



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

MINUTES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY / AGM

The Main Conference Centre – Dublin Castle

Wednesday 12th September 2018

09:00 – 10:30

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chairman of the General Assembly and President of the NWWAC, Olivier Le Nezet, welcomed the members and the observers to the meeting. The full list of participants is included as an annex to these minutes. Apologies for absence were received from: Javier Lopez (Oceana), Barrie Deas (NFFO), Irene Kingma (NEV), Debbie Crockard (SAR), Urbain Wintein (Rederscentrale VZW), Luis Francisco Marin (OPPAO), Caroline Gamblin (CNPMEM) and Alex Kinninmonth (RSPB).

The agenda was adopted as drafted.

2. Annual report from the NWWAC ExCom Chairman

The NWWAC Chairman (Emiel Brouckaert), presented the annual report for Year 13 (1 October 2017 – 30 September 2018) and the annual strategic plan (i.e. work programme) for Year 14 (1 October 2018 – 30 September 2019), in accordance with articles 19 and 38 of the NWWAC Rules of Procedure as amended in January 2013. The presentations are available on the [website](#).

Following an invitation from the chair for members to provide their input and contributions, the General Assembly adopted the work programme for year 14.

Decision: Both the annual report of Year 11 and the annual strategic report for Year 12 (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 the budget

Review of Income and Expenditure for Year 13

The Secretariat (Monica Negoita, Executive assistant, finance and administration) presented an overall budget update and an overview of the membership on behalf of the Chairman and the Secretariat, in accordance with articles 38 and 47 of the NWWAC Rules of Procedure. The presentation is available on the [website](#).

Ms Negoita advised the General Assembly of the remaining steps in completing the financial



procedures relating to Year 13. More 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 2018.

Proposed Budget for Year 14: Ratification

The General Assembly were informed that the provisional budget for Year 14 will be adopted, in principle, by the Executive Committee in the meeting tomorrow. The budget for Year 14 was expected to be submitted to the Commission, along with the grant application, before 30 September 2018.

Decision: The presentation ended with a request from the President of the NWWAC (Mr Le Nezet) to ratify the Year 14 budget. The AGM and members of the General Assembly fully endorsed the proposed budget for Year 14.

4. Report on membership

Overview of changes in membership

The Secretariat (Ms Negoita) proceeded with a presentation on the members of the NWWAC. Although the membership of the General Assembly has been quite stable over the last few years, there has been a slight decrease this year of 5 members. These are members that formally left the Advisory Council last year or did not renew their membership: European Association of Fishing Ports and Auctions (EAFPA), Wales and West Coast Fish Producers Organisation Ltd., Scottish Fishermen's Federation (Second membership), Plateforme de la Petite Pêche Artisanale Française, Confédération Internationale de la Peche Sportive (CIPS for FIPS-M).

The current size of the Executive Committee is 25 of which 22 seats are taken. There are 3 vacant seats available for the Other Interest Groups. The size and composition of Executive Committee was to be discussed later in the meeting.

Classification of Bluefish membership

At the previous meeting of the General Assembly (15 September 2017), Bluefish requested to change their categorisation from sector organisation to other interest groups. In accordance with the direction provided in COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2017/1575 the General Assembly will decide on the classification of the members of the Advisory Councils in one of the two categories referred to in Article 45(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013.

To satisfy this request, all the background information provided by Bluefish was circulated to the General Assembly (12 September 2018). Mr Hussenot, the president of Bluefish France, gave a presentation¹ to provide a summary on the structure, role and functioning of Bluefish.

¹ The presentation given by Mr Hussenot is available under the General Assembly meeting on the NWWAC website ([link](#))



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Following the presentation, the chair clarified that a decision will be required from the member organisations present. It is important to specify that a decision will be taken on the classification of BlueFish in the college of other interest groups and not on a potential Executive Committee membership.

Comments were taken from the floor after the presentation. The OIG representatives clarified that the decision on the categorization (EU 2017/1575) should be based on objective and verifiable criteria, such as the provisions of the statutes, the list of members and the nature of the activities of the organization concerned ". In this regard they wanted to raise several comments:

- Concerning the statutes, and in particular the purpose of BlueFish, association for the promotion of sustainable and responsible fishing, OIG fear that Bluefish has no other goal than to federate and defend the actors of the fishing industry. The documentation provided by Bluefish states: "pooling scientific, technical and economic knowledge related to sustainable and responsible fishing, promote good fishing practices, in the industry, companies gravitating around it, and to distributors and consumers." The OIG representatives do not see this as an incentive to classify Bluefish in the other interest groups. The fishing sector is making a lot of effort to practice sustainable and responsible fishing. It is therefore not necessary for BlueFish to join a group other than that of the fishing professionals.
- The documentation of the BlueFish Association specifies that there are 5 colleges: college 1 (fishing professionals and structures representing them) is composed of 115 members, including 6 structures representing professionals. Of these, no less than 5 are already members of this NWWAC as members of the fishing sector (structures: CDPMEM 22, 29 and 56, and CRPMEM Bretagne and Hauts de France). At the same time, in College 5 entitled "Environmental NGOs" there is only one member, the fishing and development collective. Those who are familiar with the organisation know that this group does not work for the protection of the environment and is openly opposed to the action of environmental NGOs, for example when they promote the establishment protected marine areas. The other three colleges are made up of fishing-related educational organizations, port organizations such as chambers of industry, elected port cities, and private individuals.
- Regarding the focus of the activities of Bluefish, as presented in the brochure and in their 2016 activity report, one of BlueFish's flagship projects seems to be the collaboration between fishermen and scientists for data collection. OIG stressed that promoting greater collaboration between the sector and scientists does not raise other interests than those of the sector. The fisheries sector depends on good scientific data to assess the state of the stocks, to better locate them, and so on. Such activities are in the interests of the sector. The activity report also shows other activities, but almost exclusively located in Brittany, with a significant number of lobbying activities towards local or national decision-makers.
- In conclusion, the activity, the purpose and the composition of the BlueFish association are clear about its objective: promoting the development of the fishing industry. Based on the documentation provided, the environmental protection dimension is quite marginal, and that the environmental argument to integrate the group of other interests has no solid



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foundation. While the OIGs agree with some of BlueFish's objectives in terms of the sustainability of the fishing industry, no relevant elements examined allow it to be classified among the other interest groups.

Following the interventions from the floor, the General Assembly decided to vote by show of hands. In total 44 members were present, 35 members voted Bluefish into the college of the other interest group and 9 members voted Bluefish in the college of sector organization. Members that could not be present at the GA meeting were given the opportunity to give a proxy to another member by informing the secretariat in advance who would take their vote. Taking the proxy votes into account, the total outcome of the vote were 38 votes for the college of the other interest group and 14 votes for the college of sector organization.

Decision: The organisation of Bluefish has been classified in the college of other interest group.

5. Size of the Executive Committee

The Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation (IIMRO) had asked to become a member of the Executive Committee. As there are no vacant seats for the sector organisation, the General Assembly may decide to appoint an executive committee of up to 30 members to ensure appropriate representation of small scale fleets (EU 2017/1575).

The COM representative made it clear that they will have to approve the requested increase of seats. At the same time, the COM made it clear they want the vacant seats for the other interest groups filled before they consider an increase in the size of the ExCom.

Several sector organization representatives commented that they represent the small-scale fishing sector and do not think there is a need to increase the size of the ExCom. Representatives of the other interest groups pointed out that a further increase in the size of the ExCom would further increase the 60/40 in-balance. Further members pointed out that as a result of Brexit, there may become seats available on the Executive Committee.

Decision: Following a vote, the AGM and members of the General Assembly decided not to request for an increase the size of the Executive Committee.

6. Introduction from the new Secretariat Management team

Mr Keatinge took the floor. He thanked Mr Nolan for his work and dedication to the NWWAC for all those years. The members were informed that Mr Keatinge will take over the role of Executive Secretary with the assistance of Ms Negoita for the finance and administration. Ms Vandamme remains the Deputy Executive Secretary. Mr Rihan (BIM) will provide technical support and assistance.

Members asked clarification on the involvement of Mr Rihan. Mr Keatinge emphasized that Mr Rihan will provide guidance when drafting advice and guaranteed full transparency. Ultimately, it will be up to the members to decide the content of the NWWAC advice. Members thanked Mr Rihan



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for the work he had already done e.g. with the Choke Mitigation Tool and appreciated the continuation of his collaboration with the NWWAC.

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

Decisions	
1	Both the annual report of Year 11 and the annual strategic report for Year 12 (i.e. Work Programme including the calendar of meetings) were approved by consensus by the AGM and members of the General Assembly.
2	The presentation ended with a request from the President of the NWWAC (Mr Le Nezet) to ratify the Year 14 budget. The AGM and members of the General Assembly fully endorsed the proposed budget for Year 14.
3	The organisation of Bluefish has been classified in the college of other interest group.
4	Following a vote, the AGM and members of the General Assembly decided not to request for an increase the size of the Executive Committee.



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Annex 1 – List of Participants

NWWAC members	
Olivier Le Nézet (chair)	Comité Départemental des Pêche Maritimes et des Elevages Marins du Morbihan (CDPMEM 56)
Emiel Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Purificación Fernández	Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Pesca de Gran Sol (ANASOL)
Severino Ares Lago	Fundación Rendemento Económico Mínimo Sostible e Social
José Luis Otero Gonzalez	Lonja de La Coruña S.A.
José Manuel F. Beltrán	Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Lugo (OP-LUGO)
Juan Carlos Corrás Arias	Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco
Jesús Angel Lourido García	Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP-77
Gérald Hussenot Desenonges	Blue Fish
Jenni Grossmann	ClientEarth
Anna Szczodrowska	European Anglers' Alliance
Jessica Demblon	European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD)
Bruno Dachicourt	European Transport Federation
Jean-Christophe Vandevelde	The PEW Charitable Trusts
Julien Lamothe	Association Nationale des Organisations de Producteurs (ANOP)
Bottin Lionel	Comité Départemental des Pêches et des Élevages Marins du Calvados (CDPMEM 14)
Manu kelberine	Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins des Côtes d'Armor (CDPMEM 22)
Erwan Quemeneur	Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins du Finistère (CDPMEM 29)
Thierry Kerzerho	Comité Local des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins (CLDPMEM) de Bayonne
Olivier LePretre	Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins (CRPMEM) Hauts de France
Mthieu Vimard	L'organisation de producteurs de Basse-Normandie (OPBN)
Pascal Coquet	France Pêche Durable et Responsable
Delphine Roncin	FROM Nord (Fond Régional d'Organisation du Marché du poisson)
Jean-Marie Robert	Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne (LPDB)
Frank Lebarzik	Coopérative Maritime Bretagne Nord (COBRENORD)
Dominique Thomas	Organisation de Producteur Coopérative Maritime Etaploise Manche Mer du Nord (OPCMEMMN)
Jérôme Jourdain	Union des armateurs de la pêche en France (UAPF)
Fintan Kelly	BirdWatch Ireland
Francis O'Donnell	Irish Fish Producers' Organisation (IFPO)
John Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation
Enda Connelly	Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation
John Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Hugo Boyle	Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation
Patrick Murphy	Irish South and West Fish Producers' Organisation



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Norah Parke	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation
Geert Meun	Stichting van de Nederlandse Visserij (Dutch Fisheries Organisation) (2)
Paul Trebilcock	Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation Ltd.
Paul MacDonald	Scottish Fishermen's Organisation
Jim Portus	South Western Fish Producers Organisation Ltd.
Mike Park	The Scottish White Fish Producers Association Ltd. (1)
Kenny Coull	The Scottish White Fish Producers Association Ltd. (2)
Kevin McDonnell	West of Scotland Fish Producers' Organisation
Sylvie Roux	CRPN Bretagne
Pinto Stephane	CRRPN Haut de France
Observers	
Pascale Colson	European Commission
Jonathan Shrivess	European Commission
Brendan Price	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Conor Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Organisation
Secretariat	
Michael Keatinge	Executive Secretary NWWAC
Dominic Rihan	BIM
Sara Vandamme	Deputy Executive Secretary NWWAC
Monica Negoita	Executive Assistant (Finance and Administration) NWWAC