



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
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Draft MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Virtual meeting 21 June 2021

1 Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed all participants and established that all participants agreed for the meeting to be recorded for minute talking purposes only. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and make decisions on preparatory work that was done by a Brexit Focus Group and also by the NWWAC task force that was agreed upon as an action point in our last meeting in March. This mainly concerns the revision of the statutes and rules of procedure of the NWWAC and agree on what will go to the General Assembly from the Executive Committee.

Apologies were received in advance from Pascal Coquet and from Anton Dekker who are both members of the Executive Committee. We also received the apology from Gérald Hussenot, BlueFish, who had wished to participate as an observer.

The agenda was approved.

2 NWWAC restructuring proposals

i. Working Group structure

Chair: Before coming to the documents, there are some specific topics on which the Task Force puts forward a proposal for change. For some there was no unanimity, and we felt the ExCom could eventually decide on which option or options to put forward to the GA. The outcome on the Working Group structure discussed by the FG Brexit was that the regional WG4 Irish Sea had become too small to continue to exist on its own. The Chair of WG4 John Lynch and the members agreed that was the key reason for combining this WG with one of the other established ones.

The task force puts forward two options for the ExCom to decide on and whether to present both or just one of these to the GA on 01 July. The following structure to be put forward in the statutes and the



Rules of Procedure, starting with the General Assembly, followed by the Executive Committee, and then the Working Groups, including one Horizontal WG and three regional WGs.

The first proposal for the next phase in the existence of the NWWAC is to combine WG2 Celtic Sea with WG 4 Irish Sea which is accommodating the views that its members consider themselves too small to continue the existence on their own. Here, WG1 West of Scotland remains unchanged as WG1 West of Scotland, WG2 would become Celtic and Irish Sea, and WG3 English Channel would remain unchanged as well.

The second proposal would see WG1 West of Scotland combined with WG2 Celtic Sea, and both WG3 English Channel and WG4 Irish Sea would remain separate entities with a small quantity of stocks.

For completeness, there are also focus / advice drafting groups still included in the proposal.

The Secretariat prepared an analysis of both proposals as follows:

	Proposal 1 WG2 + WG4	Proposal 2 WG2 + WG1
Current no. of members WG2	25	25
Current no. of members WG4	5	
Current no. of members WG1		18
Combined no. of members	25	27
Loss in membership fees	-€1,250	-€4,000
Current no. of stocks WG2	17	17
Current no. of stocks WG4	6	
Current no. of stocks WG1		14
Combined no. of stocks	23	31

Looking at proposal number 2 WG3 and WG4 would both be left with six stocks each to manage, creating an imbalance.

The principle of the membership fees, which still needs to be decided upon, though for the time being, there is no proposal to change that, is currently the following:

- General Assembly € 300
- Executive Committee €350
- Regional Working Groups €250 each.



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- Horizontal Working Group free for members of the regional WGs and the ExCom.

The task force did not have a unanimous view on which proposal to put forward, I think we still can have a decision at the ExCom level if one or both options should be sent to the General Assembly. Any comments?

JW: I feel what has been forgotten in this discussion are the functional units in the Irish Sea. There is quite a bit of stock exchange between the Irish Sea and West of Scotland, as well as the Celtic Sea and the Irish Sea. Due to the way the stocks move and the importance of the stocks it certainly is a good idea to combine the Irish Sea with one of the other ones, and my own preference would be with the Celtic Sea.

Chair: The task force discussed these two options for putting forward to the General Assembly. The functional units have not played a part in this, and actually do not play a part in our structure of the Working Groups.

SO'D: In relation to the functional units, just to clarify that the functional units only relate to *Nephrops* at this stage. Both the task force and the FG Brexit took into account the management areas relating to the TAC and quota. When it comes to *Nephrops*, there are seven functional units in ICES area 7, which includes the Irish Sea. Only one of those is an "of which" clause in the TAC and quota regulation, which relates to functional unit 16, which is the porcupine. In my opinion, the issue of the functional units really does not come into play in relation to the structure here. My preferred option is proposal number one. Just for information for those ExCom members who are not part of WG4 Irish Sea, with the Brexit effect the Chair and indeed all of the membership are certainly in favour of combining the Irish Sea with the Celtic Sea. With the with the UK having left WG4 and having taken more than 50% of the waters and even more in terms of the stocks, which left only Ireland and Belgium in WG4 seemed to leave mainly the Irish members talking amongst themselves rather than being involved in a in an advisory council. So there was a unanimous view for combining WG4 with WG2.

PF: I would be in favour of proposal 2 for the similarities in the areas. If we look at the number of stocks it would also not be a problem. The Irish Sea is a very specific area with particular issues. If that WG is maintained, it would work more efficiently. I do not think there was a majority for one option or the other in the task force. The results are kind of biased, we are not being given correct information when we say there is loss in membership fees. We should have a global overview of the budget and see how it will look like. With UK members leaving we have money saved from their reimbursement. In face to face meetings, combining WG1 and 2 a lot of members would have to only be reimbursed for one night. I think both options should be taken to the GA.



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Chair: Since there is no unanimous view on these proposals we will bring forward both proposals to the GA on 01 July where a decision can then be made by members.

DC: I do not have a good understanding of the pros and cons of both suggestions, though the financial impact seems to be relatively small. I do not understand kind of whether the number of stocks being considered per working group is an important sort of issue either, it may be, or may not.

Chair: This is what the task force prepared, and as just pointed out, one of the important factors in here is that the members of WG4 decided that it would be better not to remain as an independent area. So we will present both proposals with the proper explanation at the General Assembly.

ACTION: Present both Proposal 1 and 2 for the restructuring of the Working groups to the GA on 01 July.

ii. Executive Committee structure

Chair: The proposal from the task force is to include the details of the ExCom in the statutes and the Rules of Procedure, based on the following:

	Number of members								OIG
	Total	Industry							
		BE	ES	FR	IE	NL	UK	Other	
current	25	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	10
proposed	25	2	2	3	3	2	0	3	10

The current number of ExCom members will be maintained at 25 with 15 industry and 10 OIG. 1 UK seat will be assigned to “other industry”, e.g. ETF, AIPCE-AGEP, Women in Fisheries etc. The other UK seat will be assigned to Ireland based on the fact that only Ireland and France have actual coastlines within the NWWAC area of competence. Ireland is also the only MS represented in all current 4 and future 3 WGs.

JW: How many OIG members are currently in the ExCom?

Secretariat: The ExCom has currently only 3 OIG members leaving 7 seats vacant. We would appreciate any suggestions on how to attract more OIG organisations into the NWWAC and also onto the ExCom.

The ExCom members present unanimously supported this proposal.

ACTION: Bring forward this ExCom restructuring proposal to the GA on 01 July.



iii. NWWAC Office Holders

- Chairman of the NWWAC (ExCom and GA)
- 3 ExCom Vice-Chairs (2 industry, 1 OIG)
- 3 regional Working Group Chairs and Vice-Chairs (1 industry and 1 OIG each where possible)
- 1 Horizontal Working Group Chair and Vice-Chair (1 industry and 1 OIG each where possible)

Chair: The main change here is the amalgamation of the Chair of the ExCom with the President of the GA.

DC: What is the driver for combining the ExCom chairman role with the general assembly from a governance point of view?

Chair: The task force felt that it is sometimes confusing to have a separate ExCom Chair and a President of the GA. For a stakeholder representative organisation within the CFP it seemed that one representative for both is a logical choice.

Secretariat: In the NWWAC the position of President of the General Assemblies is only an honorary position, there is no function related to this position. Looking at the other ACs, they generally do not have a separate position between the Chairman of the Executive Committee and the General Assembly, it is usually one position titled Chair of the Advisory Council.

ExCom members unanimously agreed to put forward this proposal to the GA.

ACTION: Bring forward the office holder restructuring proposal to the GA on 01 July.

3 NWWAC Statutes update

As agreed in the March meetings, a task force was set up consisting of the Working Group Chairs and the ExCom Chair and Vice-Chairs to review and update the 2013 RoP. The task force held 5 meetings and discussed and agreed the new draft statutes and the updated draft RoP. These were circulated for review and discussion, with final approval in the eGA on 01 July. Main changes include as discussed the office holders, the working groups structure, and the ExCom structure.

ExCom members had no comments on the draft document presented.



ACTION: Secretariat to circulate draft NWWAC statutes 2021 to members of the GA prior to the meeting on 01 July.

4 draft NWWAC Rules of Procedure 2021

ExCom members had no comments on the draft NWWAC Rules of Procedure.

ACTION: Secretariat to circulate draft NWWAC Rules of Procedure 2021 to members of the GA prior to the meeting on 01 July.

SO'D: How are we going to arrange the voting procedure, assuming that there is a vote at the General Assembly?

Secretariat: We have explored how this can be done in Zoom, and we have the option to do a poll. We suggest to carry out a trial poll right now so that members can see how this works.

A trial poll was carried out.

Chair: It will be the Secretariat's responsibility in this format to make sure that only people who are allowed to vote can vote at the General Assembly on 01 July.

5 State of play of Commission review of delegated Act

Chair: For this agenda item I have following references that can be found on the NWWAC website, some only in de Members Area:

- 28 May: NWWAC reply to COM proposal on AC advice template & criteria for classifying members of ACs.
- 25 May: COM's clarification on the ACs' areas of competence following the UK's departure from the EU.
- 5 May: Inter-AC meeting including 'Functioning of the Advisory Councils'.
- 4 May: Inter-AC letter on stakeholder involvement in the SCF.



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Following from a request from the Commission, the Secretariat analysed the representation of NWWAC members by UK organisations. ExCom members were contacted on 12 April and asked for comments regarding the occasional representation of the EAA by a member of a UK organisation. The following comment was received from CNP MEM: “We think that that there should be more discussions concerning EAA representation. I understand that EAA represents also UK organization or other Third Country but that EAA is, as an European Association, a member of the NWWAC. The Commission said that it seems appropriate in this case for people not to be chair or WG chair and that each AC should assess the situation. I am not sure why the chair situation should distinguish from simple participation to meetings. We have the feeling that David Curtis may represent EAA interests but is still an active member of a UK organization, so maybe it would be more appropriate for EAA to send a member from an EU organization, directly concerned by EU policy, to participate in the AC meetings.”

No comments were made by ExCom members, no issues were raised which confirms David Curtis as a legitimate EAA representative in the NWWACAC.

6 AOB

Secretariat: Just a quick update to let everyone know that we have confirmation that the Director General Charlina Vitcheva is going to join us on 13 July in the Executive Committee meeting. We have prepared a list of topics that we have asked her to address and there will be time for question and answers during that meeting as well. The other very important update related to the fact that we have had no nominations for a new chairman of the Executive Committee of this AC. We have received a Spanish proposal to continue the current chairmanship with Emiel Brouckaert, but we have had no new nominations and the question is if the current members of the Executive Committee wish to go back to their national members to see if anyone would like to make another nomination. The deadline was 14 June, however, if anybody would like to make a suggestion, we still welcome this.

Chair: It might be worthwhile to distribute the information that was just presented and extending the possibility to put nominations forward.

ACTION: Secretariat to circulate a reminder and update to all members on the nomination for Chairperson of the NWWAC.

SO'D: I would like to support the Spanish proposal, and I am wondering where our existing Chair stands on this? Is his intention to put his name forward or not? I think we could be in a very difficult position in that we could end up with no Chair if the NWWAC.



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Chair: I have not put forward my candidacy due to many other things that I have to take into consideration. However, I would not leave this Advisory Council without a Chair if there are no other candidates.

Secretariat: I would just like to draw attention of the Members to our rules of procedure. I do not think we have a provision yet for the rollover of chairmanship. If there are no other candidates, the current Chairman of the Executive Committee and, hopefully, of the AC in future will choose to continue, I feel he should not have to go through the entire tender process again as it is very labour intensive. I propose that we, as the Secretariat will look at the inclusion of an article in the Rules of Procedure that will make a provision for the role over of the Chairmanship without having to go through the tender process if there are no other candidates being nominated. Can this be agreed by the Executive Committee? This was not considered when we were drawing up the new Rules of Procedure, but it has come up now, so it makes sense to actually have one further article included under the chairmanship of the Executive Committee to ensure that we do not need to change things soon again. I have a query with the Commission regarding this already, but I have not heard back yet.

Chair: We best wait for the Commission's response, but then if it changes the Rules of Procedure, we need to have final documents put forward to the General Assembly on 01 July.

JW: I just like to back what the Secretariat said and that it is best to have everything above-board. Regarding the 3-year term, the current Chair has already served more than this period, and we have been very lucky to have Emiel as Chair.

SO'D: I concur with what the previous speaker said about the current Chair. Coming back to the Secretariat's proposal, I think we have to be careful how this is worded so that there is a limit regarding time served in office.

Chair: There should not be an obligation for anyone to continue as Chair, but it could be an option.

SO'D: We could also use one of the Vice-Chairs as a temporary measure for example, but we have to have a mechanism assuming that the Chair of the existing chair is unable to continue. From a corporate governance point of view the length of term for any Chairperson should be restructured to 7 to 10 years in office.

Secretariat: We can draft a new article for the draft Rules of Procedure and circulate it to ExCom members shortly after conclusion of this meeting with a response from members before close of business today?



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ACTION: Secretariat to draft a new article on the roll-over of Chairmanship based on the previous discussion and circulate to ExCom members asap for comment before COB 21 June 2021.

7 Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair

1	Present both Proposal 1 and 2 for the restructuring of the Working groups to the GA on 01 July.
2	Bring forward this ExCom restructuring proposal to the GA on 01 July.
3	Bring forward the office holder restructuring proposal to the GA on 01 July.
4	Secretariat to circulate draft NWWAC statutes 2021 to members of the GA prior to the meeting on 01 July.
5	Secretariat to circulate draft NWWAC Rules of Procedure 2021 to members of the GA prior to the meeting on 01 July.
6	Secretariat to circulate a reminder and update to all members on the nomination for Chairperson of the NWWAC.
7	Secretariat to draft a new article on the roll-over of Chairmanship based on the previous discussion and circulate to ExCom members asap for comment before COB 21 June 2021.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for 13 July 2021

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Participants

NWWAC ExCom members	
Emiel Brouckaert EB (Chair)	Rederscentrale
David Curtis DC	EAA
Bruno Dachicourt BD	ETF
Puri Fernández PF	ANASOL
Caroline Gamblin CG	CNPMEM
Julien Lamothe JL	ANOP
Jesus Lourido Garcia JLG	Puerto de Celeiro S.A. OPP77
Geert Meun GM	VisNed



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Sean O'Donoghue SO'D	KFO
Katarina Sipic KS	AIPCE CEP
Despina Symons DS	EBCD
Johnny Woodlock JW	Irish Seal Sanctuary
NWWAC observers	
Llibori Matrinez Latorre LML	IFSUA
NWWAC Secretariat	
Mo Mathies (Sec)	Executive Secretary
Matilde Vallerani (Sec)	Deputy Executive Secretary

DRAFT