



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CNPMEM, Paris
Tuesday 2nd of February 2016
15:30 – 17:30

Chair: Bertie Armstrong
Rapporteur: Barbara Schoute

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chairman (Bertie Armstrong) welcomed members, representatives of the European Commission and Member States as well as observers.

The chair introduced a new member of staff at the Secretariat, Dr Sara Vandamme (Vandamme@bim.ie) as the new Project Development and Communications Manager (formerly described as the 'Discards Officer'). Ms Vandamme provided an overview of her background and experience. She holds a PhD in fish population genetics (at ILVO in Belgium) and has a strong interest in fisheries management. Her experience has included the coordination of a science-fishery partnership to investigate the status of the sole stock in the Irish Sea and the development of standardised tools for fish authentication, in Manchester University. Through these experiences she has learned how to work on the interface between academic science and fisheries management. Included in her tasks is the Landing Obligation and she will be looking into projects the AC can take part in as well as developing a new communication strategy for the NWWAC. Members were informed that the communications group would be revived and were requested to contact Sara if they were interested in joining this group.

Apologies were received from Marc Ghiglia who was replaced by Richard Brouzes.

The agenda¹ was adopted as drafted.

Action points from the minutes of the last meeting (16th September 2015, Dublin) were discussed. Most actions were fulfilled, but the following points remained:

- **The Secretariat** with the assistance of the ISWPO (Eibhlín O'Sullivan) will draft a letter for MS on making data available for skates and rays.
This point will be addressed following the outcome of the Focus Group on Skates and Rays, which meets on 3 February.
- **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.
Information gathering is ongoing.
- **The meeting agreed** to have the ACRUNET document and proposal circulated, with the intention for a decision to be determined by correspondence.

Additionally, at the General Assembly (16th September 2015, Dublin) the Secretariat was asked to draft a letter to Member States asking for an increased contribution to operational costs, considering the increased costs incurred relating to landing obligation meetings. The Chair reported that this subject had been brought up in conversation at a High Level Group (HLG) meeting with the NWW Member States (MS), where it was made clear that MS were not in a position to increase contributions. Shortly afterwards, the EC confirmed that the AC budget would be

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



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

increased by € 50,000, from 1st October 2016. The Chair suggested that there would no longer be a need to draft the letter. One member considered it would still be useful to make it clear to MS that there was a need for additional budget as the tasks of the ACs are expanding with their advisory role on the Landing Obligation (LO) and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), for instance. There was a general feeling that a request for extra budget would not be received positively, but at the suggestion of the Secretariat, a request to MS to support the AC as much as possible through 'Benefit in kind', such as meeting facilities, would be appropriate.

ACTION: The Secretariat to draft a letter to Member States requesting that the AC receive as much support as possible from MS through 'Benefit in kind' (e.g. meeting venues) in order to support the workload of the AC.

2. Feedback from MIACO (Presentation by the chair)

MIACO, the annual Meeting with ICES and ACs and Observers, was held on the 14-15 January, 2016, in Copenhagen. The Chair and Vice Chair (Liane Veitch) and Secretariat (Conor Nolan) attended the meeting. In the last couple of years the meeting was considered a ritual, where ICES presented information to the ACs ("Other Observers" had been included by ICES from 2015). In 2015, the ACs had requested the reinstatement of a specific meeting between ICES and the ACs. This had been considered by ICES who informed the group that the 'MIAC' meeting would be reinstated to further develop cooperation between the ACs and the ICES Working Groups (WGs). The aim of the MIAC meeting would be to enable fisheries stakeholders and ACs to inform WGs before the annual WG meetings in order to add 'information from stakeholders' to the advice. The AC will be able to send comments to the ICES secretariat, or set up meetings with the relevant WGs to discuss information they could take into account in their discussions and advice. The ICES WGs will discuss their interaction with stakeholders and further implementation will be on the agenda of the next MIAC meeting.

ACTION: Secretariat to seek the opinion of AC members on the need for input or the requirement for a specific meeting, prior to the ICES Celtic Seas WG.

Additionally, the NWWAC supported by the Pelagic AC (Sean O'Donoghue; representing the Pelagic-AC) asked ICES and the EC to consider the establishment of a specific group on the LO, which would serve to act as a rapid reaction task force to address short-term issues from ACs, which required scientific advice. This was considered a positive point, and ICES indicated it would be prepared to cooperate, if relevant experts are made available by the EC and Member States.

With regard to EC requests on changes to the interpretation of reference points (from point estimates to ranges) the ACs were informed that this might change the basis for advice. This may be a point for discussion at the presentation of the advice by ICES at the July meeting of the NWWAC.

It was agreed that preparation for the MIAC and MIACO meetings would be discussed at the September meeting of the Executive Committee.

ACTION: Secretariat to include 'Preparation for AC meetings with ICES' on September agendas.

ACTION: Secretariat to ask ICES representative to explain the basis for 'F-range' advice, in July.

3. Planning for Year 11

The chair presented the main topics from the NWWAC workplan, as presented and agreed at the General Assembly in Dublin (16 September 2015) in order for members to decide on the appropriate prioritisation and actions, as well as contact persons for these topics.



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

Main topics of the AC workplan:

i. Landing Obligation

As discussed at the Horizontal Working Group on the Landing Obligation, the AC aims to monitor and advise the EC and MSs, and respond to requests where relevant.

Representatives: Chair and Vice Chair (Liane Veitch)

ii. Technical measures

The AC aims to provide input on evaluation and proposals for the renewal of the TM regulation. The EC indicated that a proposal was scheduled to be presented before the end of March 2016.

The meeting indicated that NWWAC WGs were of an appropriate size and contained an adequate representation of stakeholders with experience of research and development in order to be best equipped to comment on proposals for updated regulations. It was decided that WGs would be asked to discuss and comment on the forthcoming proposal, while it was noted that scientific input to the WGs would be needed in order to draft advice.

Representatives: Working Groups will be asked to discuss the draft proposal at their next meeting.

Emiel Brouckaert asked members if ExCom would support a request to hold an information meeting on the Pulse trawl. Belgian scientists and fishermen were gathering information in the North Sea and the trials there seemed to be successful. It was suggested that the AC could hold a seminar on this subject at the meetings in July.

The meeting was informed that the NSAC had provided advice on the Pulse trawl ([link](#)), and that ICES was due to publish advice on this topic, based on a French request ([link](#)).

ACTION: Secretariat to ask NWWAC WGs if an information meeting on the Pulse Trawl at the NWWAC meetings in July, would be of interest.

iii. Multi-Annual Plans

The AC aims to provide timely input for the further development of a MAP for the North Western Waters. The EC indicated that the timeline for this development depended on the progress made on the Baltic MAP. New documents may be available in July or perhaps earlier.

The meeting noted that the role of ACs in the development of regional MAPs is very relevant, but there are issues in terms of regionalisation. In general consultation procedures, the input from the AC was only counted as 'one consultee', where the actual comments were the result of intensive internal discussions, which aimed to reach consensus between stakeholders. The AC asked the EC to publicly recognise the role of the AC in providing advice from all relevant regional stakeholders.

The chair confirmed that input from the AC in the development of MAPs is the ultimate test of regionalisation under the CFP.

Representatives: A Focus Group on the MAP will meet after WGs have had a chance to provide input for sub-regions. The group noted the need for scientific input to be available for this Focus Group.

ACTION: WGs to be asked to discuss input on the NWW MAP during WG meetings in July

ACTION: Secretariat to forward information to all members on the experiences and progress made on the Baltic MAP.

iv. Management measures for species

The AC aims to send out advice for a list of species, which will be prioritised by urgency and the availability of sufficient scientific information. The following members agreed to initiate the development of advice and agree a timeline for delivery with the assistance of the Secretariat:

Seabass – Barrie Deas (agreed to liaise with the NSAC seabass Focus Group)

Skates and Rays – John Lynch



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

Nephrops FU16 – Although the AC has sent annual advice on this stock, since 2009, the advice has not been supported by the December Council. Since the annual advice has remained unchanged, it was suggested (Sean O’Donoghue) that advice on this stock be developed and submitted before the end of August.

ACTION: The Secretariat to set up a correspondence process to update the advice and submit it for consideration before the end of August.

Sole VIIgh – Emiel Brouckaert informed the meeting that a proposal for a management plan for sole in VIIgh was being prepared by Belgian scientists and the Belgian government. Similar to sole in VIId, and it was proposed (Rederscentrale) that the NWWAC should prepare advice on a management strategy for sole in VIIgh during 2016. This point was agreed by the meeting.

ACTION: A Focus Group on sole in VIIgh will be organised by the Secretariat (chair: Emiel Brouckaert) to deliver advice on a management strategy for this stock in 2016.

v. Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

The Chair informed the meeting about the recent experiences with Scottish proposals for MPAs, where stakeholder and scientific cooperation had been very productive but the national, political choices were heavily disputed. The chair also noted that the NWWAC had received numerous ‘informal consultation’ requests on MPAs, especially from the UK administration, which were forwarded to members.

It was noted that in this ‘informal phase’ a Member State (MS) can select relevant areas and make a national proposal for boundaries and management (CFP Art 11.1) and the meeting appreciated the request for involvement of relevant stakeholders in this process. For areas relevant to fisheries across MS boundaries (CFP Art 11.2 - 3) proposals from the initiating MS will be discussed in regional MS groups in order to draft a Joint Recommendation that will be put forward to the Commission as a basis for a Delegated Act.

The meeting agreed that it was important for individual stakeholders to be involved in the ‘informal’ development process of proposals. At the same time **it was stressed** that when regional groups of relevant MS started drafting a Joint Recommendation, consultation of the AC is needed (CFP Art 18.2).

The meeting agreed that the representatives of the NWWAC at NWW MS groups dealing with MPAs would be Philip Taylor (RSPB Scotland) and Jim Portus (SWFPO).

- vi. Improving scientific and economic data quality
- vii. Plan future cooperation with scientists and data collectors.

The Chair presented the final points of the workplan (vi and vii) together since these were very closely related. **The meeting considered** that the Secretariat would be the most relevant contact point between the AC and scientists for these topics.

4. Efficiency

- Efficiency of procedures

The Secretariat (Barbara Schoute) presented an update on the development and improvement of procedures to improve efficiency and maximise the production of good quality advice in a timely fashion. At the last meeting, ExCom had agreed to streamline meeting agendas and ensure that meetings concentrated on issues in their specific regions; those subjects that cover more regions would be addressed in Horizontal or Focus Groups.



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

The Secretariat gave a brief presentation on the current procedures for producing advice and asked the meeting to consider possible updates to the system. The main aim was to improve the drafting of advice in the AC, by choosing the right type of meeting (e.g. face-to-face, web-meetings or correspondence) and looking for the best way to address problems with meeting of deadlines.

The EC noted that the provision of advice by ACs before deadlines, was both positive and encouraged as it could enhance the implementation of advice by managers.

Members indicated that the choice of meeting-type is an important part of the process, since for some subjects it is necessary to have a discussion in a face-to-face or web-meeting, rather than work by correspondence. The Secretariat indicated that it is committed to finding ways to hold web-meetings with interpretation. When a correspondence process is possible or necessary, the meeting took note of the need to meet deadlines in order to work efficiently. It was agreed that the chair of the Advice Drafting Group would decide on the inclusion of material or proposed changes to advice received after a deadline.

Members of the group agreed that it was important to efficiently plan the advice drafting process and by example it would be more efficient to draft the NWWAC advice on fishing opportunities before the TAC proposal is presented in autumn.

The meeting agreed that all future advice on catch opportunities would be discussed when the ICES advice is presented, together with the document on catch opportunities (the 'Policy paper') from the EC. In 2016, the AC would present advice on catch opportunities for the main species after the NWWAC meetings in July, and for Nephrops in November.

ACTION: The NWWAC WGs to discuss the drafting of advice for catch opportunities for stocks relevant to their area at the NWWAC meeting in July.

- Celtic Seas Partnership (Sam Tedcastle)

The NWWAC was approached by the Celtic Seas Partnership in 2015 ([link](#)). Benoit Guerin (independent consultant) introduced the project, where he had been involved in a process of improving cooperation between the Scottish industry, NGOs and administration. It was noted that a number of NWWAC members had taken part in meetings of this CSP initiative representing their own organisations. In light of regionalisation, Mr Guerin considered that this type of process may also be of interest to the NWWAC. Sam Tedcastle (WWF Scotland) continued the presentation and described the Scottish project, which was set up to improve the efficiency of cooperation and relationships between and within Scottish stakeholder organisations. Although results were difficult to quantify, it was considered that the exchange of experiences between the different types of organisations resulted in a general sense of increased trust in the processes and deliverables.

The meeting was informed that, should the NWWAC wish to accept the offer, that the process would involve a round of individual consultations (c. 1 hour) in order to identify areas and subjects of most relevance to AC members. If such a topic was identified, a follow up meeting would be arranged to discuss the matter with the relevant stakeholders. The key questions were: Could the AC work better? and Would a process to improve cooperation be helpful to improve the efficiency of meetings?

Comments from members were divided. Those that had taken part in the Scottish process, indicated that after being initially sceptical, some had found the experience positive. This was not because the process specifically helped with the subject, but it had helped improve mutual understanding. Clarifying the way different stakeholders perceived one another was considered instrumental in generating open and frank discussion. Although the objective was not to find agreement, some members who had been involved in the Scottish process, indicated they had found a surprising amount of common ground between the stakeholder groups



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

Other members commented that it was more important to ensure frank and open discussion at actual AC meetings, rather than discussing issues in a separate project. The meeting agreed that members had very little time to work on improving cooperation within the AC given the busy schedule to deliver advice.

The Executive Committee failed to agree on formal engagement with the project but encouraged members to contact the Celtic Seas Partnership should their organisation be independently interested in becoming involved with this project.

5. Composition of the Executive Committee

A question regarding the composition of Executive Committee (EC reg 1380/2013, Annex III, 2(a)), had been received by the Secretariat and was brought to the attention of members. The issue raised was in relation to the implementation of the composition rules detailed under Article 4 of Commission Delegated Regulation 2015/242, laying down detailed rules on the functioning of the Advisory Councils under the Common Fisheries Policy. Members were informed that the membership of the Executive Committee, as detailed on the NWWAC website, remains unchanged and reflects a composition based on a maximum number of 24 members.

Members considered the options of increasing the number of seats on the Executive Committee to 25 or 27 members. The Secretariat informed the meeting that the current membership consisted of: 14 Fishing Industry representatives, with one seat assigned to a Belgium representative vacant; and 7 Other Interest Group representatives. Following discussion, it was considered unnecessary to decide on an alternative composition for the Executive Committee, given that there were vacant seats in both the Sector Organisation and Other Interest Group categories.

It was decided to update the description and detail of the Executive Committee on the NWWAC website, recognising the requirements of the Commission Delegated Regulation and to discuss the matter further if alternative compositions were proposed.

ACTION: The Secretariat to update the description and detail of the Executive Committee on the NWWAC website, recognising the requirements of the Commission Delegated Regulation.

6. Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair

ACTION	
1	The Secretariat to draft a letter to Member States requesting that the AC receive as much support as possible from MS through 'Benefit in kind' (e.g. meeting venues) in order to support the workload of the AC.
2	Secretariat to seek the opinion of AC members on the need for input or the requirement for a specific meeting, prior to the ICES Celtic Seas WG.
3	Secretariat to include 'Preparation for AC meetings with ICES' on September agendas.
4	Secretariat to ask ICES representative to explain the basis for 'F-range' advice, in July.
5	Secretariat to ask NWWAC WGs if an information meeting on the Pulse Trawl at the NWWAC meetings in July, would be of interest.
6	WGs to be asked to discuss input on the NWW MAP during WG meetings in July.
7	Secretariat to forward information to all members on the experiences and progress made on the Baltic MAP.
8	The Secretariat to set up a correspondence process to update the advice and submit it for consideration before the end of August.
9	A Focus Group on sole in VIIfg will be organised by the Secretariat (chair: Emiel Brouckart) to deliver advice on a management strategy for this stock in 2016.



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

**NORTH WESTERN
WATERS**
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

10	The NWWAC WGs to discuss the drafting of advice for catch opportunities for stocks relevant to their area at the NWWAC meeting in July
11	The Secretariat to update the description and detail of the Executive Committee on the NWWAC website, recognising the requirements of the Commission Delegated Regulation.

Annex 1 – List of Participants

NWWAC members		
Bertie	Armstrong	North Western Waters AC
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Debbie	Crockard	Seas at Risk
John	Crudden	European Anglers Association
Bruno	Dachicourt	European Transport Federation
Barrie	Deas	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation
Ross	Dougal	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Hugo	Gonzales	Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Pesca de Gran Sol
Caroline	Gamblin	CNPMEM
Heather	Hamilton	ClientEarth
Konstantinos	Kokosis	European Bureau for Conservation and Development
Jesús	Lourido García	Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP-77
Geert	Meun	Dutch Fish Product Board
Sean	O'Donoghue	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation
Patrick	Murphy	Irish South & West FPO
Philip	Taylor	RSPB Scotland
Heather	Hamilton	ClientEarth
John	Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Observers		
Anne-Margaret	Anderson	The Scottish White Fish Producers Association
Frank	Stride	Scottish Fishermen's Organisation
Emily	Baxter	Cumbria Wildlife
David	Beard	Manx Fish Producers Organisation
Stéphan	Beaucher	Consultant
Hugo	Boyle	Irish South & East FPO
Richard	Brouzes	OPBN
Lydia	Chaparro	Fundació ENT
Andrew	Clayton	The Pew Charitable Trusts
Viera	Coelho	The Pew Charitable Trusts
David	Cuthbert	NUTFA
Gonzague	de Moncuit	Ministère de l'écologie, du développement durable et de l'énergie
Juana	Poza Poza	Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente
Robert	Griffin	European Commission
Daniel	Lefèvre	CRPMEM de Basse Normandie



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

Olivier	Le Nezet	CRPMEM de Bretagne
Laurent	Markovic	European Commission
Kevin	McDonnell	West of Scotland Fish Producers Organisation
Victoria	Metheringham	UK Marine Management Organisation
Colm	Osuilleabhain	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,
Glenn	Quelch	European Fisheries Control Agency
Mercedes	Rodríguez Moreda	OPP-07-LUGO
Paul	Francoise	Comité Départemental des Pêches et des Élevages Marine: CDPMEM 14
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish Fish Producer's Organisation
Declan	Tobin	JNCC
Alan	Addison	SWFPA Skipper Venture II BF 326
Benoit	Guerin	Celtic Seas Partnership
Sam	Tedcastle	Celtic Seas Partnership
Jim	Portus	SWFPO
Eibhlin	O'Sullivan	IS&WFPO
Luis Fransisco	Marin	OPPAO
Marina	Le Gurun	Blue Fish
Kåre	Nielsen	Arctic University of Norway
NWWAC Secretariat		
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Barbara	Schoute	Deputy Executive Secretary
Sara	Vandamme	Project Development and Communications Manager