

Focus Group Brown Crab

Madrid

10 March 2020

Brown Crab Focus Group Membership

Current members:

Barrie Deas NFFO UK

Gary Hodgeson NFFO UK

Paul Trebilcock CFPO UK

Norah Parke KFO (Chair) IE

Patrick Murphy IS&WFPO IE

Enda Conneely IMRO IE

Edward Fahy Biologist (rtd) IE

Rosalie Crespin CNPMEM Fr

Yannick Calvez CDPMEM 29 Fr

Erwan Quemeneur CDPMEM 29 Fr

Caroline Gamblin CDPMEM Fr

Manon Joguet FROMNord Fr

Purpose of Brown Crab Focus Group?

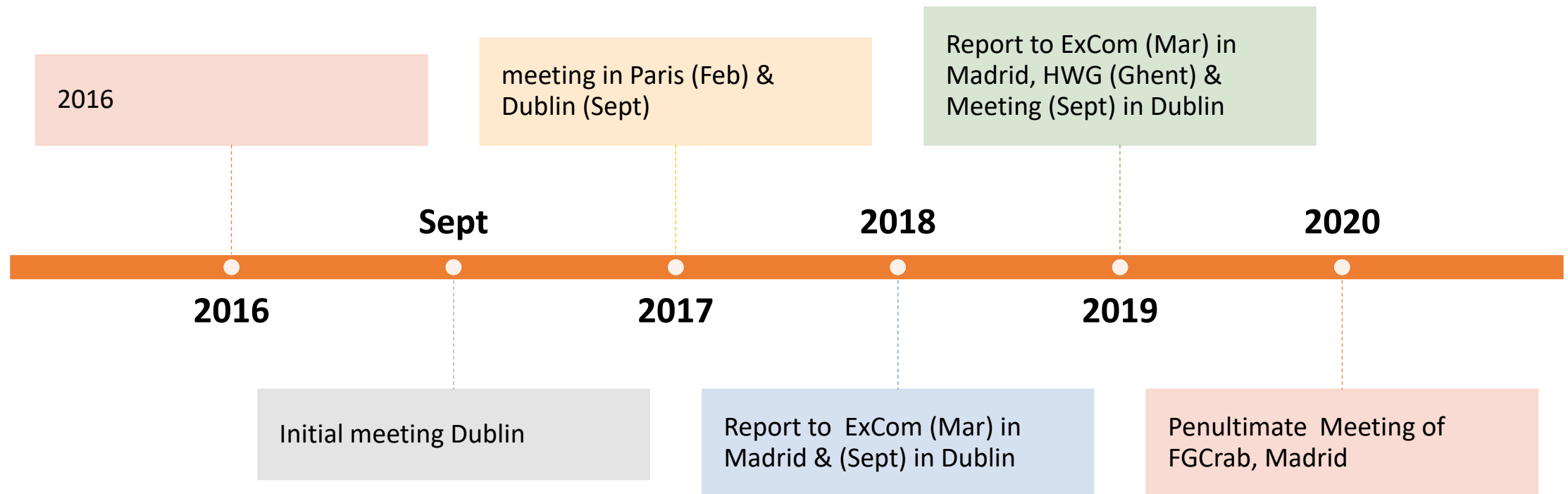
ACRUNET – a transnational Interreg project which was the formalisation of an ad hoc industry/agency/science group concerned with a number of issues – market, transport, quality – common to all brown crab stakeholders.

There were many substantial conclusions and outputs from ACRUNET but a major concern of the French partner, CNPMEM, was the unresolved issue of comparable management of brown crab fisheries across the main producer countries UK, Ireland and France.

When ACRUNET concluded the partners concerned signed up to a further effort to address this issue

The NWWAC agreed to facilitate the process by establishing this Focus Group

Brown Crab Focus Group Timeline



Paris Meeting 2017

Concentrated on Fishery Management Data

- Ireland - Dr Oliver Tully
- UK – Dr Ewan Bell
- France – Dr Martial Laurans (submission presented by fellow scientists present)

Message : Insufficient data to provide transnational advice

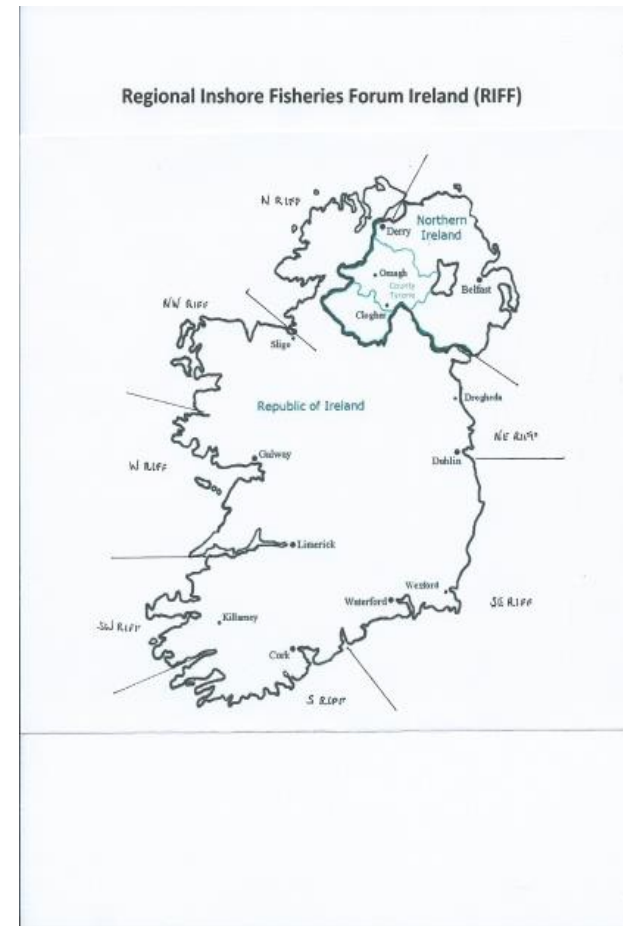
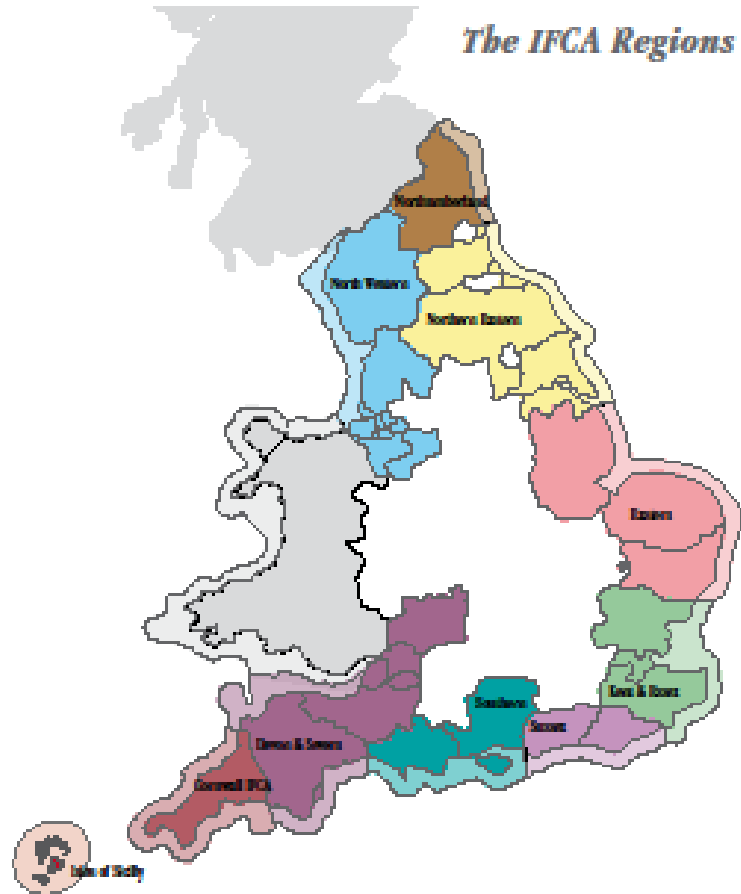
Result: Thrust of work was to address the lack of data which proved to be un-productive

Other
Developments
bringing about
convergence of
management.....

The development of Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs) in

- Ireland: The workplan addresses the three Principles:
 1. Principle 1 Stock Management
 2. Principle 2 Minimising Environmental Impact
 3. Principle 3 Management System
- (<http://irishbrowncrabfip.ie>)
- Associated NGOs: Sustainable Fisheries Partnership and FisheryProgress.org
- UK: Project UK Fisheries Improvements (PUKFI)
- Associated NGO: Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)

And Inshore Management Areas UK & RoI



Current Position.....

- The UK and Ireland have made huge strides in managing inshore fisheries similar to the French regional divisions but there remain regulatory obstacles to adopting the permit system used by France in addition to considerable resistance by industry.
- A recent consultation with the Northern Ireland brown crab industry demonstrated that such options were not favoured by fishermen.

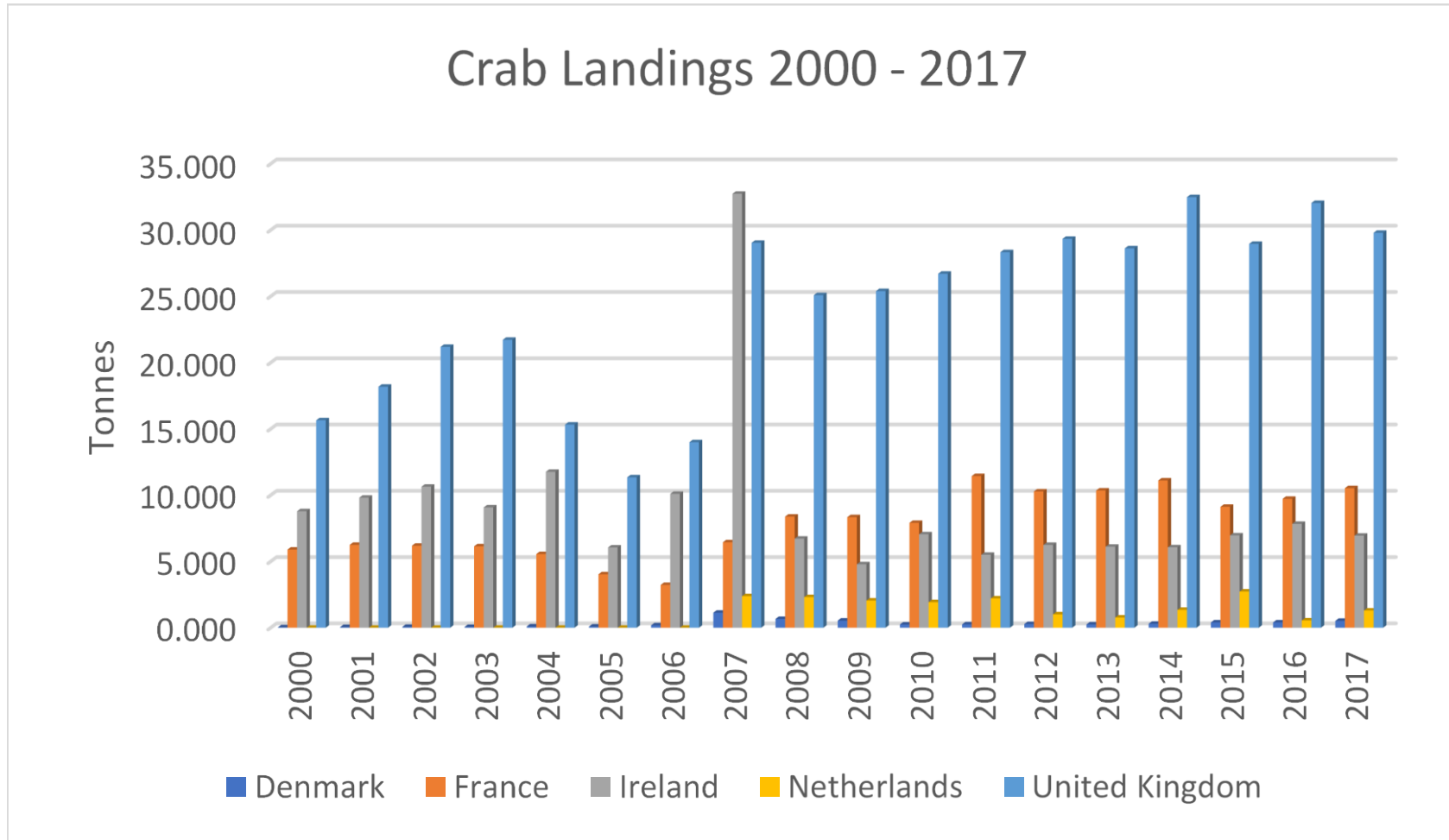
• Northern Ireland Brown Crab Management Consultation

PROPOSAL	IN FAVOUR	AGAINST
• Increase MLS?	70	3
• Cap Effort?	54	17
• Permit for BC?	37	33
• Based on track record?	22	48
• Based on days at sea?	12	58

Recent Developments....

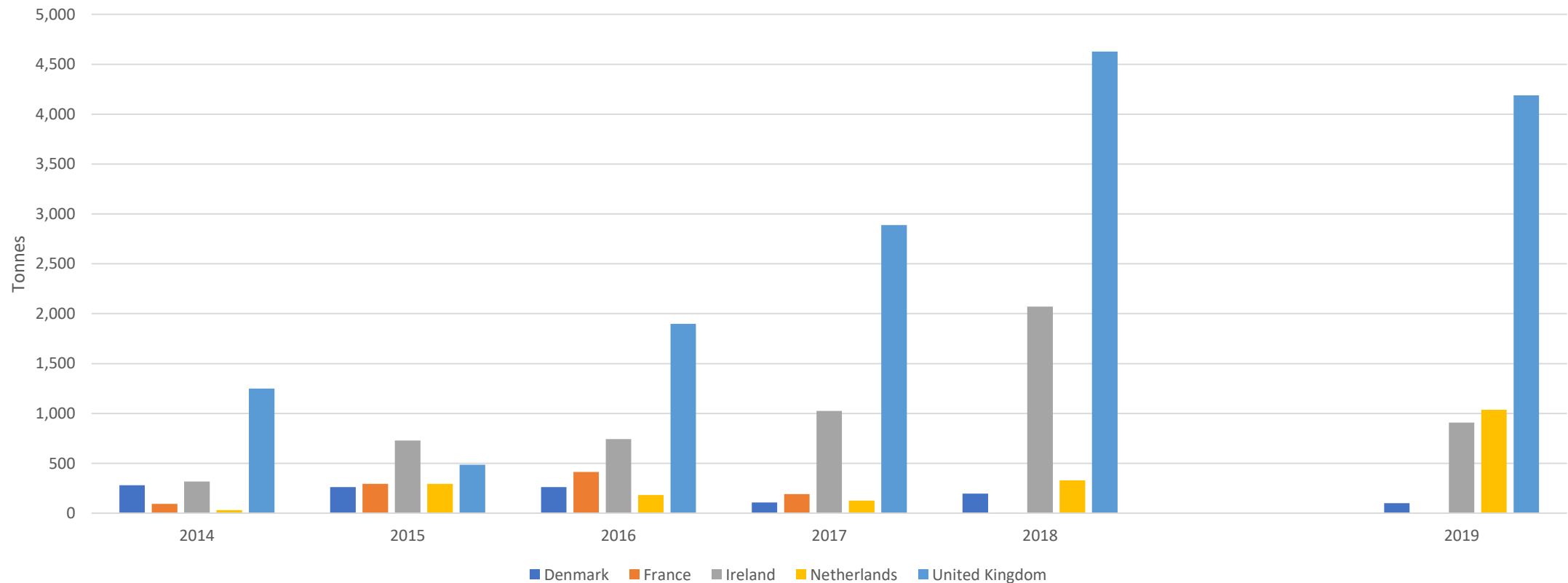
- Since ACRUNET the fisheries have changed significantly
- The North Sea now has a major crab fishery
- There are additional countries targeting crab....
- Effort has increased enormously.....

How substantial are the changes?



There has been a significant increase in export of brown crab to China – but mostly by UK and Ireland

Crab Exports to China by European Countries



Where does this FG sit now?

Q1 WP:

- The effects of emerging drivers of effort in brown crab fisheries which have been identified as price and demand, increased effort and the Landing Obligation as shown by
 - 1. Their effects on existing brown crab measurement measures
 - 2. The effects of certification and Fisheries Improvement Projects (FIPs)
 - 3. New data collection techniques and their impact on traditional scientific assessments
 - 4. Scientific advice regarding management strategies for brown crab applicable in all relevant jurisdictions.

Where now?

Q1 WP: Envisaged that this WP would be carried out by frequent Video Conference but there was little take up

Were the Objectives and Tasks irrelevant?

Should we revise and/or replace?

This Focus Group must develop its advice and finalise its business before the next scheduled meeting in Ghent – July next

Further Work and Advice