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CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
SEPTENTRIONALES

**NORTH WESTERN  
WATERS**  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA  
LAS AGUAS  
NOROCCIDENTALES

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# HORIZONTAL WORKING GROUP

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10 October 2024



[www.nwwac.org](http://www.nwwac.org)

# Agenda

09:00 – 09:15

1. Welcome and introductions
  - Welcome from the Chair (Emiel Brouckaert)
  - Apologies
  - Adoption of the Agenda
  - Action points the last meeting (Ghent, 02 July 2024)

09:15 – 10:45

2. CFP evaluation – Julia Rubeck, DG MARE D.3

10:45 – 10:55

Coffee break

10:55 – 11:25

3. Commission update on UK communications – Norman Graham, DG MARE C.5

11:25 – 11:55

4. Ecological Sensitivity Analysis Celtic Sea – Damien Haberlin, MaREI, University College Cork

# Agenda

11:55 – 12:40

## 5. Focus Groups update

- Inter-AC Brexit Forum (Chair)
- CFP (Alexandra Philippe)
- Landing Obligation (Chair)
- Climate & Environment (Alexandra Philippe)
- Skates & Rays (John Lynch)
- Control and Compliance (Patrick Murphy)
- Social aspects (Tamara Talevska)
- Spatial Dimension (Secretariat)

12:40 – 12:50

## 6. Topics to be discussed at MIAC 2025

12:50 – 12:55

## 7. AOB

12:55 – 13:00

## 8. Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair

# Action points from the last meeting

- 1 FG Climate & Environment to evaluate TG Seabed work and determine if any advice is needed.
- 2 Members to send queries on the NRL to Secretariat for resolution by DG ENV, specifically on definitions within the NRL.
- 3 Secretariat to liaise with SEAwisE project on the organisation of a workshop in early spring and specifically on how to arrive at EBM using the work carried out within the AC.
- 4 Secretariat to circulate list of horizontal topics for Inter-AC Brexit Forum for feedback to see if the topics are still relevant.
- 5 Secretariat to follow up on organisation of control workshop as proposed by DG MARE.
- 6 Secretariat to circulate request for expressions of interest for participation at Phase 3 workshop of Fishers of the Future study.

# Action points from the last meeting

- 7 Proposal to organise joint webinar with PelAC on impact of ORE on fisheries.
- 8 Support MAC FG PEFCR and potentially advice “as is”.
- 9 Secretariat to follow up if there is any volunteer for this observer ship for the EU Agri Food Observatory, check with MAC.
- 10 Secretariat to contact members re. establishing the FG Seabass following discussions in the FG Landing Obligation.
- 11 Election of WG Chair at next meeting.





## 2. CFP evaluation – Julia Rubeck, DG MARE D.3

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# COFFEE BREAK

**10:55 – 11:05 CET**





### 3. Commission update on UK communications – Norman Graham, DG MARE C.5

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#### 4. Ecological Sensitivity Analysis Celtic Sea – Damien Haberlin, MaREI, University College Cork





## 5. Focus Group update

- Inter-AC Brexit Forum
- CFP
- Landing Obligation
- Climate & Environment
- Skates & Rays
- Control & Compliance
- Social Aspects
- Spatial Dimension





# Inter-AC Brexit Forum

- Established between PelAC, NWWAC, NSAC, MAC and LDAC
- 4 meetings in Year 19, hosted in rotation:
  - 09 October chaired by the PelAC
  - 05 February chaired by the NWWAC
  - 17 May chaired by the NSAC
  - 18 September chaired by the MAC
- Next meeting to be organized by the LDAC
- Commission attendance and updates (confidential)
- Topics at SCF:
  - King Scallops multi-year strategy
  - UK Discard Plans & FMPs
  - MPAs
  - Seabass
  - Technical measures



# CFP

- Chair Alexandra Philippe
- Vice-Chair Manu Kelberine
- Provided feedback to call for evidence for an evaluation of the CFP
- Next steps:
  - Continue work in support of CFP evaluation
    - Follow up on dialogue with DG MARE today
    - Public consultation to be launched by end of 2024





# Landing Obligation

- Chair Emiel Brouckaert
- Last meeting 24 July 2024
- NWWAC advice on the Communication from the Commission “Sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2025” COM(2024) 235 final and on the ICES advice published on June 28th, 2024
- Next tasks:
  - Advice on how to address choke risk in the NWW
  - Follow-up on DG MARE evaluation of the LO
  - Follow-up on UK approach to discards
  - Follow-up on EFCA report on evaluation of compliance with the LO





# Climate & Environment

- Chair Alexandra Philippe
- Last meeting 26 September 2024
- Work planned on:
  - Nature Restoration Law
  - MSFD – Seabed Thresholds – advice on stakeholders engagement
  - New funding programme for options for energy technology/alternative fuels



# Joint NWWAC/NSAC Focus Group Skates & Rays

- Led by the NWWAC
- Chair John Lynch
- NWWAC/NSAC letter on TAC setting for skates & rays submitted on 03 April 2024, response received on 7 August
- Next meeting 18 October 2024
  - Presentation of new ICES advice
  - Update on EU-UK roadmap and splitting of the TACs
- NWWAC/NSAC letter on TAC setting for skates & rays submitted on 03 April 2024, response received on 7 August





# Focus Group Control, Enforcement & Compliance

- Chair Patrick Murphy
- Vicechair Arthur Yon
- Last meeting on 10 January 2024 July in preparation to workshop with EFCA and MS Control Expert Group on evaluation of compliance with the LO (16 January, Copenhagen)
- Joint HWG with PelAC on 14 March – correlation table on new control regulation
- Multi-AC letter requesting a meeting with DG MARE on the new control regulation sent on 24 May
- Next steps:
  - Joint workshop with DG MARE and other ACs in 2025
  - Follow-up on workshop with EFCA
  - Follow-up on UK approach on REM





# Joint NSAC/NWWAC Focus Group Social Aspects

- Led by NSAC since 01 October 2022
- Chair Kenn Skau Fischer
- Latest advice and responses: Generational Renewal and Recreational Fisheries
- Last meeting on 5 September:
  - Joan Roussoulière-Azzam from DG MARE's Policy Coordination Unit briefed the members on the ongoing work on National Fisheries Profiles, Community profiles and Social Indicators with priority areas for consultations;
  - Also discussed were: Vademecum on the allocation process of fishing opportunities and Fishers of the Future project
  - Baseline study on the training and certification requirements of fishers in the EU by ProSea
  - Report on NSAC/NWWAC websites.
- Next meeting: TBD – Proposed topics:
  - follow up on ongoing files
  - trends in fuel costs and impact on fish prices
  - others as suggested by members



# Joint NWWAC/PelAC Focus Group Spatial Dimension

- Chair Gonçalo Carvalho
- Last meeting 5 September
- Response to public consultation on South Coast DMAP submitted to Department of Environment, Climate and Communications on 14 June – possible submission following today's presentation by Damien Haberlin
- Next meeting 7 November:
  - Call for increased policy coherence between environment and fisheries dimensions submitted to the Commission on 20 June, response received on 9 September
  - Proposal to organise webinar on impacts of offshore renewable energy developments including various ICES WGs, BIM study on coexistence – joint with PelAC and other interested ACs (November 2024)







## 6. Topics to be discussed at MIAC 2025

- ICES views on how to improve advice stability and consistency
- Update on how ICES is working to build/maintain partnerships between scientists and stakeholders (especially fishers) as one of the main tools to boost data availability and quality
- Update on ICES work on climate change implications and overall ecosystem-based approach in stock assessments
- The need for multiple stock assessors from different institutes for each stock
- The need to formally identify data deficiencies



A dramatic sunset or sunrise over the ocean. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with bright golden light breaking through in several places, creating a high-contrast scene. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a long, shimmering path of light across the water. A small, dark silhouette of a ship is visible on the horizon line, positioned towards the right side of the frame. The overall mood is serene yet powerful.

## 7. AOB

## 8. Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair

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