



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

MINUTES

WORKING GROUP - 2 CELTIC SEA

Virtual

Wednesday 02 September 2020

14:00 – 16:00 CET

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair Suso Angel Lourido Garcia opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. Apologies were received by Caroline Gamblin and Javier Lopez. The agenda was adopted as drafted.

Action points from the minutes of the last meeting (07 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 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.

On August 11, the Secretariat distributed an information note on the proposal for a 1-year extension of the current NWWAC structures. The Secretariat has not received any comments following the note.

Working Group 2 is likely to have a vacancy for Vice-Chair from 01 January 2021.

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



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:

- ICES advice was not available yet for some stocks in the Celtic Sea, such as cod, haddock and whiting. Members could convene and discuss at another meeting after the advice is available.
- Concerns on poor data collection and monitoring for several sole and plaice stocks. Members also discussed some stock ID issues, for example for sole in 7f and g.
- For pollack, there is a need for enhanced data collection to upgrade the advice basis; recreational catches have to be considered in the management.
- Doubts were raised on the hake advice and on how a reduction in advice could be justified given the positive aspects regarding the parameters used in the assessment.

4. Input on the draft advice 'Addressing Choke Risk in NWW after exemptions' for WG2 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:

- The need to assess the functioning of the pooling system, to ensure there is no targeting of bycatch stocks from those Member States that have no quota of these species.
- The need to assess the effectiveness of the technical measures implemented since 2019.
- The importance to address data limitations which impact the quality of the ICES advice for sole and plaice.
- The issue of boarfish being a bycatch in mixed demersal fisheries: it is very important to know more about this stock, its behaviour and how it is interfering with demersal fisheries.



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

1	Regarding the confirmation of the chair and vice-chair positions, decision was deferred 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
Emiel Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Enda Conneely	IIMRO
Fintan Kelly	Birdwatch Ireland
Franck Le Barzic	Cobrenord
Hugo Boyle	ISEFPO
Jean-Marie Robert	Pecheurs de Bretagne
Jim Portus	SWFPO
John Lynch	IFO
Jose Manuel Beltran	OPP Lugo
Juan Carlos Corras Arias	Pescagalicia
Julien Lamothe	ANOP
Luis Francisco Marin	OPPAO
Manu Kelberine	Pecheurs de Bretagne
Mathieu Vimard	Pecheurs Normands
Matilde Vallerani	Secretariat
Mo Mathies	Secretariat
Patrick Murphy	IS&WFPO
Purificacion Fernandez	ARVI
Sean O Donoghue	KFO
Suso Lourido Garcia	Puerto Celeiro