



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

MINUTES

NWWAC FOCUS GROUP SEABASS

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Monday 28 October 2024, 14:00 – 15:30 CET

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair Pauline Stephan welcomed all participants to the meeting. Apologies were received from Dominique Thomas (OPCMEMMN) and from Geert Meun (VisNed).

The agenda was adopted as drafted.

Action points from the last meeting on 6 September include:

1	French industry representatives to share data on discards and proposal for commercial fisheries with the Focus Group.
	Done, the information was shared with the Group via email.
2	The Secretariat will ask for updates regarding discussions on seabass in the Specialised Committee on Fisheries, especially in relation to harmonised measures between EU and the UK and regarding UK catch reporting for commercial shore-based netting.
	Done, the information was shared with the Group via email.
3	AC members representing the recreational sector will provide their proposal for recreational measures for seabass to the Focus Group.
	Proposal received via email.
4	The Secretariat will prepare a draft advice based and share it with members for comments.
	To be discussed under item 3.

2. Updated ICES advice – discussion among members

ICES issued an updated advice on seabass on 14 October. Changes in the advice were incorporated into the AC draft advice.

3. Review of latest version of draft advice

Members reviewed the latest advice proposal circulated by the Chair before the meeting. The Chair had updated the document aiming for a consensus position.

Members agreed that:



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- The majority position will not recommend any specific management measures, but point out that the majority of discards for seiners and trawlers happen over February and March.
- There will be a minority position from the EAA and IFSUA on the F to be targeted in 2025.
- The paragraph on recreational measures should be rephrased to reflect the progress made and expected in terms of monitoring.
- The paragraph on shore netting in Wales should be rephrased.

ACTION: A new version of the advice will be recirculated to the Focus Group for final review before going through the AC approval procedure.

4. AOB

The Chair referred to the request made by the Secretariat to the UK administration to observe the meetings of the UK Bass Management Group. No response was received yet.

David Curtis informed the group that the next meeting of the UK Group will be held on 8 November. He is still unsure of the Terms of Reference of this Group, but he will keep the Focus Group informed on the work of the Group.

The Secretariat mentioned that ICES is holding a benchmark on seabass on 25-29 November. Members agreed that the NWWAC should observe the meeting depending on the agenda.

ACTION: The Secretariat will get in touch with ICES and ask for information on the benchmark to organise attendance by the AC.

5. Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair

1	A new version of the advice will be recirculated to the Focus Group for final review before going through the AC approval procedure.
2	The Secretariat will get in touch with ICES and ask for information on the benchmark to organise attendance by the AC.

6. Participants list

Name	Organisation
David Curtis	EAA
Manu Kelberine	CRPMEM de Bretagne
Franck Le Bazic	Cobrenord
Llibori Martinez Latorre	IFSUA
Pauline Stephan	CNPMEM
Matilde Vallerani	NWWAC Secretariat
Arthur Yon	FROM Nord