



---

CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
SEPTENTRIONALES

**NORTH WESTERN  
WATERS**  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA  
LAS AGUAS  
NOROCCIDENTALES

---

# HORIZONTAL WORKING GROUP

—  
13 September 2022

# Agenda

10:00 – 10:20	_____	1	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome from the Chair (Emiel Brouckaert)</li><li>• Apologies</li><li>• Adoption of the agenda</li><li>• Action points from the last meeting</li></ul>
10:20 – 10:45	_____	2	<b>Review of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive</b>
10:45 – 11:30	_____	3	<b>Dialogue with the NWW Member States Group</b>
11:30 – 12:00	_____	4	<b>State of Play regarding the influence of global environmental policy on EU Fisheries</b>
12:00 – 13:30			<b>Lunch</b>
13:30 – 14:50	_____	5	<b>Focus Group update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inter-AC Brexit Forum</li><li>• Landing Obligation</li><li>• Skates &amp; Rays</li><li>• Climate &amp; Environment</li><li>• Control &amp; Compliance</li><li>• Social Aspects</li><li>• Seismic &amp; Wind energy</li><li>• Brown Crab</li></ul>
14:50 – 15:00	_____	6	<b>Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair</b>



# Action points from the last meeting

1. Proposal from the HWG to the ExCom to subcontract Michael Keatinge to work on Choke ID Tool with continuous update.
2. Secretariat to request MAC Chair/ PelAC Secretariat to set up next date of Inter-AC Brexit Forum.
3. Issue regarding Scottish interpretation of technical regulation to be kept on the NWWAC agenda.
4. Secretariat to write to the ORE advisory group with request to be considered for participation and explaining the NWWAC's role and interest.
5. Secretariat to schedule meeting of the Focus Group Landing Obligation to work on advice for the COM consultation on Fishing Opportunities 2023 and ICES advice (25 July 2023).
6. Proposal for the Secretariat to initiate the organisation of a workshop on skates & rays management similar to the EC Focus Group in 2017
7. Secretariat to contact the members of the Focus Group Control regarding expressions of interest for taking over Chair position
8. Secretariat to organise next meeting of the Focus Group Social Aspects for September with specific focus on finalising the ToR and the intended questionnaire
9. Secretariat to contact the NSAC with a view of establishing a joint Focus Group Brown Crab to review existing work and advice on potential management measures
10. Secretariat to circulate link and survey from Mindfully Wired Communications on the online fisheries tool
11. Secretariat to initiate the setting up of a Focus Group Online Chart Tool to assist with the fine tuning of the prototype





- 2 **Review of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive** – Anna Bob Remijn, DG Environment
  - 3 **Dialogue with the NWW Member States**  
Juan Antonio Espejo Leña, Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca Y Alimentación, Spain
  - 4 **State of play regarding the influence of global environmental policy on EU fisheries** – Despina Symons, EBCD
- 







---

# LUNCH BREAK

**12:00 – 13:30 CET**







# 5 Focus Group update

- Inter-AC Brexit Forum
- Landing Obligation
- Skates & Rays
- Climate & Environment
- Control & Compliance
- Social Aspects
- Seismic & Wind energy
- Brown Crab



# Inter-AC Brexit Forum

- Established between PelAC, NWWAC, NSAC, MAC and LDAC
- 4 meetings:
  - 10 February chaired by the PelAC
  - 05 May chaired by the NWWAC
  - 02 June chaired by the NSAC
  - 30 June chaired by the MAC
- Commission attendance and updates (confidential)
- Joint letter on stakeholder participation in the Specialised Committee on Fisheries submitted on 04 April 2022, reply received 03 May 2022
- Joint letter on bringing fisheries matters through to Specialized Committee for Fisheries (SCF) via existing advisory bodies (ACs) submitted on 20 July, no response received yet
- Next meeting 15 September chaired by the LDAC

# Landing Obligation

- Emiel Brouckaert, Rederscentrale
- 3 meetings virtual (Feb, Apr, July 2022)
- NWWAC recommendation to update the economic fleet data to reflect the current commodity price crisis submitted to the Commission on 13 May 2022, reply received from the Commission 21 June 2022
- NWWAC advice on Joint Recommendation Discard Plan submitted to the NWW MSG on 27 April 2022
- NWWAC advice Fishing Opportunities 2023 submitted on 25 August
- Next meeting scheduled for 23 September



# Joint NWWAC/NSAC Focus Group Skates & Rays

- Led by the NWWAC
- Chair John Lynch, IS&EFPO, Vice-Chair Johnny Woodlock, Irish Seal Sanctuary
- 3 virtual meetings (December 2021, February, September 2022)
- Submission of supporting information for the setting up of an STECF Expert Working Group on Skates & Rays in January 2022
- Submission of NWWAC Advice on best practice measures for the management of skates and rays in the North Western Waters and the North Sea to the NWW Member States Group in May 2022
- Work of the ACs on this topic has been positively noted by the Commission as it informed the EU-UK negotiations
- Draft joint request to the Commission on the harmonisation of skates and rays identification guides on an EU wide basis approved by HWG, awaiting approval by both Executive Committees before submission to the Commission
- 5 members of this Focus Group will join the STECF EWG 22-08 skates & rays scheduled for 26 - 30 September 2022 as observers
- Focus Group will review STECF working documents prior to the EWG meeting to identify need for agreed positions
- Draft Terms of Reference for the planned workshop will be finalized following the results from the EWG
- In person workshop to be held in Jan/Feb of 2023 based on format of 2017 workshop organized by the Commission

# Climate & Environment

- Chair Jacopo Pasquero, EBCD
- Response submitted to public consultation on “Sustainable EU Food System”
- Following developments on decarbonization – waiting for clear indications from the Commission

# Control & Compliance

- Restart needed with new Terms of Reference to be agreed



# Joint NWWAC/NSAC Focus Group Social Aspects

- Led by NWWAC
- Chair Bruno Dachicourt, ETF, Vice-Chair Jasmine Vlietinck, Rederscentrale
- 7 virtual meetings (Nov 2021, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, Jun, Sep 2022)
- Joint NWWAC/NSAC submission to European Commission regarding the fuel crisis, submitted 14 March, reply received 16 March
- Development of draft advice in progress





# Underwater Noise & Offshore wind energy developments

- NWWAC/PelAC virtual workshop on the impacts of seismic and offshore wind energy developments held on 10 May 2022, report published 25 July
- Pre-meeting held on 03 May, Chair Gonçalo Carvalho (PelAC OIG Vice-Chair)
- Development of draft advice paper by NWWAC Secretariat
- 08 June meeting of the NWWAC/PelAC advice drafting group to review draft advice document
- 23 June Draft advice sent for approval to HWG - large number of comments received
- 09 September meeting to review and finalise draft advice





# Brown Crab

NWWAC developed draft ToR, shared with MAC and NSAC, presentation of draft ToR at MAC WG 2 meeting 19 Sept

## Purpose

- Overview of previous work by NWWAC, NSAC and MAC on brown crab
- Overview of outcomes from the ACRUNET project
- Preparation of joint advice on brown crab fisheries management and supply chain matters for the consideration of the relevant Working Groups and potential adoption by the Executive Committees
- Review the impact of emerging environmental issues such as:
  - o Possible threat to brown crab populations due to rising sea temperatures, invasive species, new infections
  - o MPA, which limit fishing opportunities but may improve Crab survival – finding a balance
  - o Necessary reduction in emissions which will negatively affect fishing effort and the supply chain (in particular live transport: both vivier and air freight of live crab)
- Review the role of EU (DG SANTE & TRADE) regarding brown crab
- Review the route to market(s) and identify obstacles/solutions
- Develop clear guidelines for industry regarding exports to Asian countries

# Brown Crab ctnd.

## Proposed outcomes

- In-person international focus group style workshop involving research institutes, development agencies, ICES, Commission and STECF representatives, members from all three ACs to identify concrete advancements to the management processes in the relevant marine areas (possibly held in Brussels with COM facilitation)
- Based on the workshop, draft advice with a series of recommendations to the European Commission and relevant EU Member States on the brown crab supply chain issues, such as:
  - Management measures
  - Collection of information on fishing effort and fleet structures
  - Potential communication tools and information sources for operators
  - Specific socio-economic challenges for stakeholders in this fishery.

Better informed industry particularly regarding potential markets and supply chain issues including potential guidelines for industry regarding exports to Asian countries.



# Brown Crab ctnd.

## Timeline

- First FG meeting in October 2022
- Dates of additional meetings to be determined by FG members
- Workshop in December/January
- Regular progress reports to the relevant Working Groups
- Presentation and final report to the corresponding Working Groups and Executive Committees by September 2023

## Location

- Meetings via virtual conferencing
- Possibility of in-person meetings if national safety rules allow
- Site visit to Emmahaven, Groningen Seaports, and Urk for overview of supply chain from best practice on vivier vessels to sorting, and packing
- Distribution of information and documents electronically

## Resources, inputs and external sources

- Regulatory framework of the brown crab fisheries
- Data from the European Commission and the Member States on MCRS, landings, stock fluctuations, seasonality, route to market, and other parameters
- Input from members
- Input from ICES, COM, STECF, national marine research institutes, national seafood development agencies

---

Thank you.

North Western Waters Advisory Council 