



Executive Committee meeting

1 July 2013, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Agenda

- 1) Opening of the meeting
- 2) Approval of the agenda
- 3) Financial matters
- 4) Presentation by Pascal Savouret, EFCA
- 5) Presentation by Jens Christian Holst on ecosystem dynamics in the Norwegian Sea
- 6) Presentation by Pieter-Jan Schön and Alan McCulla on the progress of the Irish Sea herring long-term management plan
- 7) Consultation on Fishing Opportunities 2014
- 8) Pelagic RAC action plan
- 9) Consultation on Fishing Authorisation Regulation
- 10) AOB
- 11) End of meeting

Utilization of budget 2012/13

	2012/13 Budgeted	2012/13 Realised (1 June 2013)	Difference
A: Staff	128.556	90.547	38.009
B: Participation in meetings	76.806	49.580	27.226
C: Preparation of meetings	11.052	10.152	900
D: Operation costs	12.596	11.060	1.536
E: Interpretation	36.000	25.271	10.729
F: Other contracts	19.800	7.235	12.565
G: Reserve	14.240	0	14.240
H: Deficit	-	-	
TOTAL	299.050	193.847	105.203
Total after amendment	308.550	193.847	114.703

Presentation by Pascal Savouret, EFCA

Presentation by Jens Christian Holst

Ecosystem dynamics in the Norwegian Sea

Presentation by Pieter-Jan Schön and Alan McCulla

Update on Irish Sea herring management plan

Consultation on Fishing Opportunities 2014

Introduction

- State of fish stocks in European Atlantic and nearby waters continues to improve
- Ending overfishing to achieve good environmental status by 2020
- All efforts should be made to reach MSY as soon as possible

State of stocks

- General improvement regarding the availability of quantitative scientific advice
- Number of overfished stocks has fallen from 47% last year to 39% this year

Consultation on Fishing Opportunities 2014

Northeast Atlantic pelagic stocks

- Most stocks of herring are fished at or within MSY rates: North Sea, west of Scotland, Western Baltic, Bothnian Sea, Irish Sea and Celtic Sea
- Situation has deteriorated for western horse mackerel and herring in VIa South and VIIb,c
- Mackerel remains a particular concern and no agreement with Iceland and Faroe Islands has yet been reached

Economic analysis

- Some signs of profitability mainly due to improved market prices
- However, economic performance is poor in many segments, especially the demersal fleet sector
- STECF data suggest that 45% of all EU fleet segments made losses in 2011, due to poor status of some important stocks and high (fuel) costs
- Downward trend in employment
- Overall 40% increase in net profits in 2011
- Bigger gap between profitable and non-profitable fleets

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Developments in scientific advice

- ICES advice for data-limited stocks by using all information including catch history, survey trends etc.
- Further improvements in data collection and analysis are needed and Commission will pursue such improvements

Obligation to land all catches

- Landing obligation foreseen to come into force on 1 January 2015 for:
 - Small pelagic fish
 - Large pelagic fish
 - Industrial purposes
- TACs may be adjusted taking into account previous discarding

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Management by multi-annual plans

- Necessary to continue implementation of LTMPs to provide stability for the industry and achieve healthy stocks
- Replace single-stock plans with multi-species plans to manage the ecosystem as a whole
- LTMPs under discussion in Parliament and Council

Consultation on Fishing Opportunities 2014

Principles for setting TACs

- Where LTMPs apply these will be followed
- Commission will also propose TACs consistent with Commission proposed LTMPs
- LTMPs developed by RACs and conforming to MSY standards as assessed by ICES and STECF will be followed
- TACs and other measures agreed with third countries have to be implemented
- Where scientific advice is based on the ICES MSY framework TACs should be set according to scientific advice
- MSY should be reached by 2015; where MSY can be reached earlier by no or small TAC decreases the Commission will make such a proposal
- Where qualitative scientific advice is available this should be the basis for TAC decisions
- Where no scientific advice is available the precautionary principle will be followed

Pelagic RAC action plan

Nbr.	Issues	Questions & Answers
1.	<p>Whilst the industrial fishery (e.g. producing fishmeal) is well represented, this is less the case for the smaller fisheries (especially covering the fish for human consumption). As these smaller fisheries come mainly from France and Spain, it creates a geographical imbalance.</p>	<p>How to organise a discussion to assess whether stakeholders are satisfied with the situation or whether the composition should be reviewed (especially as there are 6 vacant seats in the Executive Committee)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="826 496 1887 705">• The fishmeal industry is represented by only one member. This can hardly be called “well represented”. Nevertheless, instead of focusing on a lot of small fisheries and have all represented in ExCom the small fisheries could be represented by one or two persons.<li data-bbox="826 762 1887 1288">• The industrial catching sector is presented by the national fisheries representatives of those countries dealing with industrial fisheries (mostly Denmark). The industrial processing industry (fishmeal) is represented separately from the processing industry aimed at human consumption (AIPCE). I find it difficult to accept that small-scale fishermen should be represented as a separate representation from the other catching sector representatives, mostly because (i) the distinction between small and not-small scale is difficult to make and (ii) in almost all MS small scale fishermen belong to the same PO’s and organizations as the not small-scale fishermen. Therefore it would be an artificial distinction.

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Pelagic RAC action plan

Nbr.	Issues	Questions & Answers
2.	Some members lack technical and language skills to participate actively in the discussion (in particular in the working groups).	<p data-bbox="981 332 1868 408"><i>How to improve the technical and language skills of members?</i></p> <ul data-bbox="981 454 1868 1150" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="981 454 1868 708">• It is correct that some members are not comfortable enough speaking English. However, for those members interpretation is provided and therefore lacking language skills cannot be considered a problem except with regards to the Pelagic RAC budget.<li data-bbox="981 762 1868 925">• The Pelagic RAC is already providing interpretation to overcome language issues and access to ICES training courses to overcome a lack of technical skills.<li data-bbox="981 979 1868 1150">• As always influence in advisory processes comes with arguments based on facts and brought forward in clear language. This self-evidential fact applies to every- body.

Pelagic RAC action plan

Nbr.	Issues	Questions & Answers
3.	Some important environmental NGOs are not participating in the Pelagic RAC although they are active on these issues by other means.	<p data-bbox="915 297 1528 334"><i>How to encourage NGOs to participate?</i></p> <ul data-bbox="915 372 1881 1233" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="915 372 1881 544">• Organizations which do not want to participate should not be forced into joining RACs. Some of them might not want to have a seat since criticizing is easier than compromising.<li data-bbox="915 596 1881 811">• The RACs are by now very well-known stakeholder councils and as such all relevant parties are aware of their existence and the possibility to become members. There is no need to put effort into attracting specific parties, because those interested have already joined.<li data-bbox="915 863 1881 943">• NGOs are sharing tasks among them and hence it would be difficult to get more NGOs to participate.<li data-bbox="915 996 1881 1233">• It would be wise of the receivers of RAC advice to make a distinction between NGO's that are participating and investing in the RAC processes and those NGO's that want to stay outside. This then could and should work as an incentive for those NGO's who do invest time and effort in RACs.

Pelagic RAC action plan

Nbr.	Issues	Questions & Answers
4.	The planning of the Pelagic RAC is not always timely compared to the international negotiations.	<p data-bbox="931 329 1881 501"><i>How to better plan meetings and recommendations (i.e. after the main information for the negotiation is available and before the start of the negotiation so that the persons negotiating can integrate the positions of the Pelagic RAC)?</i></p> <ul data-bbox="931 539 1881 1105" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="931 539 1881 1105">• The problem is not the timing of our meetings. The problem rather lies in the timing of the scientific advice. The Pelagic RAC bases its recommendations on the latest scientific advice. The meetings are timed to be immediately after the release of the advice. However, international negotiations are also timed directly after the release of the scientific advice and hence they collide. We try and remedy this problem by using emergency procedures when adopting recommendations so they can be in the hands of the persons negotiating as soon as possible. Another solution would be, if the persons negotiating heard our deliberations first-hand by attending our meetings.

Pelagic RAC action plan

Nbr.	Issues	Questions & Answers
5.	<p>In the specific case of the Norway and Coastal State negotiations, the fishing industry sends many delegates, which creates some logistical and communication difficulties.</p>	<p>In the specific case of the Norway and Coastal State negotiations, the competent RACs (notably, Pelagic RAC, LDRAC and NSRAC) may send each a maximum of three representatives to the negotiations, as part of the EU Delegation. <i>How can the Pelagic RAC ensure that the representatives reflect the composition of the RAC – catching, processing and NGO interests?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="890 539 1354 572">• Select the right delegates<li data-bbox="890 625 1881 1192">• EU-Norway negotiations are very complex and include a large number of issues. It would not be possible to send someone from the Pelagic RAC that could represent ALL interests and advice on the compromises that need to be made. EU-Norway is horse-trading and it is not for any RAC to give advice on that. The interests are much better covered by national representatives. It would not be possible to appoint 3 persons that have the authorisation from the whole membership of the Pelagic RAC. This has nothing to do with their constituency (catching, processing or NGO). The same argumentation can be used for Coastal State meetings. The negotiations are much too political for the RAC to play a meaningful role there.

Pelagic RAC action plan

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Pelagic RAC action plan

Nbr.	Issues	Questions & Answers
6.	Financial issues- There is a lack of expertise on budgetary matters.	<p data-bbox="1000 391 1812 425"><i>How to improve the expertise on budgetary matters?</i></p> <ul data-bbox="1000 468 1881 753" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1000 468 1881 545">• External audit has not shown any problems in the financial functioning of the Pelagic RAC.<li data-bbox="1000 588 1881 753">• If there is a concern it is more a lack of resources. Costs have been continuously increasing, while the budget has stayed the same. Moreover the EU budget rules tend not to be pragmatic.

Pelagic RAC action plan

Nbr.	Issues	Questions & Answers
7.	<p>Conservation measures- In the context of regionalisation, RACs are invited to start reflecting immediately on management measures preventing discards in pelagic fisheries. Discard plans may have to be established if exemptions for species with high survival rates (and based on the position of the Council, <i>de minimis</i> exemptions) are needed. All this will require input from the relevant RACs, which may formulate recommendations on the basis of scientific advice.</p>	<p><i>How to organise the work (including with Member States) to deliver this input on time?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work is already ongoing and many important points have been raised in the recent letter to the EU delegations.

Pelagic RAC action plan

Nbr.	Issues	Questions & Answers
8.	FUTURE- In the context of regionalisation, Advisory Councils will have to provide advice to Member States (in addition to the one to the Commission). As this is new it has to be organised.	<p data-bbox="996 389 1879 468"><i>How can this cooperation with Member States be organised?</i></p> <ul data-bbox="996 511 1879 801" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="996 511 1879 589">• The Pelagic RAC very often already addressed its advice to the relevant Member States.<li data-bbox="996 632 1879 801">• MS representatives from all relevant MS should participate in RAC meetings. However, in the case of the Pelagic RAC third countries are often equally important.

Pelagic RAC action plan

Nbr.	Issues	Questions & Answers
9.	<i>Other issues? self-assessment by the Pelagic RAC</i>	<i>1) Lack of funding 2) Lack of freedom in finding the best ways of organising the RAC due to intransigent supervision by the EC.</i>

Current mapping of the Pelagic RAC

Fisheries Sector	13	72%
National Fisheries Organisations	10	ES(1), DK(1), NL(1), IE(1), PL(1), UK(2), DE(1), SE(1), FR(1)
Other Fisheries Organisations	0	
Processors Organisations	2	- EU fishmeal association - Federation of national organisations of importers and exporters of fish
Marketing Organisations	1	- European association of fishing ports and auctions <i>(terminates membership in 2013-2014)</i>
Other interest groups	5	28%
Environmental NGOs	3	- European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD) - Seas at Risk - WWF
Consumers Organisations	0	
Workers Organisations	1	- ETF- European transport workers federation
Other	1	- North-Sea Women's network
Vacant seats	6	

Consultation on Fishing Authorisation Regulation

AOB



Thank you