



DRAFT MINUTES

22nd meeting of LDAC Working Group 2 Regional Fisheries Organisations and North Atlantic Fishing Agreements

**Tuesday 17 April 2018, 11:30 am - 5:00 pm
Hotel NH Berlaymont, Schuman Brussels**

1. Welcome and apologies by the Chair.

Ms. Jane Sandell welcomes those present and apologises for Mr. Ivan López's absence (AGARBA).

The complete list of attendees (members and observers) is included in Annex I.

2. Approval of the minutes of the last WG2 meeting - 13 November 2017.

The minutes are approved including comments made by Mr. Gerard Van Balsfort, DPFTA.

3. Approval of the agenda.

The agenda is approved.

4. Presentation: DFTPA Science-Industry partnership for sampling and data collection of redfish in NEA – Martin Pastoors

Mr. Martin Pastoors gives a presentation which is available on the following link:
<http://ldac.ldac.eu/attachment/4f4715d5-1d33-4ddd-83d6-9229adb59d96>

Action: Presentation of science-fishing industry partnership

The presentation given by Mr. Martin Pastoors on science-industry collaboration to improve stock assessments and participatory research will be made available to the members in the meetings section on the LDAC website.

WG2 members are invited to share any similar initiatives related to scientific research on board fishing vessels in their countries and processing of data to be sent to member states / ICES.

5. Fisheries agreements and bilateral issues

State of play of negotiations and other questions of interest on:

Mr. Jacques Verbough, representative of the EC, apologises for not being able to attend the last WG2 meeting held in London. In terms of agreements, he declares:

5.1. Norway

He highlights technical consultations on Skagerrak as the most relevant issue.

5.2. Faroe

He states that the annual consultation will take place at the beginning of December. It will be mainly based on quota swaps without there being any joint actions.

5.3. Iceland

This agreement has been at a stalemate for the last ten years. The specific need to reactivate this agreement needs to be discussed with the member states.

6. Svalbard

6.1. EC progress report on negotiations with Norway.

Regarding Norway, the representative of the EC clarifies that there is still no agenda for the next meeting, so he does not know for sure the items that will be addressed yet. He says that although the situation is not easy, they have a specific plan for the North Sea with joint actions.

ACTION EU-Norway

There are no specific actions. The state of play of negotiations and the LTMP development progress are to be monitored.

6.2. Update on situation on snow crab.

Mr. Jacques Verbough, representative of the EC, informs that in 2017 snow crab was put back on the table. In December it was agreed that 20 licences were to be granted to European vessels, even though Norway did not approve of it. The first vessel that went to Svalbard was arrested and the process continues. Norway's interpretation of the Svalbard Treaty signed in Paris is different to that of the EC. The EC wishes to find a solution although no agreement has been reached so far.

Ms. Carmen Paz, European Parliament, informs that this issue has been addressed in several sessions over two years without it being possible to find a solution. She says that next week a solution might be reached by the EP. In the event no political solution to the problem is agreed, it will be up to courts to find a solution taking individual actions into account.

Mr. Daniel Voces, Europêche, informs that one of their member organisations affected by snow crab argues that conservation of this non-sedentary species is linked to the continental shelf. This is the position defended by Europêche, but the EC considers it a sedentary species. However, Norway has published two scientific studies that consider snow crab as an invasive alien species.

Ms. Margarita Mancebo, Spanish Secretariat General for Fisheries, states that the main problem is the issue of access to the resource in the Paris Treaty, since it also appears as an invasive species in the Barents Sea. From a biological point of view, it is a non-sedentary species, since according to UNCLOS it is understood that it can move about insofar as it 'walks' on the continental shelf.

Mr. Jacques Verbough, representative of the EC, informs that the case of Lithuanian vessel “Senator” is still at the Supreme Court since the shipowner has launched an appeal.

Action on snow crab in Svalbard

The LDAC will continue discussing this issue with the EP Committee on Fisheries, expecting a formal resolution / statement soon. Both the DG MARE relevant unit and representatives of the European snow crab fleet will be invited to provide an update at the next WG2 meeting regarding any developments in the EU-Norway conflict and to inform on the outcomes of pending legal proceedings.

7. North West Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO)

7.1. Update from the European Commission on recommendations and actions arising from the last NAFO Annual Meeting (Montreal, September 2017):

- **Overview on management measures for key commercial stocks.**
- **Development of a protocol for exceptional circumstances within the new MSE for Greenland Halibut.**
- **NAFO Performance Review process for 2018.**

The representative of the EC, Ms. Raluca Ivanescu, informs that management measures for commercial actions are essential. She highlights that implementation is working fairly well, and that they still have smooth and constant communication with member states and NAFO secretariat. She suggests that LDAC members should inform the EC about any aspect they wish to highlight regarding technical measures.

Then, she declares that one of the key aspects is the new protocol for Greenland Halibut, she states that real work will start after the Scientific Council and she highlights that it will be one of the key aspects to be addressed at the preparatory meeting in mid August.

Regarding NAFO performance review process, she informs that it is still in progress.

Besides, she thanks the LDAC for the members’ ideas for the performance review and for useful opinions on NAFO. She wishes to emphasise that it might be positive that the scientific opinion is drafted before and in more clear and flexible terms. She adds that something positive is that the scientific council will be led by scientists from EU countries.

In addition, she highlights that the most important aspects this year are Northern cod and activities other than fishing in the NAFO area.

ACTION REGARDING NAFO

The Secretariat will send an email to all members asking them whether they have any comments or questions on the implementation of management measures for key commercial actions, such as quota levels for redfish 3M, for instance.

All contributions made by WG2 members will be welcome with the aim to develop a specific protocol for special circumstances related to the new MSE for Greenland Halibut, in order to strengthen the EC and EU position during this process.

7.2. Cod Benchmark Workshop in NAFO Div. 3M - Lisbon, 9-13 April 2018.

- **Presentation of preliminary conclusions of the workshop.**

The representative of the EC, Ms. Raluca Ivanescu, informs that an evaluation method was considered to be agreed upon by the scientific council and to be used next year. However, she points out that initial indications show that, by including more data in the general evaluation, the result might be better than expected, but there is still a lot of work to be done. Moreover, she highlights the need to improve selectivity.

Afterwards, Mr. Martin Pastoors gives a summarised account of the benchmark workshop highlighting that, although he could not attend, an independent expert designated by ICFA did attend in order to convey information about the industry at such workshop and identify the needs for which the industry could contribute information. He declares that there was much discussion about data, models and methods used. In addition, he points out the need for industry to collaborate with science by participating in meetings, in fact he highlights that great efforts have been put into the collection of samples and to avoid catches of juvenile fish. Therefore, it is very positive to find the way to organise and exchange information in order for both parties to have more knowledge.

Ms. Jane Sandell, NFFO, says that in her opinion it is difficult to know how to improve data, since catches are recorded in logbooks. She suggests that it might be convenient to draft a specific plan.

- Sectorial initiatives (EU-UK) on data to improve trawl selectivity in 3M.

The representative of the EC, Ms. Raluca Ivanescu, states that a working group on catches and landing obligation (LO) will be held on 2 and 3 May mainly focusing on Norway and Iceland's LO proposal at NAFO. She also encourages LDAC members to submit to the EC any comments/observations they may have.

ACTION

The LDAC will follow closely the work of the Scientific Council in the benchmark process and will choose management scenarios to set the MSE for cod 3M.

7.3. Planning on drafting of LDAC recommendations for 2018 NAFO Annual Meeting.

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, invites LDAC members to join the specific drafting group in order to prepare an annual opinion for the NAFO annual meeting.

8. North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)

8.1. Outcomes of NEAFC 36th annual meeting. London, 13-17 November 2017

8.2. Update from EC on Coastal States consultation and 2 Working Groups on allocation keys and management frameworks.

The representative of the EC, Ms. Kristel Jurado, apologises on behalf of Mr. Fabricio Donatella for him not being able to attend.

She then summarises management measures for the different stocks:

- Mackerel: there was a debate on the agreement about the exchange of this stock for period 2014 to 2018, for less than 200,000 tonnes in total.
- Herring: a reduction of 23% was agreed, with a TAC of 28,000 tonnes for the EU.

- Shallow waters redfish, in the Irminger Sea: TAC is zero.
- Deep waters redfish: stricter measures were agreed with a 30% reduction.
The EU requested a review be done of deep waters fisheries, since they believe it is necessary to include more data and discuss this aspect at a technical meeting.
- Pollack: the EU proposal to continue with the closure was unanimously approved.
Regarding Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems, both Norway and the Russian Federation presented a proposal to review the granting of rights to coastal states, with the opposition of other parties. A working group meeting will be held in mid May to address this issue.
Collecting bags were also discussed, since Norway and Russia were against them being used.
The EC considers it is necessary to discuss this aspect with the industry prior to the next annual meeting.
As for the working group dealing with negotiations with coastal states, the EU insisted on the need to set some guidelines in order to take decisions and solve conflicts.

ACTION NEAFC / Negotiations with coastal states

It shall be ensured that the date for the next WG2 meeting does not hinder the DG MARE negotiation team from attending.

9. Impact of “Brexit” in North Atlantic Fisheries: reflections of Inter AC meeting

Mr. Alexandre Rodríguez, General Secretary, summarises reflections about this issue voiced at the Inter AC meeting held in April 2018, concluding with the following action:

ACTION Inter AC work related to Brexit

The LDAC will hold a meeting (most likely in November 2018) to continue with those held by NWWAC and PELAC and, with them, will draft a document for specific discussion that will address issues related to the future running of Advisory Councils, and maybe also regarding the governance framework to inform on future EU discussions in terms of participation of interested parties.

10. Date and venue for next meeting.

The date is yet to be confirmed by the Secretariat, but it could take place in the month of November in London, on NEAFC week.

AOB:

Ms. Carmen Paz, EP, informs that a seminar on the implementation of the landing obligation of mixed fisheries will soon be held and that as soon as she has more information about it she will submit it to the LDAC.

ACTION: European Parliament event on the implementation of the landing obligation of mixed fisheries

Ms. Carmen Paz, EP, will submit information to the Secretariat on the dates and agenda of this event planned for May/June. 3 case studies related with NS, NWW and SWW will be launched.

ANNEX I
List of Participants and Attendees
LDAC Working Group 2
Brussels, 17 April 2018

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

1. Jane Sandell. NFFO
2. Gerard van Balsfoort. DPFTA
3. Despina Symons. EBCD
4. Jessica Demblon. EBCD
5. Hjálmar Vilhjálmsson. ELDFA
6. Alex Wiseman. SPFA
7. Luis Vicente. ADAPI
8. Juan Manuel Liria. FEOPE/CEPESCA
9. Javier Garat. CEPESCA
10. Beatrice Gorez. CFFA-CAPE
11. Mati Sarevet. ELDFA
12. José Antonio Suárez-Llanos. ANAMER/AGARBA/ANAPA
13. Aivaras Labanauskas. Atlantic Fishery Company
14. Juan Manuel Trujillo. ETF

OBSERVERS

15. Kristel Jurado, EC NEAFC
16. Jacques Verborgh, EC Norway-Faroe-Iceland and Svalbard
17. Raluca Ivanescu, EC(NAFO)
18. Margaux Favret. MSC
19. Martin Pastoors. PFA
20. Harry Sampson. DEFRA
21. Sarah Jones. DEFRA
22. Sigita Meskeleviute. Reper Lithuania
23. Daniel Voces. EUROPECHE
24. Margarita Mancebo. Secretariat General for Fisheries
25. Carmen Paz. EP
26. Alexandre Rodriguez. LDAC
27. Marta de Lucas. LDAC
28. Manuela Iglesias. LDAC