission (Mr Griffin) noted that there was no further consultation planned but would welcome the view of the AC on the matter.

4. Conclusions

The group agreed to:

- Draft a short response to the consultation (Secretariat / Andrew Clayton / Barrie Deas) to indicate the importance of the subject and the fact the NWWAC would need to spend more time to draft comprehensive advice;
- Plan a follow up process (FG WWMAP) to produce advice on Multi-Annual Plans in 2016. (Secretariat to set up process and ensure ToRs are drafted);
- Use the STECF report (agenda item 2) as the basis for a future NWWAC response, and request that the STECF extend their research to include at least the Irish Sea and West of Scotland. (Secretariat and chair to draft this communication to STECF for the approval of the Executive Committee).

Annex 1 – list of participants

NWWAC Members	
Bertie Armstrong	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Konstantinos Kokosis	European Bureau for Conservation and Development
Debbie Crockard	Seas at Risk Organisation
Andrew Clayton	The Pew Charitable Trusts
Thierry Guigue	Association Nationale des Organisations de Producteurs
Dimitri Rogoff	Comité Départemental des Pêches et des Élevages Marine: CDPMEM 14
Rene-Pierre Cever	Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins du Finistère
Kevin Charlot	Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins
Daniel Lefèvre	Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins de Basse Normandie
Delphine Roncin	Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins du Nord / Pas de Calais / Picardie



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Dominique Thomas		Coopératives Maritimes Etaploises & Armement Cooperatif Artisanal du Nord
Richard Brouzes		Copeport Maree OPBN
Rachel Lagiere		OP COBRENORD
Siobhán Egan		BirdWatch Ireland
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
Eibhlín O’Sullivan		Irish South and West Fish Producers Organisation
Sean O'Donoghue		Killybegs Fishermen's 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
Lydia Chaparro		Fundació ENT
Luis Francisco Marín		Organización de Productores de Pesca de Ondarroat
Jesús Angel Lourido García		Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP-77
Liane Veitch		ClientEarth
Paul Trebilcock		Cornish Fish Producers Organisation
Thomas Bryan-Brown		Mallaig and North West Fishermen's Association
David Beard		Manx Fish Producers Organisation
Barrie Deas		National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations
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
Jim Portus		SWFF Ltd
Observers		
Stéphan	Beaucher	Consultant
Gonzague	de Moncuit	Ministère de l’écologie, du développement durable et de l'énergie
Paul	Duane	Sea Fisheries Protection Authority
Patrick	Brady	Coastwatch
Iain	Glasgow	DEFRA
Robert	Griffin	European Commission
Laurent	Markovic	European Commission
Brendan	Price	Wildlife Consultant
Dominic	Rihan	European Commission
Sara	Vandame	ILVO
Richard	Pellerin	CDPMEMRR
Thomas	Catchpole	CEFAS
Secretariat		
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Barbara	Schoute	Deputy Executive Secretary