



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CNPMEM, Paris
Wednesday 1st of March 2017
14:00 – 17:00

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chairman, Emiel Brouckaert, welcomed the members and the attendees to the meeting. The full list of participants is included as an annex to these minutes. Apologies for absence were received from Marc Ghiglia and John Crudden.

The agenda¹ was adopted as drafted. The following action points from the last meeting in Dublin (15th September 2016) had been completed:

1. The Secretariat had compiled the input from Working Groups on the EC proposal on Technical Measures;
2. Members had sent detailed comments on the EC proposal on Technical Measures to the Secretariat;
3. The Secretariat had compiled a list of choke examples in preparation for the next meeting of the Horizontal Working Group on the Landing Obligation (HWGLO), in order to discuss how to address the questions surrounding the compatibility of Articles 15 and 16 of the CFP and Article 39 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which was published in the advice in January 2017 ([link](#));
4. The Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation (IIMRO) and the Secretariat had prepared a proposal describing the scale and general rules for compensation of fishermen representing small-scale fisheries at AC meetings. The Secretariat had developed the proposal for incorporation in the rules of procedure following consultation with the other AC Secretariats (Agenda item 5a);
5. The Secretariat summarised the information for MIACO and presented this to ExCom for decision as a mandate for AC input to the MIACO meeting (Agenda item 3).

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

2. Cooperation with the NWW Member States group

- Consultation processes
 - Landing Obligation

The Chair explained that the ADGLO had met in January, as decided at the last meeting in Dublin and that the advice on the Joint Recommendation (JR) for 2018 had been approved by the Executive Committee before being circulated to the MS Group in January. The advice had been well received by the Member States (MS) group, and the AC was asked to give further input before the JR was finalised in May.

The Horizontal Working Group on the Landing Obligation (HWGLO) had suggested that the focus of further advice should be on the full implementation of the LO in 2019, rather than a draft proposal for the 2018 JR. The group recommended that a meeting of the ADGLO should be held to chart the scale of the problems, and to re-evaluate the toolbox with reference to the full implementation of the LO in 2019. The date and location proposed for the ADGLO was the 13th of April in Dun Laoghaire.

The Executive Committee approved the proposal from the HWGLO.

ACTION: The Secretariat to organise an ADGLO on 13th April 2017, in the BIM Offices, Dun Laoghaire.

- Article 11

The UK, as initiating Member State (MS), had sent the NWWAC an informal consultation on management measures for 12 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in UK waters, in preparation for the MS Article 11 subgroup. The NWWAC had been informed by the Belgian presidency of the MS group, that the next Article 11 subgroup would likely meet at the beginning of May to discuss the latest UK plans on MPAs.

The Secretariat had sent the draft JRs to the General Assembly in February for comment. The JNCC had presented the MPA proposals on the 28th February and the relevant Working Groups had provided further input to that already received.

The Secretariat proposed that it would combine all the comments received and forward a draft response to the informal consultation to the ExCom in the three working languages of the AC before 10th March. The Secretariat also proposed that the deadline for ExCom to provide comment on the informal consultation response would be close of business on 24th March.

The Executive Committee approved the proposals from the Secretariat.

ACTION: The Secretariat to provide a draft response to the informal UK consultation in the three working languages of the AC before the 10th March, with a deadline for ExCom comments of the 24th March in order to finalise the document before the end of March.

- AC representation at meetings and workshops

The meeting was informed of the standard procedure for representation at meetings and workshops. For meetings on the LO, the Chair and Vice-chair attend as representatives of the AC, if they cannot participate, replacements are identified and approved by the Chair. The content of approved ExCom documents provide the mandate for input by all AC representatives.

For Article 11 meetings, Jim Portus and Alex Kinninmonth were appointed as the AC representatives. So far, only one meeting had taken place (April 2016), where Liane Veitch had represented the AC.

The Executive Committee agreed that there should be no change to the representation of the AC at these meetings.

Sean O'Donoghue requested clarity on the process of selection of AC representatives to attend ICES meetings. The Secretariat informed the meeting that invitations to these meetings are sent to the General Assembly and representation is arranged on the basis of the availability of members. Mr O'Donoghue emphasised the importance of these meetings to AC members and advocated the active involvement of the AC in the ICES ADGs for the Celtic Seas in June and on Nephrops in October, as well as in benchmark groups.

The Chair agreed with this intervention and proposed that the relevant dates of relevant ICES meetings be distributed to the ExCom with details of nominated representatives, in order for ExCom to be able to appoint representatives. AC members were invited to contact the Secretariat if they were aware of meetings they deemed relevant to attend and were informed that the AC would be able to fund attendance at relevant meetings approved by ExCom. ICES had indicated that it was very interested in the participation of stakeholders at these meetings. The Secretariat could also attend once a mandate to do so was received from the ExCom.

ACTION: The Secretariat invite AC members to identify relevant ICES meetings, which they wished to attend on behalf of the AC and to circulate these nominations to ExCom for decision.

3. Reports from meetings

- Inter-AC Meeting (Brussels, 5th December 2016)

The meeting between the European Commission and the Advisory Councils was attended by Emiel Brouckaert, Liane Veitch, Conor Nolan and Barbara Schoute. Ms Schoute reported that two new ACs: for Markets and for Aquaculture had been established. The EC had informed the meeting that one AC had encountered problems with the categorisation of new member organisations, which affected the representation of interest groups (fisheries/OIGs) in their ExCom. The EC presented a proposal to facilitate this decision process in ACs, which, if agreed by Member States, would require an amendment to the Delegated Act.

No update on the status of this proposal was available from the Commission representative attending the ExCom.

The EC noted that guidance on the implementation of compensation for fishermen representing small-scale fisheries was needed to facilitate a harmonised approach between the ACs. The EC provided a recommendation, which would be discussed under Item 5.a.

On the development of the ACs and the implementation of regionalisation, the EC noted that not all ACs had good contact with their relevant MS group(s). The 'non-regional' ACs like the PelAC and LDAC had difficulties in the consultation process, while the NWWAC had a positive experience with the NWW MS group.

- Meeting between ACs and ICES (MIACO, Copenhagen, 19th and 20th January)

Emiel Brouckaert, Jenny Grossman (ClientEarth, replacing Liane Veitch) and Conor Nolan attended the meetings with ICES.

- ICES and the ACs

Mr Nolan reported on the meeting between ICES and the ACs, which had been particularly requested by the NWWAC with the support of the PELAC. Although this meeting was chaired by ICES, it was agreed at the outset that future meetings would be co-organised by the ACs and ICES (The Baltic AC will co-ordinate the input for the next meeting in January 2018). ICES requested that the ACs provide advance notice to ICES should they wish to have regional pre-meetings between stakeholders and ICES expert groups. ICES indicated that it had decided to only grant access to the 'sharepoint' folders of meetings to meeting attendees, in order to facilitate open and frank internal communication and secure the distribution of sensitive information. The AC Secretariats were invited to contact the ICES Secretariat to ensure that background information on meetings was made available to the ACs, and ICES agreed to investigate options to improve the flow of relevant information to the ACs.

Improving the communication between ICES and stakeholders was discussed, and concluded that although the presentation of ICES advice was well received, it was not easy to exchange information and put stakeholder's questions directly to scientists. ICES informed the ACs that resource issues prevented the expansion of the current advisory regime, although changes in the workplan would be possible with the agreement of the EC and amendment of the Memo of Understanding (MoU) between ICES and the ACs.

- MIACO

This was a large meeting including third countries (e.g. Norway) and observers, which was dominated by presentations and updates with little interaction and outcome. Lotte Worsøe Clausen was introduced as the new Head of Advisory Support at the ICES Secretariat. The NWWAC referred to the rapid reaction process, which it proposed in 2016 and informed the meeting that it had not yet been established by ACs but was still under consideration. In response to a NWWAC request to ICES to develop ways to incorporate short time-series of data (within 3 instead of 5 years, for example), ICES indicated that time series needed to be at least 5 years in duration. Meeting participants voiced concern on the slowness of data processing and analyses by ICES and the fact that no ICES group was looking at the quality of surveys.

The quality assurance process of ICES advice received much attention, mainly due to errors that had occurred in the advice in 2016. It was requested that ICES notify stakeholders directly when advice was updated, and it was suggested that ICES develop an external review system, and add a “check for updates” and “download multiple files” option on their advice webpage.

ICES was informed that stakeholders considered the benchmark process difficult to participate in, in a meaningful way. Communication and engagement could be improved by developing a code of conduct for input to the ICES process.

ICES informed the meeting that it had produced overviews of the Ecosystem (update in 2018) and Fisheries (to be released in May). These overviews would be reviewed every 3 to 4 years, and input from stakeholders would be appreciated. ICES was also developing an MSY based advice rule for data limited stocks and was concentrating on dab and flounder in the North Sea, at the request of the EC.

In order to reduce workload, ICES was discussing the possibility of reducing the frequency of advice with their clients. This could allow for more time to be spent on data quality analysis. The ACs will be consulted on this issue in 2017.

Sean O’Donoghue welcomed the efforts of the ICES Secretariat to organise and conduct a separate meeting between the ACs and ICES but voiced serious concern regarding the problems that ICES advice had had in 2016 concerning data quality and errors in ICES assessments. In order for ICES to produce unbiased, reliable advice, a 3 point plan was suggested:

- 1) ICES should bring in an outside expert to assess data quality and control;
- 2) A HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) system should be implemented by ICES;
- 3) ICES should seek ISO certification for data quality and control, which should follow from this process.

Mr O’Donoghue proposed that the ACs should follow up on this plan to avoid human error influencing future ICES advice.

Barrie Deas confirmed that MIACO was an important meeting but was worried that the balance in the meeting was turning towards more process than content related issues. He argued that more in-depth discussions between stakeholders and scientists were needed to encourage a broader dialogue. He stressed the importance of the Ecosystem and Fisheries overviews that were under development by ICES.

The Chair agreed with the report of this meeting and proposed that the Executive Committee instruct the Secretariat to follow up on these points throughout the year. The meeting agreed to this proposal.

ACTION: The Secretariat to keep in contact with ICES to monitor the development and implementation of a data control and quality assurance plan by ICES.

ACTION: The AC to prepare meeting points for the next MIACO meeting (January 2018).

- Meeting on Technical Conservation Measures (TCM) with EP PECH (Brussels, 25th January)

Purificación Fernandez and Liane Veitch attended the meeting of MEPs, EC and AC representatives, organised by Mr Mato, rapporteur to the EP PECH committee. The meeting report will be sent to the

General Assembly by email, as soon as possible. Ms Veitch gave a presentation based on the points raised by NWWAC members, indicating that this was not the formal opinion of the AC.

Ms Fernandez reported that Mr Mato considered that this had been a very useful meeting, which had demonstrated the communalities and differences between stakeholders. The input from previous consultations had been clearly reflected in the proposal, specifically the need for simplification and improved regionalisation. The EP intended to take time to study this proposal carefully, specifically the annexes.

Barrie Deas commented that the EP focus on the Annexes worried him. The proposed shift towards moving detailed regional rules to the annexes of the regulation should not be unpicked by EP or Council. Mr O'Donoghue agreed with Mr Deas and suggested that the EP be informed of this sentiment.

The Chair proposed that the AC (Barrie Deas) should prepare a text on this matter to be sent to the EP and relevant institutions. This proposal was approved by ExCom.

ACTION: Barrie Deas to draft a letter on the NWWAC concerns regarding the EP input to the TCM proposal, for approval by ExCom.

- 'Our Oceans 2017' Meeting (Brussels, 14th February)

The meeting was attended by Marta Gonzalez (EBCD) on behalf of NWWAC in the capacity of observer. The meeting report will be sent to the General Assembly, by email, as soon as possible. Despina Simons (EBCD) reported on this meeting, which had been organised by DGMARE to prepare input for the 4th international Our Ocean Conference (Malta, 5th and 6th October). This conference will address the influence of MPAs, pollution, climate change and DGMARE was looking for stakeholder input on the impact of their initiatives, in the form of ocean governance-related commitments. Commitments should focus on thematic issues such as: food security, climate change or issues related to sustainability.

The Chair asked the Executive Committee members if an NWWAC 'commitment' should be developed. Considering the significant workload of the AC, the Chair proposed that the consideration of this request was deferred to a later date and that no immediate action should take place. This proposal was approved by ExCom.

4. Actions arising from the Working Groups

The following action points of the Focus group and Working Group meetings that took place on the 28th of February and 1st of March were presented for the decision of ExCom:

Focus Group on Brown Crab (Barbara Schoute)

- 1) The Focus Group to liaise with the NSAC on Crab management through the Chair of the NSAC Demersal WG;
- 2) The AC to ask for scientific harmonisation of data collection by letter to the EC (ICES);
- 3) The Focus Group collate an overview of Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) and accreditation processes;

- 4) The Focus Group to compile an overview of existing measures and effects.

WG 1 – West of Scotland (Debbie Crockard)

- 1) Working Group members to put forward nominations for chair and vice chair positions;
- 2) Marine Scotland to inform the AC when their revised MPA proposal is published;
- 3) The input from the WG on experiences with the LO to be forwarded to the HWGLO;
- 4) That the AC should update the AC's management plan proposals for cod and whiting for resubmission to the EC;
- 5) MareFrame workshop; Members to consider attending and if so to inform the Secretariat of their preferred topics for the workshop and of any interest in wider participation in the MareFrame project.

WG 2 – Celtic Sea (Barbara Schoute)

- 1) Defra to provide answers to questions raised on the planning of the Western Channel MPA planning and the application of low/high criteria for MPA measures. The Secretariat to forward information received to the WG;
- 2) Input from the WG on experiences with the LO to be forwarded to the HWGLO;
- 3) The input from the WG on the UK MPAs to be taken into account in the AC consultation.

WG 3 – Channel (Jim Portus)

- 1) France (through Julien Lamothe) to nominate a French member for the position of Chair of the group. The Secretariat to send this nomination to the WG for decision;
- 2) Input from the WG on experiences with the LO to be forwarded to the HWGLO;
- 3) Input from the WG on the UK MPAs to be taken into account in the AC consultation.

WG 4 – Irish Sea (Francis O'Donnell)

- 1) Secretariat to forward the new coordinates for the Croker Carbonate slabs once provided by Defra;
- 2) Input from the WG on experiences with the LO to be forwarded to the HWGLO;
- 3) Irish Sea Benchmark – Secretariat to update the WG by correspondence.

Johnny Woodlock commented that the WG4 meeting also discussed some technical measures regarding a closed area and a proposed change in meshsize. Since no agreement was reached on these matters, this was not included in the list of action points. Francis O'Donnell indicated that these points would be developed further and will be brought to the ExCom if agreement in the Working Group can be reached.

The ExCom agreed on the proposed action points from the Focus Group and Working Groups.

5. Administration

- a) Request for additional compensation for small-scale fishermen

The Secretariat (Barbara Schoute) reminded the meeting of the action point from the meeting in Dublin in September 2016, where the IIMRO and Secretariat were asked to prepare a proposal describing the scale and general rules for compensation of fishermen representing small-scale fisheries at AC meetings.

The Secretariat was asked to develop the proposal for the rules of procedure, in cooperation with the other AC Secretariats.

The meeting was informed that in order for the AC to implement the updates in the Delegated Act, it had to take into account the emphasis contained in the legislation that encourages the participation of active fishermen in small-scale fisheries, in the stakeholder consultation process. The IIMRO had sent a proposal to the Secretariat, and at the Inter-AC meeting on 5th December (agenda item 3) the European Commission put forward a proposal for the harmonised implementation of this element of the Delegated Act by all ACs.

On this basis, the Secretariat proposed the following update to the reimbursement rules:

- That the precedent identified and recommended by the Commission for the additional compensation of active fishers representing small-scale fisheries (i.e. 1.5 x the normal *per diem*), be implemented and applied to qualifying small-scale fishers for their efficient participation in the work of the NWWAC.

In order to ascertain that the applicant for a reimbursement was an active, small-scale fisherman, that had to cease fishing in order to attend the AC meeting, it was proposed the following requirement was added for every application:

- That a stamped declaration from the competent authority of the flag Member state, stating that the applicant was actively fishing within the two week period prior to the meeting must be provided, in every case, for the additional compensation to be justified and claimed.

In order to clarify that all other reimbursement rules would apply, the following was added:

- That all other rules regarding the reimbursement of travel and subsistence of members will apply to organisations representing small-scale fisheries.

Purificación Fernandez commented that she sympathised with small-scale fisheries representatives and recognised the need for additional compensation when fishing time is lost, but questioned if the AC would receive additional funding to afford this. She noted that her organisation, ANASOL, was not completely compensated for longer AC meetings like the 3 day meeting in July and had to use its own funds to compensate attendees. Reimbursement for more than 2 days spent at meetings depended on the funding remaining at the end of the AC financial year, but the last 2 years no further reimbursements had been available.

The Secretariat (Conor Nolan) informed the meeting that this had been a problematic point for the Secretariat in recent years due to the increased number of meetings and associated expenditure. With the increase in budget of € 50.000, in funding from the EC to cover the additional workload, including the Landing Obligation, the AC would now be able to address this issue and provide adequate reimbursement to members. Members were informed that the AC would provide three nights per diem for the Edinburgh meeting in July, where justified.

Barrie Deas commented that this was an elegant way to improve the engagement of small-scale fishermen in AC processes. He enquired about the status of small-scale fishermen at AC meetings and how to incorporate their contributions. The Secretariat (Mr Nolan) indicated that the Secretariat would defer to the EC for interpretation on this point. Members were reminded that member organisations of the AC may claim reimbursement for one representative at AC meetings, and that the status of that representative would be based on the status of the member organisation at the meeting. Every organisation would have the opportunity to bring additional participants to the meeting as observers, and may choose, which of the representatives claim reimbursement.

The Secretariat will seek clarification from the EC on cases where fishermen representing small-scale fisheries who are not associated with a member organisation of the AC seek compensation.

Mike Park suggested that in cases where fishermen representing small-scale fisheries would be relevant at a meeting to add knowledge and information, without influencing the AC policy, an expert status should be sought. The Secretariat (Mr Nolan) agreed that this would be possible.

The ExCom agreed with the proposal, and backdated the implementation to the beginning of the operational year (i.e. 01 October 2016).

b) Governance of the NWWAC company

The Chair indicated that the Board of directors intended to increase the involvement of AC members in the Board of the Company in order to distribute responsibilities regarding the functioning and governance of the Company (e.g. Secretariat, Staff, Offices, Audit etc.). This information point would be further discussed at the July meeting.

6. Presentation on the genetic identification of fish stocks

Dr Edward (Ed) Farrell (University College Dublin) was invited to present the outcomes of a project on the genetic identification of pelagic fish stocks which had been conducted in cooperation with the Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO). Mr Farrell introduced the use of genetic identification for the improvement of fish stock assessments. Developments in genetic processing had created generic, cost-effective, rapid and powerful methods suitable for full-scale population genetic studies. These methods had been tested on boarfish, a stock for which little information was available previously, and the new 'microsatellite Genotyping-By-Sequencing' method had been shown to be more cost effective and faster than conventional methods. This method had also been tested on herring in the West of Scotland/Ireland (ICES areas 6.a and 7bc), where preliminary results had shown that the method could be combined with results on genetic markers from previous studies to facilitate the process.

Further expansion of the method would be possible for demersal stocks such as cod (genetic markers are available, but no project had been set up yet), and *Nephrops* and anglerfish, for which studies are ongoing. Optimisation of the method was anticipated through the upscaling and automating of sample collection and processing. Further developments such as the sampling of the water in fish tanks instead of individual fish were being considered. Building up a repository of genetic markers for different fish stocks could make eDNA and 'real-time' stock identification an option in future.

Dr Farrell stressed the need for continued industry buy-in into these scientific developments with the assistance of other organisations and institutes. Industry members who had issues or questions on stock identification were invited to identify their needs and approach the group to see if genetics could provide a solution.

Having proposed the speaker to the AC, Sean O'Donoghue had been keen to have this subject presented to the NWWAC and suggested that the members consider the options to expand the method to demersal fisheries. The PelAC had invested time and effort in this method and the results had been promising. A huge opportunity existed for the AC to use genetic advances, which could improve the identification and management of NWWAC stocks such as cod and whiting in the West of Scotland. It was proposed that the AC determine the key stocks, which would benefit from these genetic advances regarding stock identification and become actively involved in the development of appropriate projects with the help of the EC.

ACTION: The Secretariat to investigate how projects to improve the management of key stocks using advances in genetic methods, can be developed for funding.

7. Information points

a) Focus Group progress

i. Skates and Rays

- Advice:

John Lynch (chair of the Focus Group on Skates and Rays (FGRays)) informed the meeting on status of the draft advice developed at the FGRays meeting on 16th and 17th November. The draft advice will be sent to ExCom shortly, and contains a request to the EC to seek scientific evaluations of the following points:

- 1) Priorities for dealing with the LO (survivability studies, uplift etc.);
- 2) Evaluating data availability;
- 3) Rethinking the group TAC (evaluating alternative options);
- 4) Alternative options (Technical measures, spatial management, etc.).

The AC should be able to draft final advice for these stocks based on the scientific evaluation results.

A proposal on the timing of the decision making process was to be made at the end of the meeting.

- Horizon 2020 project proposal; "Shark-TOOLS"

The Secretariat (Sara Vandamme) explained that the AC had been asked to join a Horizon 2020 consortium in a project on elasmobranchs ("Shark-TOOLS") and that the ExCom had agreed (by email, 14th February) that the AC join the first phase proposal. The "Shark-TOOLS" project aimed to address most of the evaluations asked for in the draft advice developed by FGRays. If the first phase of the application succeeded, the Secretariat requested that ExCom provide a mandate for the participation of the AC in the second phase of the project proposal application (deadline 13th September 2017).

A range of possible roles for the AC in the project was presented, increasing in effort from acting as a 'mailbox' to informing stakeholders to taking up the role of Work package leader. The latter option was

not deemed the most effective as it would create a high workload, unless the Secretariat could act as a full partner and hire an extra employee to work in close cooperation with the Secretariat (Ms Vandamme) and Mr Lynch.

John Lynch agreed that the role of Work package leader would be too time consuming, but argued that a coordinating role (e.g. data) or communication lead would be suitable. The Secretariat (Mr Nolan) informed the ExCom that the text of the AC submission had been written to direct the focus of the scientific input towards the practical implementation of results appropriate to the work of the AC.

Barrie Deas supported the AC involvement as this was a very important fishery for AC members. Keeping in mind that the responsibility of AC was to produce advice, the extent to which this project could help inform AC advice was considered to be highly relevant. It was suggested that the AC should be as involved as possible, as it was important to inform AC advice, which would lead to better management.

The Chair concluded that if the project went ahead, the Secretariat should determine the optimal involvement of the AC in the “Shark-TOOLS” project, which would allow the AC to produce the best possible advice.

ii. Nephrops

The AC had not received a response from the EC following the issue of the advice in November 2016.

iii. Seabass

The AC Framework advice on seabass had been issued on the 13th May 2016. An EC reply had been received on 8th July 2016 which had not triggered a new FGBass meeting. The NSAC had submitted advice to the EC in autumn 2016.

iv. Brown crab

The FGCrab had been discussed under item 4.

v. Sole

The AC had provided advice in 2016 on a management strategy for sole in 7d, and for an evaluation of the TAC status for sole in 7hjk. The EC had indicated that this advice was under consideration.

vi. Control and Compliance

The FGCC had met on 27th October, where input for the Control Expert Group had been drafted (sent to the MS group in November). The group had met again on 11th January to draft comments on the Control Regulation for discussion with the relevant institutions. A document had been sent to the ExCom on the Thursday preceding this meeting, which would be updated and recirculated to ExCom for comment.

b) EFCA meetings and representation

The Secretariat (Barbara Schoute) reminded members that the AC representation at EFCA meetings consisted of the two Vice-chairs (Purificación Fernandez and Julien Lamothe), unless they were unavailable. The NWWAC is currently the representative of the Advisory Councils at the EFCA *Administrative* Board for the period 1st March 2017 to 28th Feb 2018. Mr Lamothe apologised that he could unfortunately not attend the next *Administrative* Board (Friday 3rd March) meeting due to an

important meeting in France and Ms Fernandez was also unavailable. The Chair requested that a member of ExCom attend this meeting. No member was available.

ACTION: The Secretariat was instructed to arrange a replacement to attend the next EFCA meeting. A representative from the LDAC or the NSAC could be asked to act as a proxy if the Secretariat could not attend.

c) *Update of Rules of procedure*

The Secretariat (Barbara Schoute) provided a brief update on the redrafting of the rules of procedure. As members had been informed previously, the Rules of Procedure document had been redrafted in order to implement the latest Delegated Act as well as to improve the descriptions of procedures and to simplify the text. The Secretariat proposed that a sub-group (e.g. ExCom Vice-chairs and/or other volunteers) could assist the process by reviewing the final document before it was sent to the GA, Commission and MS for approval. The Chair concluded that in the absence of volunteers, the Vice-chairs would be asked to review the final draft document.

ACTION: The Secretariat to ask the Vice-chairs to review the final draft of the revised rules of procedure.

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

| | |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | The Secretariat to organise an ADGLO on 13 th April 2017, in the BIM Offices, Dun Laoghaire. |
| 2 | The Secretariat to provide a draft response to the informal UK consultation in the three working languages of the AC before the 10 th March, with a deadline for ExCom comments of the 24 th March in order to finalise the document before the end of March. |
| 3 | The Secretariat invite AC members to identify relevant ICES meetings, which they wished to attend on behalf of the AC and to circulate these nominations to ExCom for decision. |
| 4 | The Secretariat to keep in contact with ICES to monitor the development and implementation of a data control and quality assurance plan by ICES. |
| 5 | The AC to prepare meeting points for the next MIACO meeting (January 2018). |
| 6 | Barrie Deas to draft a letter on the NWWAC concerns regarding the EP input to the TCM proposal, for approval by ExCom. |
| 7 | The ExCom agreed on the proposed action points from the Focus Group and Working Groups. |
| 8 | The Secretariat to investigate how projects to improve the management of key stocks using advances in genetic methods, can be developed for funding. |
| 9 | The Secretariat was instructed to arrange a replacement to attend the next EFCA meeting. A representative from the LDAC or the NSAC could be asked to act as a proxy if the Secretariat could not attend. |
| 10 | The Secretariat to ask the Vice-chairs to review the final draft of the revised rules of procedure. |

The list of action points from the Horizontal Working Group on the Landing Obligation was presented by the Secretariat:

- 1) The Secretariat to stay in touch with the MS group to get update on proposed Joint Recommendation;
- 2) A meeting to be organised between NWWAC, EC, Control Expert Group and EFCA;
- 3) Members to contact the Secretariat with relevant studies for distribution;
- 4) An Advice Drafting Group to be organised with an provisional date of the 13th of April;
- 5) The NWWAC to organise a Workshop on the application of the Choke toolbox.

The ExCom agreed with the proposed actions.

The Secretariat informed the ExCom on a number of documents that were due for agreement in the near future. The meeting decided on the following schedule:

- The AC response to the informal consultation on UK MPAs:
 - ExCom to comment between 10th and 24th March
 - Advice due by the 31st of March
- The AC advice on Skates and Rays
 - ExCom to comment between 3rd and 10th March
 - Advice due by the 17th of March
- The AC document on Control and Compliance
 - No advice is needed. ExCom to provide further comments before 15th March, as input for the meeting to be organised with the control institutions.

The ExCom agreed with the proposed schedule.

NWWAC Document
Chairman: Emiel Brouckaert
Rapporteur: Barbara Schoute
Review and editing: Conor P. Nolan

Annex 1 – List of Participants

| NWWAC members | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Emiel | Brouckaert | Rederscentrale |
| Alex | Kinninmonth | Stichting BirdLife Europe, represented by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds |
| Bruno | Dachicourt | European Transport Federation |
| Debbie | Crockard | Seas at Risk |
| Despina | Symons | European Bureau for Conservation and Development |
| Javier | López | Oceana |
| Liane | Veitch | ClientEarth |
| Julien | Lamothe | Association Nationale des Organisations de Producteurs |
| John | Woodlock | Irish Seal Sanctuary |
| Sean | O'Donoghue | Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation |
| Geert | Meun | Stichting van de Nederlandse Visserij / Dutch Fisheries Organisation (2) |
| Purificación | Fernández Alvarez | Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Buques de Pesca de Gran Sol |
| Barrie | Deas | National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations |
| Observers | | |
| Norman | Graham | European Commission |
| Francois | Hennuyer | FROM Nord |
| Edward | Farrell | School of Biology & Environmental Science, University College Dublin |
| Maurice | Clarke | Marine Institute, Galway |
| Paul | Duane | Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority |
| Emily | Baxter | North West Wildlife Trusts |
| Michael | McLeod | Marine Scotland - Marine planning and policy |
| Anna | O'Sullivan | Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Marine Ireland |
| Rachel | Bower | JNCC |
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