



# MINUTES

## HORIZONTAL WORKING GROUP

Virtual, Friday 11 September 2020

### 1 Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed all participants to the meeting. Apologies were received from Caroline Gamblin, Jim Portus, John Lynch. The agenda was adopted.

Action points from last meeting (08 July 2020, virtual)

1	Focus Group Landing Obligation on advice to MSG on pending JRs and COM requests. <i>Set up, 2 meetings, draft advice on choke risks</i>
2	Set up Advice Drafting Group on Cetaceans bycatch advice <i>Set up in July, 2 meetings, working on advice</i>
3	Request members' input for NWWAC work on social aspect <i>On hold due to AC workload</i>
4	Secretariat to circulate expert consultation on Fisheries Statistics review and ask for input. <i>No comments received</i>
5	Secretariat to make proposal for September meetings.
6	Members to contact Secretariat if they have comments/suggestions regarding the administrative proposal <i>None received, can this group confirm the extension of one year for the current Chair? Vice-Chair as mentioned in July, no nominations received by the Secretariat.</i>

No objections were received regarding the extension of the Chairmanship of this group for one year.

The Secretariat urges members to come forward to take on the position of Vice-Chair in the Horizontal Working Group.

### 2 NWWAC advice on Fishing Opportunities 2021 (discussion)

Following the July meetings, the regional Working Groups were asked to provide inputs for this advice and to present those to the Secretariat. Also, notes were taken during the presentations by ICES in the different WGs in July. Based on that, it was decided by ExCom to organize and Advice Drafting Group, which on 4 September to consolidate and collate the information received. The ADG had no volunteers for Chairmanship so the Secretariat is taking over this function.

A first draft document has been circulated to the members of the ADG with a request for comments



by next 14 September, which is also the date of the next meeting of this ADG to consider all the comments received from the members and to finalize the draft to send to the ExCom for approval.

The advice will be structured the same as last year's which is available on the NWWAC website starting off with general aspects and comments, for example, on the ecosystem-based fisheries management that was also discussed in the ICES WKIrish Workshop and advising the utilization of this approach in the development of future assessments. Comments are included on the quality assurance of the scientific assessment, highlighting the critical need for quality assurance across the assessments, followed by discussing the state of the stocks. Specific mention is made of the status of the cod stocks in the North Western Waters, mentioning the impact that climate change can have on these stocks and the need to further investigate this. Specific advice for the stocks in the different geographical areas is then analysed, taking into account the most relevant issues encountered. For several stocks in the Celtic Sea the advice will only be available in the autumn, and work is postponed as to providing advice on these stocks later in the autumn.

**Sec:** A comment was submitted by the IIMRO: "There is a need for the commission to allocate fishing opportunities to the small-scale fisheries under 12 meters using non-tawed gear, especially as the sector risk, further pressure from the proposed tariff reductions for American lobster, COVID-19, and Brexit."

**A:** This was discussed in the ADG and it was felt that it is not appropriate for the fishing opportunities document because the comment relates to changing the relative stability keys which is not part of the fishing opportunities consultation. Those relative stability keys were decided in 1983 and have not subsequently been changed in any of the last three CFPs. If there is to be a revision, it could be 2023. Furthermore, the issue of how the allocation is done within the Member States is purely a matter within the MS.

Putting forward a position in relation to additional allocations to vessels under 12 meters is not appropriate for this document on the fishing opportunities consultation.

**Chair:** Indeed, this was already confirmed at that ADG meeting.

**ACTION:** Secretariat to provide that answer IIMRO.

### **3 NWWAC advice on 'Addressing Choke Risk in NWW after exemptions'**

This draft advice is being prepared by the Landing Obligation Focus Group, which met on 04 September under the Chairmanship of Emiel Brouckaert. The Secretariat is currently processing the outcome of that discussion. The Secretariat updated the choke tool according to the comments received. The target date for submission to the Commission is the second half of October and the updated table will be part of this advice.

Regarding the collaboration with NWW Member States Group, the AC received an invitation for the technical meeting on 17 September. No agenda or items for discussions are available yet.

For information, the joint recommendations of the MS have been put into delegated Acts which have been presented to the Parliament by the Commission. Parliament now has between two and four months to come back on any comments on these delegated Acts, in this ACs case, for the Western Waters. There will be one delegated Act or a discard plan for the Western Waters as a whole.

**Comment:** Regarding the NWW MSG meeting for next week, the main topics on the agenda at the moment are the definition of directed fishing, cetacean bycatch and possibly scallops as well. There may also be a question on the technical measures joint recommendation which has been sent to the Commission, but the group has not heard back from the Commission on this.

#### **4 Influence of global environmental policy on EU fisheries (Despina Symons, EBCD)**

2020 was supposed to be a very special year for Oceans as well as biodiversity with many important global processes in relation to fisheries and oceans and environment. However, due to the global COVID-19 crises everything has been postponed to 2021.

International ocean governance is very complex with different inter-UN agencies, institutions, actors, and sectors involved. Climate change and environment are now imperative for fisheries management as global decisions impact the regional and national policies and vice versa with the EU a leading player in these processes.

Under the UN global processes UNCLOS is responsible for managing all activities at sea with the UN Fish Stock agreement, the International Maritime Organization, the International Seabed Authority and the Fisheries and the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) coordinated by FAO.

On the other hand, under the UN Environment Programme, there are several environmental conventions that have the mandate to conserve and protect biodiversity, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), CITES and the Convention of Migratory Species (CMS) as well as the Regional Seas Organisations such as OSPAR and the Barcelona Convention. In addition we have the UN Sustainable Development Goals with SDG 14 Life below Water.

#### **Binding commitments at UN level include:**

- 1 AICHI Biodiversity Targets (CBD):
  - Target 6 sustainable fisheries, MSY for all stocks by 2020
  - Target 11 achieve 10% of MPAs and other effective conservation measures
  
- 2 SDGs - SDG14 for Oceans:



- Target 14.4 sustainable fisheries by 2020
- Target 14.5 10% MPAs by 2020
- 3    Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ): new International Legally Binding Instrument (ILBI) under UNCLOS
- 4    Paris Agreement on Climate (UNFCCC)
  - Oceans increasingly important

There are also several nonbinding commitments which however carry a lot of weight such as

- 1    the IUCN WCC Resolutions
  - Such as: 30% MPAs by 2030 and others
- 2    Our Ocean Conference, held annually
  - Pledges and financial commitments by states and NGOs

2020 was supposed to be a turning point for the oceans and biodiversity. Never before were there so many international processes/events all in one year and all these are international. However, due to the global pandemic, they have all moved to next year. These include:

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> conference on BBNJ (biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction) with negotiations to finalize the text for the new treaty postponed to 2021.
- The CBD COP one of the most important events of this year was to meet in October in China to adopt the post 2020 -2030 Biodiversity Framework postponed to 2021.
- The UN Ocean Conference (SDG 14) which was supposed to be hosted by Portugal in June but put off to 2021.
- The IUCN Conservation Congress, the biggest environmental gathering held every 4 years was to be held in June in Marseilles put off for next year.
- The Climate COP was supposed to be held in Glasgow in November postponed for next year.
- The FAO Committee of Fisheries held every 2 years scheduled for July put off until February 2021.

CBD a main player

All these processes are interlinked and increasingly interconnected. The CBD is central to all because it lays down the biodiversity framework for all global, regional and national policies as we have seen the Aichi targets have spilled over to the SDGs and in the BBNJ process. Common in all these processes are the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, MPA governance,

mainstreaming biodiversity to fisheries policy, environmental impact assessments etc.

From the Aichi targets to the Post 2020 – biodiversity framework.

To move on from the Aichi Targets that expire this year to the new biodiversity targets, a process was launched under the CBD, in close collaborations with other UN processes, especially the SDGs, the Climate, the IPBES (intergovernmental panel for biodiversity and ecosystem services).

The CBD post-2020 task force launched in 2019, has met twice and produced a Zero Draft ([link](#)). Consultations specifically on Oceans and Fisheries have taken place. The CBD Subsidiary Body for scientific and technical advice (SBSTTA) at its next meeting, now scheduled for March 2029, will be giving the scientific assessment of the new targets which will then go to the CBD COP for adoption, in May in China. The EU Biodiversity Strategy, now under discussion in the EU, follows this process, led by DG ENV in consultation with DG MARE.

The new biodiversity framework does not contain specific targets for fisheries as was the case before, given that the targets are much wider and embracing all the other processes, including SDGs and climate, the CITES convention and IPBES. There are five long term Goals to 2050, and 20 short term targets to 2030. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) plays a key role and has now become a crucial partner in this. The CBD encourages wider consultation besides the Parties to the convention including the private sector, with civil society, indigenous and local communities etc.

Fisheries is covered in three different targets:

- 1 Reducing threats to biodiversity  
30% MPAs & OECMs (10% high protection currently removed), MSP, sustainable harvest, trade and use of wild species, IUU
- 2 Sustainable use (one of the three main objectives of CBD)  
Sustainable use of marine resources, resilience of marine ecosystems (MSY), food security, livelihoods
- 3 Implementation and mainstreaming  
Fisheries subsidies, economic incentives, eco-labelling, biodiversity mainstreaming in fisheries, seafood supply-chain transformation, sustainable consumption

Another important initiative under the CBD is the Global Dialogue between the RFMOs and the Regional Seas organisations. Following two successful meetings held in Korea this has now become a permanent by-annual meeting just before the COP.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress is a key process. The IUCN is an inter-governmental body



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and the biggest authority on environmental issues composed of both governments and NGOs established in 1948. Since it was the initiator of a lot of these UN environmental conventions, IUCN is the main advisor to these UN bodies. The IUCN Congress held every four years brings together thousands of people from NGOs, governments, civil society to discuss and adopt resolutions which, although not legally binding, form the basis of a lot of environmental policies worldwide. Fisheries and oceans related issues are high on the agenda with many motions for resolutions now to be put to electronic vote in October.

The FAO/ COFI (Committee on Fisheries) meets every two years and is increasingly linked to the UN environmental processes. The FAO organized a high-level symposium last November on fisheries sustainability and several people from DG Mare and all stakeholders participated. Based on that the FAO has drafted a Declaration which is expected to be adopted at the next COFI postponed to February 2021. FAO has also recently published the Sofia report on “The state of world fisheries and aquaculture” coming out every two years which forms the basis for fisheries management worldwide ([link](#)).

While the UN Ocean Conference has been postponed to 2021, new directions for the implementation of the SDGs will be discussed, including progress made and next steps, with Portugal playing a key role in the process. Emphasis is also on partnerships for the implementation of SDG 14, including enhanced collaboration between governments, industry, NGOs and science.

Lastly, the Oceans-climate nexus is going to be discussed at COP26 now postponed to November 2021, and this includes discussions on the impacts of climate change on fisheries, MPAs as nature-based solutions, fish as low-carbon protein, offshore energy and more.

### Conclusions

- All processes are increasingly interconnected and interlinked and the EU plays a leading role.
- The current EU consultation on International Ocean Governance addresses and contributes to all these processes.
- EU Biodiversity Strategy follows and influences all these processes and is largely based on the CBD.
- All processes are more inter-institutional, inter-UN agency, and inter-disciplinary oriented.

The new trend is to have a more inter-institutional, inter-UN agency, intersectoral, interdisciplinary approach, and breaking the silos.

**Q:** How has COVID affected these processes? There have been lots of webinars, talks, and online meetings, but has the crisis delayed the way this has progressed, for example timetables, schedules, proposals etc., or has the work continued?

**A:** In order to keep the momentum going, a lot of these organizations are organizing a series of for example webinars. The cancellation of international travel did stall work for a couple of months, but when virtual meetings began to gain momentum the number of these is continually increasing.



However the final events of these processes will have to take place physically like the Convention of Biological Diversity, the SDG 14 Ocean Conference, the IUCN Conservation congress, and the climate COP, where interaction is needed to succeed with negotiations.

**Q:** Are the new proposed dates for all these meetings COVID dependent?

**A:** Yes, the dates are identified with physical meetings in mind, however, this may change, and we will be notified.

**Q:** This topic is a key issue, not alone for this AC but other ACs. Just looking at it from the North Western Waters AC, I would suggest rather than we having a specific focus group on this, we would keep it as a standing item on the horizontal group as such because I think that's where it will be useful. Obviously, in the global sense, we're a tiny player in terms of this, but I think it is important that we would keep abreast of developments in the AC and what knock-on effects it could have directly in terms of our multi-annual plans and any of the other issues that we are discussing.

**A:** It would be very useful to address all the UN and international processes as they are becoming so important, and specifically to address this issue in the Horizontal Working Group as the EU processes are following a lot of those.

**Q:** As a general point, this AC has so many focus groups now, and other ACs as well. It is becoming unmanageable certainly for members and their organisations. We need to start looking at the number of focus groups and maybe try and amalgamate them because there are just too many.

**ACTION:** Topic to be added as a standing item to the meetings of the HWG.

**ACTION:** ExCom to review the number of Focus Groups currently established in the NWWAC.

## 5 Information points – Focus Groups progress

### i. Control and Compliance (Sean O'Donoghue)

This Focus Group has not met since the last Horizontal Working Group but held the joint workshop with EFCA in July for which the Secretariat is currently finalising the report. The Commissions control proposal is currently going through both Parliament and Council with a very large amount of amendments needing to be examined and voting envisaged for December. This means it is likely to go through plenary in the Parliament in January with dialogues hopefully beginning in February, and an agreement reached between April and June 2021.

Even if there is agreement, there is going to be a considerable amount of time in terms of the commencement of this new regulation if it is finally agreed by June of next year. The indication from the Parliament is that there could be a five-year lead-in period in terms of this regulation, but no

definitive information is available on this yet. It would be useful to have a focus group meeting in October or maybe early November depending on how developments are.

There are a number of issues that have come up both in the ADG fishing opportunities and the FG landing obligation that should be dealt with by the control and compliance focus group. One of those was to establish a factual base and look at remote electronic monitoring, including the pros and cons of all of the different systems and maybe deciding on what is the best way forward.

In addition, it might be useful to have an interaction with the Parliament as well in terms of getting them to come to a future meeting.

**ACTION:** Focus Group Control & Compliance to invite rapporteur Clara Aguilera to its next meeting.

ii. Focus Group Brexit

A full update will be given at the General Assembly on 24 September.

iii. Climate and Environment (Jacopo Pasquero)

This Focus Group started in June as a task force, and was established as a FG following approval by the ExCom in July. The initial scope was climate to better understand the role of fisheries in relation to climate change, but also, the members of the focus group decided to extend the scope to include environment because climate and environment are extremely interlinked.

The aim of the focus group is to follow, contribute and provide inputs to the developments, especially in relation to the EU Green Deal and, more precisely, on the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy, the EU Farm to Fork Strategy, and the EU Climate Strategy. The group is also very much linked to what is happening at the international level.

We also aim to follow what is happening in relation to the IUCN World Conservation Congress and G-14, especially in relation to the contribution of the European Commission on these processes. So far, the group met several times and replied to several public consultations from the Commission, including the consultation on the EU Climate Pact, the EU climate target strategy, and the EU Adaptation Strategy. The group also participated in a webinar following the open consultation on the EU Climate Pact. What was evident in all of these consultations is that the role of fisheries in relation to climate change and environment is still not fully understood.

This also strengthens the importance of this focus group because it is much needed right now to understand what both the industry and other interest groups think in relation to this. The group is expected to increase its activity because there are more public consultations coming up but also because sustainability and climate action is very high on the agenda for the German presidency.





Climate adaptation was also formally discussed in the PECH Committee with the Commission also replying to the discussion. At the moment, the Focus Group has six members, and EBCD is the only other interest group participating. As Chair I want to strongly encourage other insurance groups to apply for a membership. Of course, we also fully welcome more industry members, but climate and environment are topics on which balanced discussion is needed. I would strongly encourage other interest groups to contact me or the Secretariat to apply for membership.

Looking ahead, there are some public consultations that are relevant for this FG that I would like to suggest to discuss with all the members of this Horizontal Working Group to understand whether the AC can contribute and reply to these consultations.

First of all, the Ocean Energy public consultation to understand where the Commission is going in relation to energy produced offshore, and also the International Ocean Governance consultation which is relevant for all those processes that were presented this morning.

No new meeting is currently planned, as this depends on the decision that will have to be taken by ExCom in relation to what consultations the AC wants to reply to.

iv. Landing Obligation (Emiel Brouckaert)

The FG Landing Obligation is working on the advice document addressing choke risks in the North Western Waters. I'

Previously, this FG finished to document on views and issues on the definition of direct fisheries, which was also mentioned earlier in this meeting as part of the agenda of the technical group of the North Western Waters Member States Group. We have been informed that contrary to the deadline put forward by the Commission for the MSG to reply to that by 15 August, the NWW MSG did inform the Commission that their reply will be put delayed to the end of this month.

No date has been set yet for the next meeting, but the draft documents are in preparation, and as soon as they are in a well-evolved state, the group members will be contacted to organize the next meeting on this.

v. Seismic (Patrick Murphy)

Over the past few years, the PELAC and NWWAC paid careful attention to the ongoing developments regarding the effects of offshore activities on relevant commercially exploited stocks as well as our biology. A request was sent to Mr. Machado on 16 September 2019 ([link](#)). A response was received on 10 October 2019 from Mr. Bernard Friess ([link](#)) asking for clarification. As the PELAC had also submitted their own request for research on this subject, it was decided to join forces and prepare a joint request.

The NWWAC/PELAC Focus Group held several meetings and the joint advice for a non-recurrent request to ICES on the potential impacts of seismic activities was submitted in August ([link](#)).

The group is working on a second document, and this draft advice was circulated in recent weeks for the non-recurrent requests to ICES and the impact of marine wind energy developments and commercial fish stocks. We are waiting for the group's comments to see when we can finalize the document. If there are any other questions, or if I have missed anything, maybe the Secretariat who has done a fantastic job here might join in.

**Sec:** Just to add briefly, a next online meeting is being organized to finalize this draft which then will be circulated for review and approval by the executive committee before being submitted to the Commission. This joint FG was originally set up to just develop a submission to the Commission regarding a non-recurrent ICES request on the initial seismic issue. When the joint FG met, the members felt that the impact of wind energy developments also needed to be looked at specifically. Members of the group identified that ICES requests need to be extremely specific.

They felt that there was a need to separate these two requests. This is reflected in the Terms of Reference which are available on to the NWWAC website, under the membership button, where a list of all the Focus Groups that are in place can be found with the Terms of Reference and the participants.

This joint FG with the PELAC is indeed still a joint focus group. Gonzalo Carvalho from Sciaena is the chairman, and Patrick is the vice-chairman of this group. We are aiming to meet either before the end of this month or very much at the beginning of October to go over the comments and finalize this draft to be ready for a very quick submission to the commission on the second request that was agreed by the focus group.

After the submission was made to the Commission on the non-recurrent request on the seismic impact, the NSAC expressed interest in joining this joint FG, as well as the SWWAC. It depends on the interest amongst their own members because what this FG is working on the development of a non-recurrent request to ICES specifically on the wind energy developments. It seems that South Western Waters AC is overall more interested in the seismic activities and ongoing focus group work on this and not specifically in this advice request, but we are in touch with both Secretariats and they are in touch with their own members to see in which way they want to take this forward.

vi. Cetaceans Bycatch (Jesús Angel Lourido Garcia)

The ADG Cetaceans Bycatch had a meeting the day before yesterday working on the revision in of its terms of reference because up until now, we did not have the documents from different groups that are working at the same level at our disposal. The Commission discussed with us our proposed recommendation on cetaceans and accidental catches in the NWW. However, MS have decided to propose two different drafts to the Commission that are independent from each other, one for the NWW and one for the SWW. This FG will have another meeting soon. We concluded the revision of the Terms



of Reference. We also plan to write a request to ICES to report on the situation on the stocks of small cetaceans because we do not have any documents available at this point. As pending issues, we need to finalize our request to ICES with regard to cetacean stocks. We also need to revise our proposal to the High Level Group but all of this will take place on the next meeting.

**Sec:** The NWWAC was invited to attend the meeting of the MS Technical Group on 17 September where this topic will be on the agenda and we will report back to the ADG. In addition, a member of the ADG has been invited to join the next working group meeting of the SWWAC at the beginning of October where they will have a representative from the Commission joining them as well to discuss the submissions from the SWW. We are trying to keep the connection between the two ACs as the Commission has been quite explicit on their wish that this was a cooperative effort whereas the MSGs have decided to separate themselves out. There is a lot of information flow going between the ACs, also now between the MSG, and this ADG. Hopefully, by next week we will have an update again on where the MSG is on this topic. The next meeting of the advice drafting group will be afterwards so that we can include the update from the Technical Group meeting.

vii. Sea Bass (Secretariat)

The Focus Group Sea bass has been established to prepare advice to the Commission on the measures to be taken in 2021 for both commercial and recreational fisheries to aid the recovery of the sea bass stocks in the NWW. The group is providing advice on the total removals for 2021. Considering that next year more derogations are likely to be in place the group is looking at each metier and examining the different derogations and measures possible for each metier. The group is also looking at complementary measures such as measures to limit the bycatch and to develop an information system on catches and discards, as well as data collection and control, and enforcement issues. The aim is to deliver this to the Commission on the first week of October because this is related to the Commission proposal on fishing opportunities.

Some members in this FG that are also members of the North Sea AC and the possibility to have a joint FG same as last year was discussed. However, the stock portion in the NSAC jurisdiction is quite small, and members decided that it would be better to have an NWWAC only FG for the moment which would ask the North Sea to endorse its advice if they so wished.

viii. Scallops (Mathieu Vimard)

The FG Scallop was established last year with the main aim to indeed advise the Commission on scallop management for the NWW with particular emphasis on the eastern channel, ICES division 7d. Other scallop stocks can also be considered should the FG feel that there are management issues that need to be addressed. We are considering the fact that the NWW MSG is preparing a joint recommendation for the management of the eastern channel scallop. This was put on hold in the past months and there has been no clear indication from the MS of any planning or any input requested from the AC. More information on this is expected at the next Technical Group meeting. The FG group will meet at the end of September.

ix. Crab (Norah Parke)

The NWWAC FG Brown Crab came to a conclusion in July past and advice was submitted to the Commission ([link](#)) concluding that the individual vessel sectors of the brown crab fishery, including both inshore and offshore, and markets cannot be dealt with in isolation. The fisheries now include substantial areas of the North Sea and mainland Europe is a major hope for both landing and exporting, particularly for live crab. As soon as possible management measures are needed which will take into account this development of the fishery into further areas. A major issue for the exporters to China and other Asian countries is the difference in regulation regarding heavy metals, particularly cadmium. This applies to all the exporting countries, but Ireland, the UK, and France have been individually excluded from Chinese markets for lengthy periods, while health certificates and monitoring programmes were negotiated and renegotiated. This situation creates enormous uncertainty along the entire supply chain and must be addressed. Strategies are needed and fallback plans must be developed to protect stakeholders when unforeseen events bring their industry to a standstill as we have seen has happened recently with COVID.

The NWWAC with the support and endorsement of the NSAC advised and will take the initiative to establish a joint NWWAC, NSAC, and MAC Focus Group to identify common difficulties and possible solutions to supply chain issues including different regulatory measures between the EU and Asian destinations for brown crab exports. We seek the support of the European Commission and its agencies in this initiative. This report was sent to the Commission. The advice was very well received and approved by the Director General ([link](#)), supporting the proposal to widen the scope of the brown crab focus group to include the NSAC and the MAC. Contact has been made and while we await a response from the NSAC membership, the MAC has already expressed interest and support and the focus group will inform the MAC further at a meeting later this month.

There are new draft Terms of Reference for this revitalized brown crab focus group which will identify these new areas of efforts under effective management of the fishery. It will run for a 12-month period. It will be completely conducted by means of virtual conferencing and distribution of information and documents by electronic systems which should get maximum coverage and will also theoretically reduce time and expenses.

The more detailed objectives will be to establish a database for the brown crab industry reflecting the wider nature of the fishery as it has developed. It will engage with the Member State agencies for the scientific data and how that can be improved as required, stock fluctuation seasonality, and the route to market. The market for the species has become a serious driver of effort. The existing and potential markets will be analysed and supply chain pinch points identified. Where possible strategies will be developed to be applied when and where supply chains are compromised to provide certainty to stakeholders and stability to the fishing effort. It will be very reliant on timely and focused communication and the possibility of a long-term communications tool for the industry will be explored.



**Sec:** Just for information, a members' area has been established on the NWWAC website in all languages which will be launched at the General Assembly. This is a login area only for NWWAC members to share documents amongst Focus Groups, Working Groups that are not for general consumption, because some of the documents that are being worked on or reviewed are drafts and should not appear on the publicly available website part of the website. Members will be provided with the login details for this and we will talk you through how this all will work at the General Assembly on 24 September.

**Q:** The members area which is a very welcome development, my only concern is, given that there's going to be documents here which are not for public consumption or are sensitive, what about the security around this website and how can that be controlled?

**A:** The Secretariat cannot police this. Members will be given login details and the onus is on the members to safeguard these details and ensure that they are not being shared outside of the AC. As regards somebody hacking the website, the question is why anybody would want to hack into our website. Regarding the changing members within the AC, what we are proposing to change the login details on an annual basis.

**Q:** It must be assumed then that anyone can have access to the documents in the Members Area.

### Action points

<b>1</b>	Fishing Opportunities: Reconfirm in ADG, Secretariat to reply to Enda Conneely's query
<b>2</b>	Keep the topic of how global environmental policy influences EU policy as standing topic on HWG
<b>3</b>	Review number of groups currently running in the AC, bring forward to ExCom
<b>4</b>	Invite EU Parliament rapporteur to NWWAC FG meeting (FG Control)
<b>5</b>	FG Climate and Environment (Chair Jacopo Pasquero): decision on participation in Ocean Energy Open Consultation, and International Ocean Governance consultation

NWWAC Participants	
Emiel Brouckaert (Chair)	Rederscentrale
José Beltrán	Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Lugo
Hugo Boyle	ISEFPO
Enda Conneely	IIMRO
Juan Carlos Corrias Arras	Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco
Kenny Coull	SWFPA
Jenni Grossmann	ClientEarth
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Jacopo Pasquero	EBCD
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Norah Parke	KFO
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Dominique Thomas	Organisation de Producteur Coopérative Maritime Etaploise Manche Mer du Nord
<b>Other Observers</b>	
Dominic Rihan	BIM
<b>NWWAC Secretariat</b>	
Mo Mathies	Executive Secretary
Matilde Vallerani	Deputy Executive Secretary