



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

MINUTES

WORKING GROUP 1 - WEST OF SCOTLAND

Virtual

Wednesday 02 September 2020

10:00 – 12:00 CET

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair (Mike Park) opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Caroline Gamblin and Javier Lopez. The agenda was adopted as drafted.

Action points from the minutes of the last meeting (08 July 2020, virtual):

- 1) Members to send their comments/input to feed the drafting of the NWWAC advice to the Commission's TAC & quotas proposal.

See point 3 below.

- 2) Members to inform the Secretariat if they want to continue with the current Chair and delay the elections until next year September, or rather wish to see elections this September.

See point 2 below.

2. Confirmation of Chair and election of Vice-Chair

At the virtual NWWAC meetings held in July, the Secretariat proposed a one-year extension of the current structures due to the extraordinary circumstances this AC faces, mainly the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis and the uncertainties of Brexit.

Working Group 1 will have a vacancy for Vice-Chair from September onwards due to the exit of the Dutch Elasmobranch Society. The Secretariat welcomes nominations for this position prior to the September meeting. This Working Group is also likely to have a vacancy for Chair from 01 January 2021.

On August 11, the Secretariat distributed an information note on the proposal for a 1-year extension of the current NWWAC structures. No comments/nominations were received by the Secretariat following the info note from August.

ACTION: Regarding the confirmation of the chair and vice-chair positions, members deferred this decision until after the update by the FG Brexit at the General Assembly on 24 September.



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3. Input on the draft advice 'Fishing Opportunities 2021'

Inputs received from Oceana, The Pew Charitable Trusts and ClientEarth forwarded to WG members prior to the meeting. ClientEarth also shared three briefings which were distributed prior to this meeting.

The Secretariat shared the stocks spreadsheet (which was circulated before the meeting) for discussion with members. Outcomes from this discussion are to feed the preparation of the advice on Fishing Opportunities 2021 by the Advice Drafting Group.

All comments from members were included in the spreadsheet to then be reflected in the final advice. Overall, these were the main points discussed:

- There are several zero catch options particularly for cod and whiting in area 6, which is a particular difficulty. These zero catch options have been there for a significant number of years, thus there should be an evaluation of the measures implemented on these stocks to understand whether they are working or not.
- On zero catch stocks, there needs to be a focus on actually improving the situation rather than just perpetuating it by focusing on primarily just keeping fisheries open at the expense of the stocks.
- While members acknowledge the improvements made by ICES, quality assurance continues to be critical across all assessments. Members especially discussed this with reference to the Rockall haddock advice.

4. Input on the draft advice 'Addressing Choke Risk in NWW after exemptions' for WG1 stocks

The Secretariat shared the Choke ID spreadsheet (which was circulated before the meeting) for discussion with members. Outcomes from this discussion are to feed the preparation of the Choke advice by the Focus Group Landing Obligation.

All comments from members were included in the spreadsheet to then be reflected in the final advice. Overall, these were the main points discussed:

- It is important to note that issue of the control in relation to the landing obligation. STECF expressed clearly that without control the landing obligation is likely to increase level of overfishing.
- Need to mention Brexit and the fact that the advice might have to be revised after January 1, 2021.
- 6a cod: there needs to be a serious look at mortality, both fishing and natural, since there is



a significant issue around the total mortality that hasn't been revised in the benchmark.

- About the acceleration and the introduction of technical measures for cod in 6a, a balancing statement should be included taking account the economic fabric of the business and the mixed character of this demersal fishery.
- About whiting in 6a, the ICES advice shows recruitment hasn't improved, thus it is important to ensure that the recruitment is fully protected so that it matures and gets into the stock.
- For haddock in 6b, it is important to highlight the need of establishing a management plan involving NEAFC.

5. Review of progress, summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted (Chair)

1	Regarding the confirmation of the chair and vice-chair positions, members deferred this decision until after the update by the FG Brexit at the General Assembly on 24 September.
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6. Participants list

Name	Organisation
Barrie Deas	NFFO
Enda Conneely	IIMRO
Fintan Kelly (observer)	Birdwatch Ireland
Hugo Boyle	ISEFPO
Irene Kingma	Dutch Elasmobranch Society
Jean Christophe Vandevelde	The Pew Charitable Trusts
Jean Marie Robert	Pecheurs de Bretagne
Jenni Grossmann (observer)	Client Earth
John Lynch	IFO
Jose F. Beltran	OPP Lugo
Juan Carlos Corras Arias	Lonja de la Coruna
Julien Lamothe	ANOP
Luis Francisco Marin	OPPAO
Matilde Vallerani	Secretariat
Mike Park	SWFPA
Mo Mathies	Secretariat
Patrick Murphy	IS&WFPO
Puri Fernandez	ARVI
Sean O Donoghue	KFO
Suso Lourido	Puerto de Celeiro