



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

**NORTH WESTERN
WATERS**
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

HORIZONTAL WORKING GROUP

—
03 July 2025



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Agenda

11:30 – 11:45

1. Welcome and introductions

- Welcome from the Chair (Alexandra Philippe)
- Apologies
- Adoption of the Agenda
- Action points the last meeting (11 March 2025, Paris)

11:45 – 12:15

2. ICES Advisory Process & MIAC/MIACO follow up – Joanne Morgan, ICES ACOM Vice-Chair

12:15 – 13:00

3. CFP evaluation update – Herman Bos, Julia Rubeck, DG MARE D3

13:00 – 14:00

LUNCH

14:00 – 14:30

4. EU Ocean Pact – Felix Leinemann, Head of Unit MARE.A.2

14:30 – 15:00

5. EFCA update – Cristina Morgado, Deputy Head of Unit EU waters and North Atlantic; Killian Chute, Administrator Planning and Assessment, EFCA

15:00 – 15:30

6. Update on the MSFD – Alice Belin, Policy Officer DG ENV

15:30 – 15:40

7. UN Ocean Conference update – Chair

15:40 – 15:55

COFFEE

Agenda

15:55 – 16:10

8. UK MPA consultation - Chair

16:10 – 17:20

9. Focus Groups update

- Inter-AC Brexit Forum (Chair)
- CFP (Chair)
- Landing Obligation (Emiel Brouckaert)
- Climate & Environment (Chair)
- Skates & Rays (John Lynch)
- Scallops (Secretariat)
- Control and Compliance (Patrick Murphy)
- Social Aspects (Kenn Skau Fischer)
- Spatial Dimension (Secretariat)

17:20 – 17:25

10. AOB

17:25 – 17:30

11. Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair

Action points from the last meeting

- 1 NWWAC to develop advice on the “Vision for Agriculture and Food” roadmap.
- 2 Secretariat to circulate draft CFP response and ask for additional input on strategic topics. Next meeting of FG CFP to be organised for end of March to continue advice drafting.
- 3 Secretariat to circulate invitation for ICES WGENGAGE.
- 4 Secretariat to share ICES documentation from MIAC/MIACO in NWWAC Members Area. AC to keep pressure on addressing categories 5 & 6 stocks and follow up in HWG topics from MIAC and MIACO possibly for July meetings.
- 5 Secretariat to contact LDAC regarding next meeting of Inter-AC Brexit Forum and emphasise the importance of including detailed update on TCA review 2026. Possibility to formulate request to Commission regarding increased AC involvement on this topic.

Action points from the last meeting

- 6 FG Climate & Environment to meet and prepare advice on Energy Transition Partnership.
- 7 Secretariat to contact UK Seabass group again for AC inclusion in work. Secretariat to organise next meeting once benchmark results are available.
- 8 Proposal to the joint FG Social Aspects to include in ToR a case study of area 7d.



- 2 ICES Advisory Process & MIAC/MIACO follow up - Joanne Morgan, ICES
 - 3 CFP evaluation update – Herman Bos, Julia Rubeck, DG MARE D3
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LUNCH

13:00 – 14:00 CET



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- 4 EU Ocean Pact – Felix Leinemann, DG MARE
- 5 EFCA update – Cristina Morgado, Killian Chute, EFCA
- 6 Update on MSFD – Alice Belin, DG ENV
- 7 UN Ocean Conference update - Chair
-

COFFEE 15:40 – 15:55 CET





8. UK MPA consultation

- Management of English offshore marine protected areas – consultation deadline 01 September
- Stakeholder meeting scheduled for 15 July
 - [Stage 3 Formal Consultation](#) of proposed management measures in 42 MPAs
 - prohibitions of fishing using bottom towed gear in specified areas in 31 MPAs;
 - prohibition of fishing using bottom towed gears and prohibitions on fishing using static gears (traps and/or bottom set nets and lines) in specified areas in four MPAs;
 - prohibition of fishing using traps in a specified area of one MPA;
 - prohibition of fishing using bottom towed gear and prohibition of the removal of spiny lobster, also known as crawfish (*Palinurus elephas*) in a specified area of one MPA;
 - minor changes to existing bottom towed gear prohibitions in 5 MPAs to reflect the most up to date approach, habitat location and depth information.



9. Focus Group update

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



Inter-AC Brexit Forum

- Established between PelAC, NWWAC, NSAC, LDAC and CCRUP
- 1 meeting in Year 20:
 - 04 February chaired by the PelAC
- Next meeting 07 July organised by the LDAC
- Commission attendance and updates (confidential)
- Topics at SCF:
 - King Scallops multi-year strategy
 - Celtic Sea: FMP
 - Roadmaps for certain stocks, incl. sole 7h,j,k; rockall cod, plaice 7f,g
 - spurdog
 - Benchmark on pollack
 - MPAs
 - Seabass
 - Technical measures
 - TCA Review 2026

CFP

- Chair Alexandra Philippe
- Vice-Chair Manu Kelberine
- Last meeting: 26 March
- NWWAC feedback to the Commission's call for evidence for an evaluation/fitness check: Common Fisheries Policy evaluation submitted on 03 September 2024
- NWWAC response to public consultation regarding the evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy regulation submitted on 17 April, awaiting response



Landing Obligation

- Chair Emiel Brouckaert
- Last meeting 22 November 2024
- Next meeting 16 July 2025 to discuss and develop NWWAC advice the Commission Communication COM(2025)296 and on ICES latest advice
- Next task:
 - Follow-up on DG MARE evaluation of the LO and link with EFCA report on evaluation of compliance with the LO: A dedicated meeting between DG MARE and members of the Advisory Councils is scheduled for 08 July



Climate & Environment

- Chair Alexandra Philippe
- Last meeting 05 June 2025
- NWWAC advice on the Energy Transition Partnership delivered 19 June 2025
- 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
- Last meeting 11 June 2025
- NWWAC/NSAC response to the UK Consultation on the proposed Southern North Sea and Channel Skates and Rays Fisheries Management Plan submitted on 08 January 2025
- Participation in ICES WSKATE2, 01 – 04 April 2025
- Development of joint NWWAC/NSAC workshop in September 2025



Seabass

- Chair Pauline Stephan
- Vice-Chair Manu Kelberine
- Last meeting: 28 October 2024
- NWWAC advice on management measures for seabass for 2025 submitted 21 November 2024, awaiting response
- Benchmark results presented to WG3 July 2025
- Next meeting: tba





Scallops

- Chair Mathieu Vimard
- Last meeting 12 May 2025
- Update on second round of Irish trials carried out by Bord Iascaigh Mhara
- Discussion of management considerations following DG MARE – UK workshop in September 2024
- Additional work needed on harmonisation of potential management proposals
- Meeting organisation between French and Irish fishermen to discuss next steps
- Next meeting: tba

Focus Group Control, Enforcement & Compliance

- Chair Patrick Murphy
- Vice-chair Arthur Yon
- Last meeting on 31 October 2024 in preparation for Multi-AC workshop on the Control Regulation (05 February, Brussels)
- Debrief meeting following workshop to contribute to joint NWWAC – PelAC – NSAC advice
- Submission of Multi-AC queries to DG MARE following workshop on 20 February, awaiting response
- Joint NWWAC – PelAC – NSAC advice on the Control Regulation submitted 23 May, awaiting response
- Next meeting tba



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 03 June 2025:
 - Presentation of work on Understanding fishers' wellbeing through participatory processes in fisheries management
 - Marta Ballesteros presented the latest work in the STECF on social data in fisheries;
 - Draft NSAC/NWWAC advice on STECF work on the social data in fisheries
 - Report on NSAC/NWWAC websites.
- Next meeting: 02 September – Planned topics:
 - Possible work on fishers well-being
 - Baseline study from the European Commission on the training and certification requirements of fishers in the EU
 - Information on Joint Research Centre (JRC) Expert Working Group (EWG) 25-13 on Social Data in EU fisheries



Joint NWWAC/PelAC Focus Group

Spatial Dimension

- Chair Gonçalo Carvalho
- Last meeting 10 January
- NWWAC/PelAC submission on the Ecological Sensitivity Analysis of the Celtic Sea to inform future designation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Report – 06 December 2024
- Joint NWWAC/PelAC letter on Seafood/ORE group participation submitted to DECC 10 January 2025
- Joint NWWAC/PelAC advice to the NWW Member States on renewable energy developments in the marine space submitted to Spanish presidency of NWW MSG 17 February 2025
- Joint NWWAC/PelAC webinar on EU fisheries and ORE developments 25 February
- Joint NWWAC/PelAC advice on ORE submitted 03 June, awaiting reply
- Joint NWWAC/PelAC response Eklipse draft report submitted 27 June, awaiting reply





10. AOB – NWWAC Communication Strategy

Update on the NWWAC Communication Strategy

The NWWAC Secretariat:

- is updating the “NWWAC Communication Strategy” which dates back to 2020.
- opened a new LinkedIn page in March 2025 to showcase NWWAC work – please follow this page and share the posts to reach a wider audience
- will soon launch the “NWWAC Member Spotlight” on LinkedIn
- proposes to create a WhatsApp Community to improve communication with members

Proposal of a NWWAC WhatsApp Community

Objective: Improve internal communication within the NWWAC

Current Situation:

- Secretariat shares the NWWAC work via email
- High email volume can lead to key messages being missed
- Increased need for clear, accessible communication



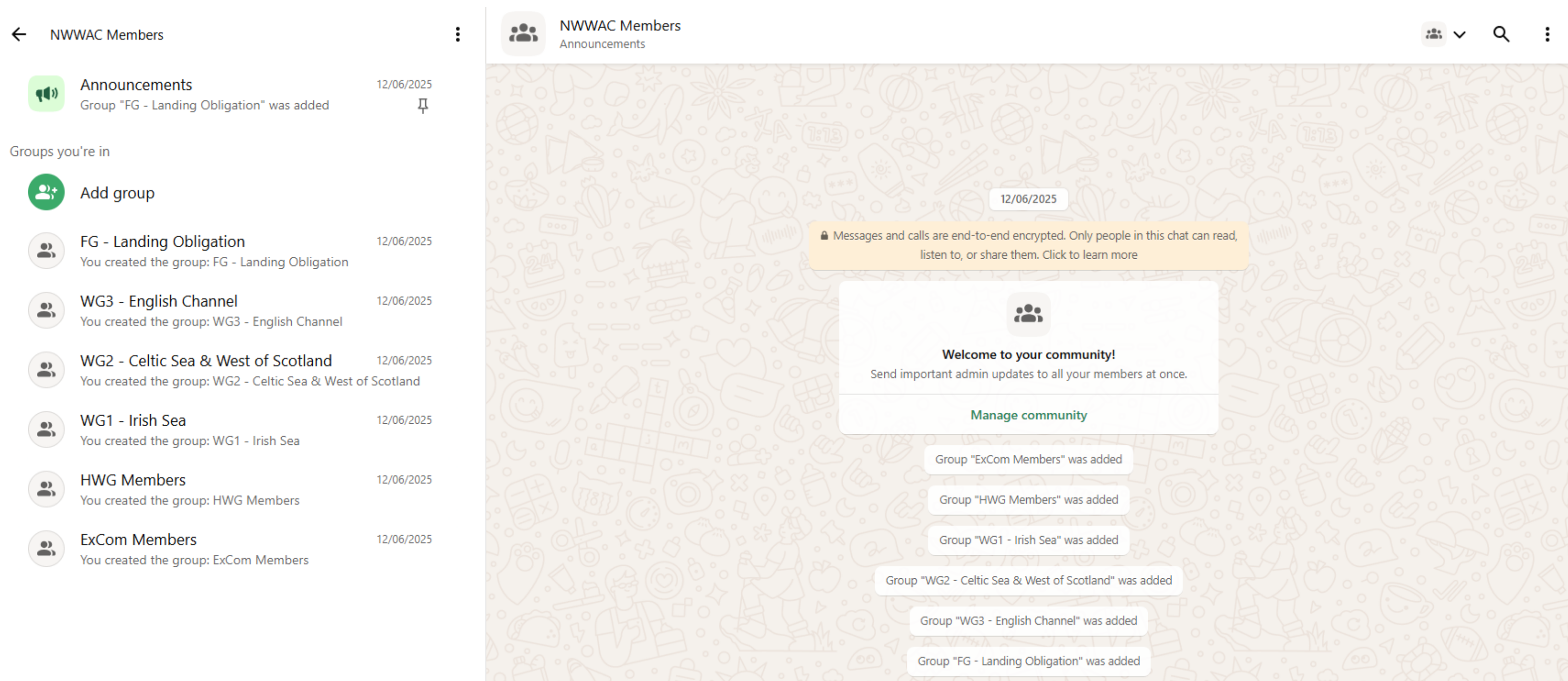
Proposed Solution:

- Launch a WhatsApp Community for NWWAC
- The Community will be internally divided into subgroups (ExCom, WGs, FGs)

Key Features & Benefits:

- Voluntary participation
- Not a replacement for formal email communications
- One-way communication (members cannot reply)
- Designed for quick, informal updates including: Deadlines; Meeting reminders; News from the EC; Press releases; NWWAC Social media content
- Already used effectively by many organisations
- Helps members stay connected and informed

Proposal of a NWWAC WhatsApp Community



A dramatic sunset or sunrise over the ocean. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, but bright golden light breaks through in several places, creating a high-contrast scene. A ship is visible on the horizon line, silhouetted against the bright light. The water in the foreground is dark and textured.

11. Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair
