



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

MINUTES

WORKING GROUP 2 (CELTIC SEA)

The Main Conference Centre – Dublin Castle

Wednesday 12th September 2018

16:15 – 17:30

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair Jesus Angel Lourido Garcia opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

Apologies were received from Javier Lopez (Oceana) and Alex Kinninmonth (RSPB). The agenda was adopted as drafted.

The Secretariat updated the meeting on the action points from the last meeting (3rd July 2018):

1. The working Group will draft advice for the COM on setting the fishing opportunities for 2019 based on the discussion

The WG had discussed the ICES advice at the meetings in Ghent. The Secretariat drafted the advice based on these discussions. Before sending the draft advice to the General Assembly, the chairs of the WG provided their comments. ExCom received the latest version for final approval in advance of the meeting tomorrow (13th September).

2. Write a letter to the COM requesting an independent ICES evaluation on seismic activities in NWW and the potential effects.

Dr Antony Hawking and Dr Robert Gisiner gave a presentation on this topic at the Horizontal Working Group (see [website](#)). This working group has to propose action points under agenda item 3.

2. Input on the draft advice 'Addressing Choke Risk in NWW after exemptions' for relevant WG2 stocks

Mr Rihan (BIM) presented an overview of the draft advice for the relevant stocks of WG2.

Members raised concerns about the impact of high risk and zero quota stocks. The table in the draft advice identified the problems, but the AC has come up with few solutions. Collecting scientific evidence for the exemptions on high survival and *de minimis* is on-going, but will not resolve the full choke problem.



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In the new Joint Recommendation the combined *de minimis* exemptions for pelagic species has been replaced by two single species *de minimis*, one for mackerel and one for hors mackerel. These single species DM exemptions do not resolve the problem for boarfish, herring and argentine which creates specific problems for several members states, especially as some MS have no quota.

Regarding zero TAC stocks, the COM clarified that when ICES advises zero catch advice, there need to be measures in place that will control fishing mortality. Solutions for zero quota stocks generally impact relative stability which Member States do not like to change. For some of these stocks, the ICES TACMAN¹ advice may reveal alternative management measures.

The COM highlighted that part of the process of finding solutions for the full implementation of the LO is identifying the different choke issues, and understanding why certain solutions will or will not work. The advice of the AC is important in this regard.

The chair thanked members and COM representative for the useful input and emphasized that the discussion of today will be included in the advice on '*addressing Choke Risk in NWW after exemptions*'.

ACTION: Members are invited to send their input on the draft advice on the LO to the Secretariat in advance of the web meeting (24th September)

3. Proposed actions on underwater noise in NWW

Members appreciated the presentations given during the Horizontal Working Group by Dr Hawkins and Dr Gisiner. Members highlighted the importance of increased coordination of different human activities between Member States. Only fishing industry representatives of the respected MS in whose jurisdiction the seismic activities are taken place are notified. It would be advantageous to coordinate the surveys so they do not overlap with e.g. spawning season of *Nephrops*.

ACTION: Request to the MS Group on how to improve the coordination between MS on seismic activity

The potential effects of underwater noise have to be assessed as part of the Good Environmental Status of the marine environment (descriptor 11, Directive 2008/56/EC). The scientific studies illustrated that sound is important for marine organisms and side-effects of human-made noise should be considered in more detail in impact assessments.

ACTION: NWWAC to ask ICES how the effects of underwater noise are being integrated in assessments as part of ecosystem based approach to fisheries

¹ ICES 2018a EU request for ICES to provide advice on a revision of the contribution of TACs to fisheries management and stock conservation for selected deep-water stocks ([link](#)) and ICES 2018b EU request for ICES to provide advice on a revision of the contribution of TACs to fisheries management and stock conservation ([link](#))



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In relation to seismic surveys in the Irish Sea, Dr Gisiner explained that at shallow depths, like around the Ilse of Man, the repetition and distance between tracks of seismic blasts is reduced.

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

1	Members are invited to send their input on the draft advice on the LO to the Secretariat in advance of the web meeting (24 th September)
2	Request to the MS Group on how to improve the coordination between MS on seismic activity
3	NWWAC to ask ICES how the effects of underwater noise are being integrated in assessments as part of ecosystem-based approach to fisheries



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Annex 1 – List of Participants

NWWAC members	
Jesús Angel Lourido García (Chair)	Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP-77
Emiel Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Purificación del C. Fernández Alvarez	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
Debbie Crockard	Seas at Risk
Julien Lamothe	Association Nationale des Organisations de Producteurs (ANOP)
Romain Le Bleis	Comité Départemental des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins du Finistère (CDPMEM 29)
Serge Larzabal	Comité Local des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins (CLDPMEM) de Bayonne
Sylvie Roux	Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins (CRPMEM) de Bretagne
Jean-Marie Robert	Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne (LPDB)
Frank LeBarzic	Coopérative Maritime Bretagne Nord (COBRENORD)
Jérôme Jourdain	Union des armateurs de la pêche en France (UAPF)
Olivier LeNezet	Comité Départemental des Pêche Maritimes et des Elevages Marins du Morbihan (CDPMEM 56)
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
Hugo Boyle	Irish South and East Fish Producers Organisation
Patrick Murphy	Irish South and West Fish Producers' Organisation
Norah Parke	Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation
Paul Trebilcock	Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation Ltd.
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)
Anton Gonzalez	Wales and West Coast Fish Producers Organisation Ltd.
Gerard Hussenot	Bluefish
Observers	
Jonathan Shrives	European Commission
Antony Howkins	The Aquatic Noise Trust
Bob Gisiner	International Association of Geophysical Contractors
Ross Compton	International Association of Geographical contractors
Bob Gisiner	International Association of Geographical contractors
Secretariat	
Michael Keatinge	Executive Secretary NWWAC
Dominic Rihan	BIM
Sara Vandamme	Deputy Executive Secretary NWWAC
Monica Negoita	Executive Assistant (Finance and Administration) NWWAC