

NORTH WEST WATERS REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Working Group 1 - West of Scotland (ICES Vb & VI)

Glasgow, Monday 15 May 2006, 2pm-5.30pm
Summary of Recommendations and Actions

1.b The minutes from the previous Working Group 1 meeting on the 28th February 2006 were adopted.

2a: Update on deepwater gillnet fishery (Barrie Deas)

Recommendations:

- WG1 notes that the approach taken by the Commission on this issue reflects the approach recommended by the NWW RAC.
- WG1 notes that any calls at the meeting with the Commission on 7th April to reopen all fisheries did not reflect the RAC position. WG1 accepts the apology from Pescagalicia-Arpega for any misunderstanding. It was agreed that there should be no further misrepresentation of the RAC position on this issue, and that the RAC should endeavour to portray a unified position if it is to retain credibility with the Commission.

Actions:

- To request the Executive Committee to draw up procedures for those attending meeting on behalf of the RAC.
- A statement reflecting the true RAC position on the deepwater gillnet fishery, and on monitoring of nets and potential of net lengths for the hake fish fishery, will be forwarded to the Commission and STECF (to be agreed at the Exec Comm?)

2b: Update on marking and identification of passive fishing gears (Barrie Deas)

Recommendations:

- WG1 recommends that the NWWRAC offers the Commission its assistance to find solutions to the problems of complying with this regulation, specifically the practical issue of logistical application and deployment.

Actions:

- To request that the Executive Committee considers this proposal, in conjunction with recommendations from other Working Groups covering the geographical areas where this issue is of most concern.
- To ask the Executive Committee chair and Working Group chairs to take procedural steps to ensure that discussions on cross cutting issues such as this are not duplicated unnecessarily, and are carried out in such a way as to aid decision making at Executive Committee.

3: Presentation from Plymouth University on Vessel Activity in Rockall

Recommendations:

- WG1 thanks Plymouth University for an interesting and thought provoking presentation.
- WG1 notes with concern that the inability to access Russian data.

Actions:

- Dr Jason Hall Spencer will endeavour to keep the Working Group updated on the progress of this project.

4.a: The cod recovery programme

Recommendations:

- WG1 recommends that the NWW RAC supports the NS RAC work on the cod recovery plan, and supports putting pressure on the Commission to ensure that this review takes place.

Actions:

- To be taken forward to Executive Committee and, as relayed in previous minutes, to approach the NS RAC for involvement in their drafting group.
- Sean O'Donoghue (fishing sector) to put together a short paper as an addendum to the NS RAC paper, on issues of specific relevance to the NWW RAC. This paper will be circulated to WG1 initially, and then put forward to the NS RAC.

4.b: Draft proposal for the assessment of discards

Recommendations:

- WG1 notes the existence of this proposal which will be discussed in other Working Groups.

4.c: Monkfish issues

Recommendations:

- WG1 notes that the STECF meeting at the end of March has recommended a 10% uplift, and that this is an example of quick action following an observer programme.
- WG1 again calls on other nations to contribute to the monkfish catch data study.

5: The next meeting will be held in late September/early October, dates to be circulated.

6: AOB:

- The Chairman asked that agenda items of specific relevance to the West of Scotland be submitted for the next meeting.
- Agenda items suggested for the next meeting of WG1 include the brown crab fishery, and the Porcupine Bank hake fishery.

Bertie Armstrong
Chairman of Working Group 1
NWW RAC