

## **Protocol on Interaction with the Commission**

The North Western Waters RAC secretariat was requested to set-out rules and procedures for interacting with the EU Commission.

### **Meetings**

1. If members of the North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council are requested to meet with the Commission on issues other than administration, the secretariat shall issue an email/call of interest to all members, inviting interested parties to contact the Secretariat. A minimum of 2 weeks shall be permitted for members to respond. In exceptional circumstances, where shorter notice of meetings is given by the Commission, the Chairman shall directly appoint members to attend as appropriate and shall notify Exec. Com members of his appointment.
2. A maximum of three members shall be permitted to attend. Representation of these members shall be in the 2:1 ratio (Fisheries Sector: Other Interest Groups)
3. One of these members will be selected as lead representative and all others attending in the name of the NWWRAC shall support the agreed consensus of the NWWRAC when communicating with the Commission.
4. These members shall be reimbursed to attend this meeting.
5. The final list of members to attend the meeting shall be sanctioned by the Chairman of the NWWRAC.

### **Observers**

6. If it is deemed necessary to bring observers, a maximum of three observers shall be permitted to attend in the 2:1 ratio. These observers may or may not be members of the NWWRAC. A spokesperson shall be appointed amongst the observers to represent this group at the meeting.
7. If observers are not members of the NWWRAC, then they must have direct knowledge of the issue being discussed and will assist NWWRAC members in negotiations with the Commission. These observers must support the opinions and recommendations of the NWWRAC.
8. Observers will not be reimbursed to attend the meeting.
9. The final list of observers to attend the meeting shall be sanctioned by the Chairman of the NWWRAC.