



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

**NORTH WESTERN
WATERS**
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

HORIZONTAL WORKING GROUP

—
11 March 2025

Agenda

09:00 – 09:10

1. **Welcome and introductions**
 - Welcome from the Chair (Emiel Brouckaert)
 - Apologies
 - Adoption of the Agenda
 - Action points the last meeting (virtual, 10 October 2024)

09:10 – 09:15

2. **Election of Working Group Chair**

09:15 – 10:45

3. **“Vision for Agriculture and Food” communication** – Ricard Ramon, DG AGRI

10:45 – 10:55

COFFEE

10:55 – 11:25

4. **CFP evaluation state of play** – discussion of NWWAC advice

11:25 – 11:55

5. **MIAC/MIACO follow up** – Chair

Agenda

11:55 – 12:50

1. Focus Groups update

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

12:50 – 12:55

2. AOB

12:55 – 13:00

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

Action points from the last meeting

- 1 The NWWAC will continue following the developments of the CFP evaluation project, waiting for DG MARE to provide more information on future consultations and on the contractor.
- 2 The Secretariat will share the list of points to be raised with ICES at MIAC and update explanatory paragraphs following comments from members.
- 3 The Focus Group Spatial Dimension will follow up on the presentation by Damien Haberlin and consider the drafting of advice on the Celtic Sea Ecological Sensitivity Analysis.
- 4 The Focus Group Control, Enforcement and Compliance will review the control regulation correlation table in view of the organisation of a multi-ACs workshop on the topic.



2. Election of Working Group Chair
 3. Vision for Agriculture and Food” communication – Ricard Ramon, DG AGRI
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COFFEE BREAK

10:45 – 10:55 CET



4. CFP evaluation state of play – discussion of NWWAC advice

4. CFP evaluation state of play – discussion of NWWAC advice

1. What impact do you think the CFP Regulation has had on supporting modernisation and innovation in the fisheries sector? (page 4-5)
2. What impact do you think the CFP Regulation has had on contributing to the social conditions of people active in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors? (page 7, provide practical examples of what has worked or not)
3. How would you rate the contribution of the Maximum sustainable yield to achieving environmental, economic, social objectives? (page 8)
4. How would you rate the contribution of adopting conservation measures necessary for compliance with obligations under EU environmental legislation to achieving environmental, economic, social objectives? (page 11)
5. According to your view, which areas of the CFP Regulation have potential for simplification and cost reduction? (i.e., Measures for the conservation and sustainable exploitation of marine biological resources, Common market organisation, Aquaculture, Control and enforcement, Governance, External policy)

CFP evaluation state of play – discussion of NWWAC advice (ctnd.)

6. To what extent do you agree that the objectives of the CFP Regulation have remained relevant over the past 10 years / implementation period?
 - Fostering “Long-term environmental sustainability of fishing and aquaculture activities”
 - Ensuring “Economic benefits” Ensuring “Social and employment benefits”
 - Contributing to the availability of food supplies
 - Pursue the objectives at international level
 - Other
7. How effective is the CFP Regulation’s governance system in achieving the following:
 - In collecting scientific advice
 - In using scientific advice to inform its policy decisions
 - In involving stakeholders at all stages of the policy-making process

5. MIAC / MIACO follow up

- Stability and consistency of advice, Multi-annual advice discussion in MIRIA subgroup after March ACOM
- (Fishers) data inclusion in assessments or during data compilation workshops
- ICES mixed stock guidelines
- Stakeholder engagement strategy – WKENGAGE 25–27 March
- Changes to fishing opportunities advice framework in 2025
- ICES overviews planning, next generation Ecosystem overviews and integrating overviews

Stability and consistency of advice

NWWAC at MIAC: What efforts is ICES currently making to improve the stability of scientific advice and incorporate innovative methodologies (such as genetics) to strengthen data on poorly documented stocks? Can aspects other than management be considered to obtain more stability?

- discussion with managers (MIRIA) on mechanism to get in touch with stakeholders sooner
- stability clause for category 3 stocks, because data limited; cat 1. & 2 stocks MSY-based advice, not logic to have a stability clause
- MIRIA subgroup to discuss provision of multi-annual advice
- consideration of stability is the responsibility of managers, also how to use advice (decision to look beyond headline advice)
- WKLIFE working on improving data limited methods



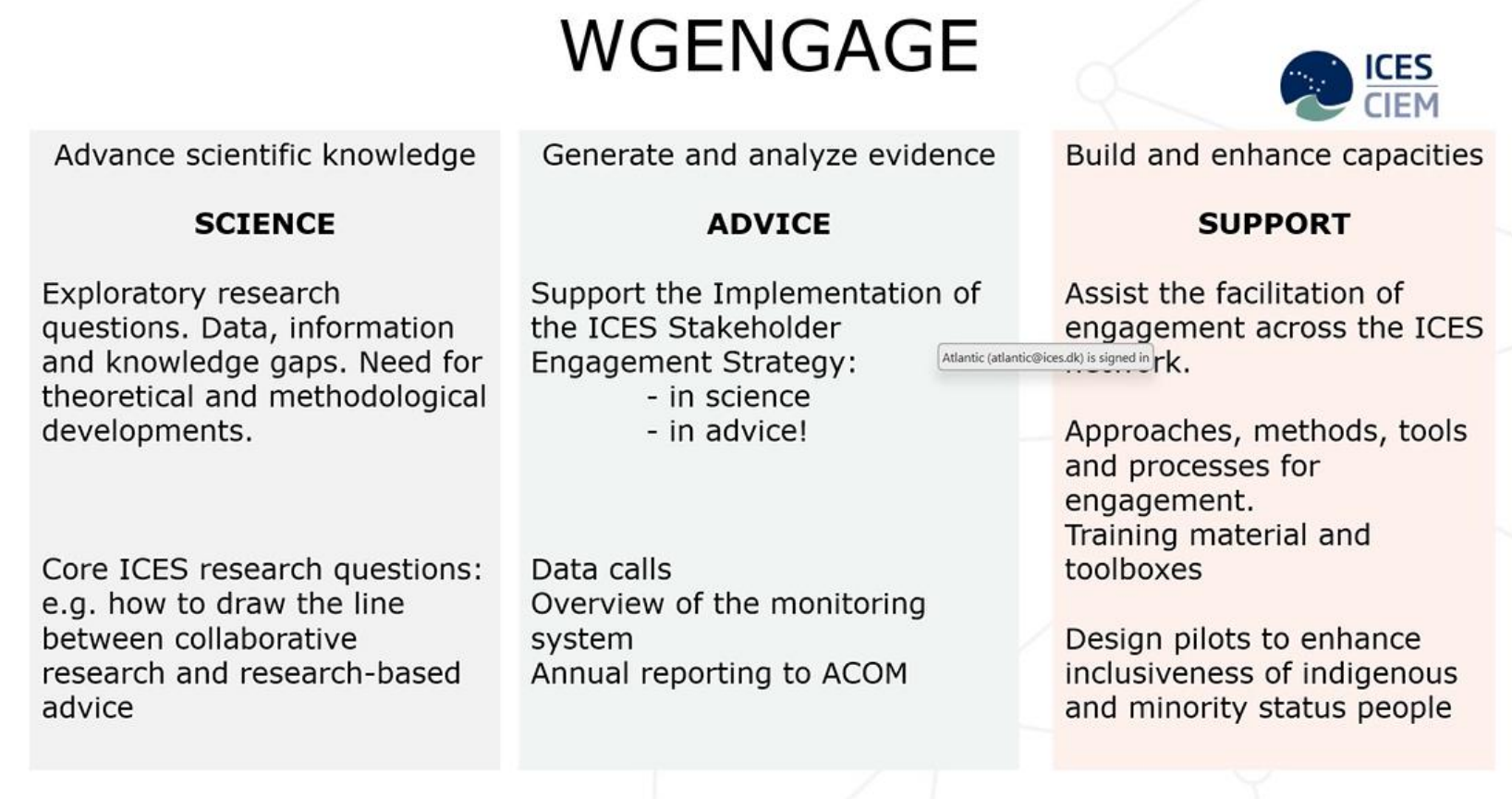
(Fishers) data inclusion in assessments or during data compilation workshops

- several Working Groups addressing this issue and an example of ICES following up is the result of WKIRISH, working on FECO.
- possibility to contribute via the Data Compilation Workshops for benchmarks as pointed out in WKAFPA
- missing data overview on the ICES website: 'Issue List' is available and stakeholders have the possibility to
- add comments which are only seen by the Stock Assessor.

Mixed Stocks Guidelines

- ICES Presentation
- At MIACO request input for ACOM discussions in March
- Meeting reactions:
 - Mixed stocks advice should start with mixed stocks assessments
 - Mixed stocks management should be considered by managers and not based on ICES headline advice
 - (ICES advice sheets useful, managers should consider more than headline advice)
 - Mixed stocks fished by mixed type of vessels / gears

Stakeholder engagement strategy – WKENGAGE 25-27 March



ICES Working Group on Stakeholder Engagement (WGENGAGE)

25-27 March 2025, starting at 9:00 CET, Chairs: Marta Ballesteros (Spain) and Hannah Harrison (Canada)

Goals

- To build relationships and coordinate efforts across people interested in stake and Rightsholder participation in research and decision-making.
- To increase our knowledge about stake and Rightsholder needs, interests, and roads to inclusion.
- To explore the ToR, get aligned on priorities and actions, and identify a research and work agenda for WGENGAGE to pursue.

AC observers welcome, please register by this Friday [here](#).

Changes to advice framework

- ICES Presentation – ACOM discussions on:
 - Transition rules
 - Advice rules category 2 and 3
 - Advice rules for stocks under Blim
- Consideration of NWWAC written question (awaiting reply) asking for multiple stock assessors from different institutes for each stock

ICES Overviews - background

- The purpose of the Overviews is to provide the context for EBM of human activities affecting the marine environment and marine living resources

ECOSYSTEM OVERVIEWS

✓ Published for 12 ecoregions

FISHERIES OVERVIEWS

✓ Published for 11 ecoregions

AQUACULTURE OVERVIEWS

✓ Published for 4 ecoregions

- End of 2025: Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast, Celtic Seas, Faroes, Greater North Sea and Norwegian Sea ecoregions will have three overviews published



ICES overviews planning, next generation Ecosystem overviews and integrating overviews

Development priorities 2025



AOs

Continued developments and expansion to other ecoregions
Emphasis on communication and outreach and on refining data streams

Planned publications 2025

Greater North Sea AO

Planning 2026

Baltic Sea AO
Icelandic Waters AO



EOs

Workshop on next generation EOs
Emphasis on climate change and socioeconomic aspects and on data profiling

Central Arctic Ocean EO
Oceanic Northeast Atlantic EO

Icelandic Waters EO



FOs

FisheriesXplorer: implementation and fine-tuning
Linkages to ICES databases

Celtic Seas FO

BoB and Iberian Coast FO
Oceanic NE Atlantic FO



6. 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 to be organized 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
- 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 being drafted – deadline 21 April
- Next steps:
 - Review and finalise NWWAC response to CFP evaluation
 - Suggested meeting dates: 26 or 28 March



Landing Obligation

- Chair Emiel Brouckaert
- Last meeting 22 November 2024
- NWWAC advice addressing coke risks in NWW after exemptions published on 13 January 2025
- Next tasks:
 - Follow-up on DG MARE evaluation of the LO
 - 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:
 - EU Oceans Pact – deadline mid-March for AC response
 - 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 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 May/June 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
- Next meeting: tba





Scallops

- Chair Mathieu Vimard
- Last meeting 25 November 2024
- 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
- 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
- Next steps:
 - Contribute to joint NWWAC – PelAC – NSAC advice on the Control Regulation



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 17 January 2025:
 - Marta Ballesteros presented on the STECF-24-05 report on social data in fisheries;
 - Also discussed were: Vademecum on the allocation process of fishing opportunities and Fishers of the Future project
 - Report on NSAC/NWWAC websites.
- Next meeting: 04 April – Proposed topics:
 - FEGAPESCA work on health and safety in the fishing sector
 - Draft NWWAC/NSAC advice on STECF social dimension report

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 – report and advice drafting in progress
- Next meeting: end of April



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- 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