



MINUTES

WORKING GROUP 3 – CHANNEL

Virtual meeting

Thursday 9 September 2021

15:00 – 17:00 CET

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair Pascal Coquet welcomed all participants to the meeting. Apologies were received from Emiel Brouckaert (Rederscentrale) and John Lynch (ISEFPO). The agenda was adopted as drafted.

Action points from the minutes of the last meeting (2 July 2021, virtual)

- 1) The Focus Group on Seabass should be re-established. The Secretariat will contact former Chair and members to organise the first meeting.

In progress. There could be interest by the NSAC for a joint Focus Group.

- 2) Secretariat to draft a letter to the Commission recommending that ICES is requested to prepare advice on seine fishing in the Channel, including the evolution of gear use, a comparison of LPUE/CPUE with demersal trawling, and a review of the status of key non quota species.

Discussed under paragraph 5.

- 3) WG members will send their nominations to the Secretariat for the election of a new chair and vice-chair at the September meeting.

Discussed under paragraph 2.

2. Confirmation of Chair and Vicechair

Members agreed to confirm Pascal Coquet and Mathieu Vimard as Chair and Vicechair of this working group for the next 3-year term.

3. Discussion on the NWWAC advice on Fishing Opportunities in 2022

Mathieu Vimard commented that the Commission should take into account the consequences of

Brexit, and especially the technical measures that have recently been set up by the UK, when preparing its proposal on Fishing Opportunities for 2022.

Olivier Lepretre added that the Commission should be aware of what is happening in the Channel, where fishers have to deal with -120% of quotas. This issue should be integrated in their calculations on Fishing Opportunities.

ACTION: Secretariat to draft a letter to the Commission requesting that Brexit implications (in particular new UK technical measures) are taken into account when setting Fishing Opportunities for 2022.

The Chair enquired about the progress on the data collection on the implementation of article 12 of the North Sea Multiannual Plan. The Secretariat explained that this was still work in progress with the NWW and Scheveningen Member States Groups and invited the NWW MSG representative to add any information if available. Marianna Monneau replied that updates on the topic would be available at the following week's Technical Group meeting.

Vimard reiterated that it would be important pursue a request to the Commission to produce a regulation that asks to implement limits in terms of fishing authorisations. No Member State regulates vessels access to the Eastern Channel based on a fishing effort limit and this should be changed. In these discussions, it is important that every MS works with the same conditions to grant access to the fishing zone.

The Chair pointed out that if there are vessels that work without a fishing authorization based on kW as demanded by the NS MAP, it is hard to ensure sustainable joint management of fisheries in the Channel. Lepretre added that to build a solid management plan in the Channel it is first necessary to understand the state of play of the fleets operating in those waters. Geert Meun commented that he would be keen to provide the list of Dutch vessels operating in the Channel.

Vimard came back on the authorisations regulating the overall fishing effort in the Channel. At the moment, in France there is a kW threshold regulating the number of vessels that can fish in the area, which is not the case for the other MS. The access to the Eastern Channel is open and this is an issue that should be solved.

Caroline Gamblin proposed to go ahead with the AC letter requesting ICES advice on seine activity in the Channel, as that is a separate item that the Group had discussed in July. Concerning the application of article 12 of the NS MAP in the Eastern Channel, the Group should wait for the update from the MS and raise the importance of having a regulated access to the fishing area. It is difficult to express the AC position on the topic without information from the MS.

Pauline Joyeux, referring to the discussions among the MSG on the management plan, reported that France has enquired the other MS on the level of application of article 12, but the MSG eventually decided that this discussion should be held in the Scheveningen Group, since the Article refers to the NS MAP. The North Sea Advisory Council has brought forward this request to their MS Group and the issue will be addressed in that forum. Mandy Doddema confirmed that the topic is on the Scheveningen Group agenda and will be discussed at the meeting next week.



ACTION: Raise importance of collecting information on the implementation of Art 12 of the NS MAP to the MSG.

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

The Secretariat shared the Choke ID spreadsheets for discussion with members. Members' comments were recorded directly on the spreadsheet. Outcomes from this discussion will feed the preparation of the Choke advice by the Focus Group Landing Obligation.

The Secretariat introduced the work done on the draft traffic light table including risk categories and proposed measures to solve the choke risk. Mo Mathies recalled that the choke advice was previously also made of another spreadsheet, which was reporting specific data on Member States quota shares and swaps. Mathies explained that the Secretariat had been discussing this old tool with Michael Keatinge and Dominic Rihan on how to make it relevant regarding the new post-Brexit landscape and how available data can be used to predict the choke risk. *"Previously, we would have used data from previous years to populate the sheet and the tool was always looking backwards. What we are doing now is trying to turn it into a predictive tool"*, said Mathies. The best way forward seems to be using Union shares for 2021, which are available. Then, by including the landings and discards from last year, it might be possible to predict where bottlenecks may arise regarding quotas. Mathies added that the Secretariat had written to the Commission to ask for any available data on quota swaps from this year. Mathies concluded inviting members to send their comments and suggestions to the Secretariat via email on how to improve the spreadsheet.

5. Update on:

- Scallop

The Chair reported on measures agreed between French and UK professionals consisting in a fish ban for vessels bigger than 10m in 7d until October 4, with an extension until October 18 for the area south of parallel 49 24. Another agreement was made with the Irish professionals on the same date.

Joyeux reported on the development of the Delegated Act. Before producing a Delegated Act, the joint recommendation prepared by the MSG should be discussed with the UK within the Specialised Committee on Fisheries, but the Working Group on non-quota species hasn't been put in place yet.

Vimard recalled that the NWWAC Focus Group had agreed on a maximum vessel size and added that the FG should progress the work addressing the topic of ring sizes to complement the AC recommendations.

ACTION: Set up meeting of Scallop FG for further work on technical measures



- Seabass

The Secretariat reported that the FG Seabass was re-established. MS were invited to attend the first meeting of the FG. Emmanuel Kelberine suggested to invite the Commission as well to provide an update on the seabass catches allocation tool.

ACTION: Secretariat to get in touch with the Commission for an update on seabass and on the seabass catches allocation tool

- Whelk

The Secretariat mentioned that the dedicated NWWAC FG will meet in October, hosting a presentation from Normandie Fraicheur Mer on the MSC certification received by the whelk fishery in Granville Bay. The FG is also working on a questionnaire to collect all the relevant information on the fishery in France.

Vimard pointed out that the FG should not forget the goal to establish a maximum length of vessels for the Eastern Channel. The Chair supported Vimard's comment, recalling the presence of a 14m vessel in the area, an episode that should not be happening again.

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

1	Secretariat to draft a letter to the Commission requesting that Brexit implications (in particular new UK technical measures) are taken into account when setting Fishing Opportunities for 2022
2	Raise importance of collecting information on the implementation of Art 12 of the NS MAP to the MSG
3	Set up meeting of Scallop FG for further work on technical measures
4	Secretariat to get in touch with the Commission for an update on seabass and on the seabass catches allocation tool

7. Participants list

NWWAC members	
Pascal Coquet (Chair)	France Pêche Durable et Responsable
Caroline Gamblin	CNPMEM
Gérald Hussenot Desenonges	Blue Fish
Manu Kelberine	CRPMEM Bretagne
Julien Lamothe	ANOP
Olivier Lepretre	CRPMEM Hauts de France



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LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

Libori Martinez	IFSUA
Geert Meun	VisNed
Sander Meyns	Rederscentrale
Jean-Marie Robert	Les Pêcheurs de Bretagne
Delphine Roncin	FROM Nord
Dominique Thomas	OPCMEMMN
Mathieu Vimard	Organisation des Pêcheurs Normands
Experts and Observers	
Mandy Doddema	Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit
Pauline Joyeux	Direction des pêches maritimes et de l'aquaculture
Marianna Monneau	Direction des pêches maritimes et de l'aquaculture
Léa Pertel	Direction des pêches maritimes et de l'aquaculture
Maeve White	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
NWWAC Secretariat	
Mo Mathies	Executive Secretary
Matilde Vallerani	Deputy Executive Secretary