
North Western Waters RAC Summary Report

MIRAC 2010
Sea Fisheries Institute
Gdynia - Poland
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Review of cooperation with ICES in 2009

□ **Feedback: Positive**

+ More efficient allocation of resources:

> Members conscious of inviting only relevant scientific experts to meetings when necessary

+ MoU between EC-ICES has proven to work well to date

> Improved coordination between the RACs for scientific advice

> Centralized requests: simplification in the process

> RAC economy on “scientific experts”

+ Stable participation of NWWRAC representatives (at least 1) at relevant ICES meetings (e.g. WKDEEP, Seminar on LTMPs, etc.)

+ Progress made on communication issues: more transparency of ICES working structure and scientific “decision-making” process



Review of cooperation with ICES in 2009

❑ Some suggestions for change and improvement

- Uncertainty on many stocks (anglerfish, haddock, megrim) is still an issue – implementation of precautionary principle not always understood in this context;
- For debate: need to focus available resources on “sick patients” rather than on “healthy” ones?
- Reflect minority views in ICES advice (e.g. nephrops)
- Template for feedback from RAC to ICES



Benchmarking Workshops

❑ Feedback from 2009:

- First steps: baby is learning to walk but still cannot run!;
- Improved working cooperation with ICES Secretariat;
- Individual reports drafted by RAC members attending ICES meeting (and presented in RAC meetings);
- Higher involvement from the industry point of view.



Benchmarking Workshops

□ Information for 2010 and 2011

- Need to dedicate a separate day dedicated to stakeholders (suggested: first or last day of the seminar);

- Main constraints observed:

 - Language (no translation);

 - Time (duration of meetings);

 - Terminology (scientific jargon).



Benchmarking Workshops

❑ Involvement of Fishers' Data and Knowledge:

- Need for the industry to provide reliable and accurate series of data in due time prior to ICES meetings;

- Permanent industry liaison to ICES from each RAC, reporting back to the RAC on a regular basis;

- Problems in previous industry-science partnership projects derived from excess of expectations (e.g. benefits from stock assessments are not automatic!) → objectives and timelines needs to be emphasised;

- Guidelines for the format and type of data required for assessment models.

 - > Indicate which non-conventional data is acceptable and valid;

 - > Highlight acceptable, existing data collection practices ;

 - > Report back on the use of data to the providers.



Timing of advice

- The current timing works for the NWWRAC:
 - It provides sufficient time for stakeholders to make comments and introduce proposals for modification;
 - It provides members enough time to focus both on the principles and rules underlying the advice and the advice itself;

BUT

- Members voice concern at the increasing frequency of urgent requests from the Commission to provide RAC comment on proposed regulations.



NWWRAC Year 5

Meetings Plan and Work Programme

October 2009 - September 2010



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Meetings Plan (I)

4 NWWRAC Meetings to date (no ICES representatives)

- Fifth Annual General Assembly:
 - Dublin, 19th of November 2009
- 1 Executive Committee:
 - Paris, 29th of January 2010
- 2 Focus Groups:
 - Nephrops management VI & VII – Edinburgh, 3rd of Nov 2009
 - Follow-up meeting on reform of CFP – Madrid, 29th of Nov 2009



Meetings Plan for 2010

(Need for scientific advice)

Forthcoming events:

- ❑ Working Groups – March 2-4, Madrid (Yes)
- ❑ Executive Committee – May 6, Madrid (No)
- ❑ Working Groups – July 6-8, Paris (Yes)
- ❑ Executive Committee – September 7, Madrid (No)
- ❑ 3 Focus Group (*February-September, tbc*) (Yes)
- ❑ General Assembly – Dublin Castle, October (No)



Focus Groups: Terms of Reference

- Proposed by the WGs and Established by the ExCo
- Aim: To assist the ExCo in the preparation of advice on issues of specific technical complexity
- Composition: limited number of members with high expertise and knowledge on the subject matter
- Funding: Five meetings for Year 5 (2009/2010)
 - 2 already completed (Nephrops management and CFP Reform);
 - 3 new applications received:
 - West of Scotland Haddock (WG1);
 - LTMP for Northern Hake (WG2);
 - Socio-economics of fisheries management (WG4).



Work programme Year 5

Main areas of Work for the NWWRAC in this period:

- Reform of Common Fisheries Policy (incl. Governance and role of the RACs)
- TCM for North Western Waters (incl. gear marking)
- Discards
- Marine Spatial Planning
- Socio-Economic Aspects of Fisheries Management
- Skates and Rays
- Management Plans (e.g. cod, hake, haddock, nephrops)
- EC Fishing Opportunities for 2009 & 2010 (“Policy Statement”)



Proposed Topics to work with ICES

Drawn from European Commission and ICES work plans for 2010

Long Term Management Plans

- Initial stages / Preliminary process:

- ❑ Benchmarking Workshops (e.g. WKFLAT, WKROUND) – Think on how to improve / review assessment
- ❑ Commission requests to ICES & STECF for Drafting LTMPs – Parameters for practical Implementation of plans (e.g. Harvest Control Rules, Fmsy)
- ❑ NECESSARY: More stakeholder engagement in earlier part of consultation process

- Development of Secondary law:

- ❑ Application of Regulation 1342/2008 on LTMP for cod stocks
- ❑ Proposal of Regulation on LTMP for Hake (early 2010)

Deep sea stocks

- ❑ Amendment of Reg. 2347/2002 on deep sea access regime (1st quarter 2010)
- ❑ Setting bi-annual TAC and Quotas for 2010-2011



Proposed Topics to work with ICES (contd)

Data collection and integration:

- ❑ Methods to evaluate and estimate the precision of fisheries data used for assessment – Conference (Fisheries dependent Data), Galway, August 2010;
- ❑ Methodology of Fish Stock Assessments (study groups, benchmarking works).



Balance of Work in 2009:

- ❑ 13 Meetings held (e.g. GA, ExCo, WGs, Focus Groups, Joint RAC seminars)
 - *Meeting reports and presentations are available on the NWWRAC website (under « meetings » section);*

- ❑ 24 Opinions and Recommendations produced
 - *Advice produced and correspondence exchanged with: the Commission / ACFA / Member States / scientific organisations*
 - *Available on the NWWRAC website (under « publications » section)*



More info: www.nwwrac.org



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