



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN  
WATERS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA  
LAS AGUAS  
NOROCCIDENTALES

# MINUTES

## WORKING GROUP 3 - ENGLISH CHANNEL

### Virtual

**Thursday 03 September 2020**

**10:00 – 12:00 CET**

#### **1. Welcome and introductions**

The Chair Pascal Coquet 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 (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) Proposal to the ExCom to re-establish the Seabass Focus Group to produce advice on seabass management for 2021.

See point 5 below.

- 3) Proposal to the ExCom to create a Focus Group on Whelk.

See point 5 below.

- 4) Caroline Gamblin to forward the draft advice for AC consultation and approval by the ExCom via written procedure.

Discussions on the draft are still going on within the Dutch colleagues.

- 5) Members to inform the Secretariat if they want to continue with the current Chair and Vice-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 3 is likely to have a vacancy for Vice-Chair from 01 January 2021.

**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.

### 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:

- The greater proportion of immature/juvenile sole in 7d causing higher discard rates in comparison to 7e. It is very important that this is addressed and selectivity improves. Members also discussed the following on sole in 7d:
  - the fact of fishing individuals that are too small in comparison to the size of sole at sexual maturity
  - the fact that the commercial size (currently 24cm at EU level, 25cm in France) is not in line with the mesh sizes provided for the 80 mm trawl
 It was therefore discussed and accepted that 26 cm would be relevant for preserving juveniles and compared to the 80mm mesh size and initially that it would be appropriate to generalize the size to 25 cm. According to members, it is essential to introduce the possibility of a size of 26cm.
- On undulate ray a new advice will be available in autumn and there was a proposal to comment on the stock.

**ACTION:** Review of ICES advice for undulate ray once released and then make a decision if the submission to the Commission is needed at that stage.

- Investigate different management plan for cod in Northern North Sea and Southern North Sea, including the Channel.

### 4. Input on the draft advice 'Addressing Choke Risk in NWW after exemptions' for WG3 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:



- Priority should be avoiding unwanted catches in the first place, and then in addition to that of course it is important to maximise survival of what is still discarded.
- The best selectivity is to avoid areas with high concentration of some species with no commercial interest.
- For sole, there are high survivability exemptions in the Bay of Biscay, but not in the Eastern Channel, except for very specific cases. Trying to improve knowledge of survival rate in the Eastern Channel could lead to ask for an extension of the exemption.

#### 5. Updates on Scallops, Seabass, Whelk

- Seabass: meeting on 4 September to discuss advice on management for 2021.
- Scallop: the first meeting took place in March in Madrid and wasn't very successful. It was quite a tense meeting. The second meeting is probably going to happen at the end of September. Based on the discussions we had in Madrid that were not very fruitful, it would be very good to have CEFAS and Ifremer representatives at the next meeting in order to feed the debate.
- Whelk: request for expression of interest circulated to members, deadline on 4 September.

#### 6. 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.
2	Review of ICES advice for undulate ray once released and then make a decision if the submission to the Commission is needed at that stage.

#### 7. Participants list

Name	Organisation
Bruno Dachicourt	ETF
Matilde Vallerani	Secretariat
Mo Mathies	Secretariat
Hugo Boyle	ISEFPO
Jenni Grossmann (observer)	Client Earth
Manu Kelberine	CDPMEM du Finistère
Fintan Kelly (observer)	Birdwatch Ireland
Franck Le Barzic	Cobrenord
Llibori Martinez	IFSUA
Geert Meun	Visned
Jim Portus	SWFPO
Pascal Coquet	France Pêche Durable et Responsable



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Delphine Roncin	FROM Nord
Mathieu Vimard	Pechers Normands
Jean Marie Robert	Pechers de Bretagne
Dominique Thomas	CMEOP
Dimitri Rogoff	CRPMEM Normandie
Juan Antonio Espejo (observer)	Spanish administration
Elsa Tudal (observer)	French administration
Emiel Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Olivier Lepretre	CRPMEM Haute de France
Patrick Murphy	IS&WFPO