



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

**NORTH WESTERN
WATERS**
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

HORIZONTAL WORKING GROUP

14 March 2023



www.nwwac.org

Agenda

11:00 – 11:20	1	Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome from the Chair (Emiel Brouckaert)• Apologies• Adoption of the agenda• Action points from the last meeting			
11:20 – 11:45	2	Dialogue with the NWW Member States Group – Ms. Deirdre O’Leary, NWW MSTG Chair.			
11:45 – 12:30	3	Legislative impacts of the Biodiversity Strategy in the national context – R. Cronin, DHLGH <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU Action Plan to conserve fisheries resources and protect marine ecosystems• Nature Restoration Law• MSFD – EU Threshold values seafloor integrity• Proposed Marine Protected Area Bill Ireland			
12:30 – 13:30		Lunch			
13:30 – 13:50	4	Protected areas designations in the EU and the UK <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consultation process according to Art. 11 under the CFP• Marine Management Organisation Stage 2 and 3 consultations on MPAs			
13:50 – 14:20	5	Celtic Seas Ecosystem Overview – H. Ojaveer, ICES			
14:20 – 14:50	6	Focus Group update <table><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inter-AC Brexit Forum• Landing Obligation• Skates & Rays• Climate & Environment</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">Control & ComplianceSocial AspectsSeismic & Wind energyBrown Crab</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">Proposal to establish new FG on CFP package</td></tr></table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inter-AC Brexit Forum• Landing Obligation• Skates & Rays• Climate & Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Control & ComplianceSocial AspectsSeismic & Wind energyBrown Crab	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Proposal to establish new FG on CFP package
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14:50 – 15:00	7	Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair			



Action points from the last meeting

1. Secretariat to get in touch with ORE to organise presentation on Irish Maritime Planning Act 2021 in collaboration with the PelAC.
2. Secretariat to monitor registry for participation at stakeholder workshop on MSFD on 15 November organised by the Commission.
3. Secretariat to contact NSAC to restart FG MSFD.
4. Secretariat to collect topics to be suggested for the agenda of the upcoming NWW MSG meeting on 26 September.
5. Secretariat to consider if a specific forum is needed for further follow-up of developments in global environmental policies.
6. The Focus Group LO to discuss and propose contracting Michael Keatinge to work on Choke MitigationTool.
7. The Focus Group Climate & Environment will start working on bottom trawling in VMEs in preparation to the Commission's public consultation.
8. Secretariat to organise new Focus Group Control with new Terms of Reference to be agreed.
9. Secretariat to propose to NSAC to take over lead of the joint FG on Social Aspects



- 2 Dialogue with the NWW Member States Group
– Ms. Deirdre O’Leary
 - 3 Legislative impacts of the Biodiversity Strategy
in the national context – Richard Cronin, DHLGH
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LUNCH BREAK

12:30 – 13:30 CET

- 4 Protected areas designations in the EU and the UK – DG MARE
- Consultation process according to Art. 11 under the CFP
 - Marine Management Organisation Stage 2 and 3 consultations on MPAs

STAGE 1

This stage assessed the impacts of fishing in four MPAs with offshore elements, for which management measures are now in force

STAGE 2

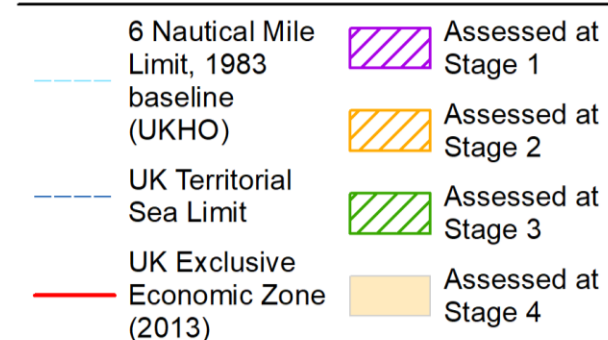
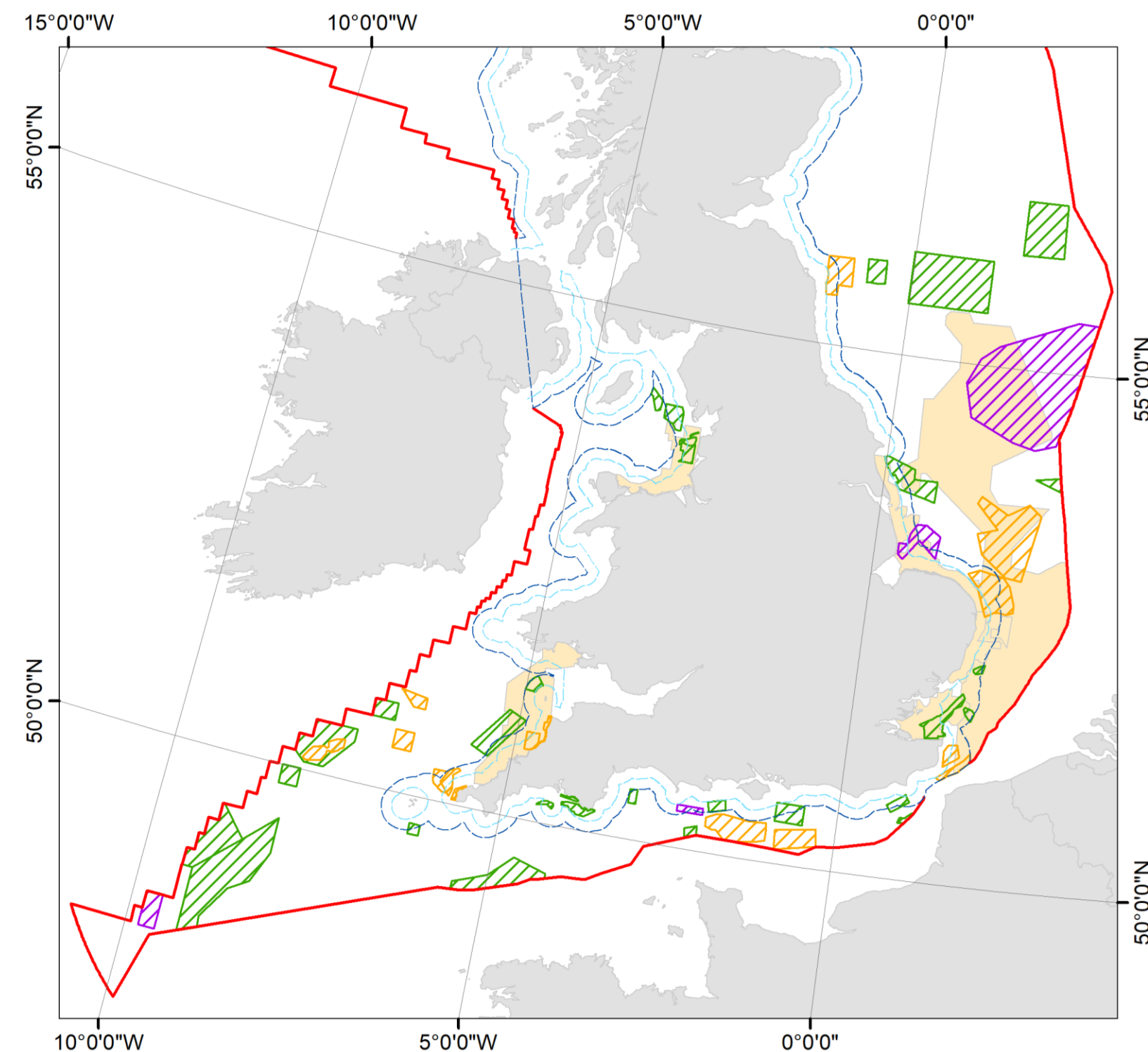
This stage is assessing and addressing the impacts of bottom towed gear on rock and reef features in 13 MPAs

STAGE 3

This stage is assessing and addressing the remaining impacts of fishing on all seabed MPA features and includes 41 sites in total

STAGE 4

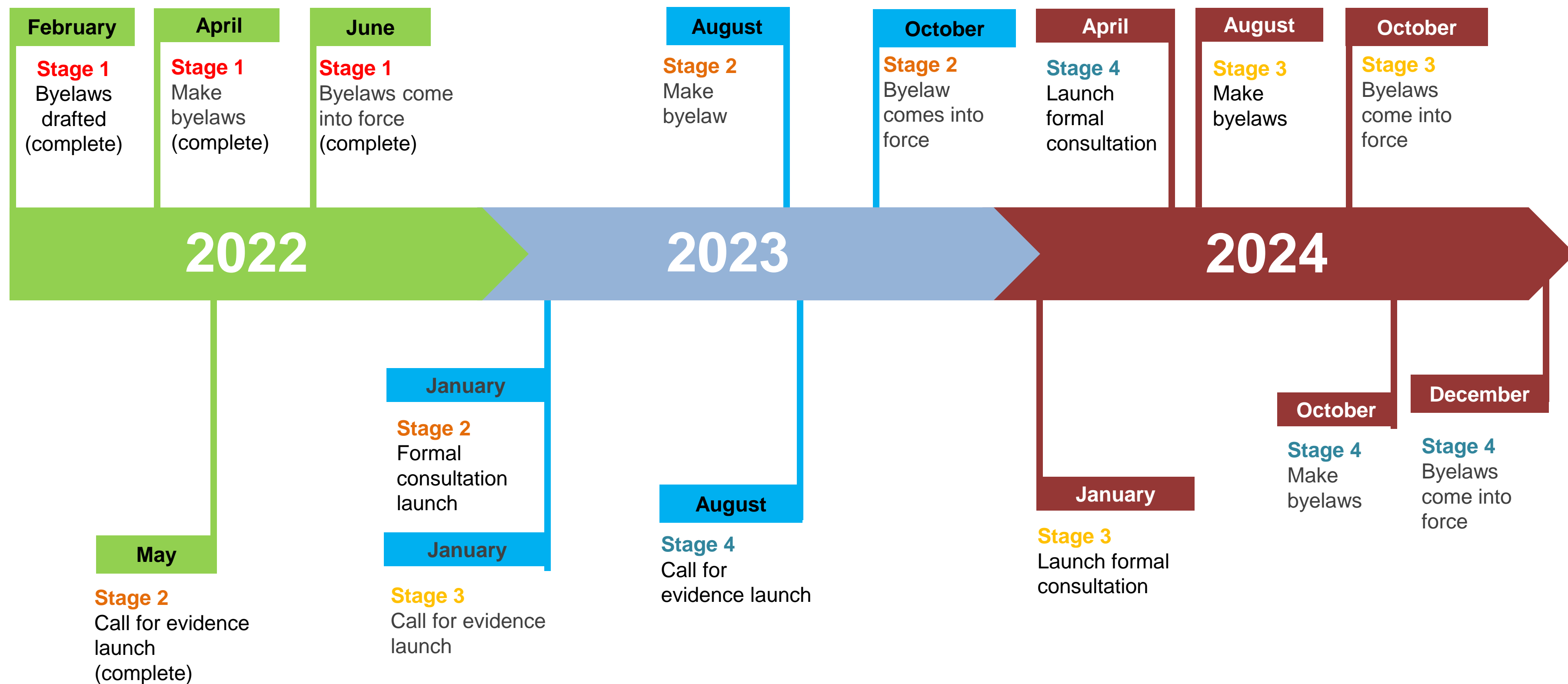
This stage is assessing and addressing five MPAs designated for highly mobile species (marine birds and harbour porpoise)



N.B. Stage 2 sites will also be assessed at Stage 3 for gear feature interactions not assessed at Stage 2.

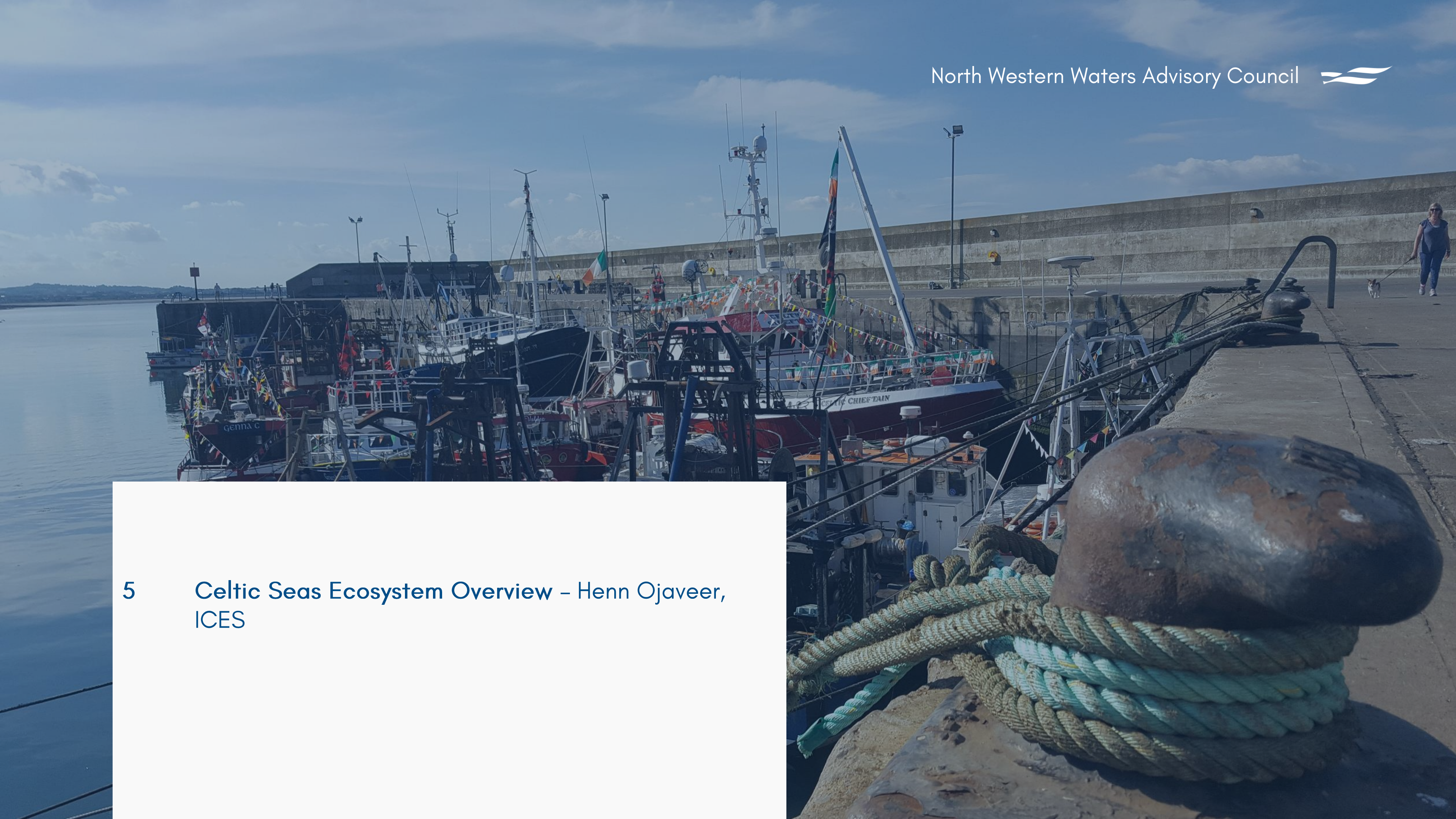
...ambitious for our seas and coasts

Offshore MPA Fisheries Management Timeline



...ambitious for our seas and coasts

5 Celtic Seas Ecosystem Overview – Henn Ojaveer, ICES





6 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
- 3 meetings:
 - 20 October 2022 chaired by the PelAC
 - 20 December chaired by the NWWAC
 - 24 February chaired by the NSAC
- Commission attendance and updates (confidential)
- 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
- Provisional EU – UK calendar
 - 08 March Working Group
 - 18–20 April Working Group
 - 07 June Specialised Committee on Fisheries
 - 11–13 July Working Group
 - 28 September Specialised Committee on Fisheries
- Next meeting 20 March chaired by the MAC

Landing Obligation

- 3 virtual meetings (September, November 2022, February 2023)
- Response to the WW MAP targeted consultation submitted 01 March
- Advice on the management of spurdog fishery 2023 submitted 09 March
- Work in progress on advice on the MSG Joint Recommendation for the Discard Plan 2024
- Presentation by Michael Keatinge on the further development of the choke tool taking into account existing exemptions

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 (October, December 2022, March 2023)
- In person workshop held on 09 February 2023
 - 37 participants
 - 8 Member States + UK
- Workshop report is being finalized and will be published soon
- Advice is currently being drafted by the members of the FG based on the discussions and conclusions from the workshop
- Next meeting 30 March 2023

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

- Facilitated by the NWWAC Secretariat
- 1 virtual meeting (December 2022)

Joint NSAC/NWWAC Focus Group Social Aspects

- Led by NSAC since 01 October 2022
- Chair Kenn Skau Fischer, Danmarks Fiskeriforening
- 4 virtual meetings (Oct, Nov 2022, Feb, Mar 2023)
- Joint NWWAC/NSAC advice on social aspects in fisheries submitted on 20 December 2022
- Development of draft advice on vessels safety Directive in progress



Underwater Noise & Offshore wind energy developments

- Joint NWWAC/PelAC advice on the impacts of underwater noise and offshore wind energy developments on commercial fisheries submitted on 11 October 2022
- Reply received 28 February 2023
- Joint NWWAC/PelAC Briefing on the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 Ireland held on 19 January 2023
- Report is currently being finalized and will be published soon
- Proposal to establish a new joint FG with the PelAC on ORE or wider marine spatial issues



Joint NWWAC/NSAC/MAC Focus Group Brown Crab

- Established in October 2022
- Led by the NWWAC
- Chair Norah Parke, KFO
- 4 virtual meetings (October, November 2022, January, February 2023)
- Proposed hybrid workshop to be held on 16 May in Paris
- Terms of Reference for this workshop are currently being drafted and experts identified
- Next meeting 27 March

Proposal for the establishment of a new Focus Group to follow up on the contents of the CFP package

- Package
 - CFP Report
 - CMO Report
 - Action Plan for the protection and restoration of the marine ecosystems to enable sustainable and resilient fisheries
 - Energy transition for EU fishery and aquaculture sectors
- Review impact of NWWAC advice on these topics
- Prepare new advice on contents.

Thank you.

North Western Waters Advisory Council 