



REPORT

North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council Working Group 2 (WG2) West of Ireland and Celtic Sea

Wednesday 6 July 2011

11:00-13:00

Main Conference Centre –Dublin Castle

Chairman: Hugo C. Gonzalez Garcia

Rapporteur: Paul Trebilcock

1. Welcome

- Opening remarks from the Chair

The Chairman opened the meeting. Working Group 2 (WG2) members were reminded that elections for Working Group Chairman, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur would take place in the forthcoming Working Group meeting. The Chairman informed members of WG2 that he was considering resigning from the position at the end of this term and proposed Jesús Lourido as successor or candidate for new Chair for a three year period.

- Introductions and Apologies

The full list of participants is available in Annex I. There were no apologies received.

- Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted by consensus.

- Adoption of Report of the Last Meeting

The report of WG2 held on 13 April 2011 was adopted by consensus.

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2. Data Deficiency Issues

Barrie Deas summarized the findings of the data deficiency meeting held on the 1st of April 2011 with ICES in Copenhagen (full report available on the NWW RAC website for information).

It was agreed to follow the same working procedure at all NWWRAC Working Groups and identify data coordinators for each stock of interest in area VII. The data coordinators would be entrusted with dealing with scientists, fellow stakeholders and Member States and carrying out the necessary work for improving data quality.

The following data coordinators were appointed:

Anglerfish VII	Jacques Pichon
Northern Hake	Victor Badiola
Megrim VII	Hugo González
Nephrops VII	Eibhlin O'Sullivan
Haddock VII b-k	Sean O'Donoghue
Cod VII e-k	Celtic Sea Focus Group (Paul Trebilcock and Jacques Pichon)
Skates/Spurdog/Sharks	Paul Trebilcock

Having appointed co-coordinators for the stocks above the following points were viewed as essential:

- Setting a common methodology and quality control of work
- Establishing good lines of communication with scientists
- Agreeing a format of presentation of collected data

The ICES representative informed WG2 that ICES had stock coordinators and that he would pass on these contact details to the NWW RAC secretariat. This would assist establishing good lines of communication with scientists.

It was highlighted that there were several other stocks that fell into this category such as Pollack VII, Saithe VII, Western Ling, Sole & Plaice VII hjk. It was agreed to liaise with other working groups to compile a list of these stocks to avoid duplication of effort. The NWW RAC would coordinate this.



Actions:

- Barrie Deas to draft a letter to ICES informing on the work progress made by the NWWRAC on data deficiency, and in particular the appointment of data coordinators for individual stocks. A list of the RAC data coordinators and their contact details will be appended to the letter.
- NWWRAC to draft a letter addressed to the Commission highlighting the problems in relation to data deficient stocks. This letter will be part of the NWWRAC general response to the EC Communication on Fishing Opportunities for 2012 and beyond.

3. ICES Advice 2011

WG2 considered the ICES advice on Hake, Anglerfish and Megrin in particular. The uncertainty in these assessments was disappointing and although stable and improving trends could be identified in both stock biomass and fishing mortality the likely Commission proposals would be reductions for these stocks.

A Spanish scientific representative highlighted a number of issues both on the constraints in resources available for marine science research thorough Europe as well as the pressures applied by the Commission to ICES to give answers to specific questions, such as the definition of precise and numeric reference points, that did not take account of proper scientific process and rigor.

Although it was noted that this situation was felt to be improving in some Member States through initiatives such as Fisheries Science Partnerships, ICES benchmark workshops and the recent data deficiency initiatives with ICES.

Action:

Hugo González and Alvaro Fernández to draft a letter stressing that there was no justification for a Commission’s proposal for a decrease on the TAC for Hake, Anglers and Megrin in 2012.



4. Management and Technical Measures for Skates and Sharks

WG2 heard that there had been no substantive progress on this issue.

As this was an issue that effected all working groups it was agreed that the NWW RAC should set up a specific focus group to work on this subject.

Action:

NWWRAC Secretariat to arrange a technical Focus Group dealing with skates, rays and sharks for the second half of 2011.

5. Report on Work Progress from the Focus Group for a Long Term Management Plan (LTMP) for the Celtic Sea

WG2 heard that this focus group was not going to be held until the following day and therefore there was no further progress to report since the last meeting held in January.

Paul Trebilcock presented a draft letter to the Commission requesting an in year increase in the Cod VII e-k TAC in light of the most recent ICES advice. It was proposed that this should be sent by the NWW RAC as a matter of urgency.

Subject to some minor amendments proposed by WG2 members it was agreed that it should be presented to the NWW RAC Executive Committee for approval and immediate dispatch. The final version of this letter is available on the NWW RAC website for information.

Action:

The NWWRAC will submit in the following days a draft letter to the Commission requesting an in year increase in the Cod VII e-k TAC in light of the most recent ICES advice.



6. Summary of Actions and Recommendations to be put forward to the Executive Committee

Data deficiency:

To draft a letter addressed to ICES reporting on the work progress made by the NWWWRAC, in particular in relation to the appointment of data coordinators for individual stocks. A list of the RAC data coordinators will be appended to the letter.

To draft a letter addressed to the Commission highlighting the problems in relation to data deficient stocks. This letter will be part of the NWWWRAC general response to the EC Communication on Fishing Opportunities for 2012 and beyond.

ICES Advice for Hake, Anglerfish and Megrim: To draft a letter stressing that there was no justification for a Commission's proposal for a decrease on the TAC for these stocks 2012.

Rays, Skates and Sharks: To set up a Focus Group meeting for the second half of 2011.

Celtic Sea cod: To submit with immediate effect a draft letter to the Commission requesting an in year increase in the Cod VII e-k TAC in light of the most recent ICES advice.

The meeting was adjourned at 13:05 h



ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<u>MEMBERS</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname/s</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Hugo	González	ANASOL-ARVI - Chairman
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish FPO - Rapporteur
Bertie	Armstrong	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Víctor	Badiola	OPPAO-CEPESCA
Juan Carlos	Corrás Arias	Pescagalicia-Arpega-Obarco
John	Crudden	European Anglers Alliance
Barrie	Deas	NFFO
José Manuel	Fernández Beltrán	OPP-07-LUGO
Caroline	Gamblin	CNPMEM
Antón	González	Wales and West Coast FPA
André	Gueguen	OPOB
Jesús A.	Lourido García	Puerto de Celeiro S.A.
Lorcan	O' Cinnéide	Irish Fish PO
Sean	O'Donoghue	Kyllibegs FO



<u>MEMBERS (cont.)</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname/s</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Eibhlin	O'Sullivan	Irish South West FPO
José Luis	Otero	Lonja de la Coruña S.A.
Michael	Park	Scottish White Fish PA
Jacques	Pichon	ANOP-PMA
Caitlín	Uí Aodha	ISEFPO/IFO

OBSERVERS		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname/s</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Iwan	Ball	World Wildlife Fund
Arianna	Broggiato	EBCD
Richard	Brouzes	OPBN-COPEPORT
Kara	Brydson	RSPB – Birdlife International
Maurice	Clarke	Marine Institute
Alan	Coghill	SFF / Orkney FPO
Alvaro	Fernández	MMRM - Spain

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OBSERVERS (cont.)		
Paul	Francoise	FFSPM
Grant	Fulton	Community Fisheries Control Agency
David	Gatt	SWFPA
John	Keating	ISEFPO
Sam	Lambourn	NWWRAC Chairman
Daniel	Lefèvre	CRPMEM Basse-Normandie
Eamon	Mangan	DPMAM - France
Eduardo	Míguez	EAFPA
Kevin	McDonnell	West of Scotland FPO
Jane	Sandell	Scottish Fishermen Organisation
Pieter-Jan	Schon	AFBI – Northern Ireland
Héctor	Villa González	SEGEPESCA – MMARM Spain
John	Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary



NWWRAC SECRETARIAT		
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Alexandre	Rodríguez	Executive Assistant, Policy Coordinator
Joanna	McGrath	Executive Assistant, Administration - Finances
Christine	O'Connor	Clerical Assistant to the NWWRAC