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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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15 October 2025

# Agenda

- 09:00 – 09:15 **1 Welcome and introductions**
- Welcome from the Chair (Alexandra Philippe)
  - Apologies
  - Adoption of the Agenda
  - Action points the last meeting (03 July 2025, Vigo)
- 09:15 – 09:45 **2 Commission update on UK communications** – Anton Kuech, DG MARE C.5
- 09:45 – 10:15 **3 ILIAD Digital solutions for fisheries and aquaculture** – Garabet Kazanjian, Assistant Professor at the AUA Akian College of Science and Engineering
- 10:15 – 10:45 **4 IMBUS project update & discussion** – Martin Pastoors, MPFF
- 10:45 – 11:00 **COFFEE**
- 11:00 – 11:30 **5 Review of advice submitted in Year 20** and identification of follow up needs – Chair
- 11:30 – 12:20 **6 Focus Groups update**
- Social Aspects (Tamara Talevska)
  - Inter-AC Brexit Forum (Chair)
  - CFP (Chair)
  - Landing Obligation (Secretariat)
  - Climate & Environment (Chair)
  - Skates & Rays (Secretariat)
  - Scallops (Secretariat)
  - Seabass (Pauline Stephan)
  - Whelk (Secretariat)
  - Control and Compliance (Patrick Murphy)
  - Spatial Dimension (Secretariat)
- 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 feedback on the fishing opportunities advice to the Secretariat.
- 2 Members to send written queries for Joanne Morgan following her presentation to the Secretariat.
- 3 Members to send written queries for Julia Rubeck and Herman Bos following the presentation on the CFP evaluation to the Secretariat.
- 4 FG Climate & Environment to review and potentially address the aspirational and binding targets included in the Ocean Pact.
- 5 Members to send written queries for Cristina Morgado and Killian Chute (EFCA) following their update on JDPs and REM to the Secretariat.
- 6 Proposal for CNPMEM to develop a letter to the Commission requesting a political intervention regarding the UK MPA consultation and to contact the UK for an extension of the deadline, request from the Commission the carrying out of a study of the socio-economic consequences as well as potential impact of displacement of vessels, to be submitted if possible jointly with the North Sea AC.



# Action points from the last meeting

- 7 CNPMEM to develop advice to the UK in response to the MPA consultation.
- 8 Management team to reflect on how advice is presented to the Commission and how to achieve the best responses.
- 9 NWWAC Secretariat to circulate the form for the NWWAC members' spotlight as well as set up WhatsApp Community as a trial and engage with FG Control.



- 2 Commission update on UK communications – Anton Kuech, DG MARE C.5
  - 3 ILIAD Digital solutions for fisheries and aquaculture – Garabet Kazanjian, Assistant Professor at the AUA Akian College of Science and Engineering
  - 4 IMBUS project update & discussion – Martin Pastoors, MPFF
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# COFFEE

**10:35 – 10:50 CET**

ATTENTION ILLICITE  
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## 5. Review of advice submitted in Year 20

N°	Full title	Response from Commission
1	<a href="#">Joint NSAC-LDAC-PelAC-NWWAC-SWWAC-BSAC Advice on stakeholder engagement in ICES advice request formulation</a>	<a href="#">15 November 2024</a>
2	<a href="#">Joint ACs recommendation on Deep-Sea Mining and its impact on fisheries</a>	Awaiting response
3	<a href="#">NWWAC advice on management measures for seabass for 2025</a>	Email 22 November 2024
4	<a href="#">NWWAC advice on stocks to prioritise for benchmark workshops by ICES</a>	<a href="#">04 March 2025</a>
5	<a href="#">NWWAC/PelAC submission on the Ecological Sensitivity Analysis of the Celtic Sea to inform future designation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Report</a>	n/a
6	<a href="#">NWWAC advice on a technical request to ICES on the recovery of the cod stock in the Celtic Sea</a>	<a href="#">26 March 2025</a>
7	<a href="#">NWWAC/NSAC response to the UK Consultation on the proposed Southern North Sea and Channel Skates and Rays Fisheries Management Plan</a>	n/a

N°	Full title	Response from Commission
8	<a href="#">NWWAC advice Addressing Choke Risk in NWW after exemptions</a>	Awaiting response
9	<a href="#">NWWAC advice on VMEs</a>	<a href="#">28 March 2025</a>
10	<a href="#">NWWAC advice on new approaches to fisheries management principles</a>	<a href="#">19 May 2025</a>
11	<a href="#">Joint-ACs advice on stakeholder engagement in Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) processes</a>	<a href="#">18 March 2025</a>
12	<a href="#">Joint NWWAC/PelAC advice to the NWW Member States on renewable energy developments in the marine space</a>	n/a
13	<a href="#">NWWAC statement in support of the High Level Roundtable “Fisheries and Oceans Dialogue: Helping design the European Oceans Pact”</a>	-
14	<a href="#">NWWAC Advice on the European Ocean Pact</a>	<a href="#">10 June 2025</a>
15	<a href="#">Multi-AC letter on the future of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)</a>	<a href="#">18 June 2025</a>
16	<a href="#">NWWAC Advice on the CFP Regulation Evaluation</a>	<a href="#">02 July 2025</a>
17	<a href="#">Joint NWWAC, PelAC and NSAC Advice on the implementation of the EU Fisheries Control Regulation</a>	Awaiting response

N°	Full title	Response from Commission
18	<a href="#">NWWAC/PelAC Advice on the impact of Offshore Renewable Energy Developments on commercial fisheries</a>	Awaiting response
19	<a href="#">NWWAC advice on the Energy Transition Partnership for EU Fisheries and Aquaculture</a>	<a href="#">17 September 2025</a>
20	<a href="#">NWWAC/PelAC advice on Sprat in the English Channel (ICES divisions 7.d and 7.e)</a>	Awaiting response
21	<a href="#">NWWAC response to the Call for Review of the draft report on “Cumulative impacts of offshore wind farm expansions”</a>	n/a
22	<a href="#">NWWAC Advice on the Vision for Agriculture and Food 2040 and the proposed Vision for Fisheries and Aquaculture 2040</a>	Awaiting response
23	<a href="#">NWWAC/NSAC letter on the MMO’s Marine Protected Areas Stage 3 consultation</a>	<a href="#">10 September 2025</a>
24	<a href="#">NSAC/NWWAC Advice on STECF Work on the Social Data in Fisheries</a>	Awaiting response
25	<a href="#">NWWAC advice on Fishing Opportunities 2026</a>	Awaiting response
26	<a href="#">Joint AC Recommendations to Enhance the Role and Functioning of the EU Advisory Councils</a>	Awaiting response
27	<a href="#">NWWAC/NSAC contribution to the MMO Stage 3 consultation on management of fishing activity impacts in MPAs</a>	n/a



# Review of advice submitted in Year 20 – possible actions

N°	Full title
1	<a href="#">Joint NSAC-LDAC-PeIAC-NWWAC-SWWAC-BSAC Advice on stakeholder engagement in ICES advice request formulation</a>
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MIRIA preparation and debriefing meeting with DG MARE in place</li><li>• Request for half day meeting between MIRIA and MIACO needs to be addressed to ICES – NWWAC to follow up in coordination with other ACs?</li></ul>
4	<a href="#">NWWAC advice on stocks to prioritise for benchmark workshops by ICES</a>
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To be added to MIRIA prep meeting January 2026</li></ul>
6	<a href="#">NWWAC advice on a technical request to ICES on the recovery of the cod stock in the Celtic Sea</a>
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To be added to MIRIA prep meeting January 2026</li></ul>
9	<a href="#">NWWAC advice on VMEs</a>
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• STECF update provided at NWWAC WG2 July</li><li>• DG MARE provided update on court cases at NWWAC WG2 July</li><li>• ICES benchmark planned for 2027</li></ul>

N°	Full title
10	<a href="#">NWWAC advice on new approaches to fisheries management principles</a>
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues raised are feeding into CFP evaluation and inform MSP evaluation</li> <li>• Mention of GNSBI – AC involvement?</li> </ul>
11	<a href="#">Joint-ACs advice on stakeholder engagement in Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) processes</a>
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestion for discussions with STECF Chair/representative on specific topics during Inter-AC meeting – NWWAC to follow up in coordination with other ACs?</li> <li>• Meeting updates available via the STECF website</li> </ul>
14	<a href="#">NWWAC Advice on the European Ocean Pact</a>
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It will be necessary to follow up on the upcoming initiatives foreseen under the Ocean Pact. More information on these is needed from the Commission.</li> </ul>
15	<a href="#">Multi-AC letter on the future of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)</a>
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be addressed at Inter-AC meeting with DG MARE 14 November 2025</li> </ul>
16	<a href="#">NWWAC Advice on the CFP Regulation Evaluation</a>
<b>Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NWWAC will follow up on the next steps while continuing to contribute to the evaluation, for example through developing advice on the Landing Obligation study, which forms part of the overall CFP evaluation process.</li> </ul>

**N°**      **Full title**

**19**      [NWWAC advice on the Energy Transition Partnership for EU Fisheries and Aquaculture](#)

- Action**
- NWWAC advice will be considered in the development of the ETP Roadmap. NWWAC is contributing to the ACs recommendations for ETP.
  - The roadmap will be adopted in the first half of 2026.
  - A high-level conference, to be attended by Commissioner Kadis, will be organised on 17 February 2026 in Brussels, to close the stakeholder consultation process.

**23**      [NWWAC/NSAC letter on the MMO's Marine Protected Areas Stage 3 consultation](#)

- Action**
- Joint NWWAC/NSAC response sent to DG MARE as well, will be taken into account in discussions with UK
  - (also discussed today under agenda item 2)



# Small Scale Fisheries

- Joint AC advice was not supported by the NWWAC due to two objections received
- ACs invited to send 4 representatives to Implementation Dialogue with Commissioner Kadis on 24 November (CCRUP, MEDAC, MAC and BSAC), coordination with BSAC to present common perspective with NWWAC, NSAC and PelAC
- Main points:
  - Small Scale vessels are already represented in ACs via existing organisations, therefore, issues concerning SSF are already reflected in current AC advice. Fleet representation should not be divided.
  - The introduction of new control measures affecting the small-scale fleet is placing additional burden on operators and must be reviewed in consultation with stakeholders, and especially before they enter into force.
- Follow up suggestions:
  - Advice Drafting Group to develop NWWAC advice on SSF
  - Standing point on WGs' agendas on SSF to increase visibility in the AC





## 6. Focus Group update

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



# Joint NSAC/NWWAC Focus Group Social Aspects

- Led by NSAC since 01 October 2022
- Chair Kenn Skau Fischer
- Latest advice: NSAC/NWWAC advice on STECF Work on Social Data in Fisheries submitted 22 August 2025
- Last meeting on 02 September 2025:
  - Presentation Baseline study on the training and certification requirements of fishers in the EU
  - Update on EU Blue Generational Renewal Strategy (Ocean Pact)
  - Discussion on taxation of fisheries incomes compared to other sectors
  - Report on NSAC/NWWAC websites
- Next meeting tbc (December/January)

# Inter-AC Brexit Forum

- Established between PelAC, NWWAC, NSAC, LDAC and CCRUP
- 2 meetings in Year 20:
  - 04 February chaired by the PelAC, 07 July chaired by the LDAC
- Commission attendance and updates (confidential)
- SCF decision from 19 June 2025 ([link](#))
- Topics at SCF:
  - Fisheries management and conservation measures: Mixed fisheries science, technical conservation measures in the Celtic Sea, Celtic Sea Pollock, skates & rays management, guidelines for special stocks
  - Fishing opportunities and scientific cooperation: Rockall cod and other stocks, Nephrops management
  - Items on continued technical discussions: spurdog, seabass
- Next meeting: 21 October organised by the NWWAC

# 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, response received 02 July
- Next meeting tba



# Landing Obligation

- Chair Emiel Brouckaert
- Last meeting 16 July 2025
- NWWAC advice on Commission Communication COM(2025) 296 and on ICES latest advice submitted 29 August 2025
- Next task:
  - Development of joint advice with North Sea AC on the European Commission “Study supporting the evaluation of the landing obligation – Common Fisheries Policy – Final Report”
  - Development of annual NWWAC choke advice





# Climate & Environment

- Chair Alexandra Philippe
- Last meeting 05 June 2025
- NWWAC advice on the Energy Transition Partnership delivered 19 June 2025, follow up advice to be delivered by 31 October
- Work planned on:
  - Nature Restoration Law
  - MSFD



- MSFD – Seabed Thresholds – advice on stakeholder engagement in collaboration with NSAC
  - Commission has started an **Impact Assessment** for the possible future revision of the MSFD which includes stakeholder consultation
  - planned consultation activities for 2025/2026 will include the following:
    - A 12-week Public Consultation to be launched simultaneous to the publication of/consultation on the Call for Evidence (to be launched in October/November 2025).
    - Targeted Survey on the administrative costs to MS authorities, the design of the options/measures and on expected impacts and costs from those options;
    - Stakeholder meetings, including meetings of a dedicated MS expert group (first meeting in November 2025), a stakeholder workshop (early 2026), and a number of focus groups (per stakeholder group, to be organised by the contractor (Milieu and Trinomics));
    - Interviews (to be conducted by the contractor);
    - Consultation of the working and technical groups under the Directive’s Common Implementation Strategy (‘CIS’) throughout 2025 and 2026.

# Joint NWWAC/NSAC Focus Group Skates & Rays

- Led by the NWWAC
- Chair John Lynch
- Last meeting 11 June 2025
- Joint workshop with NSAC on management of skates & rays  
02 September 2025, Brussels
  - 32 participants: DG MARE, NWWAC & NSAC Focus Group members, 5 Member States, ILVO, Marine Institute, Wageningen Marine Research, Spanish Institute of Oceanography
- Joint draft advice based on workshop discussions for review with HWG in NWWAC and Demersal WG in NSAC, planned delivery October 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



# Seabass

- Chair Pauline Stephan
- Vice-Chair Manu Kelberine
- Last meeting: 05 September 2025
- Drafting of NWWAC advice on management measures for seabass for 2026 in progress
- Benchmark results presented to WG3 July 2025
- Next meeting: tba





# Whelk

- Chair Xavier Tetard
- Next meeting: 23 October 2025
- At the NWWAC meeting in July, it was agreed to reopen the FG to discuss the latest updates on whelk data and the need for management measures to be agreed between EU-UK.



# Focus Group Control, Enforcement & Compliance

- Chair Patrick Murphy
- Vice-chair Arthur Yon
- Last meeting on 08 September
- Drafting of Joint ACs Letter on stakeholder consultation related to the implementation of Control Regulation
- Drafting of a NWWAC Advice on the recent Delegated Regulation related to Control Regulation and on boarding ladder measures
- 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
- Development of joint request to MSG for meeting with Control Expert Group (January/February tbc)
- Next meeting tba





# Joint NWWAC/PelAC Focus Group Spatial Dimension

- Chair Gonçalo Carvalho
- Last meeting 29 April
- Joint NWWAC/PelAC webinar on EU fisheries and ORE developments 25 February
- 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 advice on ORE submitted 03 June, awaiting reply
- Joint NWWAC/PelAC response Eclipse draft report submitted 27 June, awaiting reply
  
- Handed over to PelAC Secretariat to take the lead for the coming 12 months
- Next meeting tba

# AOB. Internal AC communication

LinkedIn NWWAC Member Spotlight Campaign → Questionnaire to provide information about your organisation : <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeBMwWOwvgOe0svBdqtQxVNJyFg70SDrFaOp4Z-nMH0aQ9K0A/viewform?usp=preview>

NWWAC WhatsApp Group:



A dramatic sunset or sunrise over the ocean. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with bright golden light breaking through, creating a silhouette of a boat on the water in the foreground.

## 7 AOB

- Internal AC communication

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

