



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR  
**LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
SEPTENTRIONALES**

**NORTH WESTERN  
WATERS**  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

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**Workshop on research needs and roadmap for further research on cod in the northern shelf seas (including cod in the Celtic Seas) (WKRRCOD)**

**The Place Hotel, Edinburgh, 1-2 November 2022**

This workshop was set up by the Northern Fishery Alliance and organized by ICES. 35 participants

➤ ToR:

- a) Identify evidence needs necessary to achieve management objectives of cod fisheries
- b) Share plans for assessment and advice for North Sea and Celtic Seas cod (+ upcoming benchmark on NS cod and WoS cod)
- c) Consider knowledge and data sources, potential methods and timetables by which further evidence can be incorporated into the scientific advisory process and identify where industry can provide evidence to underpin modelling and advice

## **Objectives:**

- balance social, ecological and economic consideration in management
- improve agreement between industry and ICES on stock status perception → allow advice to match the actual biomass
- Need for flexibility in the process of setting advice

## **Challenges:**

- landing obligation (not aligned with socio economic objectives of the fisheries)
- relationship between fisheries and society
- Changing distribution of cod is a challenge, effects of distributional change on the assessments are unclear.

Some participants felt that the NS cod stocks should be split in several regional assessment, using genetic, tagging and other data to ensure areas are appropriate.

## **Suggestions for changes:**

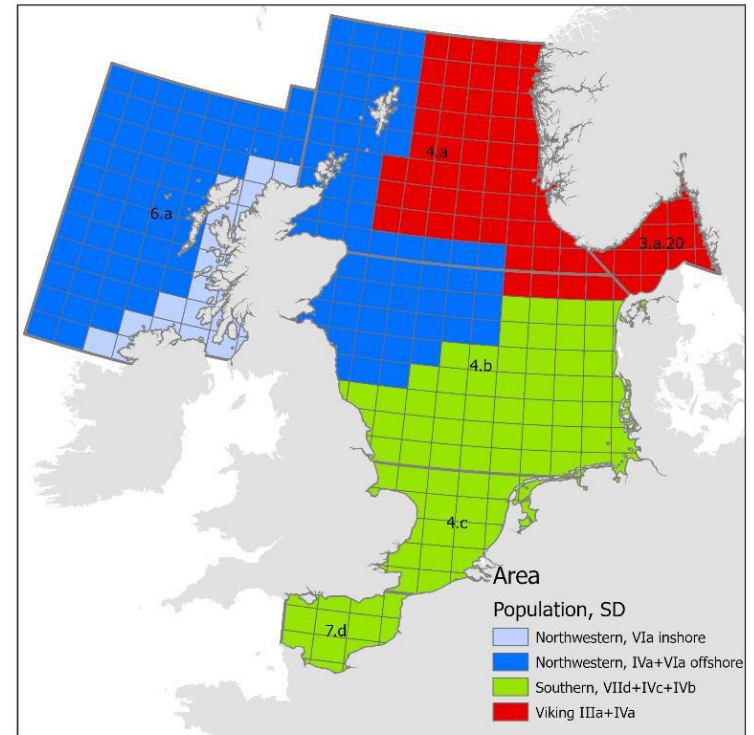
- incorporate industry data and surveys in the stock assessment → assessment/ advice update with real time data
- Workshop with industry, managers and scientists should be conducted on a regular basis to improve communication

## Plans for the joint North Sea/Channel/Skagerrak/West of Scotland cod benchmark

Data compilation workshop held in November 2022

Benchmark meeting in February 2023:

- 1) Assess NS and WoS cod in a single assessment framework
- 2) Explicitly model sub-stock dynamics



- Science process needs records but compromised by compliance (legal issues with the LO)
  - Need for sampling and observers that can't be resolved with electronic monitoring (more compliance than science)
  - Self-sampling by fishers appeared to be a strong solution
  - Industry input to the advisory process could be organized in international/national meeting ahead of assessments
- This could aid in making better intermediate year assumptions

- Guidance from ICES on what kind of data should be collected
- Pre assessment should be organized to discuss new knowledge in support of annual assessment including intermediate Year assumption. This meeting should be repeated annually in advance of benchmark
- Next meeting should include managers and address policy and LO
- Similar processes as WKRRCOD can be organized by region, focusing on major challenges in assessment and advice as perceived by the industry.

Demersal and pelagic fish should be addressed separately. Likely topics for 2023 : monkfish, ling and mixed fishery issues. Multispecies/ecosystem expansions could be possible topics in the future



**WORKSHOP ON RESEARCH NEEDS AND A  
ROADMAP FOR FURTHER RESEARCH ON COD  
IN THE NORTHERN SHELF SEAS (INCLUDING  
COD IN THE CELTIC SEAS) (WKRRCOD)**

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- **Second meeting will take place in Edinburgh on the 23rd of May 2023**
  - ✓ **List issues from stakeholders and fisheries managers which they perceive as suffering from further knowledge deficits and prioritise recommendations for research to improve scientific advice for cod**
  - ✓ **Produce a roadmap for the delivery of future research needs for the management of fisheries on cod and mixed demersal fisheries in southern shelf seas**