

# NWWAC Brown Crab Focus Group

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CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
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**NORTH WESTERN  
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# NWWAC Brown Crab Focus Group

## Terms of Reference

- An agreed strategy for the management of brown crab fisheries in the NWWAC region, that recognises the existing different regimens in the producer countries and devises means to reach:
  - 1. A coherent approach to optimise the use of management measures for brown crab.
  - 2. Adoption of management plans (for example Fisheries Improvement Programs (FIPs)) by producer countries, as necessary and appropriate, to:
    - (i) achieve certification at the highest possible level e.g. Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)
    - (ii) achieve best possible self-management of brown crab fisheries without prescriptive, top-down regulatory measures.

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- Previous meetings of Brown Crab FG  
Paris & Dublin 2017:
    - MS data not comparable
    - National management measurements are not comparable
- Opportunity for FG to address this issue?

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- September 2017:
  - Isle of Man fisher-based data collection
  - Offer of financial support from Funding Fish for data collection project

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- **Draft proposal developed:**
- Select one representative vessel in each of the Areas Orkney, Via, South West, Irish Sea, Celtic Sea and Channel.
- Install identical remote electronic equipment on each vessel
- Train the crew on operation
- Operate for 12 months to provide a “snapshot” of comparable non-randomised data
- Assess data to determine the value of remote electronic monitoring by fishermen for future management strategies

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- **Draft proposal contd.:**
- The Brown Crab FG would act a Steering Committee
- The administrative costs would not be any greater than those already being generated by the operation of the FG (€30,000)
- The operational costs would be met by Funding Fish (€74,000)

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- November 2017:
  - Draft Project submitted to EXCOM
  - Not approved

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- Revised version:
- Proposal to demonstrate the value of concerted fisher-based data collection using remote electronic monitoring (REM) systems for brown crab (*Cancer pagurus*) in North Western Waters



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## Questions to be resolved

- Should NWWAC be involved directly in this or similar projects?
- If “YES” what are the supporting funding possibilities?
  - Bord Iascaigh Mhara Sustainable Fishing Scheme?
  - Transnational Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) (FARNET)?

# Thank you



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