

Report from the Chair of the Executive Committee

General Assembly
24 September 2020



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
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Year 15 – NWWAC Meetings

■ 3 Executive Committee

- Virtual March 2020
- Virtual July 2020
- Virtual September 2020

■ 8 Sub-regional Working Groups

- (written consultation following cancellation of spring meeting due to COVID-19 crisis) March 2020
- Virtual July 2020
- Virtual September 2020

■ 3 Horizontal Working Groups

- Madrid March 2020
- Virtual July 2020
- Virtual September 2020

Year 15 – NWWAC Meetings (contd)

■ 37 Focus Groups / Advice Drafting Groups

- 2 **Sea bass** virtual (November 2019, September 2020)
- 2 **Skates and Rays** virtual (March 2020, April 2020)
- 2 **Brown Crab** Madrid (March 2020), virtual (June 2020)
- 1 **Control & Compliance** (Madrid 2020)
- 10 **Marine Plastics** joint with BSAC, NSAC and PELAC virtual (October 2019 – June 2020)
- 3 **Scallop** virtual (January 2020), Madrid (March 2020), virtual (September 2020)
- 3 **Climate & Environment** virtual (June, July 2020)
- 3 **Seismic Activities** joint with PELAC virtual (June, July, September 2020)
- 2 **Brexit** virtual (June, September 2020)
- 3 **Cetaceans Bycatch** (July, 2x September 2020)
- 1 **Fishing Opportunities 2021** (September 2020)
- 1 **ADG Choke Advice** virtual (October 2019)
- 4 **Landing Obligation** virtual (2x July, August, September 2020)

Year 15 – NWWAC Meetings (Contd)

■ 8 Inter-AC

- COM Inter-AC meeting Brussels (November 2019)
- COM Financial Seminar for the Advisory Councils virtual (June 2020)
- 6 Inter-Secretariat coordination meetings

■ 3 Workshops co-hosted by the NWWAC

- Workshop on Plastics & the Seafood Supply Chain Brussels (November 2019)
- Workshop on the Circular Design of Fishing Gear Brussels (January 2020)
- Workshop on monitoring, control and enforcement of the Landing Obligation (virtual, July 2020)

■ 1 meeting co-hosted by the NWWAC

- ICES Irish Sea Benchmark (WkIrish 6) Dublin (November 2019)

Year 15

External Meetings with NWWAC participation



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Year 15 - External Meetings

- **North Western Waters Member States Group**

 - Meetings of the High Level Group and Technical Group

- **ICES**

 - MIACO & MIAC (January 2019)

 - ICES Benchmarking Flat Fish, Ghent

 - ICES WKSHEAR, Copenhagen

 - ICES WKCELTIC, Copenhagen

 - ICES WKDEM, Copenhagen

 - ICES WKFlatNSCs, virtual

 - ICES WKMIXFISH, virtual

 - ICES ADGBYC, virtual

 - ICES ADGDEEP, virtual

 - ICES WKRPChange, virtual

- **ClimeFish workshop** “Towards an Adaptation strategy package for EU fisheries & aquaculture” (Brussels, October 2019)

Year 15 - External Meetings (cont'd)

- **STECF**

STECF EWG - 'Evaluation of the joint recommendations of the landing obligation and technical measures' Advisory Board (virtual, June 2020)

- **DG MARE**

EC Workshop on fisheries and aquaculture product traceability (Brussels, October 2020)

EC Workshop on the implementation of the Port Reception Facilities Directive (Brussels, February 2020)

EC Workshop on Circular Design Fishing Gear (Brussels, February 2020)

Year 15

Letters, Opinions and Advice 28 submissions

All NWWAC advice and correspondence is available in the publications section of the NWWAC website:

www.nwwac.org



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Letters, Opinions and Advice

Landing Obligation:

- NWWAC Advice on Addressing Choke Risk in NWW after exemptions (November 2019)
- North Western Waters Choke Species Analysis (October 2019);
- NWWAC advice to support the NWW MSG in the preparation of the Joint Recommendation Discard Plan 2021 (May 2020)

Advice on management strategies:

- NWWAC Advice on management measures for sea bass 2020 (November 2019)
- NWWAC/NSAC joint Advice on the management of Skates and Rays (April 2020)
- **NWWAC advice brown crab management (July 2020)**

Letters, Opinions and Advice (ctnd.)

Responses to EC Consultations:

- AC response to COM request on Management of Pollack in the Celtic Seas and the English Channel in relation to recreational fisheries (November 2019)
- AC response to COM request on Place of Small-Scale Fisheries in the Advisory Councils (December 2019)
- AC response to COM request on annual report on Landing Obligation implementation in 2019 (February 2020)
- AC response to COM consultation on harmonized standards for circular design of fishing gear (August 2020)
- AC online participation in European Climate Pact consultation (June 2020)
- AC online participation in 2030 Climate Target Plan public consultation (June 2020)
- AC online participation in and response to the public consultation on the new EU Adaptation Strategy (August 2020)
- NWWAC advice in response to the consultation on Fishing Opportunities 2021 (September 2020)

Letters, Opinions and Advice (ctnd.)

Other submissions:

- BSAC, LDAC, MAC, NSAC, NWWAC and PelAC Joint advice to COM on EMFF funding for ACs research (December 2019)
- NWWAC request for clarification on UK membership of the NWWAC after 31 January 2020 (January 2020)
- NWWAC letter to the COM requesting for genetic studies to be integrated into the Data Collection Framework (February 2020)
- NWWAC letter to the COM requesting clarification on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the functioning of the work of the Commission, Member States and the Advisory Council (April 2020)
- NWWAC letter to EFCA requesting release of full report on evaluation of compliance with the Landing Obligation North Western Waters 2016 – 2017 (April 2020)
- NWWAC letter to the COM requesting clarification of current terms of the closed area for conservation of cod in the Irish Sea (April 2020)

Letters, Opinions and Advice (ctnd.)

Other submissions:

- NWWAC letter to COM requesting an STECF evaluation in relation to whiting in ICES Division 7a (Irish Sea) (April 2020)
- NWWAC, PELAC, NSAC, MAC, AAC letter on the Consultation of the Advisory Councils on the Farm to Fork Strategy Roadmap (May 2020)
- NWWAC letter on remedial measures for cod and whiting in the Celtic Sea (May 2020)
- NWWAC contribution in support of the evaluation of the Deep Sea Access Regulation (EU) 2016/2336 (May 2020)
- NWWAC recommendation to EFCA on how to improve cooperation between EFCA and the ACs (June 2020)
- Multi-AC Advice on the implementation of the Single Use Plastics Directive and operational aspects of the Fishing for Litter Scheme (July 2020)
- Joint NWWAC/PELAC advice for a non-recurrent request to ICES on the potential impacts of seismic activities (August 2020)
- NWWAC views on and issues with the definition of directed fishing (August 2020)

Year 16 (01 October 2020 – 30 September)

Work Programme

The proposed work programme for Year 16 was submitted to the Commission on 05 August 2020



Work Programme 2020 - 2021

- Landing obligation
 - Discard plan 2021 implementation & advice 2022
 - Choke Identification Tool
 - Specific technical measures
- Regulations implementation
 - Regionalisation
 - Compliance, Control and enforcement
 - NWW Multi-Annual Plan
 - Technical measures

Work Programme 2020 - 2021

- Improving the quality of scientific and economic data (follow up on WKIRISH);
- ICES – coordination
- Annual setting of TACs
- Preparation for the review of the CFP
- Inter-AC coordination
- Future Functioning of the ACs (FG Brexit)
- Working procedures
 - Finalisation and Adoption of Processes and Procedures,
 - Communications and Outreach evaluation

Work Programme 2020 - 2021

- Ecosystem & Environment
 - Ecosystem based fisheries management;
 - Climate Change and Environment
 - EU Green Deal & Farm to Fork Initiative
 - EU Biodiversity Strategy
 - MPAs / Spatial Planning / Wind Farms & other offshore installations
- Social
 - Labour availability & Crew Welfare
 - Safety

NWWAC Meetings Year 16

- **February/March 2021**
Working Groups and Executive Committee.
- **July 2021**
ICES Advice, Working Groups and Executive Committee.
- **September 2021**
General Assembly, Executive Committee and Working Groups.

NWWAC Meetings Year 16

9 Focus Groups and 2 Advice Drafting Groups

- Landing Obligation, Control & Compliance, Brexit, Climate & Environment, Seismic (Spatial Management), Sea Bass, Scallops, Skates & Rays, Crab;
- Fishing Opportunities, Cetaceans Bycatch;

**The number of groups and meetings may change depending on urgency and budget availability, as decided by ExCom*

Other expected meetings with NWWAC participation

- EFCA Advisory Board meeting (virtual October 2020)
- Coordination meetings between DG MARE and the Advisory Councils; Brussels (or virtual Nov 2020);
- Coordination meeting between Advisory Councils; Vigo (November 2020)
- Annual Meeting between ICES and the Advisory Councils (MIAC, MIACO) (January 2021).

Year 16 (01 October 2020 – 30 September 2021)

ADOPTION of the Work Programme

Thank you



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