



# **REPORT**

## **North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council**

### **Working Group 2 (WG2) West of Ireland and Celtic Sea**

**Wednesday 30 January 2013  
CNP MEM Paris  
16:00-18:00**

**Chairman: Jesús Lourido  
Rapporteur: Paul Trebilcock**

#### **1. Welcome**

The meeting was opened and participants welcomed by the Chairman, and invited to introduce themselves in a *tour de table*.

#### Apologies

There were apologies received from Conor Nolan, Mike Park and Alan Coghill.

#### Adoption of Agenda

The agenda previously circulated was approved without amendment.

#### Adoption of Report of the Last Meeting

The report of the meeting held in Dublin on 4 July 2012 was approved as a true and correct record.

#### **2. Overview of Exchange of Correspondence in 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2012**

##### 2.1. Fishing Opportunities for 2013

A number of interventions from members raised particular concerns regarding the 15% reduction in the 2013 Haddock VIIb-k TAC. Ultimately this decision that was taken by the Council in December 2012, under misguided pressure from the Commission, will result in increased discards with no reduction in fishing mortality or any genuine benefit to the stock concerned or the economic activity of the fleets concerned.

North Western Waters RAC  
Working Group 2 - West of Ireland and Celtic Sea  
Paris, 30 January 2013



**ACTION: The NWWRAC to urgently write to the Commission seeking an in year review of the Haddock VIIb-k TAC. The fundamental point being without a review discards will unnecessarily increase. Advice from Member State scientific institutions should be sought and incorporated into the justification for such a review.**

## 2.2. Gear Marking and Identification of Fixed Gears/Beam Trawls

The Commission's response on this subject remains unsatisfactory. There seems to be a complete lack of practical understanding or willingness to listen to practicing fishermen in the Commission's gear expert department.

**ACTION: The NWWRAC to write to the Commission expressing its dissatisfaction with its response. The response should once again include the experience of real fishermen and the practical issues associated with the current regulation. Spanish and French gillnet fleet representatives will provide particular case studies.**

## 2.3. Management measures for Nephrops in Area VII

This topic was decided to be discussed under item 4.

## 2.4. Interpretation of TCM Regs. No 517/2008 and 494/2002

Members once again raised concerns regarding the interpretation of these regulations. It was felt extremely important that the Commission fully understand the practical implications regarding the interpretation of these regulations. It was agreed that actual examples and illustrations of the practical difficulties were required and that members of WG2 would provide this information.

**ACTION: Spanish members of WG2 (Hugo González, Jesús Lourido and Juan Carlos Corrás) will draft a letter raising issues of concern from the fishing industry. The letter will include real examples and/or specific practical realities that illustrate the concerns raised. This letter will then be reviewed by the NWWRAC Executive Committee and subsequently sent by the NWWRAC to the Commission.**



### 3. Multiannual Management Plan for Celtic Sea Mixed Demersal Fisheries

#### 3.1. Update on EC Call for Tender for a Study on a Decision Support Tool to Assess Management Options for the Celtic Sea

The NWWRAC secretariat gave a brief summary of this process. It was stressed that this tender call had been launched and was now available on the DG MARE website under LOT1. Funding of up to 500,000 Euro was available with a project timescale of 24 months.

WG2 felt this was positive news however the timescales appeared too long for any outcomes to be of best use. It was also felt important that the NWWRAC should encourage the involvement of national member state scientific institutes as well as the NWWRAC involvement itself.

**ACTION: NWWRAC to write to the Commission request that specific and time defined milestones with specified deliverables be made part of this tender as the overall time line of 24 months from the point of commissioning was felt to be too long.**

#### 3.2. Commission's Emergency Measures on Gear Selectivity

WG2 members noted the Council declaration contained in the 2013 TAC and Quota regulation, that assessment of technical measures implemented during 2012 in VIIIg be made and if considered necessary develop and implement further measures.

#### 3.3. Work Plan of Celtic Sea Focus Group (CSFG) for 2013

The chairman of the CSFG indicated that the focus of work would be on the issues raised by the Council declaration above. Work would also continue on development of a management plan for mixed demersal fisheries.



## 4. Nephrops Management in area VII

### 4.1. Revision of Timing of Area VII Nephrops Scientific Advice

Irish and UK representatives had produced a position statement on a reviewing the timing of the Area VII nephrops advice. This was fully supported by WG2

**ACTION: NWW RAC to urgently write to the Commission/ICES seeking as revision of timing scientific advice based on the position statement provided by Irish and UK representatives.**

### 4.2. Work Plan for 2013: RAC Advice on Porcupine (FU 16)

The NWWRAC had submitted a paper in support of the EAP0 position paper in relation to Nephrops management at the end of 2012. Despite this there remained an “*of which*” element of the TAC that can be taken in FU16 as well as the time reduced seasonal closure of the area.

Again Irish and UK representatives made a position statement on this issue that was supported by members of WG2.

**ACTION: NWWRAC to review forthcoming STECF advice on management regime and the outcomes of ICES benchmark (WKNEPH) in February 2013. Subject to this review the NWWRAC will request the removal of the “*of which*” restriction as well as an increase in TAC.**

## 5. Northern Hake, Monkfish and Megrin: A Combined Approach?

There were a number of serious concerns raised by several members of WG2 regarding the adequacy of assessment and data quality issues for these three important stocks. It was agreed that continuation of this situation was not acceptable and a Focus Group meeting should be set up to further look at these issues.

**ACTION: The NWWRAC will establish a focus group to address specific issues with these three stocks in the first half of 2013. Relevant scientific experts will be invited. The focus group will look specifically at Northern Hake, Monk in areas VI and VII and Megrin in Area VII. Mixed fisheries considerations will be looked at in detail as well as ICES has initiated work in this direction.**

## 6. Report on Work Progress with ICES on Data Limited Stocks

Barrie Deas gave an update on progress on this subject. A number of reports are available on the NWWRAC website for information.

Víctor Badiola asked to reflect on the role of RACs in this area of work, as it is the responsibility of the European Commission and the Member States to comply with the legal obligation of compilation, treatment and processing of these data. Both the data coordinator leader (Mr. Deas) and the WG2 members took note of this observation, which will be taken into account when defining tasks and duties in future actions of the NWWWRAC in this field.

It was also agreed that the NWWWRAC secretariat would seek permission from ICES to circulate documents presented at MIRAC 2013 regarding the context of advice, MSY values, the mixed fisheries / multispecies approach and the review of frequency of assessments.

**ACTION: Subject to ICES consent, the NWWWRAC secretariat will circulate the documents presented at MIRAC 2013.**

## **7. Increase of Costs Associated to the Use of e-Logbook**

Juan Carlos Corrás introduced this topic. Mr. Corrás and other WG2 Members raised concerns regarding costs associated with the operation of e-logbooks on vessels across the EU. Data transmission, maintenance contracts and other running costs were highlighted as new and significant cost burdens on vessels. In addition it was reported that some Member States the perception was that monopoly situations appear to be emerging. This was felt to be in terms of single supplier contracts which in turn raised concerns about pricing policies/monopoly situations.

**ACTION: Juan Carlos Corrás agreed to draft a letter to the Commission on behalf of NWWWRAC raising the issues above. This would include the possibility of maximum data transmission costs and satellite communication costs across Europe fishing vessels when such communications are derived from control regulations. The objective of this is to ensure a level playing field between national fleets and reduce economic burden of costs associated with the use of e-logbooks.**

## **8. Chair's Summary of Actions and Recommendations Agreed to be put Forward for Adoption at the Executive Committee**

### FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2013

- The NWWWRAC to urgently write to the Commission seeking an in year review of the Haddock VIIb-k TAC. The fundamental point being without a review discards will unnecessarily increase. Advice from Member State scientific institutions should be sought and incorporated into the justification for such a review.



## GEAR MARKING AND IDENTIFICATION

- The NWWRAC to write to the Commission expressing its dissatisfaction with its response. The response should once again include the experience of real fishermen and the practical issues associated with the current regulation. Spanish and French gillnet fleet representatives will provide particular case studies.

## INTERPRETATION OF TECHNICAL MEASURES REGULATIONS: EU REGS. 517/2008 & 494/2002

- Spanish members of WG2 (Hugo González, Jesús Lourido and Juan Carlos Corrás) will draft a letter raising issues of concern from the fishing industry. The letter will include real examples and/or specific practical realities that illustrate the concerns raised. This letter will then be reviewed by the NWWRAC Executive Committee and subsequently sent by the NWWRAC to the Commission.

## MULTIANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CELTIC SEA

- The NWWRAC to write to the Commission request that specific and time defined milestones with specified deliverables be made part of this tender as the overall time line of 24 months from the point of commissioning was felt to be too long.

## NEPHROPS MANAGEMENT

- The NWWRAC to urgently write to the Commission/ICES seeking as revision of timing scientific advice based on the position statement provided by Irish and UK representatives.
- The NWWRAC to review forthcoming STECF advice on management regime and the outcomes of ICES benchmark (WKNEPH) in February 2013. Subject to this review the NWWRAC will request the removal of the “*of which*” restriction as well as an increase in TAC.

## REPORT ON WORK PROGRESS WITH ICES ON DATA LIMITED STOCKS

- Subject to ICES consent, the NWWRAC secretariat will circulate the documents presented at MIRAC 2013.

## HAKE, MONKFISH AND MEGRIM

- The NWWRAC will establish a focus group to address specific issues with these three stocks in the first half of 2013. Relevant scientific experts will be invited. The focus group will look specifically at Northern Hake, Monk in areas VI and VII and Megrim in Area VII. Mixed fisheries considerations will be looked at in detail as well as ICES has initiated work in this direction.



## INCREASE OF COSTS RELATED TO THE USE OF LOG-BOOK

- Juan Carlos Corrás agreed to draft a letter to the EC on behalf of NWWRAC raising the issues above. This would include the possibility of maximum data transmission costs and satellite communication costs across Europe fishing vessels when such communications are derived from control regulations. The objective of this is to ensure a level playing field between national fleets and reduce economic burden of costs associated with the use of e-logbooks.

**The meeting was adjourned at 6pm.**



## ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<b>MEMBERS</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Surname/s</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Jesús	Lourido	Puerto de Celeiro S.A. – <b>Chairman</b>
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish FPO - <b>Rapporteur</b>
Bertie	Armstrong	NWWRAC Chairman
Victor	Badiola	OPPAO-CEPESCA
René-Pierre	Chever	CDPMEM Finistère
Luc	Corbisier	SDVO
Juan Carlos	Corrás Arias	Pescagalicia-Arpega- Obarco
Debbie	Crockard	Seas at Risk
John	Crudden	European Anglers Association
Barrie	Deas	NFFO
Caroline	Gamblin	CNPMEM
Marc	Ghiglia	UAPF
Antón	González	Wales and West Coast FPA
Hugo	González	ANASOL/ARVI
André	Gueguen	OPOB – <b>WG2 Vice-Chair</b>
John	Lynch	Irish Fishermen's Org.
Kevin	McDonnell	West of Scotland FPO
Francis	O'Donnell	Irish Fish PO
Sean	O'Donoghue	Kyllibegs FO

North Western Waters RAC  
Working Group 2 - West of Ireland and Celtic Sea  
Paris, 30 January 2013



<b>MEMBERS (cont.)</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Surname/s</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Eibhlin	O'Sullivan	Irish South West FPO
José Luis	Otero	Lonja de la Coruña S.A.
Jacques	Pichon	ANOP-PMA
Jim	Portus	South West FPO
Mercedes	Rodriguez Moreda	OPP-07-LUGO
Caitlín	Uí Aodha	ISEFPO

<b>OBSERVERS / EXPERTS</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Surname/s</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Rodrigo	Ataide Días	DG MARE – European Commission
Alain	Biseau	IFREMER France
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Kara	Brydson	RSPB – Birdlife
Stephen	Cederrand	European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)
Ramón	De la Figuera	Spanish Administration
Roy	Griffin	European Commission
Michael	Keatinge	BIM - Ireland
Daniel	Lefèvre	CNPMEM Basse Normandie – <b>WG3 Chair</b>
Alan	McCulla	ANIFPO – <b>WG4 Chair</b>
Rémi	Mejecaze	DPMEM France - MS rep.

North Western Waters RAC  
 Working Group 2 - West of Ireland and Celtic Sea  
 Paris, 30 January 2013



<b>NWWRAC SECRETARIAT</b>		
Joanna	McGrath	Executive Assistant
Alexandre	Rodríguez	Executive Assistant – Policy Coordinator

North Western Waters RAC  
Working Group 2 - West of Ireland and Celtic Sea  
Paris, 30 January 2013