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CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
SEPTENTRIONALES

**NORTH WESTERN  
WATERS**  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA  
LAS AGUAS  
NOROCCIDENTALES

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# FOCUS GROUP WHELK

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14 April 2026

# Meeting etiquette

- Please arrive on time so we can dive straight into the agenda.
- Listen actively: Give speakers your full attention, avoid side conversations or interrupting.
- Create a supportive environment: Be respectful, value diverse opinions and use inclusive language.
- Treat people fairly, promote an integrated way of working and respect the dignity of members at all times.
- Use discretion and respect others. Harassment, bullying, intimidation or discrimination in any form are unacceptable.



# Agenda

14:00 – 14:10 CET	<b>1. Welcome and introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome from the Chair (Alexandre Leclerc)</li><li>• Adoption of the agenda</li><li>• Apologies</li><li>• Action points from the last meeting (23 October 2025)</li></ul>
14:10 – 14:20 CET	<b>2. Brief overview of the previous work of the FG Whelk – Secretariat</b>
14:20 – 15:15 CET	<b>3. Updates on ICES work on Whelk – Natalie Hold, ICES expert on whelk</b>
15:15 – 15:30 CET	<b>4. Discussion on the next steps – Chair</b>
15:30 – 15:50 CET	<b>5. Discussion and approval of the updated Terms of Reference – Secretariat</b>
15:50 – 15:55 CET	<b>6. AOB</b>
15:55 – 16:00 CET	<b>7. Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair</b>

# Action points from the last meeting (10 October 2025)

1	FG Members to appoint Alexandre Leclerc (CRPMEM), proposed by Xavier Tétard, as the new Focus Group Chair via written procedure.
2	Secretariat to circulate to FG members both the NWWAC advice on whelk management in the Channel (dated 2 February 2023) and the corresponding European Commission reply. These documents will help clarify the Commission's position and identify the data gaps highlighted at that time.
3	FG Members / Secretariat to collect new data from the sector and management practices currently in place in other countries, particularly the United Kingdom, but also Ireland.
4	Secretariat to consult FG members regarding their interest in engaging with ICES to present updated data and information on whelk. The aim is to understand existing knowledge gaps, ongoing ICES work, and whether any new proposals on whelk management are under consideration or could be submitted to the Commission.
5	Secretariat to further liaise with Laurence Hégron Macé (SMEL) for updates on the CCLIMB'UP project.

## 2. Brief overview of the previous work of the FG Whelk

2021

[NWWAC advice on management of the whelk fishery in the Channel \(ICES 7d and 7e\)](#)  
(Submitted to the Commission)

2022

[COM reply to NWWAC letter on a management framework for whelk in the Channel](#)

2023

[NWWAC advice on whelk management in the Channel](#) (Submitted to the NWWMS TG)

2025

NWWAC FG Whelk was reactivated in light of recent scientific developments and new data.



**3. Updates on ICES work on Whelk**  
Natalie Hold, ICES expert on whelk

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4. Discussion on the next steps Chair

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## 5. Discussion and approval of the updated Terms of Reference – Secretariat

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6 AOB

7 Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair

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