

North Western Waters Regional Advisory Committee

Working Group 3 (Channel)

Wednesday 2nd July 2014

14:00 – 16:00 h

Budongo Lecture Room - Edinburgh Zoo Centre

Chairman: Daniel Lefèvre

Rapporteur: Jim Portus

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed members, observers and invited guests to Edinburgh for the NWWAC Working Group 3. The full list of participants is appended (Annex I).

- Apologies:
Noted from Konstantinos Kokosis (EBCD), Jacques Bigot (France Pêche Durable et Responsable), René-Pierre Chever (CDPMEM Finistère), John Hermse (Scallop Association), Paul Francoise (FFSPM), Anton Dekker and Geert Meun (DFO).

The full list of participants/attendees is listed in Annex I.

- Introductions: Round the table.
- Adoption of Agenda: The Agenda was adopted.
- Adoption of Report from last meeting (Paris, 7 November 2013): the meeting report had been circulated beforehand among WG3 members and was approved without changes.

2. Management Framework for Channel Scallops (VIIde)

- **Report on outcomes of GAP2 Workshop – Brixham, 15-16 April 2014**
Daniel Lefèvre / Jim Portus / Alex Rodriguez

Daniel reported that Giles Bartlett had written to participants after the successful event. He had expressed grounds for optimism regarding the future of the fishery. A report of the event and the key outcomes is under review and is eagerly anticipated. There was a Fishing News International article about the event.

Jim expressed support for the Gap2 Workshop and its outcomes.

The Chairman asked Alex to summarise. He stated that it had been a positive meeting and that the Gap2 Report is yet to be published and a number of recommendations and action points will be included also there.

Jennifer Mouat concurred with colleagues about the positive contribution the workshop had been.

- **Discussion on next steps**

Comments from the floor revealed participants in Gap2 had agreed:

- Improved data is vital to the long-term, sustainable future for the fishery.
- Fishers would welcome the opportunity to support scientific studies directed towards a full scallop stock assessment.
- A full capacity assessment of scallop boats operating in the Channel should be undertaken.
- Attention should be paid to ICES area VIIId, including harmonisation of technical measures. This will require further discussion to reach consensus.
- All measures must be driven by industry.

ACTION POINTS:

The establishment of a dedicated working group, with a specific focus on the Channel scallop fishery, would be beneficial to moving forward with agreed suggestions – potentially facilitated through the NWWAC's current Channel working group.

The French delegates agreed to take this process forward with another workshop in France in 2015, if the NWWAC Executive Committee proposed such course of action.

3. Update on ACRUNET Project on brown crab management - Alan Coghill

ACRUNET consists of a number of activities or strands. Each has its own leaders and there is inevitably some crossover. The First of the Activity Groups is Network and Communications which as you would expect is charged with keeping members abreast of activities progress and disseminating the good work out to the fisheries interests in each of the countries involved and to the general public. At this meeting the important matters of note were that the website is being revamped and the draft of the next newsletter was circulated for approval.

On networking, the relationship was continuing with the NWWAC and it was felt a similar link should be instituted with the NSAC.

The activities were beginning to come together and it was felt that consideration should be given to applying for ACRUNET 2 to continue the work.

Activity 3 is concerned with management strategies based on scientific and economic assessments. The basic problem has been collecting accurate information on identifying the extent of latent effort in the shellfish fleets which has often increased by the unintended consequences of legislation in other sectors. It is worth noting that the French Industry appears to have achieved a high standard of crab fishery management and the remaining problems lie with the UK and Irish sectors. Discussion also covered Western Waters effort for crab fisheries. A sub-committee will meet before the next ACRUNET meeting to progress this work.

Quality standards are the main thrust of Activity 4 with the three main crab fishing countries agreeing on similar standards for their vessels. Progress is being made in rolling this out on trials in the UK and France with Ireland already having created an ISO standard.

The primary objective in Activity 5 is to achieve an understanding of the brown crab picture and all its facets, looking at the various markets both in Europe and elsewhere, how this has developed and undertaking market research in the UK, Ireland, France, Spain and Portugal to attempt to match products to markets.

This has involved detailed studies of some countries' markets looking at identifying market outlets, price points and acceptability of products, etc. Other factors affecting the trade are also being assessed with a view to establishing the key messages to be addressed.

Activity 6 focuses on the reduction of mortalities and cost and this has included transport, handling at all stages and waste disposal with particular emphasis on the environment. With regard to the latter it is proposed to hold workshops in each country.

The transport work appears to have achieved a degree of success with a misting system which in small scale experiments appears to produce an anarchic effect on the crab with beneficial survival. It was agreed this needed to be scaled up in size and the time period extended for the next stage. Also some work is to be carried out on commercial scale equipment. It was also agreed to develop training protocols for handling and storage for both retail and wholesale outlets. Detailed work on waste had been undertaken in Portugal to analyse the waste products from the various productions and this will be taken forward.

The production of a leaflet to publicise the products and increase public knowledge of the industry is the main outcome of activity 7 and this is now at the production stage. It summarises and uses the information from the other Activities and is primarily consumer focussed but has a commercial delivery.

The Strategic Review Group considers progress to date and future development and on this occasion was primarily focussed on the need to consider extending the programme with ACRUNET 2 given that 30th June 2015 sees the end of the present one. Members were in general agreement that good progress has been made but here were issues for the future and this should be an agenda issue for the next meeting in early October.

4. Seabass management

The Chairman introduced this topic. He advised that the French had been concerned to introduce management measures for this valuable stock over some time, including developing an EU-wide framework. A Belgian delegate expressed concern that a SWWAC position paper appeared to reflect a defined French industry position. French delegates countered that it was merely a discussion paper.

ICES and STECF would be asked to contribute papers on the scientific knowledge and understanding of the fishery and its present management in EU waters. The intention would be to share this knowledge and attempt to identify common ground.

The stock is widespread through all areas and all 3 ACs are interested.

French delegates insisted they have no pre-destined position on this fishery. Roy Griffin informed that STECF would evaluate current national measures and would provide suggested levels of catches for MSY. This would not, however be a TAC proposal.

Delegates expressed concern that the InterAC meeting to consider bass must be open, transparent and not based on any preconception of fisheries reference period if national allocations are considered for a future management regime.

ACTION: The Executive Committees of the 3 concerned Advisory Councils (North Sea, South Western and North Western Waters) had agreed there should be a workshop on Bass at the time of the AGM in Dublin in September.

An InterAC meeting would be held in September 2014, led by the NWWAC in Dublin, to take this matter forward.

5. EC fishing Opportunities for 2015: Undulate ray stocks

- Follow up on decision adopted at December Council
- Report Project "Raimouest" (IFREMER)

The Chairman asked officials to update the meeting on certain Channel stocks in the light of advised dramatic reduction of 7d Sole catches by 60% to reach MSY by 2015.

ICES commented that there is mixing of Soles from one area to another between 7d and 7e, but this is not as pronounced as with Plaice, whereby 15% of 7d catches in first quarter are migrants from 7e. A particular problem associated with Sole 7d is that F has been quite far above the reference Fmsy. Also, recruitment (R) appears low and has been over-estimated in recent years. Abundance appears lower.

On the subject of advice for Channel Cod, there was a call for information to be consistent, with the implied TAC being given to compare previous years to coming year. This is not easy for Channel Cod because 7d is assessed with the N Sea stocks and 7e is part of Celtic Sea.

Similarly, Channel Plaice is managed as combination 7d,e but the 7d element is linked to N Sea assessments and 7e is separately assessed. Some delegates called for Plaice 7d,e to be assessed in future as one stock.

The Commission confirmed there is no intention to propose separating 7d,e Plaice into its component parts for TAC and Quota management.

The Commission also confirmed that all ICES advice for this year is given in terms of Fmsy 2015. Any change to advice in future years will be decided by Council.

Discards discussion:

Technical Conservation Regulations are under review in support of the new CFP requirements to land all catches of quota species. Fish caught that are below minimum conservation reference sizes will have to be landed and are to count against national quotas.

There will be incentives for fishers to improve their gear selectivity to minimize such catches. Also there will be exemptions for de minimis amounts and derogations for species that have high survival rates. It will remain illegal to land species that are rare and endangered with zero TACs.

Undulate Rays:

The Chairman introduced the topic and made a summary of the history/background of this fishery. In January 2009 a prohibition for fishing undulate ray was introduced by the Commission. French fishers and scientists have done much work on this species to improve knowledge base. In November 2013 a case was made to lift the prohibition at Council. It is hoped that in January 2015 the undulate ray fishery in the Channel will be reopened again.

The Chairman introduced Nicolas Leblanc and Véronique Légrand from CRPMEM BN for the project RAIMOUEST:

- This species is locally abundant in the Normand-Breton Gulf (Southeast in ICES Division VIIe).
- Work has been focused to improve fisheries data on the main ray species caught in the NBG.
- Two documents and research papers have been submitted to (and published by) ICES.
- There will be proposals on management measures to support limited re-opening of the fishery. Barrie Deas confirmed that a similar approach was being studied and similar management would be proposed from the UK.

ACTION: For undulate ray specifically (brunette), the AC will work on and discuss the proposal for a stepwise approach for a regulated reopening of this fishery through a sustainable exploitation of this stock based on the measures and safeguards put forward by the Projet RAIMOUEST made by the French to be considered for inclusion on its advice that will be submitted to the Commission and MS in relation to EC Fishing Opportunities for 2015.

6. Channel Sprat fishery: regional discards plan

Jim Portus addressed this topic very briefly. He had provided exploitation data to the AC Secretariat. It is an important small fishery for only a small number of inshore fishing vessels (3) from the port of Brixham.

The UK authorities had approached the local managers to discuss the Landings Obligation (L.O.) from the end of this year. There were proposals to take full advantage of interspecies flexibility to ensure the small by-catches of mackerel and herring can be landed, to count against the Sprats quota.



7. Summary of Actions for Executive Committee

- a. Gap2 Project workshop on Scallops to be followed-up with a Scallops conference in France (most likely Normandy) hosted by the French fishing industry delegates.
- b. Acrunet to ask for an extension in time for Acrunet2.
- c. SeaBass workshop to be organized in Dublin in September.
- d. Undulate rays to seek to have the fishery re-opened.

The Chairman thanked Marine Scotland for providing the unique venue, local staff and technicians for their professional work, interpreters for the quality of the services provided and the NWWAC Secretariat for organising this meeting so efficiently.

The meeting was adjourned at 16:00 h



ANNEX I. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<u>MEMBERS</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Daniel	Lefèvre	CNPMEM Basse Normandie – WG3 Chairman
Jim	Portus	South West Fish Producers’ Organisation – WG3 Vice Chair and Rapporteur
Bertie	Armstrong	Scottish Fishermen’s Federation
Emiel	Brouckaert	Rederscentrale
Richard	Brouzes	Copeport Marée OPBN
Luc	Corbisier	Stichting voor Duurzame Visserij
John	Crudden	European Anglers Alliance (EAA)
Dave	Cuthbert	New Under Ten Fishermen’s Association (NUTFA)
Bruno	Dachicourt	CFTC/ETF
Barrie	Deas	National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO)
Caroline	Gamblin	Comité National des Pêches Maritimes
André	Gueguen	OPOB – Pêcheurs de Bretagne
Irene	Kingma	Dutch Fisheries Organisation
Olivier	LeNezet	CRPMEM Bretagne
John	Lynch	Irish Fishermen’s Organisation
Jennifer	Mouat	Scottish White Fish Producers’ Association
Jacques	Pichon	ANOP-PMA
Delphine	Roncin	CRPMEM Nord / Pas de Calais / Picardie
Dominique	Thomas	CME OP
Paul	Trebilcock	Cornish Fish Producers’ Organisation
Caitlín	Uí Aodha	Irish South & East Fish Producers Organisation



<u>OBSERVERS</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Stéphan	Beaucher	Consultant
Andrew	Clayton	The PEW Charitable Trusts
Alan	Coghill	Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)
Carmen	Fernández	ICES
Ramón	De la Figuera	SGPESCA - Spain
Marc	Ghiglia	UAPF / NWWAC GA President
Iain	Glasgow	DEFRA
Melanie	Gomes	BirdWatch Ireland
Robert	Griffin	DG MARE – European Commission
Nicolas	Leblanc	CRPMEM Basse Normandie
Véronique	Legrand	CRPM Basse Normandie
Guy	Lémoigne	CDPMEM29
Jin	Lu	University of Edinburgh - Researcher
Laurent	Markovic	DG MARE – European Commission
Kevin	McDonnell	West of Scotland FPO
Karen	McHarg	DEFA – Isle of Man
Rémi	Méjeczaze	Direction des Pêches – France
Miquel	Ortega	Fundació ENT
Colm	O'Súilleabháin	DAFM - Ireland
Glenn	Quelch	European Fisheries Control Agency
Cathrine	Schirmer	The Pew Charitable Trusts



OBSERVERS (cont.)		
Sara	Vandamme	ILVO
Liane	Veitch	Client Earth
Johnny	Woodlock	Irish Seal Sanctuary

<u>NWWAC SECRETARIAT</u>		
<u>Name</u>	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Conor	Nolan	Executive Secretary
Alexandre	Rodríguez	Executive Assistant – Policy and Information
Joanna	McGrath	Executive Assistant – Administration Finances