



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN  
WATERS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA  
LAS AGUAS  
NOROCCIDENTALES

## REPORT

### European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) Advisory Board

Brussels

23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2018

#### Introduction

The NWWAC representative was unable to attend the meeting of the Advisory Board of EFCA due to an unexpected air strike. The Secretariat tried to find an alternate, but no one was available on such short notice. The meeting was attended by the other Advisory Board representatives and several representatives of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA).

#### Meeting notes

##### 1. Introduction and Advisory Councils (ACs) state of play

During the meeting each AC representative brought forward the issues that were relevant for their area. Both the BSAC and MAC representatives raised issues regarding the labour conditions on board in regards to Third Countries. The MAC representative explained that their idea is to have a side event during the Food and Agriculture Organisations Committee on Fisheries meeting to raise awareness about the issue. Member States are encouraged to ratify the International Labour Organization Work in Fishing Convention No. 188 (2007).

The PELAC representative highlighted issues on the management strategy for the southern horse mackerel (IX area), the role of EFCA, the recovery plan for herring in areas VIIa, VIIb and VIIc and the recovery strategy for western horse mackerel.

EFCA informed the meeting of the Joint Deployment Program Gramme-size project. Due to low number of inspections at sea and on land, results so far are not very encouraging. Industry has been asked to be more proactive in giving gramme size data.

The PELAC, NSAC and the BSAC representatives expressed concerns about the Landing Obligation, and mentioned that they are trying to identify problems that may arise in order to mitigate the impact.

EFCA answered that from the start of the implementation of the Landing Obligation, their biggest efforts have been to collect information on catches and gear. For that reason, the last haul project was started which worked quite well in the Baltic Sea, as there are not as many species in the area and there is no high grading issues. EFCA informed that a thorough analysis is being done on risk assessment for possible misreporting of herring and sprat.

The NSAC representative mentioned that there are still uncertainties regarding Brexit, and he recommended future cooperation between Norway, the UK and the EU on science, management and control. A management structure post Brexit is needed, as its contract with the Commission expires in December 2019.

## **2. EFCA's Annual Report 2017 and Programming Documents**

EFCA presented the main facts and figures on EFCA's Annual Report 2017 and the state of play under the Programming Documents for 2018 and the draft PD for 2019. Three main pillars regarding operational activities were presented:

- Coordination of operations
- Planning and evaluation
- Assistance and Expertise

## **4. Rotation of the Advisory Board representative in the EFCA Administrative Board**

The chair presented the yearly rotation system agreed by the Advisory Council representatives. The SWWAC representative will take over from the NWWAC for the Administrative Board from 2 March 2018 to 1 March 2019. The alternate the BSAC

Considering the new ACs, the participants were asked if the ACs had any proposal regarding the current appointing system. The MEDAC representative said that a possible solution could be to start including them by the year of creation. The chair offered to formalise and present a proposal to EFCA.

## **Conclusions and Actions**

EFCA's press release with the outcome of the meeting is available at the following link: <https://www.efca.europa.eu/en/news/latest>

For other relevant documents, presentations, seminars, etc., please contact the NWWAC Secretariat.