



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

**NORTH WESTERN
WATERS**
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

—
16 October 2025



www.nwwac.org

Agenda

09:00 – 09:15

1 Welcome and introductions

- Welcome from the Chair (Alexandra Philippe)
- Apologies
- Adoption of the agenda
- Action points from the last meeting (04 July 2025, Vigo)

09:15 – 09:30

2 Approval of action points from the Working Groups

09:30 – 11:00

3 Dialogue with DG MARE – Thomas Brégeon, Deputy Head of Unit, DG MARE C.5

11:00– 11:15

COFFEE

11:15 – 11:30

4 Dialogue with NWW MSG– Elaine Croke, Irish presidency of the NWW Member States Group

11:30 – 12:00

5 Review of NGO involvement in NWWAC work (Secretariat)

12:00 – 12:20

6 NWWAC Work Programme and Budget Year 21 – state of play (Secretariat)

- Approval of proposed changes to NWWAC reimbursement rules

12:20 – 12:25

7 AOB

12:25 – 12:30

8 Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair

Action points from the last meeting

1. Members to send written queries for Susan Steele (Executive Director) following her keynote speech on EFCA work.
2. Members to send written queries for Fabrizio Donatella (Director DG MARE C5 following the dialogue with members
3. Focus Group Control to review the issue of access ladders as raised by EFCA and potentially develop advice.

Action points Working Group 2 – Celtic Sea & West of Scotland

- 1 Discussion on 2004 hake regulation with the Commission in January
- 2 Meeting to be organised on hake between scientists and industry, either as part of the VERMAR project or by NWWAC
- 3 Secretariat to circulate main articles of FMSY project and members to identify next steps
- 4 WG to hold discussion on spurdog and potential recommendations to be developed by the AC

Action points Working Group 3 – Channel

- 1 WG to follow up on topics of red mullet and lemon sole once more information is available from the NWW Member States Group.
- 2 Secretariat to organise a FG Seabass meeting as soon as new information is available from Ifremer.
- 3 WG to follow up of the Multi Year Strategy implementation Groupe on scallop.
- 4 Secretariat to organise a Focus Group Scallop meeting to discuss progress and potential additional meetings in 2026.

Action points Horizontal Working Group

- 1 Members to send queries following the Commission's presentation to the Secretariat.
- 2 Members to send queries following the ILIAD project presentation to the Secretariat.
- 3 Members to send queries following the IMBUS project presentation to the Secretariat.
- 4 Secretariat to send information on IMBUS project to Working Groups and ask for input regarding priorities for the project.
- 5 Secretariat to add standing agenda item to HWG agendas on review of advice submitted and responses received.

Action points Horizontal Working Group

- 6 NWWAC to add query regarding which forum UK MPA designation is discussed to Inter-AC Brexit agenda.
- 7 NWWAC to raise query on guidance on the “Do No Significant Harm principle” announced in the Commission’s proposal on MFF 2028-2034.
- 8 Secretariat to ask for expressions of interest for participation in Advice Drafting Group on small-scale fisheries.
- 9 Working Groups to add standing agenda item on small-scale fisheries.



3 Dialogue with DG MARE – Thomas Brégeon, Deputy Head of Unit, MARE C.5



COFFEE BREAK

10:50 – 11:05 CET





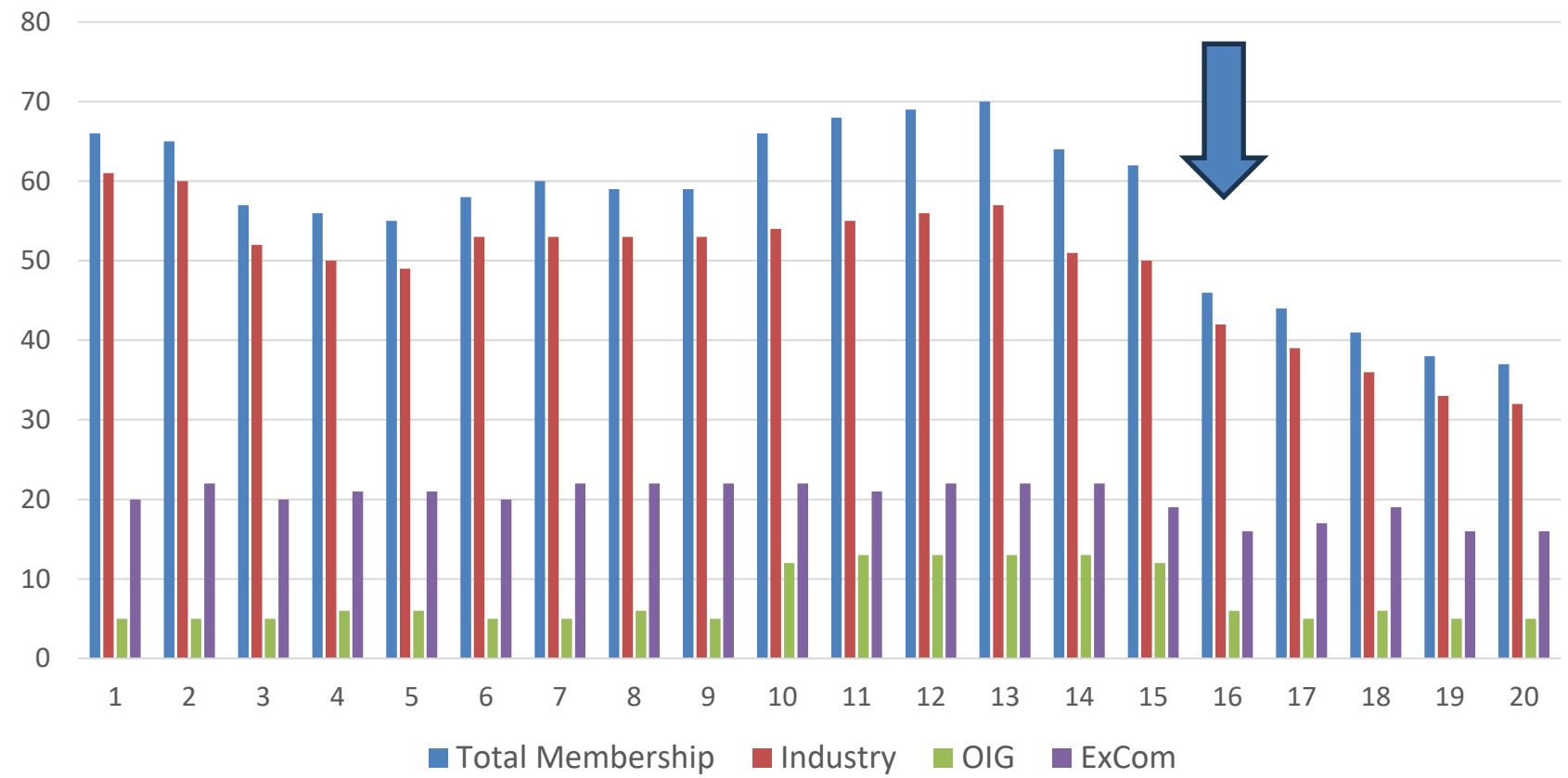
4 Dialogue with the NWW MSG – Elaine Croke, Irish presidency of the NWW Member States Group

5 Review of eNGO involvement in NWWAC work

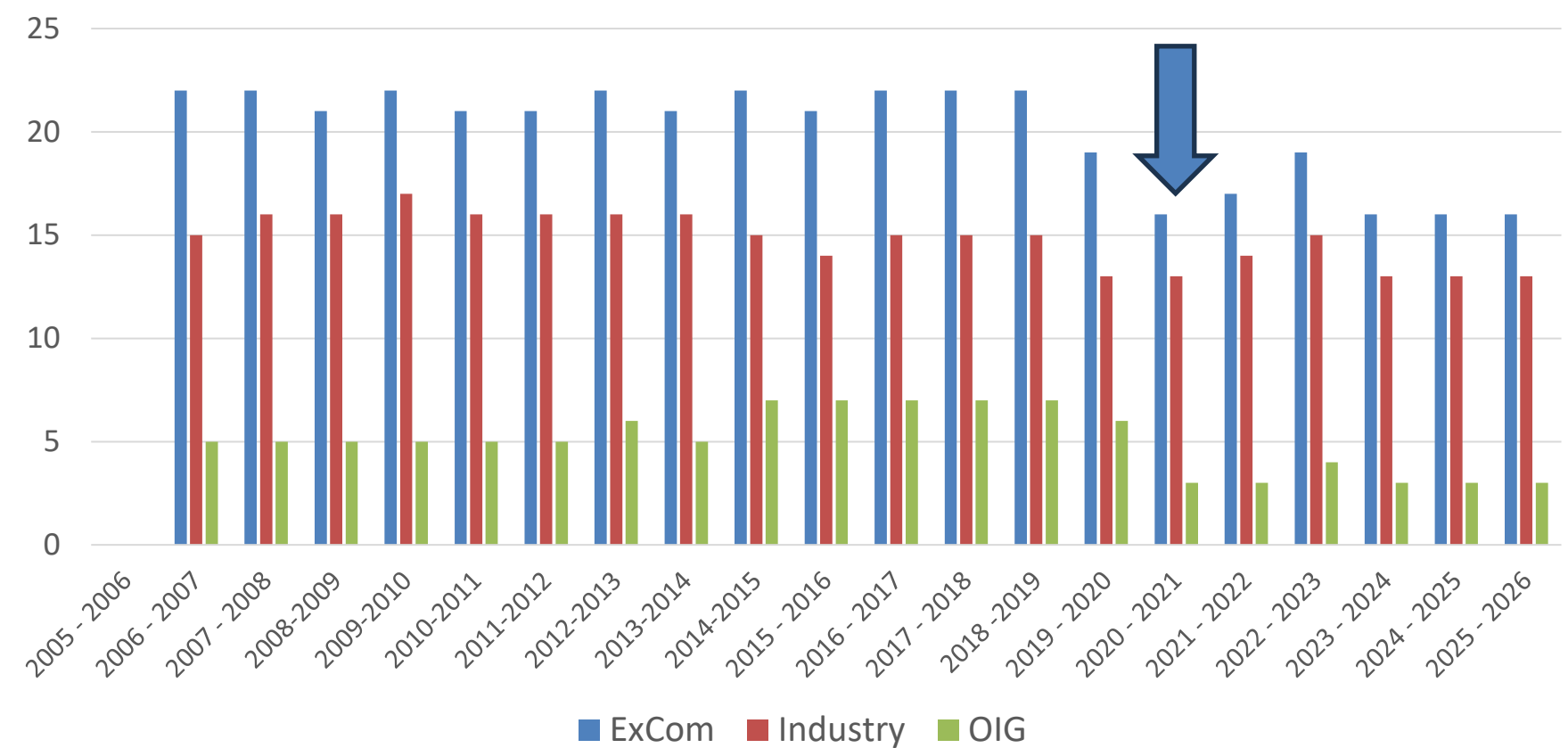
Timeline

- April 2019 – eNGO delegation meeting with Commissioner
- 2018 - 2019 – major staff change in NWWAC Secretariat
- November 2019 – Inter-AC meeting raising eNGO issues
- March 2020 – meeting between ExCom Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretariat and eNGO members in Madrid
- Outbreak of COVID-19 crisis
- July 2020 – eNGO letter to Director-General
- August 2020 – NWWAC Secretariat response sent to Director-General
- September 2020 – review of NWWAC Rules of Procedure initiated
- October 2020 – 5 eNGOs exit NWWAC membership
- June 2022 – First NWWAC membership drive
- May 2023 – Second NWWAC membership drive
- September 2025 – Third NWWAC membership drive
- September 2025 – eNGO letter to Commissioner Kadis

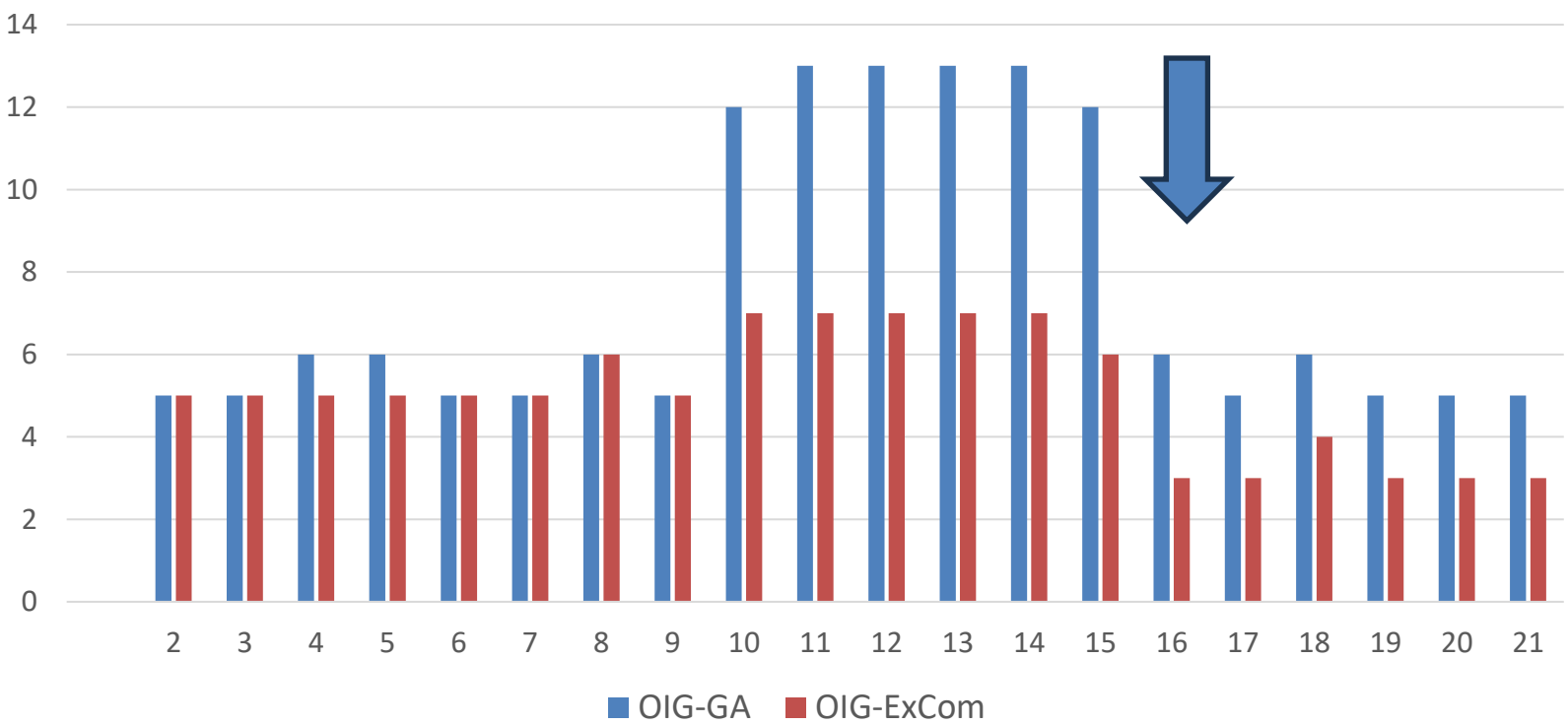
NWWAC membership



ExCom membership



OIG involvement in GA in ExCom



2020	Organisation	2022	2023	2025
shortcomings within the structure of ACs and the implementation of the advisory process	Birdwatch Ireland	none	no funding	lack of resources and capacity
no capacity to renew	ClientEarth	no resources	no capacity	"not in a position to do so"
n/a	Coastwatch Europe	not contacted	not contacted	
no capacity to renew	Dutch Elasmobranch Society	none	no capacity, insufficient expertise	
maternity leave without replacement	ENT	not contacted	not contacted	currently not active in this field
n/a	Environmental Defence Fund	none	none	
n/a	Environmental Justice Foundation	oversubscribed, no capacity	none	no capacity
n/a	Fair Seas	not contacted	none	Not contacted
n/a	Irish Whale and Dolphin Group	none	expressed interest but no further action	
n/a	Irish Wildlife Trust	no capacity	none	expressed interest, offer to meet
limited resources and feeling lack of effectiveness in NWWAC	Oceana	none	none	no capacity
n/a	Our Fish	no resources	ceased operations	n/a
n/a	Sciaena	no capacity	none	no capacity
maternity leave without replacement	Seas at Risk	none	none	
NWWAC lower priority than other work, failings in the functioning of the AC including adequate reflection of minority position	The Pew Charitable Trusts	verbal only	none	
n/a	WWF	none	none	EU-wide focus so no capacity



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Work Programme Year 21





NWWAC Work Programme Year 21

- CFP evaluation & EU Ocean Pact
- Vision for Fisheries 2040
- Impact of the EU-UK TCA
- Landing Obligation
- Technical Measures
- Non-quota species
- WW Multi-Annual Plan
- TACs & quotas
- Ecosystem based approach to fisheries management
- Environment
- Social Aspects
- Control and Compliance
- Overall follow-up of achievement of the CFP objectives
- Funding post EMFAF



Planned recommendations YR21

No	Issue/subject	Link with the CFP	WG/FG at the origin of the recommendation	Planned date of adoption (if available)
1	Advice on Addressing Choke Risk in the NWW after exemptions	Article 2, 14, 15	WG1, WG2, WG3	December 2025
2	Advice on topics related to the Landing Obligation	Article 2, 14, 15	Horizontal WG (Focus Group Landing Obligation)	March 2026
3	Advice on the implementation of the EU Technical Measures Regulation, including directed fisheries definition	Article 2, 10	Horizontal Working Group	March 2026
4	Advice on the TCA including Technical Measures as a topic in the execution of the TCA if relevant proposals are put forward by the Commission	Article 2	WG1, WG2, WG3, HWG	July 2026
5	Advice on Fishing Opportunities 2025 & COM Policy Paper	Article 2, 14, 15, 16	WG1, WG2, WG3, HWG	July 2026
6	Advice on the management of skates & rays	Article 2, 10, 14, 15, 16	HWG (Focus Group Skates & Rays)	April 2026
7	Advice relating to SCF issues: technical measures, non-quota species etc.	Article 2, 14, 15	Horizontal WG	December 2025
8	Advice related to climate & environment topics, e.g., EU Biodiversity Strategy, EU Green Deal, Farm to Fork Strategy, Nature Restoration Law, Spatial Dimension	Article 2	HWG (Focus Group Climate & Environment)	November 2025
9	Advice on social aspects related to fisheries in the NWW	Article 2	HWG (Focus Group Social Aspects)	January 2026
10	Advice on aspects raised as part of the CFP evaluation and/or the EU Ocean Pact	Article 2	HWG (Focus Group CFP and other relevant FGs once identified)	June 2026
11	Advice on the vision for fisheries 2040	Article 2	HWG (Focus Group CFP and other relevant FGs once identified)	May 2026





Planned meetings Year 21

	Date (for the first 6 months, please provide precise dates)	Topics /subjects of meeting	Type of meeting (physical/ planned/ hybrid)	European Commission participation requested (yes/no)	If Commission participation requested, specific issues to be dealt with	Priority for a Commission participation (from 1 to 4) (1= highest priority)
1	03 October 2025	CHARM	Virtual	No		
2	15 October 2025	Working Group 1	virtual	yes		1
3	15 October 2025	Working Group 2	virtual	yes		1
4	15 October 2025	Working Group 3	virtual	yes		1
5	16 October 2025	Horizontal Working Group	virtual	yes		1
6	23 October 2025	Executive Committee	virtual	yes		1
7	03 November 2025	CHARM	Virtual	no		
8	04 December 2025	CHARM	Virtual	no		
9	06 January 2026	CHARM	Virtual	no		
10	03 February 2026	CHARM	Virtual	no		
11	03 March 2026	CHARM	Virtual	no		
12	09 March 2026	Working Group 1 Irish Sea	hybrid	yes	Technical measures, ORE, Discard Plan	1

	Date (for the first 6 months, please provide precise dates)	Topics /subjects of meeting	Type of meeting (physical/ planned/ hybrid)	European Commission participation requested (yes/no)	If Commission participation requested, specific issues to be dealt with	Priority for a Commission participation (from 1 to 4) (1= highest priority)
13	09 March 2026	Working Group 3 English Channel	hybrid	yes	Technical measures, non-quota species, Discard Plan	1
14	10 March 2026	Working Group 2 Celtic Sea & West of Scotland	hybrid	yes	Technical measures, Discard Plan	1
15	10 March 2026	Horizontal Working Group	hybrid	yes	TCA &SCF, UK Technical Measures, CFP evaluation	1
16	11 March 2026	Executive Committee	hybrid	yes	Dialogue with DG MARE: Overview on ongoing dossiers and upcoming advice requests; EU-UK negotiations, fishing opportunities 2027	1
17	07 April 2026	CHARM	virtual	no		
18	05 May 2026	CHARM	virtual	no		
19	02 June 2026	CHARM	Virtual	no		
20	02 July 2026	CHARM	Virtual	no		
21	03 July 2026	Working Group 1 Irish Sea	hybrid	yes	ICES advice, NWWAC choke tool update, Stock specific discussions with DG MARE experts	1
22	03 July 2026	Working Group 3 English Channel	hybrid	yes	ICES advice, NWWAC choke tool update, Stock specific discussions with DG MARE experts	1
23	04 July 2026	Working Group 2 Celtic Sea & West of Scotland	hybrid	yes	ICES advice, NWWAC choke tool update, Stock specific discussions with DG MARE experts	1
24	04 July 2026	Horizontal Working Group	hybrid	yes	depending on the topics discussed a DG MARE expert will be requested	
25	05 July 2026	Executive Committee	hybrid	yes	Dialogue with the Commission and Member States; EU-UK negotiations, fishing opportunities 2026	1
26	28 July 2026	CHARM	Virtual	no		
27	01 September 2026	CHARM	Virtual	no		
28	24 September 2026	General Assembly	virtual	no	Approval of Year 21 annual report and budget	

Upcoming meetings

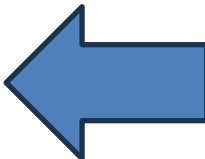
- Inter-AC Brexit Forum (21 October 2025)
- EFCA Advisory Board (21 October 2025)
- NWWAC Focus Group Whelk (23 October 2025)
- STECF EWG 25-14 (20 – 24 October 2025)
- DG ENV MSCG (10/12 November 2025)
- Mesa de la Ciencia Pesquera (30 October 2025)
- ACs – SURIMI workshop (14 November 2025)
- Inter-AC with DG MARE (18 November 2025)
- Implementation dialogue (24 November 2025)
- MIAC/MIACO (Copenhagen, 22-23 January 2025)
- NWWAC WGs and ExCom (Brussels, 04 – 06 March 2026)
- European Maritime Day (Cyprus, 21-22 May 2026)
- NWWAC WGs and ExCom (Dublin, 08-10 July 2026)





UPDATE ON YEAR 21 ACCOUNTS

Year 21 – Income – Current Position

	Original Budget 01 October 2025	Actual Income at 12 March 2025	Outstanding
Member States	€ 25,000	€ 15,000	€ 10,000
Commission	€ 350,198	€ 280,159.20	€ 70,039.80
Member's Fees	€ 28,700	€ 27,600	€ 550
Total	€ 403,898	€ 322,759.20	€ 80,589.80
Total available budget	€ 403,348	 One organisation decided to not renew their membership.	

Year 21 – Expenditure – Current Position

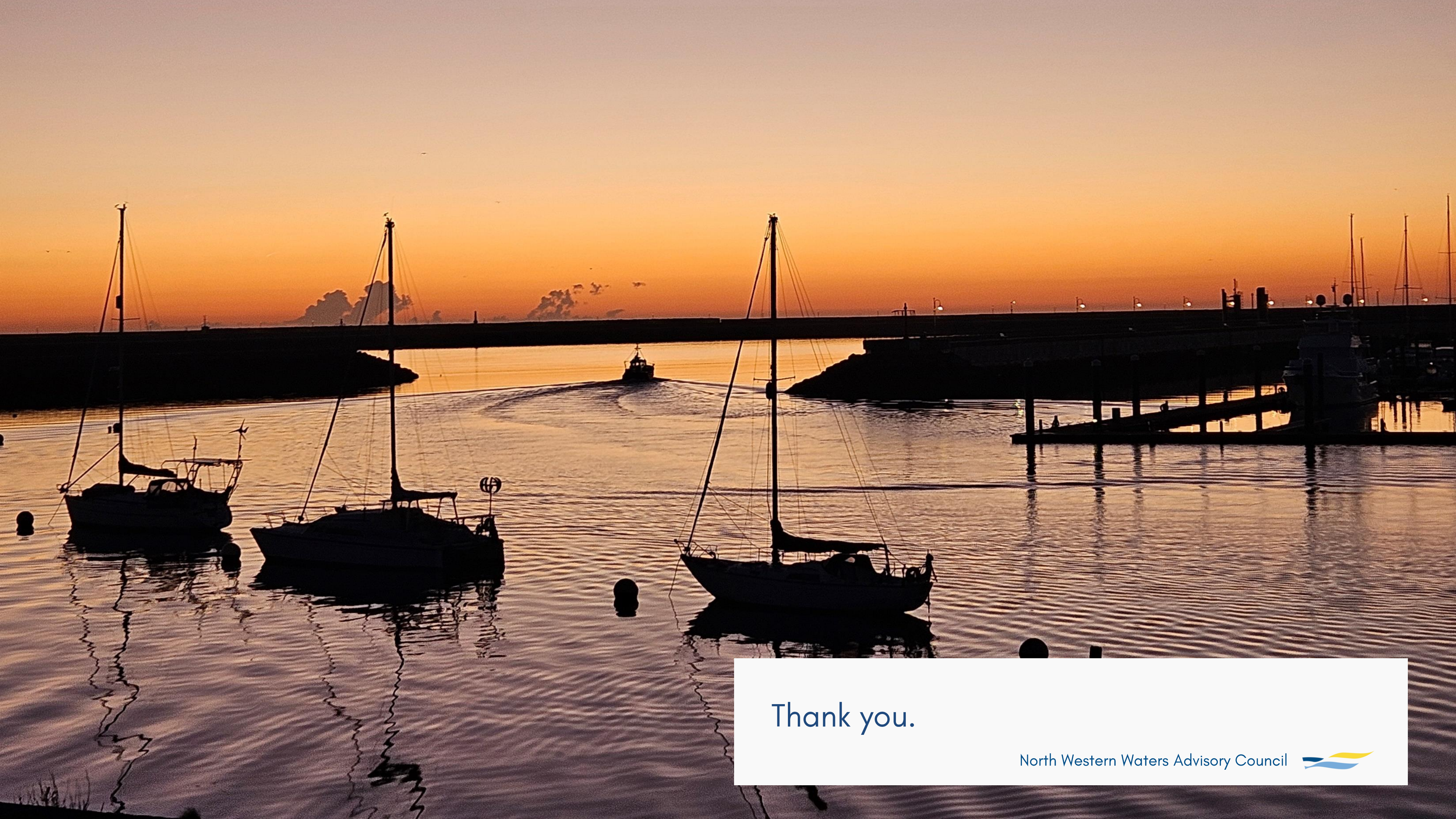
	Eligible Predicted Budget 01 October 2025	Actual Expenditure up to 16 October 2025	Estimated actual expenditure 30 September 2026
Staff	€ 195,115	€ 0	€ 195,115
Reimbursements	€ 70,317	€ 0	€ 69,767
Interpretation & Translation	€ 69,442	€ 0	€ 69,442
Meetings and Information	€ 17,288	€ 0	€ 17,288
Operating costs	€ 21,736	€ 1,890	€ 21,736
Chairman Fees / Audit	€ 22,000	€ 0	€ 22,000
Other contracts	€ 8,000	€ 0	€ 8,000
Total	€ 403,898	€ 1,890	€ 403,348

Approval of updates to reimbursement rules

- Max. travel expenses: change from €800 to €600 (€800 remaining in exceptional circumstances)
- Car rental will not be reimbursed.
- Hotel allowance increase from €100 to €120.
- Daily allowance increase from €92 to €100.
- Where the meeting duration is less than a full day, half the daily rate (€50) is applicable. If food is provided at the place of meeting, the following will be deducted: €25 per lunch, €50 per dinner.
- Travel time to and from the meeting is not covered by the NWWAC but should be covered by each organisation.
- Additional sentence under insurance: The NWWAC shall not be liable for any cancellation fees incurred by member organisations' representatives due to circumstances outside the NWWAC's control.
- Review of impact on budget at GA September 2026 and further discussion



- 7 AOB
 - 8 Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair
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Thank you.

North Western Waters Advisory Council

