

# ACRUNET Industry Partners Joint Policy Statement

North Western Waters Advisory Council

16<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Dublin

- ACRUNET – Atlantic Crab Resource Users Network
- A project funded by the Atlantic Area Transnational Programme
- 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015
- 17 partners
  - Republic of Ireland
  - United Kingdom
  - France
  - Spain
  - Portugal
- Drawn from:
  - Marketing Bodies
  - Scientific Institutes
  - National Development Agencies
  - Industry Representative Organisations

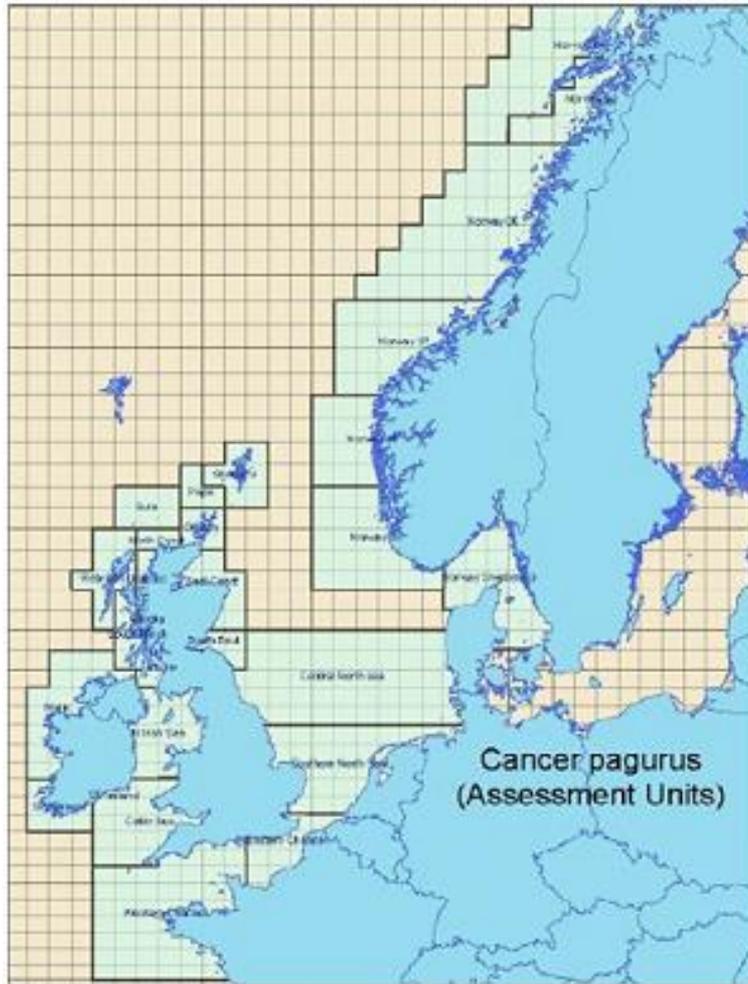
- **Challenging list of objectives**
  - The market
  - The quality
  - The management
- **The market and the quality**
- General consensus – same aims for improvement even if different manifestation – see Deliverables

- **Producer countries**

France, UK and Ireland

- **Consumer countries**

France, Spain and Portugal



- ACRUNET Science Partners
- Marine Institute – Lead (Dr Oliver Tully)
- Cefas
- Marine Scotland Science
- IFREMER

- **The management of the fisheries**
- Each producer country has a different approach
- France
- United Kingdom
- Ireland

- Succession of partner meetings – 2013/2014
- Management Topics
  - Evidence to suggest certain fisheries were in danger?
  - Minimum Landing Size?
  - Pot limits?
  - Days at Sea?
  - Adopt the MSC model?

**Finally.....**

an issue which was major cause of the log-jam was identified.....

Latent Effort or Latent Capacity.

In the context of brown crab fisheries what is latent capacity and how does it hold back rational management of the fisheries?

It is not an issue in France but has serious implications for operators in UK and RoI.

- **Actions Taken**

- A WG was formed led by Oliver Tully
- Met in Dublin January 2015
- MI, Cefas and MSS agreed to produce reports on LE in their respective jurisdictions
- Reports available on ACRUNET web-site
- By now close to end of ACRUNET

## **ACRUNET Final Meeting, Roscoff, 16/17 June 2015**

- French partners felt ACRUNET should have made more progress on fishery management objectives
- UK and RoI industry partners, with the support of the French partners, undertook to engage with their national regulatory authorities, relevant Advisory Councils and agencies to move forward on an agreed management plan for the transnational shared resource.

- **North Western Waters Advisory Council**
  - ACRUNET has kept NWWAC updated
  - Dublin, Paris, Bilbao - almost always at the Channel WG
  - But brown crab fisheries are not confined to the Channel
  - Now we have more than an update
  - We have a joint industry policy statement which we hope NWWAC will give serious consideration

- **STATEMENT**
- Background
- ACRUNET has been active since 2012 and has made important advances to support product development, markets, transport, improved quality and the science underpinning the fisheries
- BUT.....

- STATEMENT *contd.*
- The fishing industry partners agree that current fisheries management are inadequate and need reform to ensure a sustainable and economically viable future
- Brown crab fisheries are, by and large, fully exploited and additional fishing effort could jeopardise long-term sustainability

- STATEMENT *contd.*
- In addition to potential risk to stocks, industry requires the certainty of proactively, well managed fisheries to
  - Reduce business risk
  - Attract investment
  - Secure market endorsement for their product
  - Be in line with MSFD requirements

- STATEMENT *contd.*
- At a transnational level industry partners in France feel undermined by a lack of management for its two main competitors
- While UK and Ireland are at a disadvantage through uncertainty, closed off from certification schemes such as MSC, victims of uncontrolled fishing effort leading to glut of product, downward spiralling prices, poor return on investment.....

- STATEMENT *contd.*
- **What are we looking for?**
- A Management Strategy for Brown Crab Fisheries
  - More and better data
  - Prevent further significant growth in fleet capacity
  - Appropriate licensing to address Latent Capacity currently there
  - Develop responsive management measures
  - Multi-annual plans
  - Take account of inshore and offshore diversity and need for differing approaches
  - Where appropriate, increase the Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS)

- The industry partners of ACRUNET consider therefore that a strategy with a clear timeframe of outcomes should be adopted by the member states as a matter of high priority to deliver management objectives
- ACRUNET now needs input from the NWWAC and requests that NWWAC:
  - Adopt the policy presented here today
  - Devise an institutional arrangement for taking it forward
  - Consider its policy whereby brown crab is dealt with by disparate WGs and replace with an overarching approach to the issue

- Industry is very committed to long-term management of the brown crab resource and is appealing to the regulators to provide the framework and tools to achieve its objective

# *Thank you*

Please send your responses, requests for additional information etc., to:

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