

# The North Sea Advisory Council



## NSAC PRIORITIES Nov 2017 - Oct 18

The key priorities of the NSAC for November 2017 to October 2018 and the expected results (recommendations, meeting, projects etc.)

**Landing Obligation:** As we approach full implementation of the Landing Obligation in January 2019 it will be important to work closely with the Scheveningen Group to provide information and potential solutions to inform their decision making especially in the first six months of the work plan. As additional species are added to the Landing Obligation in January 2018 the NSAC will monitor the impact and effectiveness of mitigation options and the current toolbox. We will continue to forecast the effectiveness of the current toolbox in avoiding chokes in 2018 and 2019 and propose additional contingency measures where current systems are deemed to be inadequate. We will continue to work closely with scientists, fisheries managers and other experts to identify ways to apply best practice.

**Technical Measures:** We will work on implementation issues associated with the adoption of the Technical Conservation Regulation. Once the regulation is adopted it is foreseen that regional technical measures will be introduced. We will work closely with the Scheveningen Group and seek every opportunity to engage with them and contribute to the decision-making process. We will monitor implementation to ensure that technical measures are controllable and not counterproductive to the landing obligation.

**Multi Annual Management Plan:** The NSAC will monitor and review the effectiveness of the North Sea Multi-Annual Plan and will provide advice on an ad hoc basis where we consider improvements or changes are required. We will seek regular progress updates from the European Commission.

**Monitoring Control and Enforcement:** Implementation of the landing obligation will require new monitoring, control and enforcement measures to reflect the change from monitoring landings to monitoring catch at sea. We will consider how compliance within the new Technical Measures Regulation should be measured and monitored. We will work closely with the EFCA to develop advice on MCE. We will also consider how MCE can be applied within Marine Protected Areas.

**Improving the Data Collection and the scientific work in ICES.** The NSAC will continue to support the improvement of data collection where needed. The NSAC will also contribute to improve the scientific work in ICES through dialogue and sharing of knowledge with ICES and other Advisory Councils etc. The NSAC will encourage a transparent dialogue on the principles and methods used in ICES for the scientific advice on fish stocks, eco-system, additional

environmental and socio-economic issues. In particular, there is work needed in relation to “data poor stocks” and the introduction of the landing obligation.

**Protecting the Environment:** We will continue to contribute to the development and monitoring of fisheries management measures, and provide advice on other offshore developments as necessary, for Natura 2000 sites and other Marine Protected Areas. We will work closely with Member States, contributing to consultations on the implementation and monitoring of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. We will consider whether the NSAC should prepare advice on litter (including micro-plastics) and noise in the marine environment.

**Socio-economic impact of policy implementation and development:** We will work with fisheries economists and social scientists to identify how we can best include socio-economic impacts into NSAC advice.

**Brexit:** As the consequences of the UK’s decision to leave the EU become clearer and the impact this will have on the NSAC, members will commence discussions on options of how the organisation will operate pre-and post Brexit. The Brexit Focus Group will be responsible for examining all aspects of the UK exit in terms of the UK’s contribution to policy development, options for the long-term structure, management, membership and location of the NSAC legal entity and secretariat. In terms of fisheries policy many of the areas will continue to apply to the UK until the point at which the UK leaves the EU and in some cases, continue to apply after the exit has been completed. However, there may be areas that will not apply to the UK post Brexit and in these cases, it may be inappropriate for the UK to contribute to such policy development. The Focus Group will also look at options for ongoing consultation and development of advice between the remaining EU countries, Norway and the EU post Brexit.

## OTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST

**Continue to develop closer links with the Scheveningen Group.** We will continue to work proactively with the Scheveningen Group providing them with NSAC advice, anticipating the needs of their work plan to develop, implement and monitor the landing obligation and other aspects of the CFP. We will make regular representations to the High-Level Group and participate in technical group and control group meetings.

**Working closely with scientists.** It is important that NSAC advice is informed by the most up to date scientific advice available. NSAC regularly contributes to ICES and STECF meetings and this will continue. Scientists will be invited to attend all relevant NSAC meetings and we will continue to identify which specialists can add most value and work closely with them or on targeted areas of work. We will identify areas of our work that requires scientific input and will deliver seminars to collect information that can subsequently be fed into our advice development.

**Continue to develop closer links with Member States.** Our links with the Scheveningen Group have strengthened over the last 2 years and there has been an increase in the number of member state representatives attending NSAC meetings. We will continue to encourage a

higher level of member state participation at NSAC meetings aiming to have at least one MS at each NSAC meeting.

**Developing closer links with the European Parliament.** We will seek to build on the current level of NSAC awareness by MEPs by inviting them to attend meetings held in the area they represent. NSAC will continue to provide members of the PECH Committee with copies of all NSAC approved advice. We will develop closer links with advisors and rapporteurs of relevant legislative files encouraging participating at relevant NSAC meetings and provide 3 written updates during the year informing PECH Committee members of NSAC activities and meetings. As a general principle we will continue to monitor and evaluate how best to disseminate our advice.

**Deepen relationships with Norway and other third countries.** Representatives of the Norwegian fishing industry will be invited to attend Demersal Working Group and Skagerrak & Kattegat meetings to give the opportunity to exchange information and current thinking with NSAC members. They will be invited to participate in other meetings should they be able to provide expert opinions.

**PROVISIONAL PLANNING**

<b>Title of the meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Issue to be discussed</b>
Demersal Working Group	November 2017	tbc	Implementing the Landing Obligation in 2019
Ecosystem Working Group	January 2018	tbc	Monitoring the implementation of the MSFD and Natura 2000
Demersal Working Group	Feb 2018	tbc	Implementation of the Landing Obligation
Executive Committee	March 2018	tbc	Agreement of Membership fees 2017-18 Advice for Approval Budget monitoring Emerging and strategic issues
Demersal Working Group	April 2018	tbc	tbc
Skagerrak and Kattegat Working Group	February 2018	Gothenburg	tbc
Chairs Planning Meeting	May 2018	tbc	Forward planning for 2018-19 Legal structure post Brexit
Executive Committee	June 2018	UK	Advice for Approval Budget monitoring
General Assembly	June 2018	UK	Annual Review Work plan and budget 2018-19 Approval of 2016-17 accounts Appointment of Post holders
Ecosystem Working Group	June 2018	tbc	tbc
Skagerrak and Kattegat Working Group	May 2018	Copenhagen	tbc
Demersal Working Group	July 2018	tbc	Presentation of ICES advice
Executive Committee	September 2018	tbc	Approval of contracted services Budget monitoring
Skagerrak and Kattegat Working Group	September 2018	Gothenburg	tbc
Ecosystem Working Group	October 2018	tbc	tbc

