



DRAFT MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

NH Hotel, Santiago de Compostela

Wednesday 15 March 2023

1 Welcome and introductions

The Chair Emiel Brouckaert welcomed all participants in the room and online. Apologies were received from Anais Mourtada (CNPMEM), Jean-Marie Robert (LPDB), Kenatea Chavez-Hey (ANOP) and Bruno Dachicourt (ETF). To establish a voting quorum, John Woodlock appointed John Lynch as his proxy, Jean-Marie Robert appointed Gérald Hussenot Desenonges, Kenatea Chavez-Hey and Sander Meyns appointed Emiel Brouckaert. The agenda was adopted.

2 Keynote address by Rosa Quintana, Conselleira do Mar

The Chair welcomed Ms Quintana, Conselleira do Mar, and thanked her for joining the members and for the support of the Xunta de Galicia to these NWWAC meetings.

The Conselleira welcomed all participants to Galicia. She commented that there was “more that unites us than separates us”, and felt that there was a connection between Galicia and this Advisory Council because of the presence of the Galician fleet in North Western Community waters, the fact that Working Group 2 (Celtic Sea and West of Scotland) is headed by a Galician, Suso Lourido, manager of the OPP Puerto de Celeiro, as well as the jointly faced impacts from challenges such as offshore renewable energy and marine protected areas.

“It is the objective of all of us to continue to make progress in preservation as the best tool for safeguarding the bottom of our seas; obviously in a proportional, balanced and compatible way with a sustainable fishing activity practised by a responsible fleet such as that of our region.”

In her opinion this objective is suffering severe setbacks at the hands of those who should be the main agents for the protection of this activity, identifying the veto on bottom fishing as “an arbitrary decision, lacking sufficient scientific basis to legislate on this protection with an ecosystem approach in order to guarantee the least impact.” She recalled that the efforts made by the fishing sector in the past must be valued but felt that the European Commission may be forgetting one of the maxims of the Common Fisheries Policy, specifically that any legislative act has to be coherent with the socio-economic implications of the activity in these areas.



According to the Conselleira, this veto will harm the Community fleet, and specifically the Galician fleet, which in recent years has averaged around 27,000 tonnes of product, generating a value of around €90 million per year. She identified that the fishing industry is facing a certain level of uncertainty, for example in the face of the ban on trawling in 87 areas of Community waters, as well as regarding the European Commission's strategy extending the ban on trawling to 30% of European waters by 2030. From her point of view the Commission is setting an unacceptable trend, continuing to blame the fishing industry for the ills of the marine environment and adopting measures without assessing their impact. These decisions do not take into account the realities of the maritime and fisheries sector which has existed for centuries.

She confirmed that the Galicia will support the Spanish government going against the Commission's plans and appealed to all the fishery stakeholders in the EU to continue working to put a stop to these decisions and to present a strong common front at European level, with which to facilitate permanent communication and the strengthening of collaboration between regions with similar fishing interests.

The Chair thanked Ms Quintana and commented that some of these items would be addressed today in this meeting.

Patrick Murphy welcomed the Conselleria do Mar and thanked her for her support for the industry. This was echoed by Llibori Martinez.

The Conselleira commented that commercial and recreational fishing have a future together. In Galicia the best scientific advice is being used. It is understood that the profession is acting very responsibly and sustainably and that the arbitrary decisions made at EU level are made to discourage young people to enter the profession. She stated that the Commission is not valuing the work of fishers and food producers in general.

Suso Lourido thanked the Conselleira for her presence and her support and sharing the Galician view of how the industry follows a common goal.

The Chair stated that the challenge is clear and that the AC 's role is to create unanimous advice in the NWW.

3 Action points from the last meeting

1	Secretariat to follow up on UK waste waters topic and consider preparation of advice if needed. Topic added to horizontal items for Inter-AC Brexit Forum
2	The ExCom approved the changes proposed in the text to be shared with the PelAC ExCom for approval. Advice submitted to COM on 11 October, reply received 28 February 2023
3	Chair to take option A from the meeting policy proposal to the General Assembly for approval. Approved by GA with two objections
4	ExCom approved the overview on year 17 accounts to be presented to the General Assembly. done
5	Information on the EFCA Advisory Board should be shared with all ExCom members to trigger expressions of interest to attend on behalf of the AC. Email sent on 03 October, no interest, Mo attended remotely



6	Secretariat to request input from members on items to suggest for the Inter-AC Brexit Forum agenda.
	Email sent 07 October, no response. Email for meeting on 15 December sent 26 October
7	Secretariat to launch written consultation of NWWAC members for input to MIAC and MIACO agendas.
	Email sent 03 October
8	Secretariat to get information on Barrie Deas retirement date and prepare an official message from the ExCom thanking him for the contribution to the work of the AC.
	April 2023

4 Approval of the action points from the Working Groups

Action points Working Group 1 – Irish Sea

1	Secretariat to check with ICES if any research (ongoing and/or planned) on cumulative effects of ORE developments is available. If not, recommendations should be developed by the AC requesting that this topic is investigated.
2	NWWAC to recommend the COM that ICES is requested to include climate change impacts on cod spawning – specifically increasing seawater temperature - into the stock assessment.
3	Comments made on exemptions to the Landing Obligation should be taken into account in the preparation of the AC advice on the Discard Plan 2024 by the Focus Group Landing Obligation.
4	Follow up on recommendations included in the Fishing Opportunities 2023 advice in relation to the Irish Sea and consider new issue raised on pollack assessment (mismatch between landing and catch data).

The action points were approved by the members of the Executive Committee.

Action points Working Group 2 – Celtic Sea & West of Scotland

1	Continue NWWAC work on ORE developments jointly with other Advisory Councils if possible
2	Working Group members are invited to send their comments on exemptions to the Landing Obligation to feed the preparation of the advice on the Discard Plan 2024 being prepared by the Focus Group Landing Obligation. In particular, members are invited to reflect on measures introduced which resulted in an increase in selectivity and in survivability.

The action points were approved by the members of the Executive Committee.



Action points Working Group 3 – Channel

The Chair announced that Manu Kelberine was appointed as the new Chair of this Working Group at the meeting on Monday. The current Vice-Chair Mathieu Vimard will remain in his position.

1	CNPMEM to share proposal for advice on red mullet with the Secretariat which will distribute to Working Group 3 for review and then to ExCom for approval.
2	Secretariat to inform WG3 members on Member States Group's feedback on whelk advice
3	The advice on a joint recommendation for managing the scallop fishing in the Channel is put on hold at the moment. Irish and French members will liaise regarding the use of 97mm rings and come back to the Secretariat once updates are available.
4	Discuss the complaint from EAA and IFSUA regarding production of advice on seabass at the next ExCom in Ghent. Secretariat to draft procedure to clarify how lack of consensus should be addressed when an advice is prepared.
5	Follow developments on designation of MPAs on both EU and UK sides and combine this work with the review of the CFP package.
6	Working Group members are invited to send their comments on exemptions to the Landing Obligation to feed the preparation of the advice on the Discard Plan 2024 being prepared by the Focus Group Landing Obligation. In particular, members are invited to reflect on measures introduced which resulted in an increase in selectivity and in survivability.

The action points were approved by the members of the Executive Committee.

Horizontal Working Group

1	Add review of Porcupine Bank fisheries management to list of topics to follow-up with NWW MSG.
2	Focus Group Landing Obligation to include an analysis of potential effect should the exemptions be lost.
3	Members to email queries in relation to Richard Cronin's presentation to the Secretariat for written follow up.
4	Topics raised by Richard Cronin to be addressed in relevant Focus Groups (Climate & Environment, potential new CFP package, potential new ORE/spatial squeeze)
5	Members to send questions for the Commission on the topic of protected areas to the Secretariat for written follow up.
6	Secretariat to follow up with Henn Ojavaer to send information on scientific data query to Secretariat.
7	Members to submit questions on Celtic Sea ecosystem overview to Secretariat for written follow up.
8	Secretariat to put forward Ecosystem Overview topic for next MIAC/MIACO meeting
9	Secretariat to contact the Pelagic AC regarding the proposed new joint Focus Group to identify focus.
10	Secretariat to contact other AC Secretariats regarding joint work on CFP package.



The Chair added that for the proposed Focus Group on the CFP package, Alexandra Philippe, EBCD, has been nominated as Chair.

The action points were approved by the members of the Executive Committee.

5 Dialogue with DG MARE – Fabrizio Donatella, Director MARE C5

The Chair welcomed Director Donatella and expressed his pleasure in being able to state that since his nomination as DG MARE Director, Fabrizio Donatella attended every NWWAC ExCom meeting. The AC addressed a lot of topics at the WG meetings over the preceding days, with the majority having some link with fishing opportunities and particularly space for fishing / food production activities in NWW. Last week at the Inter-AC meeting, Director-General Vitcheva presented the package published by the Commission on 21 February with the CFP and CMO Reporting and two action plans. These contain further reduction of fishing activities. The NWWAC just decided to organise a Focus Group to prepare advice on this package. Brouckaert invited Donatella to elaborate on this and on other aspects for which NWWAC advice is considered to be useful.

Director Donatella thanked the Chair for the invitation which he was happy to accept and apologised that he could not join in person. He commented that it was a struggle at times for the Commission to attend all meetings and provide meaningful input to the interactions. This is especially true for the latter part of the year from September onwards.

He congratulated the NWWAC for its active participation in all aspects and the many submissions made to the Commission recognising the amount of work that is involved.

He stated that the publication of the CFP package is a crucial moment for the Commission identifying how the Commission sees the CFP, biodiversity, energy transition and the implementation of the CMO. He felt that each of these elements deserves a dedicated discussion though they were published as a package due to their linkages. The package was adopted on 21 February including the following four documents:

- Functioning of the CFP
- Action plan
- Energy transition
- Functioning of the CMO

Communication on the functioning of the CFP

This Communication is not an evaluation but more of a stress test, a way to confirm that the regulation is fit for purpose. The CFP provides the tools for the sustainable development of fisheries, which need to be implemented better. After ten years, this is still coherent with the Commission's views, as well as with recent developments including Green Deal, biodiversity strategy and socio-economic aspects. Challenges remain to address the biodiversity and climate crises without creating instability for the fisheries sector. In the communication, food supply and innovation are taken into consideration, aiming at creating a mutual understanding on where we want to go. It is therefore also described how to interact with stakeholders.



Marine Action Plan

This plan aims to deliver the fisheries commitment under the Biodiversity Strategy. All sectors' activities and policy areas are requested to deliver their own contributions to the strategy. The Action Plan contains very concrete actions and brings together more closely the environment and fisheries policies. This is a communication and not a legislative proposal and shows how the Commission sees the Member States progressing the implementation of existing legislation.

Focus on the following elements:

- Selective fishing gear
- Technology and innovation for which the Commission is in the asking mode
- Providing the fishing industry with a healthier environment
- Recognise fishers as stewards of the sea to protect the marine ecosystem.

With this it is important to note that the Operational Programmes under EMFAF are approved in all Member States.

Energy Transition Communication

It is vital for the fisheries and aquaculture sectors to become more resilient in light of the challenges of the energy crisis and also to reduce its carbon footprint. The Commission wants to adopt a strategy on how to switch to cleaner renewable power sources that would allow the sector to become climate neutral by 2050. This will need to be implemented as quickly as possible and there are a lot of barriers.

Focus on the following:

- Developing skills and the work force, addressing the need for knowledge and training
- There are no additional funds foreseen, but there are already existing ones.

CMO Report

This is an important part for ensuring that marketing standards and proper information for the consumer are available. This policy has also been found fit for purpose, though improvements can be made without changing the legal framework.

The Chair thanked Donatella for this overview.

Regarding the 30% protection target of which one third must be strictly protected, John Lynch enquired if that one third is the portion that would be kept from the use of mobile bottom gear or if the entire 30% is included in this ban. Secondly, he stated that the energy transition creates an issue for the fishing industry as the current leader in developing renewable energy is the ORE sector which creates problems for all fishermen. If seas are protected by 30% from fishing and from OREs, this leaves 70% for OREs to take over and includes more fishing grounds which could push fishing out of 100% of its area as so many projects are proposed for ORE.



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Alexandra Philippe commented that it was difficult for stakeholders to understand that such a comprehensive document could be published on the same day as several additional documents that are supposed to address the gaps identified in the report. In relation to regionalisation, she wondered why the Commission proposes the phasing out of bottom trawling gears to all sea basins without recognising regional specificities.

Murphy stated in relation to passing responsibility to the MS under regionalisation, in Ireland it was felt that this was not helpful, and that financial assistance was not passed on to the sector. He is convinced that there will be a loss of fishing grounds related to proposed actions under the plans, and that the industry is under threat as the burden is large to address all aspects under the Marine Action Plan including the energy transition. “Fleets all over Europe are being decommissioned” and boats are being sold to avoid new generations entering the industry at it is felt that there is no perspective for new entrants. “Without healthy seas and sustainable stocks, the industry is at an end.” He asks if the Commission sees the hardship for the fishing industry.

Donatella responded that the banning of bottom trawling in the MPAs by 2030 is there. It is very clear to the Commission that the focus is on contribution to biodiversity. All across the EU sea basins, MPAs are being established with the idea to protect the marine environment and he stated that it is necessary to address how activities that may have a negative impact on the seabed and resources can be addressed. “Measures need to be adopted at regional level.” The Commission sees that there is a strong competition for occupying the marine space. Regarding decommissioning, he said that he is personally well aware of the issues affecting the coastal communities. He encouraged the AC to address concerns from coastal communities and to bring these to the attention of the Commission.

The Chair advised that the AC will evaluate whether its advice on the CFP Report has been taking into account. On the bottom trawling ban he expressed that there is an impression that the tendency for full area protection lacks a link as to what exactly is being protected. Regarding the additional funding possibilities, he enquired how to use those considering the restrictive financing framework for the fisheries sector.

Donatella stated that the 30% protection is an international commitment and agreed that it does give the impression of a generalised approach. He felt that there was no contradiction, adding that it might be interesting if the Focus Group could address the approach and make specific suggestions regarding the regional specificities.

Addressing the rigidity of the financing rules under EMFAF he pointed out that part of its programming priorities relates to the energy transition and that the MS have been encouraged to include a clear and tangible contribution to the Green Deal. He encouraged the AC to address the Commission on the rules and implementation of the EMFAF.

Western Waters Multi Annual Plan

Turning from the publication package to this subject Donatella commented that implemented in 2019 this is a key piece of legislation providing stability under the Fishing Opportunities while allowing a certain element of flexibility for fisheries managers. The Commission thanks the NWWAC for its contributions which will be analysed. Target date for the Commission’s report on the implementation of the WW MAP is March 2024.



EU-UK annual consultation

On this topic Donatella commented that in the TCA and the bilateral consultations the EU stuck to its principles and intended approach. The Specialised Committee on Fisheries has an enormous work programme. The next meeting is in June with 20 commitments in the written record of last year's bilateral. He stated that at one of the next NWWAC meetings he would be happy to address the issues relating to the 2026 key date in relation to the TCA.

José Beltran recognised that the Director had identified fishermen as the guardians of the sea. In this respect he asked when striving for a healthier environment how many stocks are considered as not being in a sustainable state. He felt that other industries, like ORE, impact the environment but all the focus is on the fisheries. He stated that VMEs are being detected which have been there for a long time and they are still here which means that there was no impact of fisheries in these areas. He stated that he did not want to state that fisheries do not need to be selective, but most stocks are in a good status and those in worse status the industry is addressing with measures for improvement. Regarding the energy transition, it should be realised that alternatives are only in a starting phase. Beltran also stated that in the NWW- and other ACs there are doubts whether advice is valued by the Commission, which leads to frustration.

Donatella commented that the Commission has never stated that fishing is unsustainable. Everyone in the Commission has the highest respect for people working in the entire chain. However, the activities need to ensure further contributions to the long-term sustainability of the marine environment and in some areas, gaps exist regarding assessments. He felt a distinction was needed between state of the stock and the next generation of the stock, and status of the marine environment.

Regarding the energy transition he agreed that there are specific needs for the sector to be locally discussed.

Regarding the value assessment of AC advice, he referred to the VMEs and promised to come to the AC when new advice is out, expected on 18 April .

The Chair thanked Director Donatella for his intervention and his willingness to attend future NWWAC meetings on these topics. He asked if it was possible to submit additional questions in writing.

ACTION: Members are invited to send written questions to the Secretariat for written follow up by Director Donatella

6 SEAwisE update – Jochen Depestele, ILVO

The presentation can be found [here](#).

The presentation is concentrating on the results to date and future steps.

The projects started at the beginning of October 2021 as part of EU's Horizon 2020 programme.

SEAwisE will work until September 2025 to address the four key challenges:

1. Lack of end-user driven advice
2. Lack of clear and widely accepted priorities
3. Gaps in existing knowledge



4. Lack of accurate and adaptive methods

Results from the scoping workshop include contributions from individual stakeholders as well as groups of stakeholders. The FAO framework was used for analysis grouping the challenges under:

- Ecological well-being
- Fisheries
- Human well-being

A scientific approach was developed to analyse the scientific literature regarding the effects of fishing on various aspects.

- Papers and scoping both had climate, fished stocks and MPAs in the top recorded issues
- Bycatch was frequent in scoping but not in papers
- Economic aspects with paper support were landings value, profit, fuel costs, revenue and economically viable fishing
- Windfarms, other non-fishing, food supply/food security and pollution were frequent in scoping but not in papers

The report can be found here: <https://seawiseproject.org/seawise-results/>

Additional work has been carried out regarding:

- Evaluating models, methods to determine how good they are and efficiency of the current management in attaining objectives - <https://seawiseproject.org/seawise-results/>
- Improving modelling of:
 - Effects of fisher behaviour on catches, of management on economic performance and of fish on human health
 - Effects of climate and density on productivity of fished stocks
 - Effects of fishing on bycatch, benthic habitats, food webs and litter
 - Predictions of whether all targets can be attained at the same time
 - Spatial distribution of fish and fishers

From this work, 18 deliverable reports to the Commission are due on April 1st 2023. With these results and the ACs' input to key issues, the consortium will make examples of how Ecosystem Based Advice derived from the results can look like. These will form the basis of a virtual workshop across regions to discuss changes to make the advice useful to you and other users.

Murphy thanked the speaker but was concerned regarding the methodology used for determining the health of the environment. He felt that the advice given by stakeholders reflected the concerns by the industry, for example regarding the impact of climate change on fish stocks which he felt was not reflected in this presentation.

Depestele commented that the effects of climate change on growth and recruitment was taken into account, but that the scientific information is not available regarding all the topics that were addressed in the scoping workshops. He felt there was an imbalance between what is available on the topics and what the stakeholders would like to see.



Murphy clarified that it was important to address the knowledge gaps in the scientific experts to match the experiences and information coming from the industry.

Depestele stated that this will be discussed prior to the co-design workshop.

The Chair stated that differences noted between reality and stakeholder advice need to be taken into account. He commented on the literature available from other previous EBFM initiatives and if these were taken into account in the SEAwisE project.

Depestele stated that for example the work from WKIRISH is planned to be taken into account to move forward with EBFM. He hoped that this will become clear in the workshop planned later this year.

Murphy stated that in the Celtic Sea there is a mismatch between the year classes reportedly caught by fishermen and the advice currently in place. An ecosystem-based approach should be more in tune with reality.

7 Meetings organised/attended by the NWWAC

- MIAC/MIACO (Chair)
 - 12-13 January 2023
 - Review of ICES advice activity 2022
 - ICES in person attendance at NWWAC meetings in July
 - Stakeholder perspectives & engagement strategy
 - Emerging science needs
 - Letter addressed to ICES with queries from NWWAC fish opportunities advice not taken into account in TAC and Quota 2023 outcome
- Briefing MAP Act 2021 (Secretariat)
 - 19 January 2023
 - Hybrid meeting held in BIM offices Dun Laoghaire, Ireland,
 - Speakers from three Irish government Departments
 - Action: renewed application for NWWAC to join the ORE forum in conjunction with the PelAC

Upon the Chair's question in which FG this will be addressed, Mo Mathies replied that this will be the new joint FG proposed to be set up between the NWWAC and PelAC.

Lynch asked whether there was going to be any follow-up with the Departments.

The Secretariat stated that it will attend one of the in-person workshops and will report back to all members. The Secretariat will also inform members once the date for the virtual fisheries themed workshop is available.

Lynch stated that he and other Irish colleagues would be attending some of the upcoming events and



keep the Secretariat informed.

The Chair thanked Lynch and the other Irish representatives for this offer.

- Northern Fisheries Alliance (Secretariat)
 - 28 February in London
 - Representatives from England, Scotland, Norway, Sweden, Ireland, Denmark and France
 - National offshore renewables targets/timelines
 - Spatial issues/challenges per country, including environmental impacts
 - National pushback strategies & collective action
 - Next steps: Terms of Reference & PR strategy

8 NWWAC Work Programme and Budget overview Year 18 (Secretariat)

The presentation can be found [here](#).

- ExCom Industry Vice-Chair succession

The Secretariat explained that the current Vice-Chair Julien Lamothe (ANOP) was elected as MAC Vice-Chair and therefore felt that he could no longer fulfil the role of Vice-Chair in the NWWAC effectively and efficiently. He proposed Jean-Marie Robert (LPDB) as his successor. Members of the Executive Committee were asked if there were any objections to this appointment. There were none and Robert was unanimously approved as new ExCom Vice-Chair.

The election was followed by a detailed overview of the current achievements and outstanding actions under the current Work Programme as well as the budget overview.

9 Overview of EFCA Working Procedures in 2023 –Miguel Nuevo, EFCA

The presentation can be found [here](#).

EFCA received a number of questions from the Irish POs and decided it was more appropriate to discuss this in the ExCom context rather than in a bilateral meeting. EFCA thanked the NWWAC Secretariat for making this possible with a very short notice.

The role of EU players in control and enforcement of CFP

- Member States: Activities in their waters, vessels flying their flag, their nationals (IUU)
- European Commission: Formulates the policy, verifies its implementation
- EFCA: Coordinates and assists MS and EC

EFCA's mission can be found in the Founding [Regulation \(EC\) 768/2005](#).

EFCA's work programme 2023 can be found [here](#).

EFCA's Joint Deployment Plans are a platform for joint activities of inspection and surveillance by



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Member States of certain fisheries in specific regions.

National authorities have national control plans which have inspection benchmarks for several criteria. Inspections at sea and on land are recorded in national systems and shared with EFCA. Summarised JDP inspection data are published transparently every year in the [EFCA Annual Reports](#). EFCA's chartered means include from 2023 three offshore patrol vessels and a fixed wing airplane.

Each year, EFCA carries out a strategic regional risk assessments at fleet segment (vessels fishing in the same area with the same gear/mesh size) level in collaboration with the Member States. The strategic assessment takes into account status of exploited stocks, level of catches, and probability of non-compliance with the fisheries legislation in force based on best available data. As a second layer, the tactical risk assessment conducted at vessel level is a national competence, where national risk lists of vessels are created. As per Article 36 of the Common Fisheries Policy, control and enforcement is based on a risk-based strategy.

As part of this risk assessment, threats are identified by MS risk's experts and EFCA. These are then analysed regarding fleet segment and/or area, with impact and likelihood calculated, followed by an evaluation of the risk and mitigating measures and recommendation to address those. Strategic risk assessment conducted at regional level by EFCA in collaboration with the MS uses a standard methodology available at EFCA website ([link](#)). A general overview of the EFCA risk assessment can be found in the following video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=99JFH9hy_g

Murphy thanked the EFCA representatives for their presentation which was very detailed and comprehensive. He thanked the NWWAC Secretariat for its work and for making this possible.

ACTION: Members to send any questions to the Secretariat for written follow-up with EFCA.

Nuevo stated that meetings had been organised by other ACs in the EFCA facilities in Vigo which helped with the understanding of the ACs and the work of EFCA. He invited the NWWAC to use the facilities for any future meeting which can then also include more EFCA involvement and dedicated discussions.

The Chair thanked Nuevo for this invitation.

Brendan Byrne thanked EFCA for the informative presentation and commented that harmonised control and level-playing field are phrases used in fisheries, however, they seem to not have any concrete existence and effect. He stated that it was important to comply with legislation but that compliance should be the same for everyone and not for one MS to be singled out as seems to have happened recently with Ireland. He hoped that future meetings could be held directly with industry reps per MS as well.

Nuevo commented that significant progress has been made on fisheries control and that inspections have been and are being harmonised to ensure all MS control authorities are doing the same which is one of EFCA's priorities. EFCA aimed to address the list of questions received via the AC due to limited resources and also because this is one of the roles of the ACs, that horizontal issues are discussed in a forum where stakeholders from all relevant MS are present. Nuevo further announced that another joint workshop on the implementation of the landing obligation is planned in 2023 with the NWWAC



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following completion of the LO compliance evaluation in the NWW. This joint workshop will include MS, EFCA, AC and other interested stakeholders, for example scientific bodies etc.

O'Donnell stated that representatives from several POs and processors share their concerns and feel that there is a gap regarding information on procedures and processes. He felt that a bilateral and a general sharing of views and perceptions could be engaged in. PO managers are listening to a lot of ways and would be useful to share information in a constructive manner.

Murphy expressed his disappointment that a bilateral meeting could not be arranged at this point in time. He agreed with the previous speaker that this approach is very constructive and appreciated the engagement with EFCA. He referred to new and proposed monitoring technology and issues around its usage. He stated that Ireland's control plan has been removed on the back of complaints by the Irish control agency. It is felt in the Irish industry that the potentially huge effects need to be addressed in a bilateral meeting to share concerns in a constructive manner. Measures are in place already to avoid discrepancies, but they do not seem to be understood.

EFCA stated that the questions posed were addressed in the presentation and subsequent discussion, and that it had been decided it would be more appropriate to have this discussion in the framework of the AC rather than in a bilateral meeting. Regarding the comments about the Irish control plan, EFCA indicated that it seems to be more of an internal issue and not concerning EFCA directly.

The Chair suggested to bring these points into the Focus Group Control & Compliance and issues could be added to the Terms of Reference of this group.

ACTION: Focus Group Control & Compliance to include points from this discussion in its Terms of Reference.

10 Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair

The Chair recalled that Jean-Marie Robert was approved by the members of this Executive Committee as new Vice-Chair following Julien Lamothe's resignation.

The Chair thanked Julien Lamothe, ANOP, for his contributions as NWWAC Vice-Chair over the year

He also reiterated that members approved the establishment of two new Focus Groups under the Horizontal Working Group, one on the CFP package ensuring that duplication was made in other existing NWWAC Focus Groups, and one on the development of ORE/spatial squeeze in conjunction with the Pelagic Advisory Council.

Action points

1	Members to send any additional questions for Director Donatella to the Secretariat for written follow up
2	AC to review TCA 2026 and consider development of advice
3	Members to review WP presentation, and specifically the planned recommendations and meetings
4	Secretariat to contact members regarding points for inclusion in the WP for YR19



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5	Members to send any questions to the Secretariat for written follow-up with EFCA
6	Focus Group Control & Compliance to include points from this discussion in its Terms of Reference.

Participants

NWWAC ExCom members	
Emiel Brouckaert (Chair)	Rederscentrale
Gérald Hussenot Desenonges	Blue Fish
Jesus Lourido Garcia	Puerto de Celeiro
John Lynch	IS&EFPO
Patrick Murphy	IS&WFPO
Norah Parke	KFO
Alexandra Philippe	EBCD
Irene Prieto	ANASOL
NWWAC observers	
José Beltran	OPP-7 Burela
Kenatea Chavez-Hey	ANOP
Franck Le Barzic	OP COBRENORD
Olivier Lepretre	CNPMEM
Llibori Martinez	IFSUA
Anais Mourtada	CNPMEM
Aodh O'Donnell	FPO
Jean-Marie Robert	LPDB
Johnny Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary
Arthur Yon	FROM Nord
Experts & observers	
Brendan Byrne	IFPEA
Killian Chute	EFCA
Marta del Avellanal	Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación
Jens Dehaene	Government of Flanders
Jochen Depestele	ILVO
Fabrizio Donatella	DG MARE
Caroline Gamblin	MSC
Miguel Nuevo	EFCA
Pedro Riveira	Xunta de Galicia
NWWAC Secretariat	
Mo Mathies	Executive Secretary
Matilde Vallerani	Deputy Executive Secretary