CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN WATERS ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA LAS AGUAS NOROCCIDENTALES

NWWAC interactive WebGIS tool

16 February 2022

Presentation to the LDAC Executive Committee

Background

The NWWAC commissioned a scoping study to:

- Explore and identify NWWAC members' needs regarding a WebGIS-based application
- Identify data availability and accessibility
- Identify potential specialist services to support data translation, as necessary

-> three step approach: survey, interviews, desk based research

Survey

Findings

Information use

- All data layers seen as critical or very important by most people
- The majority accessed data online ashore
- Variation in how regularly data was accessed
- Most found data easy to access

Information options

- Of the options available, most people were interested in everything
- Clear patterns regarding interest based on whether respondent were from industry or OIG

Connectivity and technology

- Data at sea mostly accessed by internet
- Many do not have internet access at sea

Specific useful information layers:

- Regulatory information (including those related to British waters post-Brexit
- Technical measures
- Common names of areas, in addition to ICES areas
- Fishing effort (heat maps)
- Co-location information

Interviews

Findings

Regulatory information and technical measures were seen as the **most important information layers**, but they are complex and difficult to access.

Any GIS tool needs to be **easy to use** by those working at sea.

The **NWWAC paper chart** is used regularly but was noted as having some limitations (including absence of information and customisability).

Members will use the tool in **different ways** depending on their background so it will need to be flexible.

Desk-based research

Findings

Four layers are easily accessible and suitable for inclusion in a WebGIS tool:

- Maritime boundaries
- Fishing zones
- Conservation areas
- Co-location information (other uses of the sea, i.e., wind farms)

The remaining **seven layers** would require transformation in order for the information to be displayed spatially.

Challenges include keeping regulatory information and technical measures up-to-date.

The WebGIS tool would need to consider **liability** (re data accuracy) and **hosting** (who owns the data and who updates it).

Key conclusions

Meaningful content

- Include a variety of **high-quality information layers**, especially those highlighted by participants, dependent on data availability.
- Prioritise the inclusion of information layers outlining **technical measures and regulations**.
- Clarify that it is intended for **reference purposes only**, and does not provide any legal foundations.

Key conclusions

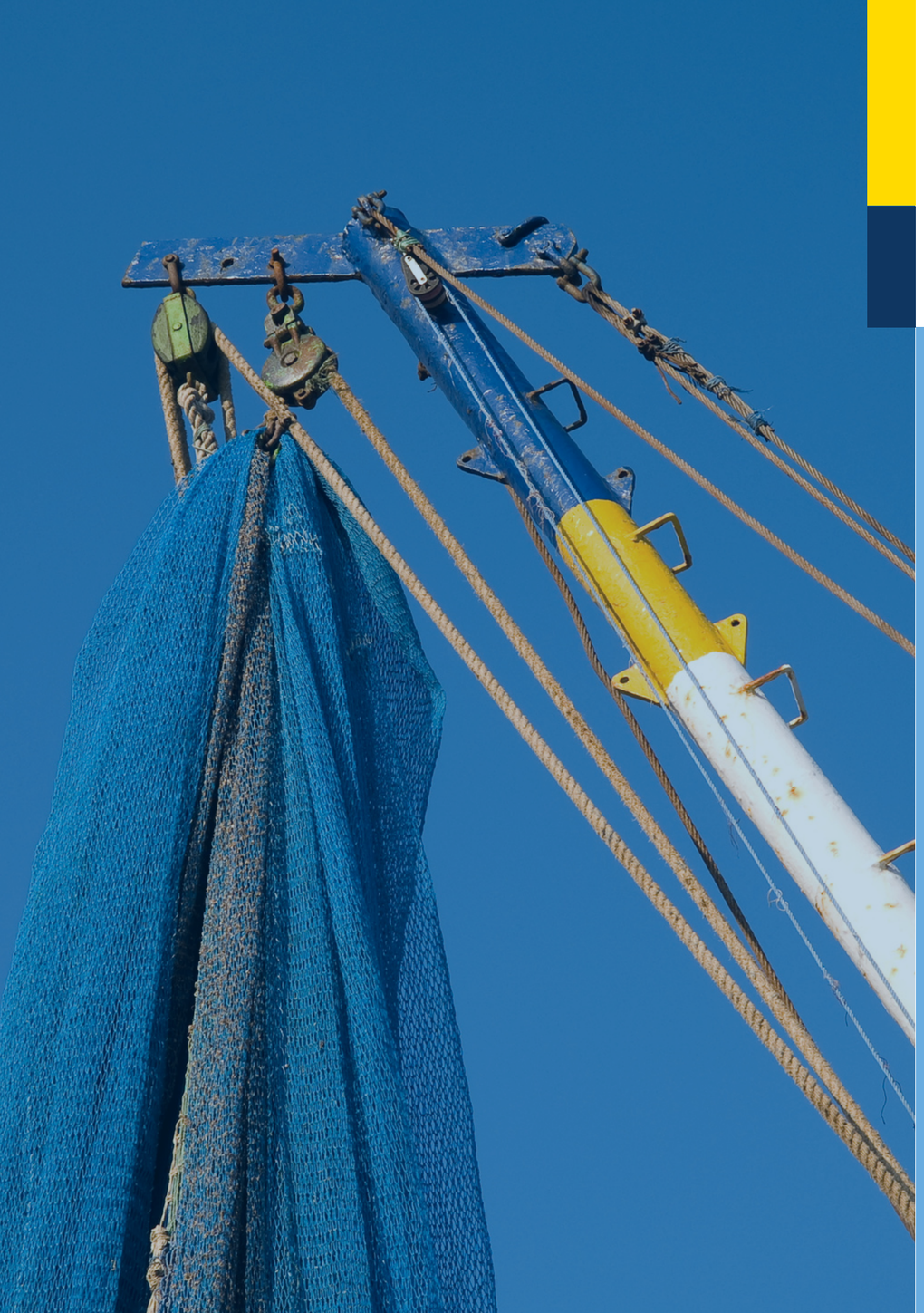
Prioritise accessibility

- Have **meaningful offline functionality**, possibly through enabling prior downloads and/or printouts of maps or layers.
- Be made available in **all NWWAC languages** (English, Spanish, and French).
- Be constructed and designed with **ease of use** in mind, incorporating a user-friendly interface. Additionally, the tool should be presented to NWWAC members via training workshops and/or integrated tutorials.
- Direct users to **external information sites** for information that is not fully integrated into the map.
- Investigate **members-only features**.

Key conclusions

Consider data usage and display

- Consider the use of **disclaimers** when displaying regulatory information.
- Consider the value added in **spatially displaying** some data, such as quota.
- Provide information in a **clear and user-friendly way**, for example the inclusion of marine areas' commonly used names on online charts.
- Avoid unnecessary **duplication of data** already provided through other accessible sources to minimise the refresh resource needed to keep data up-to-date.



Next steps

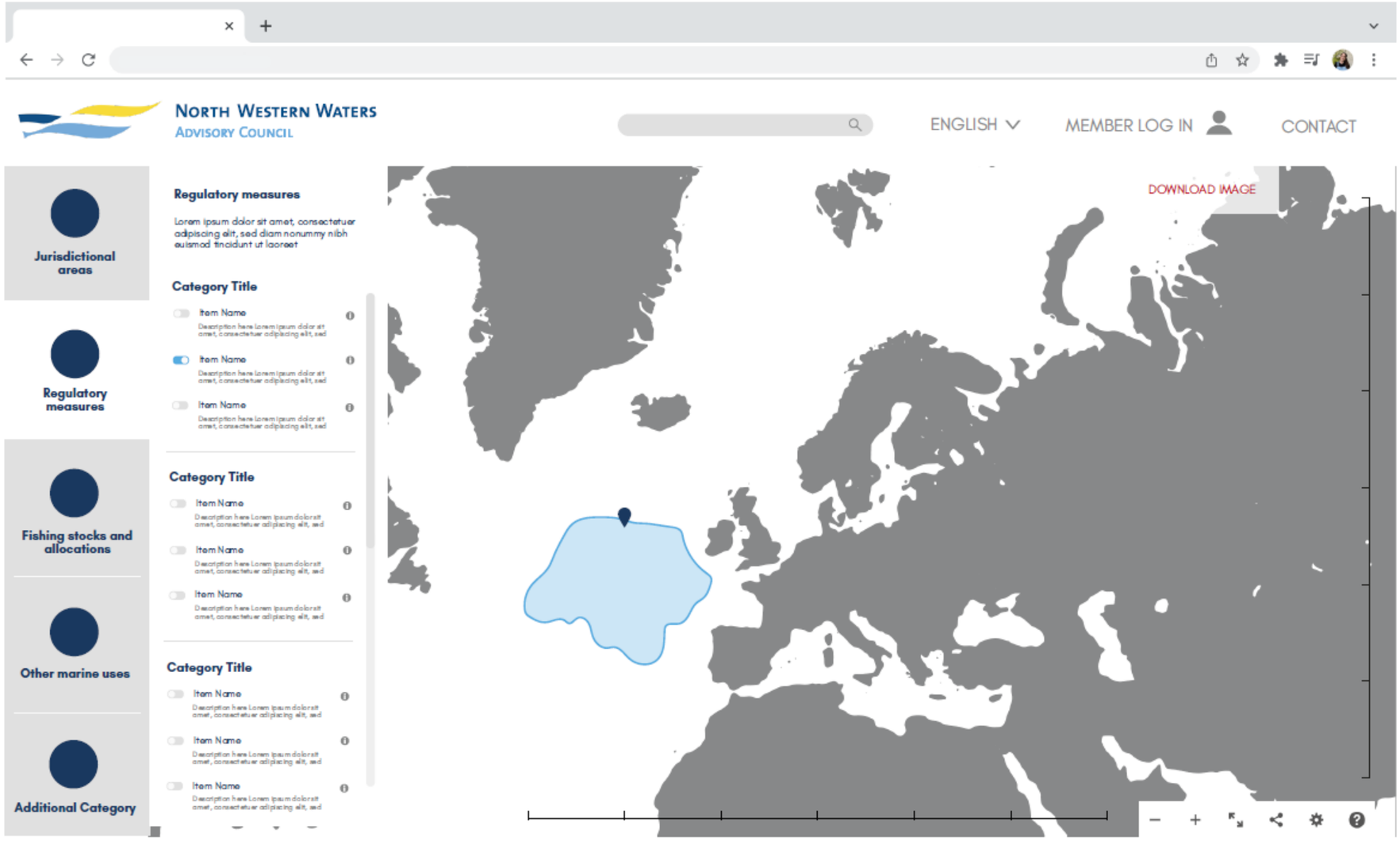
1. MWC to build **detailed project plan** based on study outcomes, member priorities, and wider fisheries management knowledge.

2. Web developers liaise with MWC create **prototype of tool**, including user-friendly interface and offline functionality.

3. MWC approaches NWWAC members to trial the prototype and **provide feedback**.

4. **Full tool launched**, including tutorials for NWWAC members.

5. **Annual updates** scheduled as standard, with flexibility for interim refinement.


North Western Waters
Advisory Council
ENGLISH
MEMBER LOG IN
CONTACT
Jurisdictional areas
Regulatory measures
Fishing stocks and allocations
Other marine uses
Additional Category
Regulatory measures
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DOWNLOAD IMAGE

Timeline

Creating a detailed project delivery plan	Jan - Feb 2022
Compiling and cleaning data sources	Feb - Mar 2022
Branding and design of tool, including visual mock-up of site	Feb - Mar 2022
Building a prototype WebGIS tool	Mar - May 2022
Feedback from NWWAC members via e.g. surveys/interviews	May 2022
Building the fully operational WebGIS tool, incorporating feedback	Jun - Aug 2022
Coordinating translation of tool into French and Spanish	Aug 2022
Refining design and usability of the WebGIS tool	Sep - Oct 2022
Publishing and publicising the WebGIS tool online, **promoting to NWWAC members**	Oct - Nov 2022
Secretariat assesses interest from other ACs in contributing	Nov 2022

Any questions?

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