



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

North Western Waters Advisory Council

Minutes

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Conference Room 01, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh.

Thursday 09th July 2015

- 1. Welcome by the Chair** (Bertie Armstrong)
 - Apologies were received from Sean O'Donoghue (Killybegs FPO) and Eibhlín O'Sullivan (Irish South & West FPO). The chair welcomed Hugo Boyle as the new representative for Irish South & East FPO (Caitlín Uí Aodh has stepped down).
 - Adoption of the agenda; adopted as drafted
 - Adoption of the minutes of the last meeting (Bilbao, 22 April 2015).
A correction is needed for Bullet 6 – where it notes “a proposal for a NWW MAP is due”, here *proposal* should be replaced by *consultation*.
The rest of the minutes are agreed as drafted.

- 2. Report on coordination meeting between the Commission and the ACs** (Brussels, 23 June 2015) (Chair).

Key points from the meeting:

- Communication on fishing opportunities – ACs agreed that the positive picture drafted in the text was good, although the Mediterranean picture was less positive. The EC indicated that quota uplifts will be made, but they will have to be F neutral. Deadline for the consultation on this communication is 30-9-2015.
- Briefing on the state of play for new technical measure framework: the general design is to move away from the current intensely prescriptive regulation, and to simplify where possible. Only central items should remain on EU level, delegating the rest regionally. It is now at the stage of impact assessment with publication of the proposal by the end of the year.
- Control regulation – evaluation is ongoing as planned after five years. MS have asked the EC for evolution, not revolution, so no major changes are envisaged. If ACs want to suggest larger changes this may require extra effort.
- Point raised by the ACs – the new CFP has put a lot of pressure on resources, especially with regard to LO. This is recognized by senior officials at the EC. A small AC group will be set up to scope this.
- A Panel discussion on Governance was organized by the European Bureau for conservation and development (EBCD, [link](#)) in the European Parliament on 23 June where Serge Garcia presented the recently published book on “governance for marine fisheries management and biodiversity conservation”. Representatives from several ACs participated as well as



Lowry Evans from DG MARE. This was a timely discussion given the Commission current consultation on governance and the fact that the EP Peche Committee will be drafting an Own Initiative Report on this issue with the main rapporteur already designated MEP Nicolai.

- DGMARE has initiated a Consultation on International Ocean Governance that relates to this topic ([link](#)). The panel suggested that governance in the EU may need to be improved before bringing it out.

3. Actions arising from the Working Groups

- Working Group 1 (West of Scotland)
 1. AC to follow up with relevant member states to ask them to make available national data on skates and rays.
 2. A Letter should be drafted AC-wide with concrete concerns and questions on the LO for the EC -- deadline for drafting 2 weeks.
 3. ExCom to set up ADG for WW MAP consultation (**11 Sept – seeking extension SECR or by written procedure Chairman to consider this**).
 4. Propose that the EXCOM pulls together a focus group across the AC WGs to discuss the MAPs further.
- Working Group 2 (West of Ireland and Celtic Sea)
 1. Supports WG3 to keep up the InterAC Bass focus group.
 2. Supports WG1 on drafting a letter to the EC on the Landing Obligation.
 3. Supports WG1 on setting up a Focus group on MAPs
 4. Suggest the AC to write a message to support the CEFAS spurdog project and make other MS aware of the project.
 5. Recommends to top up the TAC for plaice to take account of the actual catches
 6. Suggests having the ICES advice presentation of the relevant stocks presented in each working group instead of in a general meeting.
- Working Group 3 (Channel)
 1. Supports WG1 on drafting a letter to the EC on the Landing Obligation
 2. Proposes to keep the InterAC focus group on seabass
 3. Proposes a focus group on Skates and Rays to support the establishment of projects in other MS similar to RAIMOUEST
 4. Supports WG2 suggestion that the AC to write a letter on the spurdog project.
 5. Support investigation of funding streams to carry forward the work of Gap2 in association with NWWAC
- Working Group 4 (Irish Sea) Chair / Rapporteur
 1. Proposes a focus group on LO implementation for the Irish Sea – if possible/needed in combination with a horizontal focus group
 2. Has asked the Secretariat to investigate the implementation of the LO in other regions (Baltic and Pelagic right now, NS and SWW plans) on practical questions on responsibilities for non-PO discards and fisheries definitions.



3. There will be an Irish Sea benchmark between 2015-2017– WG4 will be in the loop on this and will attend where needed.
4. Supports WG1 on drafting a letter to the EC on the Landing Obligation

- **Discussion / Adoption of Actions by the Executive Committee**

The Chair thanked the WGs for their proposals and noted that a number of ‘horizontal issues’ had been dealt with by all the WGs. Looking at the work done by the NWWAC and other ACs: the most effective advice in the past years seems to come from focus groups. The WGs help to bring up points for consideration by ExCom, but these points are often relevant to more WGs or even ACs. The follow up on these items seems to be better in focus groups. In pursuit of more effective working the chair ventured to suggest the AC should not spend too much time on ‘ritual’ WGs, but to turn to focus groups to deliver advice and take action once points have been raised by WGs.

There followed an important discussion on optimal working processes for the AC, recorded below.

Barrie Deas agreed there is much repetition between WGs, and WG discussions may raise important points which do not end up in advice. The advice that comes out of focus groups is more efficient in delivering consensus advice and removing duplication from the process. Suggests to have a smaller group to get ideas on the table (for example: Professional rapporteur to draft minutes and draft advice, like other ACs).

Jacques Pichon: agendas of WGs show a lot of duplication. We need a more flexible system for this AC. The current system has delivered effective advice through focus groups.

Andrew Clayton: agrees with getting rid of duplication between meetings.

Debbie Crockard: This seems to be a reoccurring problem. Perhaps shortening the WGs will make it possible to concentrate on sub regional issues in the WG and ensure time for horizontal issues to be dealt with in focus groups?

John Anderson: agrees that the structure could be more efficient – reduce duplication and go into focus groups for advice.

Francis O’Donnell: the Irish Sea WG agenda is very similar to the other WGs, still proposals from WGs are important to start discussion topics for the ExCom?

Jacques Pichon: Focus groups have improved the system, but it should be noted that WGs could still produce good advice.

Jesús Lourido: the diagnosis is clear, a flexible system is needed, advises to keep the regional groups to discuss regional issues, and have other (focus) groups for issues raised for subareas or the whole NWW.

Marc Ghiglia: Irrespective of the structure, for any group it is important to have people round the table that have a willingness to cooperate and compromise.

Chair: There will generally be a difference between the individual member point of view and any necessary NWWAC compromise – everybody around the table should be willing to discuss a compromise advice for the EC, but members should note that in advising the regional group of MS, different shades of opinion may also be given.

Mike Park: with regards to the structure, agenda setting should be considered too – overarching issues should be taken from WG agendas and dealt with in a horizontal issues group so that all the people needed can attend the right meetings without too much overlap. Suggests to set up



horizontal issues groups to move overlapping agenda items out of WGs.

Emiel Brouckaert: Communication on contributors for the different meetings – to ensure that all relevant parties have been involved in the small groups.

LM: suggests to discuss this approach with other ACs.

Daniel Lefèvre: overlaps between WGs should be avoided, horizontal points need to be put on a 'horizontal agenda', the ExCom could play a role here. An external rapporteur would be a good idea, for small focus groups with clear lists of participants. There is a need to have the professionals in as priority, then the public organizations. Perhaps voting should be introduced in case consensus cannot be reached.

Liane Veitch: agrees with having separate meetings on horizontal issues, which could shorten the WGs. Perhaps WGs only need to meet if there are specific issues on the agenda.

Kara Brydson: Reminds the group that WGs were already shortened – suggests to change the AC structure based on topical groups than sub-regions. Don't be afraid to change the structure.

Summarizing: The meeting agrees that overlap of agenda items between working groups is inefficient and that horizontal groups (possibly with an external rapporteur) are a better proposal in those cases. The Secretariat mentions that the discard officer position that was discussed last year might be engaged to get more focus on this from the Secretariat. It is noted that if that means any structural change this should be agreed through the GA. However, the ideas mentioned in the meeting may be put into practice within the current statutes. **The Secretariat** will look into this: Annex 2.

Barrie Deas kindly offered to draft a note with a proposal based on the general consensus in the group, so that a proposal can be developed that can be dealt with in written procedure. With help of Secretariat will be worked out. A new function in the secretariat can be taken up in this document.

Action point: Proposal on optimizing the advice drafting procedure to be drafted by Barry Deas and Secretariat to be dealt with in written procedure.

Action point: The chair will draft a letter to thank Lowri Evans for her input as DG at DGMARE.

The ExCom agrees to take over the action points by the WGs.

Action point: The Secretariat will compile concrete questions and examples on the implementation of the LO (2 weeks deadline) to be sent to the EC.

4. AC contribution to consultations (Chair)

a. Landing Obligation

Report on meeting with MS presidency (Chair, report will be forwarded to GA)

New Dutch presidency invited Bertie and Liane for an open discussion which was much appreciated. They gave an approximate timeline for their topics and meetings which will continue with high level and technical groups. Next HLGs will be in October and November, the next Technical group to meet in September. The AC will attend this meeting. Main topics: Control; A control expert group will be set up, perhaps AC members may be interested to join.



Interspecies flexibility and Phasing: AC is asked to set up a list of stocks to be considered for both issues.

MAP development abroad: the Baltic MAP is undecided, EP/EC do not agree on generic terms.

b. New Control Regulation

Discussed under item 2.

c. Scientific Advice and Commission Communication

There is a stakeholder consultation ongoing on the Commission Communication (also known as the 'Policy Statement' – see [link](#)). The deadline for the consultation is 30 September. The chair asks the meeting if the AC should respond or if all members want to reply separately to the Consultation which is always an option. The members did not express an immediate opinion.

d. Future work requirements

Dealt with under item 3.

5. Video-snippets (Secretariat)

The Secretariat has developed videos to be posted on the NWWAC website to inform outsiders about the work remit and issues dealt with in the AC. This development was discussed at the meeting in September 2014. The videos were shown and the group welcomed the positive message and agreed these should be posted on the web.

Action point: Secretariat to post Video snippets on the NWWAC site

6. Summary of actions agreed and concluding remarks by the Chair

Action point: Proposal on optimizing the advice drafting procedure to be drafted by Barry Deas and Secretariat to be dealt with in written procedure.

Action point: The chair will draft a letter to thank Lowri Evans for her input as DG at DGMARE on behalf of the NWWAC.

The ExCom agrees to take over the action points by the WGs.

Action point: The Secretariat will compile a letter with concrete questions and examples on the implementation of the LO (2 weeks deadline) to be sent to the EC.

Concluding: The chair will communicate to AC if issues arise over summer that will make the drafting of an AC response to the Consultation on the policy statement necessary.

Action point: Secretariat to post Video snippets on the NWWAC site

The meeting was closed at 13:25 – the chair thanked the members and interpreters.



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Annex 1 Participants list

ExCom Members		
Bertie	Armstrong	North Western Waters AC
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Kara	Brydson	RSPB Scotland
Debbie	Crockard	Seas at Risk
John	Crudden	European Anglers Association
Barrie	Deas	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation
Ross	Dougal	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Marc	Ghiglia	CNPMEM
Hugo	González	Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Pesca de Gran Sol
Jacques	Pichon	Association Nationale des Organisation des Producteurs
Despina	Symons	European Bureau for Conservation and Development
Jesús	Lourido García	Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP-77
Eduardo	Miguez	European Association of Ports and Auctions
Geert	Meun	Dutch Fish Product Board
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
Andrew	Clayton	The Pew Charitable Trusts
Dave	Cuthbert	New Under Ten Fishermen's Association
Gonzague	de Moncuit	Ministère de l'écologie, du développement durable et de l'énergie
Kevin	Charlot	CNPMEM
Mindaugas	Kisieliauskas	European Commission
Daniel	Lefèvre	CRPMEM de Basse Normandie
Laurent	Markovic	European Commission
Francis	O'Donnell	Irish Fish Producers Organisation
Glenn	Quelch	European Fisheries Control Agency
Dominique	Thomas	Coopératives Maritimes Etaploises & Armement Cooperatif Artisanal du Nord
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish Fish Producer's Organisation
Delphine	Roncin	CRPMEM Nord – Pas de Calais / Picardie
Carrie	Hume	Marine Conservation Society
Emanuel	Kelbérine	CDPM 29
Sylvie	Roux	CDPM 22
Jim	Portus	EWFPPO
NWWAC Secretariat		
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Barbara	Schoute	Deputy Executive Secretary
Joanna	McGrath	Executive Assistant - Finance and Administration



Annex 2. Copy from the Rules and Procedures (version Jan 2013)

Section on 'Structure'

[.....]

The RAC for the North Western Waters will concern itself with fisheries within ICES Area VI (West of Scotland) and the whole of ICES Area VII including Sub-areas VIIId and VIIe. Given the size of the area, it proposed that work for the North Western Waters RAC should function on the basis of four, clearly defined, geographical sub-areas:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. West of Scotland | ICES sub-areas Vb (EC) VIa, VIb |
| 2. Western Approaches, West of Ireland, Celtic Sea | ICES sub-areas VIIbj (except d, e) |
| 3. English Channel | ICES sub-areas VIIId and VIIe |
| 4. Irish Sea | ICES sub-area VIIa |

Four Working Groups will be established based on these sub-areas, to assist the Executive Committee in developing fishing-area-specific proposals and advice within the overall objectives of the North Western Waters RAC. These Working Groups will enable a wide range of technical experts to take part as well as expanding the scope for stakeholder participation. Voting members of Working Groups must be members of the North Western Waters RAC General Assembly.

These groups shall not preclude any changes to the area coverage of the working groups, the establishment of additional single or multiple issues focused working groups, or any other sub-groups, at the determination and direction of the Executive Committee. Annex 1 provides an overview of the initial structure of the RAC which can be amended to reflect any additional working groups as determined by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee of the NWWRAC will coordinate the day-to-day activities of the NWWRAC and its Working Groups and will be the final arbitrator of all advice and opinion issued by the NWWRAC. Working Groups, established by the NWWRAC, will report directly to the Executive Committee, will operate within prescribed rules and procedures established by the NWWRAC. Working Groups may exercise latitude appropriate to the diversity of characteristics and fisheries that fall within their remit, when undertaking their work programme.