



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

—
23 September 2026



www.nwwac.org

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

IE	CET		IE	CET	
09:00 – 09:05	10:00 – 10:05	1. Welcome and introductions • Welcome by the NWWAC Chair (Alexandra Philippe) • Apologies • Adoption of the agenda • Action points from the last meeting (19 September 2024, virtual)	10:20 – 10:30	11:20 – 11:30	5. Report on membership (Secretariat) • Overview of changes in membership • NWWAC Membership Drive
09:05 – 09:15	10:05 – 10:15	2. Update DG MARE D3 – Julia Rubeck, DG MARE D3	10:30 – 10:40	11:30 – 11:40	6. NWWAC Company update (Secretariat) • Directorships • Approval of Financial Statement
09:15 – 10:00	10:15 – 11:00	3. Annual report from the NWWAC Chair (Alexandra Philippe) • Work completed in Year 21 • Work Programme and proposed submissions for Year 22 ○ Proposed calendar of meetings for Year 22	10:40 – 11:40	11:40 – 12:40	7. Update to the NWWAC Rules of Procedure – Sara Vandamme, SeaRa
10:00 – 10:20	11:00 – 11:20	4. Report on the budget (Secretariat) • Review of the income and expenditure for Year 21 • Income and expenditure Year 22 • Reimbursement rules	11:40 – 11:50	12:40 – 12:50	8. NWWAC Communication
			11:50 – 11:55	12:50 – 12:55	9. AOB
			11:55 – 12:00	12:55 – 13:00	10. Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted (Chair)

Action points from the last meeting

- 1 Proposal from GA to ExCom that the NWWAC March 2026 meeting will be held in Brussels, in order to facilitate the participation of Commissioner Kadis on 05 March.
- 2 Members approved presentation of updated reimbursement rules to the ExCom for approval (16 October).
- 3 Secretariat to invite members to join the NWWAC WhatsApp group and assess the level of interest and responses received.
- 4 Secretariat to provide an update on the membership drive, including engagement with NGOs and the accompanying letter, during the next ExCom on 16 October.
- 5 Secretariat to provide an update on the membership drive at the next General Assembly to review progress and outcomes.



2 Update DG MARE D3 – Julia Rubeck, DG MARE D3



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

**NORTH WESTERN
WATERS**
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

3. NWWAC annual report



NWWAC Work Programme Year 21

- CFP evaluation
- EU Ocean Pact
- Vision for Fisheries 2040
- Impact of the EU-UK TCA
- Landing Obligation
- Technical Measures
- Non-quota species
- WW Multi-Annual Plan
- TACs & quotas
- Ecosystem based approach to fisheries management
- Environment
- Social Aspects
- Control and Compliance
- Overall follow-up of achievement of the CFP objectives
- Funding post EMFAF



NWWAC meetings Year 21

- 143 meetings:
- 1 General Assembly September (virtual)
- 3 Executive Committee
 - October (virtual), March (Brussels), July (Dun Laoghaire)
- 9 sub-regional Working Groups
 - October (virtual), March (Brussels), July (Dun Laoghaire)
- 3 Horizontal Working Group
 - October (virtual), March (Brussels), July (Dun Laoghaire)
- 1 Annual General Meeting
 - February (virtual)
- 11 Focus and Advice Drafting Groups
 - 26 virtual meetings
 - 1 webinars
 - 3 workshops

Members are informed of all meetings via the monthly update available online in the Members Area on www.nwwac.org. Details of meetings can also be found in both the Members Area and under the Meetings tab.



Year 21 – NWWAC meetings – September 2026

- 12 Meetings between the AC Chair, ExCom Vice-Chairs and the Secretariat (virtual, Oct, Nov, Dec 2025, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, 2x Jul, Sep 2026)
- 3 Secretariat – DG MARE bilaterals (in person, 01 Feb, virtual 14 & 18 Sep 2026)
- 3 FG Landing Obligation (virtual, Nov 2025, May, Jul 2026)
- 3 FG Joint NWWAC/NSAC Skates and Rays (virtual, Dec 2026, Mar, Apr 2026)
- 3 FG Social Aspects (virtual, Apr, 2x Jun 2026)
- 1 FG CFP (virtual, Dec 2025)
- 2 FG Control & Compliance (virtual, Mar, Sep 2026)
- 2 FG Climate (virtual, Dec 2025, May 2026)
- 2 FG Scallops (virtual, Dec 2025, Apr 2026)
- 3 Joint NWWAC/NSAC FG Brown Crab (virtual, Jan, Apr, Jun 2026)
- 3 Inter-AC Brexit Forum with PelAC, NSAC, LDAC, CCRUP (virtual, Oct 2025, Mar, Jun 2026)
- 1 ADG SSCF (virtual, Jan 2026)
- 2 Joint NWWAC PelAC FG Spatial Dimension (virtual, Nov 2025, Mar 2026)

Year 21 – NWWAC webinars & workshops

- Workshop between the ACs and SURIMI (14 November 2025), open to members of all ACs
- Workshop on Hake (29 April 2026), jointly with SWWAC
- Multi-AC Workshop on Control (16 July 2026), jointly with all ACs
- Webinar on Developments in Irish Marine Protected Area Planning and effect on the fishing industry (17 June 2026), jointly with PelAC

External meetings with NWWAC participation – September 2026

1. MARINEWIND final conference, 01 Oct 2025 (virtual)
2. CIBBRiNA stakeholder advisory board, 15 Oct 2025 (virtual)
3. DG ENV TG Seabed, 16 Oct 2025 (virtual)
4. EFCA Advisory Board, 21 Oct 2025 (virtual)
5. Preparatory meeting NWWAC – PelAC – SURIMI project for multi-AC workshop, 23 Oct 2025 (virtual)
6. STECF EWG 25-14, 20-24 Oct 2025 (virtual)
7. IV Mesa de la Ciencia Pesquera en Vigo, 30 Oct 2025 (Vigo)
8. EBCD Conference on the Contribution of Fisheries and Aquaculture to Food Security, 14 Nov 2024, Brussels
9. DG ENV webinar New guidance document on Natura 2000 and fishing, 04 Nov 2025 (virtual)
10. DG ENV MSCG, 12 Nov 2026 (virtual)
11. MMO English Offshore MPA – harbour porpoise bycatch, 19 Nov 2025 (virtual)





12. POLITICO Sustainable Future Summit, 02 Dec 2025 (virtual)
13. ICES Northern Shelf Cod Tiger Team, 18 Dec 2025 (Brussels)
14. EBCD Conference on the Contribution of Fisheries and Aquaculture to Food Security – Stocktake +1, 29 Jan 2026
15. Efaró webinar Complexity and Trust, 04 Feb 2026 (virtual)
16. Energy Transition Partnership, 17 Feb 2026 (Brussels)
17. Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment Ireland Seafood sector DMAP workshop, 24 Feb 2026 (virtual)
18. EU-UK meeting on UK Fisheries Management Plans, 24 Feb 2026 (Brussels)
19. European Ocean Days, 02-06 Mar 2026 (Brussels)
20. Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment Ireland Webinar on an Ecological Sensitivity Analysis of Ireland's Atlantic waters, 09 Mar 2026 (virtual)
21. NWWAC/PelAC – DCEE preparatory meeting for joint webinar, 11 03 2026 (virtual)
22. DG ENV MSCG, 17 Mar 2026 (virtual)
23. NMCI Seafarers' Conference 2026, 19 Mar 2026 (virtual)

External meetings with NWWAC participation – September 2026 (cntd.)

- 24. EU- UK on "UK Stage 4 MPAs and the Crown Estate's work on fisheries data and offshore wind", 26 Mar 2026 (virtual)
- 25. Bord Iascaigh Mhara "BIM Connects", 27 Mar 2026 (virtual)
- 26. European Ocean Board, 31 Mar 2026 (Brussels)
- 27. Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment Ireland Ecological Sensitivity Analysis of Ireland's Atlantic waters stakeholder event, 02 Apr 2026 (Sligo)
- 28. DG ENV TH Seabed, 14 Apr 2026 (virtual)
- 29. AC-MS CEG-EFCA preparatory meeting for joint workshop, 16 Apr 2026 (virtual)
- 30. Energy Transition Partnership workshop, 16 Apr 2026 (online)
- 31. EFCA Advisory Board, 21 Apr 2026 (Vigo)
- 32. EFCA Administrative Board, 23 Apr 2026 (Vigo)
- 33. EBCD Workshop From habitat to harvest, 23-24 Apr 2026 (Copenhagen)
- 34. SURIMI stakeholder workshop, 6 May 2026 (Brussels)
- 35. DG ENV MSCG, 13 May 2026 (virtual)

External meetings – September 2025 (cntd.)

- 36. DCEE Webinar on Atlantic Ecological Sensitivity Analysis, 21 May 2026 (virtual)
- 37. European Maritime Day, 21-22 May 2026 (Limassol)
- 38. DG ENV TG Seabed, 22 May (virtual)
- 39. Workshop for MSFD Revision, 28 May 2026 (Brussels)
- 40. Irish National Event on the Review of The Atlantic Maritime Strategy and Action Plan, 05 Jun 2026 (Dublin)
- 41. ICES MECCAM Stakeholder workshop on mitigation and adaptation in fisheries, 11 Jun 2026 (virtual)
- 42. European Commission Fisheries Reality Check Workshop, 16 Jun 2026 (Brussels)
- 43. DCEE webinar on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Treaty: Implications for Ireland, 17 Jun 2026 (virtual)
- 44. DG ENV TG Seabed, 23 Jun 2026 (virtual)
- 45. DG ENV TG Seabed, 29 Jun 2026 (virtual)
- 46. Special Group Marine Action Plan, 30 Jun 2026 (virtual)
- 47. Information session of the European Ocean Board, 08 Jul 2026 (virtual)
- 48. DCEE Atlantic Ecological Sensitivity Analysis, 05 Aug 2026 (virtual)

External meetings(cntd.)



- 49.ACs-MS CEG-EFCA preparatory meeting for joint workshop, 20 Aug 2026 (virtual)
- 50.ClientEarth/Seas at Risk/WWF: Decarbonising the EU fishing fleet without increasing capacity, 09 Sep 2026 (virtual)
- 51. GNSBI Steering Group, 10 Sep 2026 (virtual)
- 52.B-USEFUL, 16 Sep 2026 (virtual)
- 53.DCEE Atlantic Ecological Sensitivity Analysis, 17 Sep 2026 (virtual)
- 54.DCEE National DMAP, 17 Sep 2026 (virtual)
- 55.DG ENV TG Seabed, 22-23 Sep 2026 (virtual)
- 56. European Commission Fisheries Reality Check Workshop, 25 Sep 2026 (Brussels)



Cooperation with other ACs under the lead of NWWAC – Year 21

Title	ACs involved	Duration
Workshop between ACs and SURIMI	NWWAC, PeIAC, SWWAC, LDAC, MEDAC, BSAC, NSAC, BISAC	14 November 2025
Inter-AC Brexit Forum	NWWAC, NSAC, PeIAC, LDAC, CCRUP	21 October 2025
Joint Focus Group Landing Obligation	NWWAC, NSAC	26 November 2025
Workshop on Hake	NWWAC, SWWAC	29 Aril 2026
Webinar on Developments in Irish Marine Protected Area Planning and effect on the fishing industry	NWWAC, PeIAC,	17 June 2026
Inter-AC Brexit Forum	NWWAC, NSAC, PeIAC, LDAC, CCRUP	19 June 2026
Multi-AC Workshop on the Control Regulation	NWWAC, NSAC, PeIAC, SWWAC, MEDAC, LDAC, BSAC, BISAC, CCRUP, MAC	16 July 2026
Focus Group Skates & Rays	NWWAC, NSAC	ongoing
Focus Group Brown Crab	NWWAC, NSAC	ongoing

Cooperation with the European Commission – Year 21

1	DG ENV TG Seabed	16/10/2025	virtual
2	NWWAC Horizontal Working Group	10/10/2024	virtual
3	NWWAC Executive Committee	16/10/2025	virtual
4	DG ENV Webinar: New guidance document on Natura 2000 and fishing	04/11/2025	virtual
5	DG ENV Marine Strategy Coordination Group	12/11/2025	virtual
6	DG MARE C5 EU-UK debrief	14/11/2025	virtual
7	Inter-AC meeting between DG MARE and the ACs	18/11/2025	virtual
8	DG MARE C5 EU-UK debrief	21/11/2025	virtual
9	PeIAC/NWWAC Focus Group Spatial Dimension	28/11/2025	virtual
10	DG MARE C5 EU-UK debrief	05/12/2025	virtual
11	MIRIA prep meeting	12/01/2026	Virtual
12	MIRIA debrief	21/01/2026	Copenhagen
13	DG MARE Workshop on Nature credits in the EU's coastal and marine ecosystems	30/01/2026	Virtual
14	ETP High Level Conference	17/02/2026	Virtual
15	EU-UK FMP debrief	24/02/2026	Hybrid
16	NWWAC/NSAC Focus Group Skates & Rays	02/03/2026	Virtual
17	European Ocean Days – Marine Knowledge for Ocean Health	03/03/2026	Brussels & online
18	NWWAC Working Group 1 – Irish Sea	04/03/2026	Brussels
19	NWWAC Working Group 3 - Channel	04/03/2026	Brussels
20	NWWAC Working Group 2 Celtic Sea & West of Scotland	05/03/2026	Brussels
21	NWWAC Horizontal Working Group	05/03/2026	Brussels
22	NWWAC Executive Committee	06/03/2026	Brussels
23	DG ENV MSCG	17/03/2026	virtual
24	PeIAC/NWWAC Focus Group Spatial Dimension	25/03/2026	Virtual
25	EU-UK meeting on UK Stage 4 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and The Crown Estate's work on fisheries data and offshore wind	26/03/2026	virtual

Cooperation with the European Commission – Year 21 (cntd.)

26	Exchange DG MARE C.5 – NWWAC/NSAC/PelAC	27/03/2026	virtual
27	Exchange DG MARE C.5 – NWWAC	30/03/2026	virtual
28	European Ocean Board	31/03/2026	Brussels
29	Exchange DG MARE C.5 – NWWAC/NSAC/PelAC	10/04/2026	virtual
30	NWWAC Focus Group Scallop	15/04/2026	virtual
31	Energy Transition Partnership Workshop	16/04/2026	Brussels & online
32	EU-UK roadmap workshop on Northern Shelf Ling	17/04/2026	Virtual
33	NWWAC/NSAC Focus Group Brown Crab	17/04/2026	Virtual
34	NWWAC/NSAC Focus Groups Skates & Rays	22/04/2026	Virtual
35	Exchange DG MARE C.5 – NWWAC/NSAC/PelAC	23/04/2026	Virtual
36	Exchange DG MARE C.5 – NWWAC/NSAC/PelAC	06/05/2026	Virtual
37	DG ENV MSCG	13/05/2026	Virtual
38	Exchange DG MARE C.5 – NWWAC/NSAC/PelAC	18/05/2026	Virtual
39	NWWAC Focus Group Landing Obligation	18/05/2026	Virtual
40	European Maritime Day ACs' workshop	21/05/2026	Limassol
41	DG MARE Dedicated Session on the CFP Evaluation results - English	26/05/2026	Virtual
42	DG ENV Workshop for MSFD Revision	28/05/2026	Brussels & online
43	DG MARE Dedicated Session on the CFP Evaluation results - Spanish	28/05/2026	Virtual
44	DG MARE Dedicated Session on the CFP Evaluation results - French	02/06/2026	Virtual
45	Exchange DG MARE C.5 – NWWAC/NSAC/PelAC	03/06/2026	Virtual
46	DG MARE Stakeholder Webinar: Evolution, Challenges and Future of the EU Fishing Fleet	09/06/2026	Virtual
47	European Commission Fisheries Reality Check Workshop (NL/BE)	16/06/2026	Brussels
49	DG ENV TG Seabed	23/06/2026	Virtual
50	DG ENV TG Seabed	29/06/2026	Virtual

Cooperation with the European Commission – Year 21 (cntd.)

51	Special Group Marine Action Plan	30/06/2025	Brussels & online
52	DG MARE presentation & discussion of ICES advice	03/07/2026	Virtual
53	NWWAC Working Group 1 Irish Sea	06/07/2026	Dun Laoghaire
54	NWWAC Working Group 2 Channel	06/07/2026	Dun Laoghaire
55	NWWAC Working Group 2 Celtic Sea & West of Scotland	07/07/2026	Dun Laoghaire
56	NWWAC Horizontal WG	07/07/2026	Dun Laoghaire
57	NWWAC Executive Committee	08/07/2026	Dun Laoghaire
58	Information session of the European Ocean Board	08/07/2026	virtual
59	Bilateral NWWAC – DG MARE Control Unit	14/07/2026	Brussels
60	DG MARE Inter AC	15/07/2026	Brussels & online
61	Multi-AC Workshop on Control	16/07/2026	Brussels & online
62	NWWAC Focus Group Landing Obligation	24/07/2026	Virtual
63	ACs workshop with the Member States Control Expert Groups	08/09/2026	Brussels & online
64	Stock Rebuilding update	08/09/2026	Brussels & online
65	NWWAC General Assembly	25/09/2025	Virtual
66	DG ENV TG Seabed	23-24/09/2026	Virtual
67	European Commission Fisheries Reality Check Workshop (IE)	25/09/2026	Brussels

Cooperation with the NWW MSG

1	NWW Technical Group	20/11/2025	virtual
2	NWW Technical Group	17/12/2025	virtual
3	NWW Technical Group	20/01/2026	virtual
4	NWWAC/NSAC Focus Group Brown Crab	28/01/2026	Virtual
5	NWW Technical Group	25/02/2026	Virtual
6	NWWAC Horizontal Working Group	05/03/2026	Brussels
7	NWWAC Executive Committee	06/03/2026	Brussels
8	NWW Technical Group	16/03/2026	virtual
9	NWW Technical Group	09/04/2026	virtual
10	NWW High Level Group	10/04/2026	virtual
11	NWW Technical Group	18/05/2026	virtual
12	NWW Technical Group	15/06/2026	Virtual
13	NWWAC/PelAC webinar on Developments in Irish Marine Protected Area Planning and effect on the fishing industry	17/06/2026	Virtual
14	NWWAC Executive Committee	06/07/2026	Dun Laoghaire
15	NWW Technical Group	22/07/2026	virtual
16	ACs workshop with the Member States Control Expert Groups	08/09/2026	Brussels & online



Cooperation with the ICES

NWWAC Working Group 2 Celtic Sea & West of Scotland	14/10/2025	Virtual
NWWAC/NSAC Focus Group Skates & Rays	08/12/2025	Virtual
ICES Northern Shelf Cod Tiger Team – Stakeholder Briefing	18/12/2025	Virtual
MIAC	23/01/2025	Hybrid
MIACO	23-24/01/2025	Hybrid
NWWAC/NSAC Focus Group Brown Crab	28/01/2026	Virtual
NWWAC Working Group 2 Celtic Sea & West of Scotland	05/03/2026	Brussels
NWWAC Focus Group Whelk	14/04/2026	Virtual
MECCAM Stakeholder Workshop	11/06/2026	Virtual
NWWAC Working Group 1 Irish Sea	06/07/2026	Dun Laoghaire
NWWAC Working Group 3 Channel	06/07/2026	Dun Laoghaire
NWWAC Working Group 2 Celtic Sea & West of Scotland	07/07/2026	Dun Laoghaire
NWWAC Horizontal WG	07/07/2026	Dun Laoghaire
Northern Shelf cod stakeholder meeting	04/09/2026	Virtual



Recommendations Year 21

No	Issue/subject	Link with the CFP	WG/FG at the origin of the recommendation	Planned date of adoption (if available)
1	Advice on Addressing Choke Risk in the NWW after exemptions	Article 2, 14, 15	WG1, WG2, WG3	NWWAC Advice on persistent Choke Species challenges in the context of the Landing Obligation – 05/06/2026
2	Advice on topics related to the Landing Obligation	Article 2, 14, 15	Horizontal WG (Focus Group Landing Obligation)	Joint NWWAC/NSAC Advice on the European Commission “Study supporting the evaluation of the landing obligation” – 18/12/2025
3	Advice on the implementation of the EU Technical Measures Regulation, including directed fisheries definition	Article 2, 10	Horizontal Working Group	NWWAC Advice on management measures for “Northern” seabass in 2026 – 04/11/2025 NWWAC Advice on strengthening the role of the Advisory Councils in developing technical and remedial measures – 16/12/2025 NWWAC Letter to the NWW MSG “Amendment to the Technical Measures Regulation for reopening the Channel scallop stock recovery area on the first Monday after 15 October” – 10/02/2026 NWWAC Letter to the NWW MSG on the draft “Joint Recommendation of the NWW MSG concerning the reopening of the Channel Scallop stock recovery area on the first Monday after 15 October” – 11/06/2026 NWWAC Advice on the implementation of Technical Measures and Rebuilding Plans in the context of EU–UK fisheries management – 16/06/2026

Recommendations Year 21 (continued)

No	Issue/subject	Link with the CFP	WG/FG at the origin of the recommendation	Planned date of adoption (if available)
4	Advice on Technical Measures as a topic in the execution of the TCA if relevant proposals are put forward by the Commission	Article 2	WG1, WG2, WG3, HWG	n/a
5	Advice on Fishing Opportunities 2026 & COM Policy Paper	Article 2, 14, 15, 16	WG1, WG2, WG3, HWG	NWWAC advice on the Communication from the Commission “Sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2027” COM(2026) 271 final and on the ICES advice published on June 30th, 2026 – 28/08/2026
6	Advice on the management of skates & rays	Article 2, 10, 14, 15, 16	HWG (Focus Group Skates & Rays)	NWWAC/NSAC advice on skates and rays management – 28/10/2026
7	Advice relating to SCF issues: technical measures, non-quota species etc.	Article 2, 14, 15	Horizontal WG	NWWAC/NSAC advice on skates and rays management – 24/06/2026

Recommendations Year 21 (continued)

No	Issue/subject	Link with the CFP	WG/FG at the origin of the recommendation	Planned date of adoption (if available)
8	Advice related to climate & environment topics, e.g., EU Biodiversity Strategy, EU Green Deal, Farm to Fork Strategy, Nature Restoration Law	Article 2	HWG (Focus Group Climate & Environment)	NWWAC Letter regarding additional input on the ETP document integrating ACs Recommendations – 30/10/2026 NWWAC Response to the Consultation on Fisheries Management Measures within France’s 12-nm Zone in the “Ridens et dunes hydrauliques du détroit du Pas-de-Calais” Natura 2000 Site – 26/01/2026 NWWAC Advice on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive – Call for Evidence – in the North Western Waters (NWW) – 11/02/2026
9	Advice on social aspects related to fisheries in the NWW	Article 2	HWG (Focus Group Social Aspects)	NWWAC Letter “Concerns on rising fuel prices linked to the Middle East crisis and request to activate EMFAF emergency measures” – 26/03/2026 Joint ACs Advice “Ceiling for de minimis State Aid and Crises Mechanisms for Fisheries and Aquaculture” – 24/04/2026

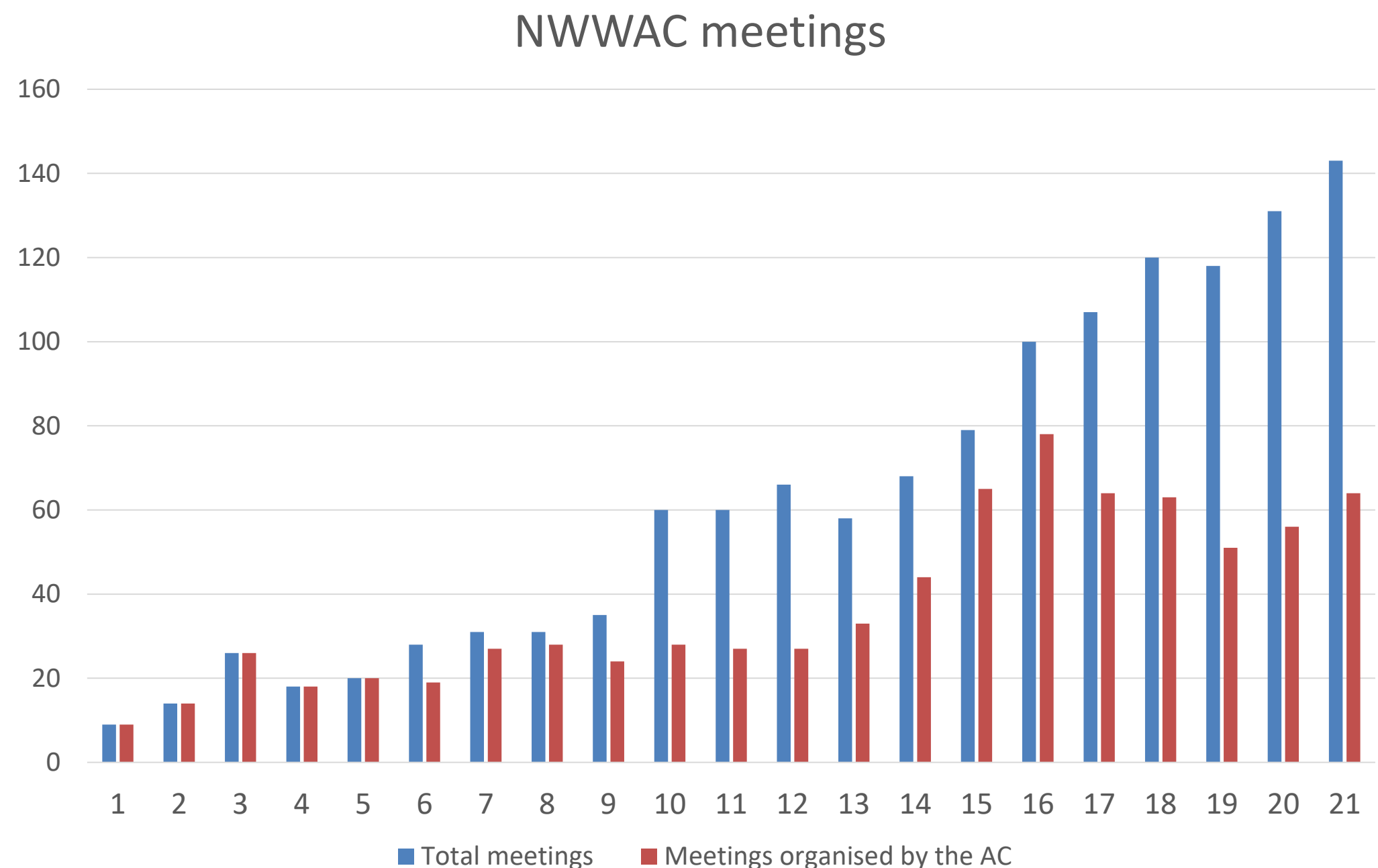
Recommendations Year 21 (continued)

No	Issue/subject	Link with the CFP	WG/FG at the origin of the recommendation	Planned date of adoption (if available)
10	Advice on aspects raised in the CFP Communication or as part of the CFP evaluation	Article 2, 3, 44	HWG (Focus Group CFP and other relevant FGs once identified)	NWWAC response – European Ocean Act: Call for evidence – 03/02/2026 InterAC Letter to Commissioner Kadis on Ocean Board – 03/03/2026 NWWAC Statement European Ocean Board – 01/04/2026 NWWAC response to the public consultation on the Revision of the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive/the Ocean Act – 25/06/2026
11	Advice on the vision for fisheries 2040	Article 2, 3, 44	HWG (Focus Group CFP and other relevant FGs once identified)	NWWAC advice on Vision 2040 – 10/04/2026

Additional recommendations Year 21

21	NWWAC Advice on the Commission Delegated Regulation of 27.8.2025 related to Control Regulation and on Boarding Ladder Safety and Material Standards provisions	Article 2, 36, 44	16/10/2025
22	Joint ACs Letter “Towards improved consultation with Advisory Councils and stakeholders on Control Regulation”	Article 2, 3, 36, 44	04/11/2025
23	NWWAC statement in support of the Implementation Dialogue on Small-Scale Coastal Fisheries	Article 2, 44	24/11/2025
24	Joint PelAC/NWWAC Advice on Good Management Practices in Advisory Councils	Article 2, 3, 44	13/02/2026
25	NWWAC Advice on Small-Scale Coastal Fisheries (SSCF)	Article 2, 3, 44	18/02/2026
26	NSAC/NWWAC/MEDAC Advice on the implementation of the fisheries Control Regulation	Article 2, 36, 44	09/03/2026
27	NWWAC Response to the “Survey supporting the review the results of the Atlantic strategy since the last revision of its action plan (2020)”	Article 2, 44	22/05/2026
28	NWWAC Advice on the Draft ‘Do No Significant Harm’ Guidance under the MFF 2028-2034	Article 2, 44	15/09/2026

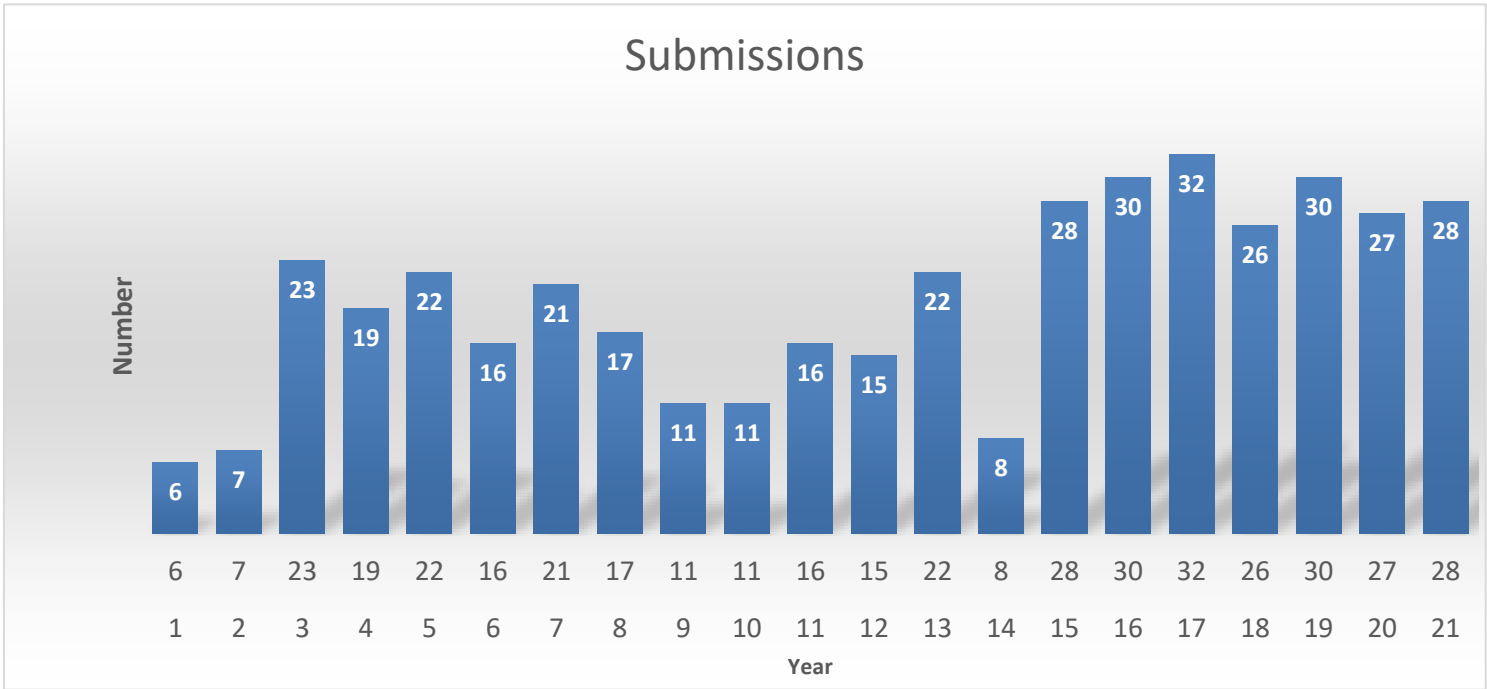
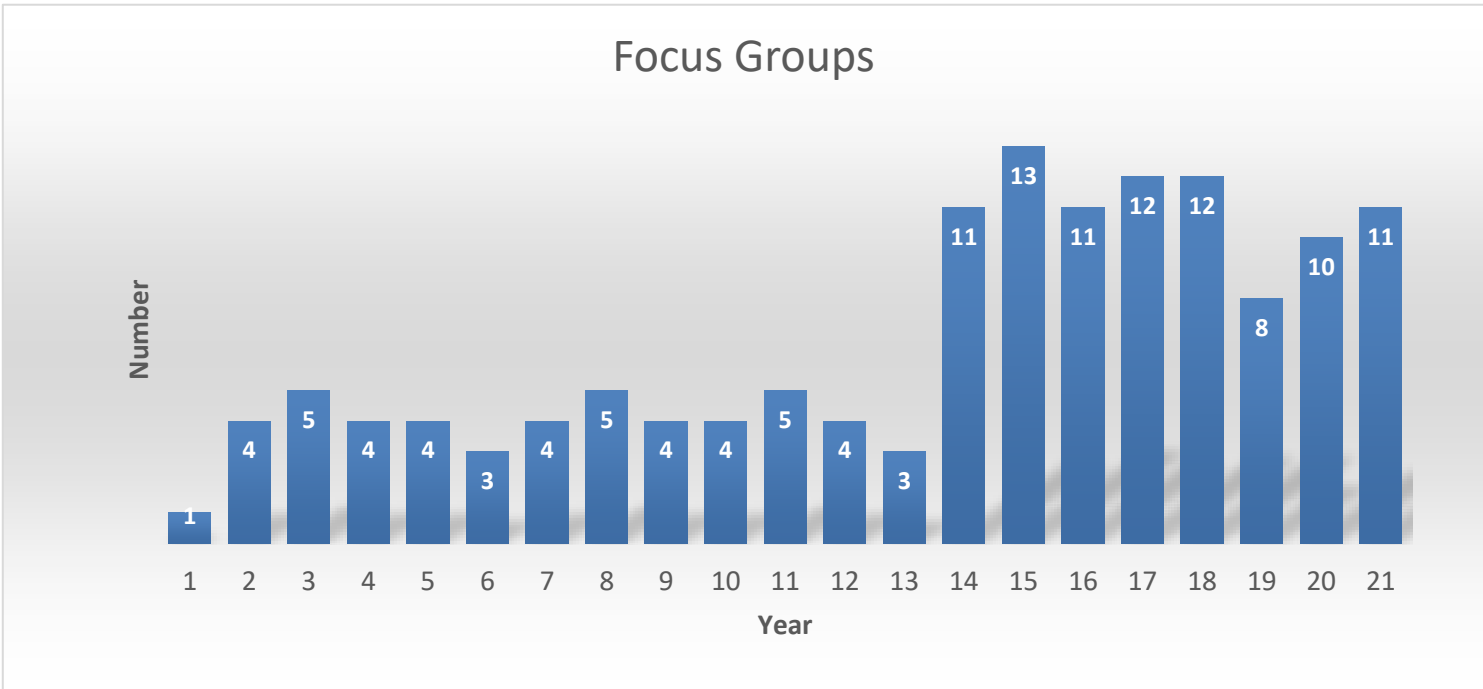
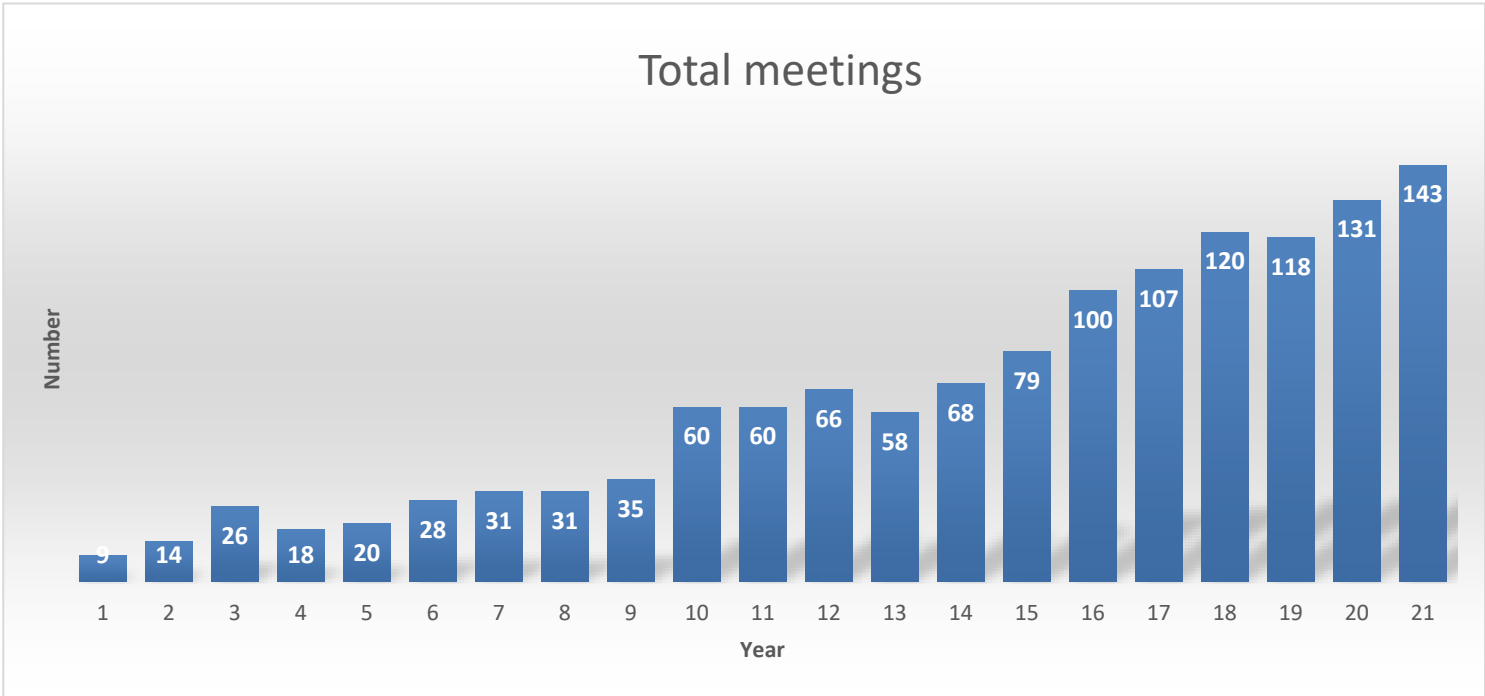
Year 21 WP Meetings (September 2026)



As part of the Work Package the NWWAC advised that 28 meetings would be organised in Year 21.

The total number of meetings organised by the AC is 64.

Activity Overview Year 21





CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

Work Programme Year 22

NWWAC Work Programme Year 22

- CFP evaluation & EU Ocean Pact/ Ocean Act
- Vision for Fisheries 2040
- Impact of the EU-UK TCA
- Landing Obligation
- Technical Measures
- Non-quota species
- WW Multi-Annual Plan
- TACs & quotas
- Ecosystem based approach to fisheries management
- Environment
- Social Aspects
- Control and Compliance
- Overall follow-up of achievement of the CFP objectives
- Funding post EMFAF





Planned recommendations YR22

No	Issue/subject	Link with the CFP	WG/FG at the origin of the recommendation	Planned date of adoption (if available)
1	Advice on Addressing Choke Risk in the NWW after exemptions	Article 2, 14, 15	WG1, WG2, WG3	February 2027
2	Advice on topics related to the Landing Obligation	Article 2, 14, 15	Horizontal WG (Focus Group Landing Obligation)	March 2027
3	Advice on the implementation of the EU Technical Measures Regulation, including directed fisheries definition	Article 2, 10	Horizontal Working Group	March 2027
4	Advice on Fishing Opportunities 2027 & COM Policy Paper	Article 2, 14, 15, 16	WG1, WG2, WG3, HWG	July 2027
5	Advice on the management of skates & rays	Article 2, 10, 14, 15, 16	HWG (Focus Group Skates & Rays)	April 2027
6	Advice relating to SCF issues: technical measures, non-quota species etc.	Article 2, 14, 15	Horizontal WG	December 2026
7	Advice related to climate & environment topics, e.g., EU Biodiversity Strategy, EU Green Deal, Farm to Fork Strategy, Nature Restoration Law, Spatial Dimension, MSFD	Article 2	HWG (Focus Group Climate & Environment)	November 2026
8	Advice on social aspects related to fisheries in the NWW	Article 2	HWG (Focus Group Social Aspects)	January 2027
9	Advice on aspects raised as part of the CFP evaluation and/or the EU Ocean Pact/ Act	Article 2	HWG (Focus Group CFP and other relevant FGs once identified)	June 2027
10	Advice on the vision for fisheries 2040	Article 2	HWG (Focus Group CFP and other relevant FGs once identified)	May 2027



Planned meetings Year 22

	Date	Topics / subjects of meeting	Type of meeting (physical/ planned/ hybrid)	European Commission participation requested (yes/no)	If Commission participation requested, specific issues to be dealt with
1	05 October 2026	CHARM	Virtual	No	
2	14 October 2026	Working Group 1	virtual	yes	Date changed to 19 October due to clash with other AC
3	14 October 2026	Working Group 2	virtual	yes	Date changed to 19 October due to clash with other AC
4	14 October 2026	Working Group 3	virtual	yes	Date changed to 19 October due to clash with other AC
5	15 October 2026	Horizontal Working Group	virtual	yes	Date changed to 20 October due to clash with other AC
6	21 October 2026	Executive Committee	virtual	yes	
7	03 November 2026	CHARM	Virtual	no	
8	07 December 2026	CHARM	Virtual	no	
9	05 January 2027	CHARM	Virtual	no	
10	02 February 2027	CHARM	Virtual	no	
11	02 March 2027	CHARM	Virtual	no	
12	10 March 2027	Working Group 1 Irish Sea	hybrid	yes	Technical measures, ORE, Discard Plan



	Date	Topics / subjects of meeting	Type of meeting (physical/ planned/ hybrid)	European Commission participation requested (yes/no)	If Commission participation requested, specific issues to be dealt with
13	10 March 2027	Working Group 3 English Channel	hybrid	yes	Technical measures, non-quota species, restoration plans, discard Plan
14	11 March 2027	Working Group 2 Celtic Sea & West of Scotland	hybrid	yes	Technical measures, restoration plans, discard Plan
15	11 March 2027	Horizontal Working Group	hybrid	yes	TCA &SCF, UK Technical Measures, CFP evaluation
16	12 March 2027	Executive Committee	hybrid	yes	Dialogue with DG MARE: Overview on ongoing dossiers and upcoming advice requests; EU-UK negotiations
17	05 April 2027	CHARM	virtual	no	
18	04 May 2027	CHARM	virtual	no	
19	01 June 2027	CHARM	Virtual	no	
20	05 July 2027	CHARM	Virtual	no	
21	05 July 2027	Working Group 1 Irish Sea	hybrid	yes	ICES advice, NWWAC choke tool update, Stock specific discussions with DG MARE experts, fishing opportunities 2028
22	05 July 2027	Working Group 3 English Channel	hybrid	yes	ICES advice, NWWAC choke tool update, Stock specific discussions with DG MARE experts, fishing opportunities 2028
23	06 July 2027	Working Group 2 Celtic Sea & West of Scotland	hybrid	yes	ICES advice, NWWAC choke tool update, Stock specific discussions with DG MARE experts. fishing opportunities 2028
24	06 July 2027	Horizontal Working Group	hybrid	yes	depending on the topics discussed a DG MARE expert will be requested, fishing opportunities 2028
25	07 July 2027	Executive Committee	hybrid	yes	Dialogue with the Commission and Member States; EU-UK negotiations, fishing opportunities 2028
26	26 July 2027	CHARM	Virtual	no	
27	30 August 2027	CHARM	Virtual	no	
28	23 September 2027	General Assembly	virtual	no	Approval of Year 22 annual report and budget



Upcoming NWWAC meetings – September 2026

- DG ENV TG Seabed (virtual, 23–24 September 2026)
- Reality Check Workshop with DG MARE (Irish practitioners) (Brussels, 25 September 2026)
- EU Ocean Week (Brussels, 30 September – 02 October 2026)
- Commission NQS stock take tbc
- DCEE Workshop Atlantic Ecological Sensitivity Analysis: Spatial Conservation Prioritisation (Galway, 07 October 2026)
- DG MARE C.5 – NWWAC bilateral (virtual, 08 October 2026)
- CIBBRiNA Stakeholder Advisory Board (virtual, 09 October 2026)
- DCEE BBNJ Workshop (Dublin, 13 October 2026)
- NWWAC Working Groups 1 – 3 (virtual, 19 October 2026)
- NWWAC Horizontal Working Group (virtual, 20 October 2026)
- EFCA Advisory Board (virtual, 20 October 2026)

Upcoming NWWAC meetings – September 2026

- NWWAC Executive Committee (virtual, 21 October 2026)
- CIBBRiNA meetings (Oostende, 27–29 October 2026)
- DG ENV MSCG (virtual, 09 November 2026)
- CIBBRiNA Stakeholder Advisory Board (virtual, 09 October 2026)
- DEMASK Focus Group on underwater noise (virtual, 18 November 2026)
- ICES WKGFI SHECO (Copenhagen, 19–23 November 2026)
- Celtic Seas interactive stakeholder workshops (Galway, 24–25 November 2026)
- MIAC/MIACO (Copenhagen, 21–22 January 2027)
- NWWAC WGs and ExCom (Brussels, 10 – 12 March 2027)
- European Maritime Day (Santander, 20–21 May 2027)
- NWWAC WGs and ExCom (tbc, 05–07 July 2027)



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

4. Report on the budget



Year 21 – Income – Current Position

	Original Budget 01 October 2025	Actual Income at 23 September 2026	Outstanding
Member States	€ 25,000	€ 25,000	€ 0,000
Commission	€ 350,199	€ 280,159.20	Balance EU-grant* € 70,039.80
Member's Fees + interest on fees + misc. income	€28,700	€ 28,400	€ 0
Total	€ 403,898	€ 333,559.20	€ 65,539.80

One organisation did not renew its membership, one seems to have ceased existence. Back payment from one organisation.

* Commission income agreed under new lumpsum approach. 100% grant once work programme is achieved.

Year 20 – Expenditure – Current Position

	Eligible Predicted Budget 01 October 2025	Actual Expenditure up to 23 September 2026	Estimated actual expenditure 30 September 2024
Staff	€ 195,115	€ 183,846	€ 195,115
Reimbursements	€ 70,317	€ 40,140	€ 46,640
Interpretation & Translation	€ 69,442	€ 48,055	€ 56,865
Meetings and Information	€ 17,288	€ 25,455	€ 27,955
Operating costs	€ 21,736	€ 28,259	€ 28,639
Chairman Fees / Audit	€ 22,000	€ 12,546	€ 17,546
Other contracts	€ 8,000	€ 20,660	€ 23,009
Total	€ 403,898	€ 358,961	€ 395,771
Potentially due to one missing MS payment	€ 398,598.64		



Contract for RoP update, training as per
Commission draft guidelines

Year 21 – Financial timeline

- **30 September 2026**
End of Financial Year 21
- **October 2026**
Submission of final technical report to Commission with request for balance payment
- **November 2026**
Company Audit on Year 21 Income and Expenditure.
- **End-November 2026**
Company Audit certificate, no further submission to the Commission
- **December 2026**
AGM to approve
 - i. Director's report on the financial statement
 - ii. Continuation of the auditor's work



Year 22 accounts

Year 22 – Income – Current Position

	Budget Proposal June 2025	Actual Income 23 September 2026	Outstanding
Member States	€ 25,000	€ 10,000	€ 15,000
Commission	€ 357,203	€ 0	€ 357,203
Member's Fees + interest on fees + misc. income	€28,400	€ 25,850	€2,550
Total	€ 410,603	€ 36,600	€ 374,753

* Commission income is agreed at €350,199 under the new lump sum approach.

Year 22 – Proposed expenditure

	Non-Eligible	Proposed Eligible (June 2025)	Proposed TOTAL (June 2025)
Staff		€207,625.68	€207,625.68
Reimbursements		€65,037.63	€65,037.63
Operating costs		€69,363.37	€69,363.37
Meetings	€15,000	€14,030.00	€14,030.00
Interpretation and Translation		€24,546.32	€24,546.32
Fees (Chair , Audit)		€22,000.00	€22,000.00
Other contracts		€8,000.00	€8,000.00
Total	€ 15,000	€410,603.00	€ 425,602

Review of reimbursement rules

Approved update starting October 2025 for full Year 21: increase of per diem from €92 to €100, increase of hotel rate from €100 to €120

Suggestion from GA September 2025: review of expenditure under “Reimbursements” following approved update to evaluate if travel time could also be reimbursed.

Actual expenditure Year 20	
Hotels	Per diem
€10,588.00	€19,352.00
Total	€29,940.00

Year 20 proposed rules including increase in Year 21 update plus travel time	
Hotels	Per diem
€12,528.00	€32,556.00
Total	€45,084.00

€100 increase across all groups					
Current amount	Proposed amount	GA	ExCom	WG	All
€ 300	€ 400	€ 14,400			€ 14,400
€ 350	€ 450		€ 7,200		€ 7,200
€ 250	€ 350			€ 16,800	€ 16,800
	Old total	€ 28,400			
	New total	€ 32,000	€ 30,000	€ 33,200	€ 38,400
	Difference	€ 3,600	€ 1,600	€ 4,800	€ 10,000



Update to Reimbursements & membership fees

In order to increase reimbursement pay to include travel time, NWWAC membership fees would need to be increased across all groups (GA, WG1-3, ExCom) by €100.

The 16 member organisations of the NWWAC Executive Committee reviewed this approach with the following results:

- 5 organisations support the changes
- 6 organisations oppose the changes
- 1 organisation would support increases only for General Assembly and WGs but not ExCom
- 2 organisations oppose the changes but would go along with a consensus decision
- 1 organisations abstained from voting until the new rules are clear
- 1 organisations did not respond

Comments received:

- 2 organisations suggested to maintain the current rules but to avoid complicated travel arrangements, i.e. arrange meetings in convenient locations.
- Increased membership fees may deter new organisations from joining or affect existing membership
- 1 organisations suggested to overall increase hotel and per diem fees but not change the rules, or, alternatively, to pay only full days for meetings regardless of the duration of the meeting.



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

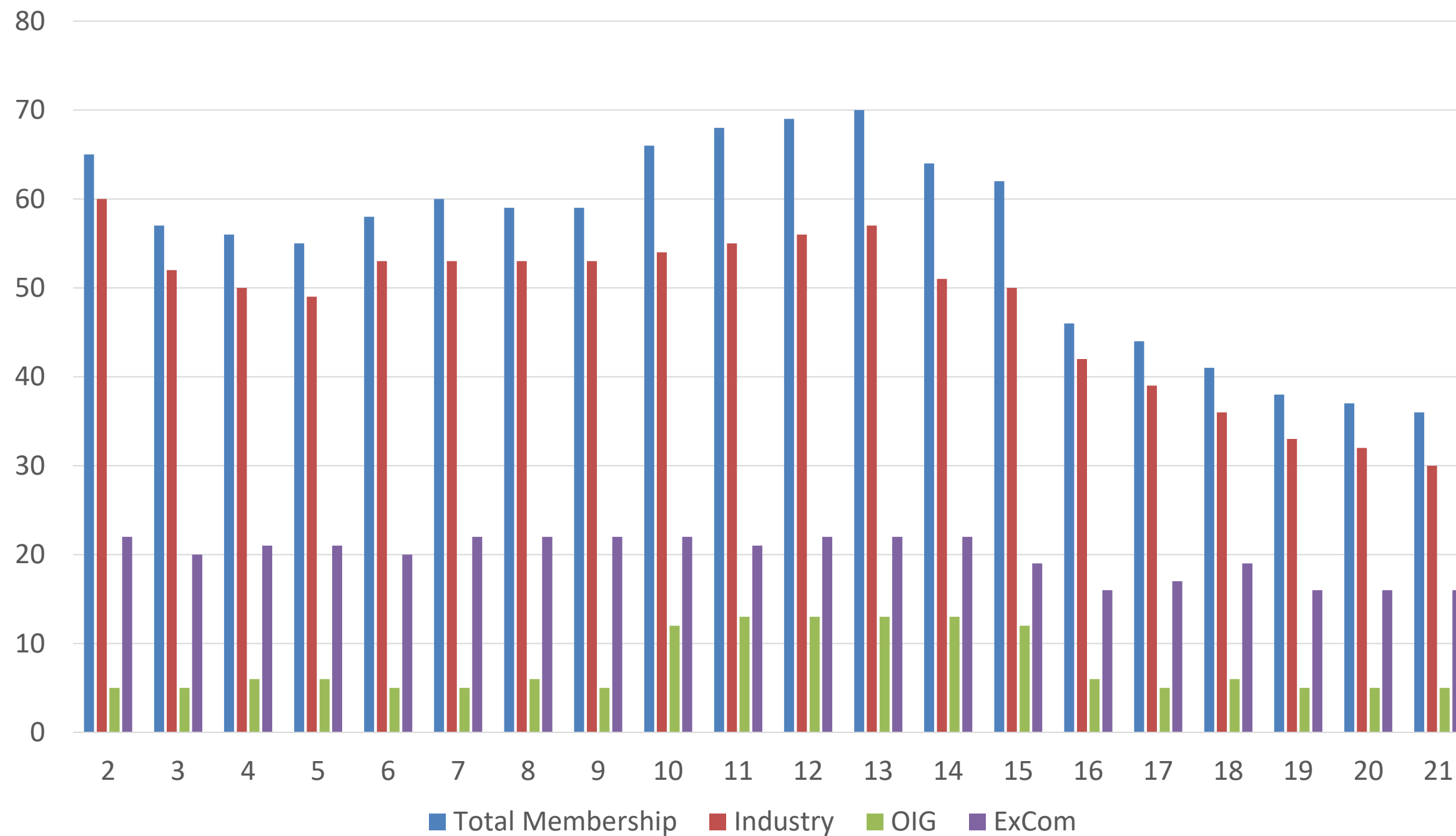
**NORTH WESTERN
WATERS**
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

5. NWWAC Membership Report

NWWAC Membership Report

NWWAC membership Year 1 – 21



Year 21 – Membership Drive

- 13 organisation contacted (11 September), including:
Birdwatch Ireland, ClientEarth, Coastwatch Europe, Dutch Elasmobranch Society, Environmental Defence Fund, Environmental Justice Foundation, Fair Seas, Irish Wildlife Trust, Oceana, Sciaena, Seas at Risk, The Pew Charitable Trusts, WWF
- 3 responses received (22 September)
 - 1: no capacity
 - 1: insufficient resources
 - 1: investigating further
- Updates are shared with DG MARE C.3

6 NWWAC Company update

- Directors
 - Mo Mathies
 - Conor Nolan
 - Sara Vandamme
- Approval of financial statement at AGM Nov/Dec 2026



- 7 Update to the NWWAC Rules of Procedure – Sara Vandamme, SeaRa
 - 8 NWWAC Communication
-

8 NWWAC Communication Strategy

Structure

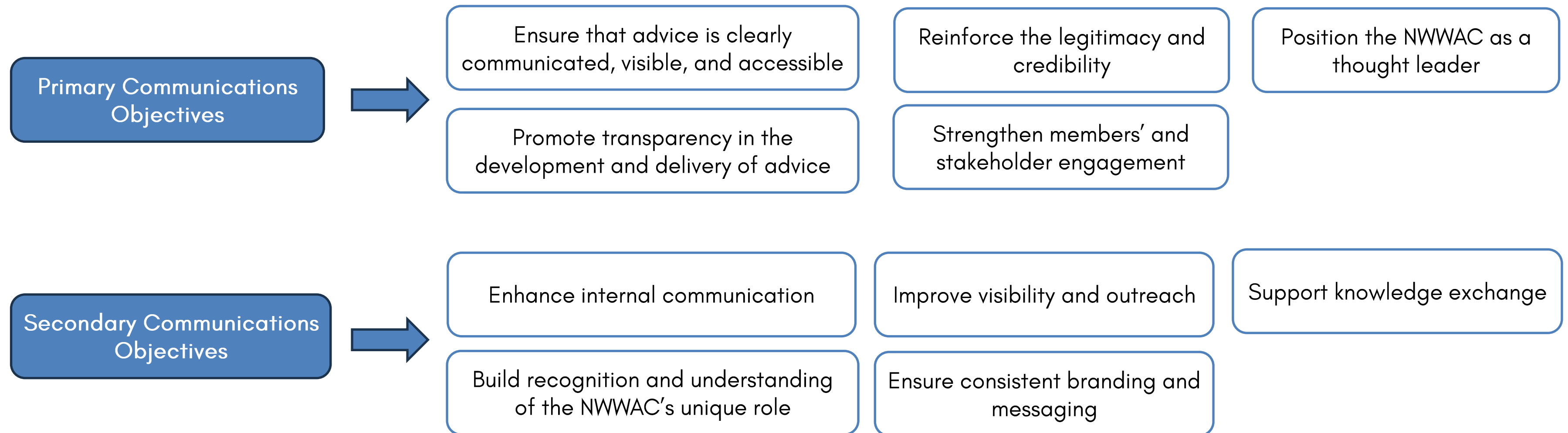
1. Introduction to NWWAC & purpose of the Communication Strategy Document
2. Purpose, Vision and added value of the NWWAC
3. Communications objectives
4. Our targeted audiences
5. Methods
6. Campaign and Tactical Communications
7. Additional considerations
8. Sign-off procedure
9. Conclusion



Why a Communication Strategy?

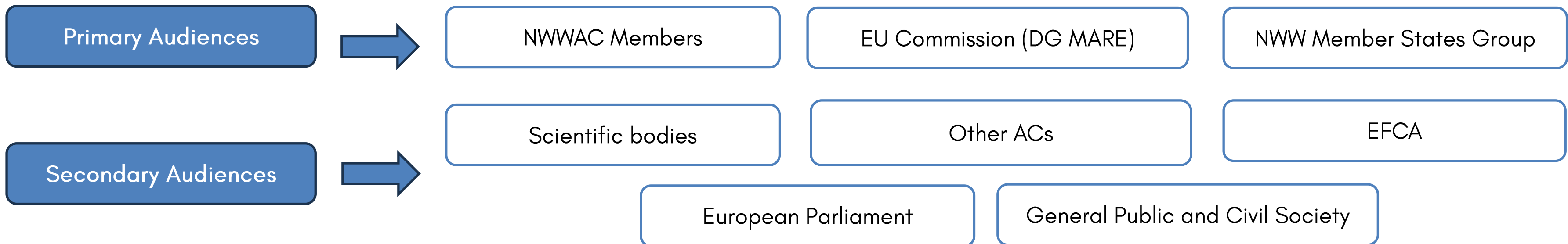
Communication Strategy ensures that any communication activity is aligned with the objectives of the NWWAC

Communications objectives

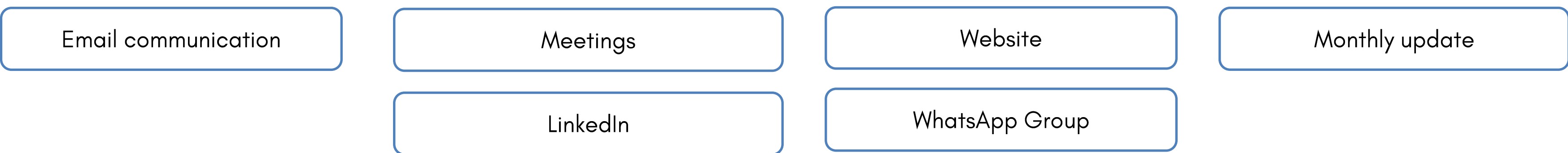


Who do we need to reach? And how?

Our target audiences



Methods



Campaigns and Tactical Communications



Examples

North Western Waters Advisory Council

381 followers

2d

In view of the upcoming consultations that will decide the fishing opportunities for 2027 in the North Western Waters, the #NWWAC has recently submitted its advice to the [European Commission](#) ...more

North Western Waters Advisory Council

381 followers

2d

In view of the upcoming consultations that will decide the fishing opportunities for 2027 in the North Western Waters, the #NWWAC has recently submitted its advice to the [European Commission](#) ...more

North Western Waters Advisory Council

381 followers

2d

In view of the upcoming consultations that will decide the fishing opportunities for 2027 in the North Western Waters, the #NWWAC has recently submitted its advice to the [European Commission](#) ...more

North Western Waters Advisory Council

381 followers

2d

In view of the upcoming consultations that will decide the fishing opportunities for 2027 in the North Western Waters, the #NWWAC has recently submitted its advice to the [European Commission](#) ...more

North Western Waters Advisory Council

381 followers

2mo

Do you know what the #NWWAC has been working on throughout June?

Our Monthly Update provides an overview of the advisory work and key ...more

North Western Waters Advisory Council

381 followers

2mo

Do you know what the #NWWAC has been working on throughout June?

Our Monthly Update provides an overview of the advisory work and key ...more

North Western Waters Advisory Council

381 followers

2mo

Do you know what the #NWWAC has been working on throughout June?

Our Monthly Update provides an overview of the advisory work and key ...more

North Western Waters Advisory Council

381 followers

1mo

#NWWACMemberSpotlightCampaign - Meet OPPF4!

Discover more about the Organización de Productores de Pesca Fresca ...more

North Western Waters Advisory Council

381 followers

1mo

#NWWACMemberSpotlightCampaign - Meet OPPF4!

Discover more about the Organización de Productores de Pesca Fresca ...more

North Western Waters Advisory Council

381 followers

1mo

#NWWACMemberSpotlightCampaign - Meet OPPF4!

Discover more about the Organización de Productores de Pesca Fresca ...more

North Western Waters Advisory Council

381 followers

2mo

Do you know what the #NWWAC has been working on throughout June?

Our Monthly Update provides an overview of the advisory work and key ...more

North Western Waters Advisory Council

381 followers

2mo

Do you know what the #NWWAC has been working on throughout June?

Our Monthly Update provides an overview of the advisory work and key ...more

North Western Waters Advisory Council

381 followers

2mo

Do you know what the #NWWAC has been working on throughout June?

Our Monthly Update provides an overview of the advisory work and key ...more

North Western Waters Advisory Council

381 followers

2mo

Do you know what the #NWWAC has been working on throughout June?

Our Monthly Update provides an overview of the advisory work and key ...more

North Western Waters Advisory Council

381 followers

2mo

Do you know what the #NWWAC has been working on throughout June?

Our Monthly Update provides an overview of the advisory work and key ...more

North Western Waters Advisory Council

381 followers

2mo

Do you know what the #NWWAC has been working on throughout June?

Our Monthly Update provides an overview of the advisory work and key ...more

North Western Waters Advisory Council

Headline messages – What our members say?

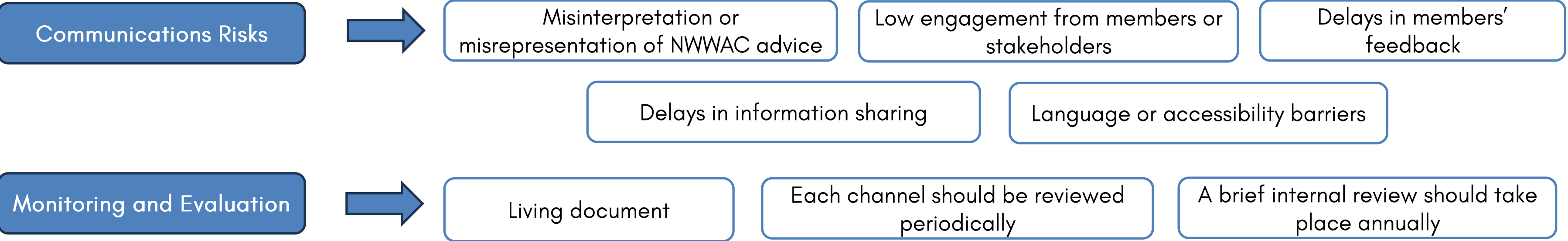
*The NWWAC is a key component of EBCD's work, as it **provides a platform where the fisheries sector and the conservation community come together to find common ground**. This reflects the very core of EBCD's vision — to seek compromise and avoid unnecessary polarisation. EBCD is therefore highly appreciative of the NWWAC's efforts to promote science-based decision-making and stakeholder engagement, both of which lie at the heart of EBCD's mission. – EBCD*

*The NWWAC gives us the **opportunity to make the voice of producers heard by the European Commission** in a formal setting and also allows us to discuss fisheries management with all stakeholders in the European Union. – COBRENORD*

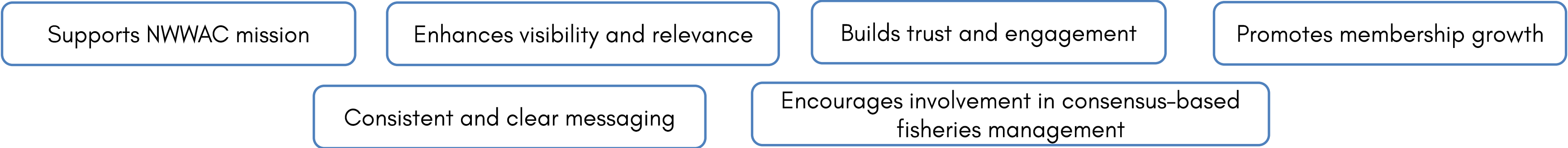
*Being a NWWAC member gives our PO the opportunity to better monitor regulatory, scientific, and strategic developments affecting fisheries in the area. **Participation in working groups allows us to compare positions with other stakeholders (POs, NGOs, institutional actors) and promote consensus building**. Membership in the NWWAC enhances our visibility at the European level, enabling us to contribute to advisory opinions considered by decision-makers and to defend our members' interests in a concerted, sustainable manner. – FROM Nord*



Risks, Monitoring and Conclusions



Conclusion





- 9 AOB
 - 10 Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair
-

Thank you.

North Western Waters Advisory Council 