

FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

North Sea AC

Agreement number: SI2.717882	Convention period: 01/11/15 to 31/10/2016
Year: 2015/16 Country: UK	Agreement duration: 12 (months)
Title: North Sea Advisory Council	
Partner: North Sea Advisory Council	
Partner's legal representative: Niels WICHMANN	
Period covered by the report	From: .01/11/2015 To: 31/10/2016
Convention amendments	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that the attached information is accurate and in accordance with the facts. In particular the financial data provided in this report corresponds to the expenditure actually incurred by the project partners for carrying out project activities. This information has been approved by the authorities representing the partners involved in the activities set out in this Report.

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(Original signature of the person legally authorised to act on behalf of the contracting organisation and who signed the agreement))

Name of partner's legal representative: Michael Park (Vice Chairman, delegating for Niels Wichmann)

Position within the organisation: Director and Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee

Place & Date:

Report to be returned to the following address:	European Commission Directorate General Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Head of Unit A2 Common Fisheries policy & aquaculture Office : Rue Joseph II 99 01/07 B-1000 BRUSSELS
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Introduction

The progress report should be transmitted to the Commission without prior request on behalf of the Commission when at least 70% of the previous pre-financing amount has been used and should cover this period.

The progress report should briefly present the objectives, work and results achieved throughout the period concerned.

A. ORGANISATION

Name of the organisation in national language <i>(full and abbreviated if applicable)</i>	North Sea Advisory Council (NSAC)
Name of the organisation in EN, FR	North Sea Advisory Council

Head Office

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Post code - Town/city	ABERDEEN, AB11 6YG
Country	UK

Contact Person

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Authorised signatory

Name	Mr	Niels Wichmann
Position	Chairman and Director	

B. OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Describe actions taken by the AC in order to fulfil its work programme. Is there any risk that the AC does not meet its targets in terms of outcomes? If yes, explain why.

Landings Obligation: *The implementation of the Landings Obligation commencing in the North Sea January 2016 will remain a key focus of the NSAC activities through the year. We will continue to work closely with the Scheveningen Group and seek every opportunity to engage with them and contribute to the decision making process. Through the Demersal Working Group we will work on providing advice on subjects such as choke species, quota uplift, flexibilities, documentation, survivability and de minimis. We will closely monitor how regulations on control and enforcement are consistent with the landings obligation. We will monitor and review the implementation of the landings obligation for industrial fisheries. We will actively work with scientists and will continue to be a stakeholder of the Discardless project.*

Progress

Implementing the Landing Obligation has been the key focus for the NSAC during this year. Given its importance and complexities of it has dominated our discussions. This is reflected in the NSAC output for the year with 4 of the 5 published advice papers related to the implementation of the landing obligation and its phasing. We have responded to requests for advice from the Scheveningen Group as well as proactively presenting our own ideas and suggestions. This will continue during 2016-17 as we must conclude our thinking to make recommendations to the Scheveningen Group. We have made progress developing advice on monitoring, control and enforcement and whilst we did not publish advice in 2015-16 significant progress was made and it is likely that advice will be published later in 2016. We have continued to be a partner in the Discardless project and have received regular updates from DTU Aqua scientists at our meetings.

Long-Term Management Plans: *Within the context of the emerging mixed fisheries management plan we will complete our review and update of the Nephrops Long Term Management Plan taking into account feedback received from STECF. We will also consider the immediate issues facing nephrops fisheries within individual functional units. We will co-operate with other Advisory Councils in the provision of advice on Seabass where possible, ensuring that the objectives for North Sea Fisheries are developed. We will continue our work on Brown Shrimp (Crangon crangon) with a view to developing a management system for the fishery.*

Progress

Our advice on the Nephrops Long Term Management Plan and individual functional units was submitted during the 2014-15 operational year after this work plan had been submitted and approved. Throughout the year a Focus Group for Sea bass met to discuss management options and the impact of those measures already in place. This work has now concluded and the NSAC advice approved early in the 2016-17 operational plan. A Focus Group for Brown Shrimp met to discuss options for a management plan. A case has been made for Brown Shrimp in the North Sea to gain MSC accreditation. Following discussions with the Scheveningen High Level Group it was agreed that we would wait until the outcome of the MSC audit process before deciding if a management plan is required.

Mixed Fisheries: *NSAC will engage with the European Commission on the development of a mixed fish plan for the North Sea we will also continue to monitor scientific developments in this area and as this emerges and findings are consolidated, to consider how it can apply to the management of a multi-species fishery. The previous work of the single species focus groups in developing long term management plans will be brought together to consider how these could be used to develop a multi-species plan. We will give particular consideration to the integration of cod management into a mixed fisheries plan. We will consider*

developing a set of harvest control rules and how to manage trade-offs. We will also consider seabass management in the context of mixed fisheries. We will continue to work closely with scientists in this field using emerging science to inform our decisions and policy formulation. We will continue to be a stakeholder in the MYFISH and MAREFRAME projects.

Progress

The Multi-Annual Plan for Demersal Stocks in the North Sea was published in late August 2016. We have received regular updates on its development from DG-Mare and received initial comments from our members during our Ex Com meeting in September. We will continue to discuss this with our members and provide feedback during 2016-17. Throughout the year we have continued to work with scientists from the MYFISH and MAREFRAME projects attending workshops and meetings and they have made regular presentations at NSAC events.

Marine Spatial Planning: *The Spatial Planning Working Group will continue to liaise with offshore renewable developers, especially windfarm development organisations, in order to understand and influence their plans and to inform them of the interests of NSAC members. NSAC will identify and contribute to relevant public consultations when there is a North Sea trans-boundary dimension and/or where the fleets of more than the initiating Member State are involved. NSAC will identify and address issues arising from the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Natura 2000 Directives that relate to fisheries, and develop and promote policy advice where required. We will continue to monitor the impact of other uses of the sea and their impact on fisheries and the environment, such as aggregate extraction and dumping of dredged material.*

Progress

During 2015-16 the level of activity in this area has increased significantly. The NSAC has received many invitations to participate in consultations regarding MEP's and N2000 sites. The NSAC has agreed that we will only provide advice or attend consultation meetings where more than one Member State Country is involved. The approach to consultation has varied from Member State to Member State and at times the NSAC were asked to present advice within unrealistic timescales. To try and improve this situation, advice for Member States on how to approach the NSAC and the times required to produce advice was developed. This sets out clear timeframes for Member States to work within.

Technical Measures: *A proposal from the Commission on revising the present regulation on technical measures is expected following a process of public hearing. NSAC will engage with the European Commission and the Scheveningen Group on the development of a revised framework for technical measures for the North Sea. We will work for a move away from micromanagement and towards a results-based approach. Ideally, any measures that are necessary should be tailored at a regional level in a relatively fast and efficient way. We will continue to monitor scientific developments in this area as this emerges and findings are consolidated, to consider how it can apply.*

Progress

A Technical Focus Group was established, members have considered the draft regulation and have received valuable guidance from DG-Mare. Preparation of our advice has not been completed, it is a complicated area with many diverse opinions, however we expect our negotiations to be concluded shortly and advice published in early 2017.

Other Issues of Interest

Continue to develop closer links with the Scheveningen Group. NSAC will continue to develop a close working relationship with the Scheveningen Group of fisheries directors. We will attend and seek to actively contribute to their management meetings and all technical meetings. Members of the Scheveningen Group will be invited to attend NSAC Ex Com meetings.

Progress

Considerable progress has been made in this area during 2015-16. During the Swedish Chairmanship of the Scheveningen Group there has been an ongoing communication between the group and the NSAC. This was facilitated by the production of the Scheveningen work programme which clearly set out meeting dates and work activities for 2016. This allowed the NSAC to plan its work activities accordingly. The NSAC has attended 5 Sch. High Level Group meetings, 5 Technical Group meetings and 2 Control Group meetings. The Scheveningen Group Chairman attended one meeting of the NSAC Executive Committee and a representative from the Swedish Member State attending all Ex Com and many Demersal Working Group meetings throughout the year.

Continue to develop closer links with Member States. Members have been pleased so see an increased interest by member states in the work of the NSAC during 2014-15. The NSAC will continue to build on existing and develop new relationships with the Member States through local relationship development and linking internationally with the Scheveningen Group. We will actively encourage Member State representatives to attend NSAC meetings.

Progress

There has been steady progress in this area. 2 workshops organised by Member States (Scotland and Denmark) to discuss landing obligations and quota transfers were particularly well received by NSAC members. We have had an increase in the number of requests by Member States to contribute to consultations regarding MPAs and Natura 2000 sites. There have been times when Member States have requested advice from the NSAC within a timeframe that does not allow for correct consultation and negotiation within the membership. In response to this the NSAC produced guidelines for Member States which was published as NSAC advice on 27th September.

5. Reflections and recommendations on the consultation procedure by Member States regarding Article 11 of the CFP (Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013) [5-1516 Guidance for Member States Re Art 11](#)

Developing closer links with the European Parliament. The NSAC will endeavour to create closer links with European Parliament in general but the PECH Committee more specifically. Co-decision has delivered a new dimension to fisheries politics and the shared seat of power thus it is essential that NSAC advice is delivered across a broader audience.

Progress

The NSAC continues to provide PECH Committee members, assistants and the Secretariat with copies of all published advice and notifies rapporteurs of progress within their specific remit.

Working closely with scientists. NSAC will continue to build relationships with the scientific community. NSAC will be represented at all relevant STECF and ICES meetings and seminars and will contribute towards the development of policy by submitting opinions and factual information. Scientific experts will be invited to participate in NSAC meetings and contribute towards the development of advice.

Progress

NSAC continues to develop closer links with scientists. We have achieved this by having representatives attend relevant ICES and STECF meetings. We have continued to link into research projects including Discardless, MAREFRAME and MYFISH. We have had scientists attend the Demersal Working Group to

advise on the implementation of the landing obligation. ICES representatives have attended NSAC meetings to present 2016 advice and the new approach to Fisheries and ecosystem overviews.

Developing relationships with third countries. NSAC will encourage participation of third countries in meetings and discussions where they share a common interest. NSAC will continue to build on the relationship with representatives of the Norwegian fishing industry, meeting with them on at least one occasion during the year.

Progress

The NSAC have maintained contact with the Norwegian Fishermen's Association who have attended NSAC meetings as observers throughout the year. They have shared their experiences of operating a discard ban with the NSAC Demersal Working Group which has contributed to the NSAC's thinking on implementing the landing obligation.

C. RESULTS / PRODUCTS

Table C.1 – Meetings organised by the AC and attended by ACs representatives

Title of the meeting	Date	Place	Key results of the meeting (brief summary of the minutes)
Meetings Organised by the NSAC	In Blue		29 meetings
Meetings Attended by AC Reps	In Orange		42 meetings
Scheveningen Technical Group	04/11/2015	The Hague	2 NSAC representatives attended
Demersal Working Group	10/11/2015	Hamburg	The main focus of the meeting was the forthcoming Landing Obligation. An update of the Mixed Fisheries Plan process and Technical Measures consultation was provided by the European Commission. We also received an update on the MAREFRAME project. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/dwg/demersal-working-group-meeting-hamburg/
Monitoring, Control and Enforcement Focus Group	11/11/2015	Hamburg	Work commenced on the development of MCE advice which has now been linked to the work of the Landing Obligation Focus Group. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/mce/monitor-control-and-enforcement-focus-group-11-november-hamburg/
Skagerrak & Kattegat Working Group	13/11/2015	Göteborg	The Swedish government gave a presentation on Natura 2000 within the Bratten area. They also discussed EU-Norway and began planning a workshop on cod and sole. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/skwg/skagerrak-kattegat-working-group-13th-november-2015-goteborg/
Scheveningen High Level Group	19/11/2015	Paris	3 NSAC representatives attended
Landing Obligation Focus Group	24/11/2015	London	The purpose of the meeting was to start to draft the advice requested by the Scheveningen High Level Group. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/discards/landing-obligation-focus-group-24th-november-2015-london/
Landing Obligation Focus Group	07/01/2016	London	The Landing Obligation Focus Group continued to prepare advice that was presented to the Scheveningen Group in March. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/discards/landing-obligation-focus-group-7th-january-2016-london/

Monitoring, Control and Enforcement Focus Group	08/01/2016	London	Elements of the advice prepared by the Monitoring, Control & Enforcement Focus Group were incorporated into the advice on the Landing Obligation. A position regarding other elements of the paper was carried forward for discussion at the following Demersal Working Group meeting. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/mce/monitoring-control-and-enforcement-focus-group-8th-january-2016-london/
Spatial Planning Working Group	13/01/2016	London	Spatial Planning Working Group met in London on 13 th January. Presentations were given by Defra, Marine Scotland and the Netherlands outlining their proposals for Marine Protected Areas and inviting comment from the NSAC and individual stakeholders. http://www.nsrac.org/category/reports/meetings-c/spwg/
ICES Pre MIACO Meeting with ACs	14/01/2016	Copenhagen	3 NSAC representatives attended
ICES MIACO	14-15/01/2016	Copenhagen	3 NSAC representatives attended
Brown Shrimp Focus Group	19/01/2016	Utrecht	The Brown Shrimp Focus Group reconvened on 19 th January in Utrecht. The group was given an update on industry proposals towards achieving MSC accreditation. Developing a Long term Management Plan was also discussed and planned. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/bsfg/brown-shrimp-focus-group-19th-january-2016-utrecht/
Scheveningen Technical Group	19/01/2016	Goteborg	3 NSAC representatives attended
Cod in the Kattegat Workshop	29/01/2016	Copenhagen	The Skagerrak and Kattegat Working Group in partnership with DTU Aqua held a Workshop to discuss Cod in the Kattegat. The purpose of the workshop was to explore different approaches to cod management. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/skkg/the-cod-in-the-kattegat-workshop-29th-january-charlottenlund/
DG Mare Seminar, Economic Advice in Fisheries Management	04-05/02/2016	Malta	2 NSAC representatives attended
Demersal Working Group	09/02/2016	Copenhagen	The Demersal Working Group met in Copenhagen on 9 th February. The Landing Obligation was the main focus of the discussion and the advice “Implementation of the Landing Obligation” finalised for approval prior to sending to the Scheveningen High Level Group. An update on the Discardless project was given by DTU Aqua. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/dwg/demersal-working-group-9th-february-2016-copenhagen/

Sea bass Focus Group	23/02/2016	London	The group considered latest science and economic reports and agreed to work towards providing a management plan for Sea bass in the North Sea. The work of the group will continue through 2016 and link closely to the activities of the NWWAC. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/seabass/sea-bass-workshop-23rd-february-2016-london/
EFCA Advisory Board Meeting	23/02/2016	Brussels	1 NSAC Representative attended
DG-Mare Landing Obligation Conference	24/02/2016	Brussels	3 NSAC Representatives Attended
DG-Mare Inter AC Meeting	24/02/2016	Brussels	3 NSAC Representatives Attended
MYFISH Policy Meeting	25/02/2016	Brussels	2 NSAC Representatives Attended
Scheveningen Technical Group	01/03/2016	Goteborg	3 NSAC Representatives Attended
Scheveningen High Level Group	09/03/2016	Stockholm	3 NSAC Representatives Attended
Landing Obligation Focus Group	09/03/2016	Stockholm	The group discussed the latest information provided from the Scheveningen High Level Group and commenced work on developing advice on challenges in 2017-18 for cod, whiting and haddock. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/discards/landing-obligation-focus-group-meeting-9th-march-2016-stockholm/
Executive Committee	10/03/2016	Stockholm	Sara Colliander, Chairman of the Scheveningen High Level Group attended and informed the NSAC members of the process the group are working through to develop a draft Joint Recommendation for the Landing Obligation. We received updates on our work on implementing the Landing Obligation, Seabass, Brown Shrimp and MPA consultations. IMARES provided an update on discard survival studies. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/ex-comm/executive-committee-meeting-10th-march-stockholm/
Workshop on Quota Swapping	11/03/2016	Copenhagen	3 NSAC Representatives Attended

ICES, WKSEA, Benchmark workshops on North Sea Stocks	18/03/2016	Copenhagen	2 NSAC Representatives Attended
Workshop on Evaluation of Control Regulation	18/03/2016	Brussels	3 NSAC Representatives Attended
MAREFRAME Workshop	11/04/2016	The Hague	6 NSAC representatives attended
Demersal Working Group	12/04/2016	The Hague	The landing obligation continued to be the main focus for discussion with work continuing of developing advice for the Scheveningen HLG in advance of them releasing their Joint Recommendation at the end of May. Presentations were received from EFCA outlining their approach to the Landing Obligation and representatives from the European Commission gave an update on technical measures proposals. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/dwg/demersal-working-group-meeting-12th-april-2016-the-hague/
Access to Quota Workshop	14-15/04/2016	Edinburgh	2 NSAC representatives attended
Skagerrak & Kattegat Working Group	18/04/2016	Copenhagen	The Skagerrak & Kattegat Working Group discussed the development of the NSAC advice on whiting, cod and haddock in the Landing Obligation and identified specific issues that are likely to arise within the S&K areas. Cod in the Kattegat and a management plan for <i>pandalus borealis</i> were also discussed. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/skweg/skagerrak-and-kattegat-working-group-meeting-18-april-copenhagen/
Brown Shrimp Focus Group	20/04/2016	WebEx	The group updated on progress with the MSC accreditation process and to plan our approach to developing a management plan. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/bsfg/brown-shrimp-focus-group-meeting/
Landing Obligation Focus Group	26/04/2016	Brussels	The group continued to work on developing advice on the Implementation of the Landing Obligation with particular reference to whiting, cod and haddock. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/discards/landing-obligation-focus-group-meeting-26th-april-brussels/
Scheveningen High Level Group	28/04/2016	Stockholm	3 NSAC representatives attended
DEFRA MPA Consultation	28/04/2016	London	3 NSAC representatives attended

Scheveningen Technical	04/05/2016	Goteborg	2 NSAC representatives attended
Scheveningen and North West Waters Control Group	17/05/2016	Schiphol	1 NSAC representative attended
Natura 2000 Denmark	23/05/2016	Copenhagen	1 NSAC representative attended
Scheveningen High Level Group	25/05/2016	Stockholm	3 NSAC representatives attended
EFARO Blue Growth and Innovation Conference	25/05/2016	Brussels	1 NSAC representative attended
Brown Shrimp Focus Group	27/05/2016	WebEx	Options for management of brown shrimp were discussed. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/brown-shrimp-drafting-group-webex-meeting-27th-may/
EU-Norway Working Group, Management of Plaice	01/06/2016	Bergen	1 NSAC representative attended
Technical Regulation Focus Group	08/06/2016	London	Work was started on NSAC observations on the Commissions revision on the Technical Control Regulations. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/tech-regs/technical-regulation-focus-group-8th-june-london/
NSAC Directors	09/06/2016	London	Directors met to discuss the financial position of the organisation and recommendations that would be presented to the Executive Committee.
Executive Committee	09/06/2016	London	Feedback was received from all working groups and the Commission provided an update on the development of the North Sea Multi Annual Plan. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/ex-comm/executive-committee-meeting-9th-june-london/
N2000 Ad Hoc meeting of Scheveningen Group	13/06/2016	The Hague	Meeting to discuss Natura 2000. 2 NSAC representatives attended.
EU-Norway Management strategies	14-16/06/2016	Tromso	1 NSAC representative attended.
Sea Bass Focus Group	15/06/2016	London	Work continued on developing the NSAC advice on Sea bass management in the North Sea http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/seabass/seabass-focus-group-meeting-15th-june-london/
Natura 2000 in German EEZ	27/06/2016	Bonn	2 NSAC representatives attended

Spatial Planning Working Group	04/07/2016	Den Haag	The Dutch Government hosted the meeting and presented an update on the Dogger Bank Joint Recommendation. There were presentation from IMARES who gave an update on the AQUACROSS project and CLS who informed the group of a project to monitor fishing activity in the shrimp sector. Members also discussed different approaches taken by Member States in their approach to Article 11 of the CFP. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/spwg/spatial-planning-working-group-meeting-4th-july-2016-the-hague/
Ad Hoc Sch Group meeting on Management measures in Belgium	05/07/2016	Brussels	2 NSAC representatives attended
MAREFRAME Meeting	13/07/2016	Aberdeen	4 NSAC representatives attended
Demersal Working Group	14/07/2016	Aberdeen	The Demersal Working Group met in Aberdeen on 14th July. There was a lengthy discussion about the UK referendum result to leave the EU and the potential implications of this to the NSAC. ICES advice for 2017 was presented. The Landing Obligation was discussed and it was agreed that the next focus of NSAC work would be to identify ways to prevent chokes occurring. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/dwg/demersal-working-group-meeting-14th-july-aberdeen/
EC State of the Stocks Seminar	15/07/2016	Brussels	3 NSAC representatives attended
NSAC Planning Meeting	27-28/07/2016	Copenhagen	NSAC Directors and Working Group Chairmen met to agree priorities which were incorporated into the work plan for 2016-17.
Bel Ad Hoc Meeting GES	06/09/2016	Brussels	1 NSAC representative attended
EU Norway Skagerrak	6-8/09/2016	Stockholm	1 NSAC representative attended
EFCA Advisory Board	20/09/2016	Vigo	1 NSAC representative attended
Tech Regulation Focus Group	20/09/2016	London	The Technical Regulation Focus Group met in London on the 20 th September. The meeting was attended by Norman Graham of DG-Mare who provided an excellent insight into the new regulations which helped the group to develop their thinking. An advice paper was re-drafted to submit to the Demersal Working Group. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/tech-regs/technical-regulation-focus-group-20th-september-london/
Ad Hoc Sch. Group UK MPAs	27/09/2016	London	1 NSAC representative attended
NSAC Executive Committee	27/09/2016	The Hague	The NSAC Executive Committee met in Den Haag on 27-28 th September. Björn Åsgård, Deputy Director of the Swedish Fisheries Directorate provided an update from the Scheveningen Group and an insight to their work over the coming months. Eckehard Reussner from DG-Mare gave an update on progress with the Multi-Annual Plan for Demersal species in the North Sea. Tony Hawkins provided an insight into the impact of noise on marine life. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/ex-comm/executive-committee-and-general-assembly-meetings-27th-28th-september-the-hague/

NSAC General Assembly	28/09/2016	The Hague	The annual NSAC General Assembly was held on 28 th September in Den Haag. The meeting was opened by Marieke Mossink, Director of Fisheries for the Netherlands who outlined her hopes and ambitions for working with the NSAC once she assumes responsibility for Chairing the Scheveningen Group in January 2017. Mark Tasker of ICES gave a presentation explaining the work ICES is undertaking to develop Fisheries and Ecosystems overviews. The NSAC work plan and budget for 2016-17 were approved as were appointments for office bearers and delivery of services. http://www.nsrac.org/category/reports/meetings-c/general-assembly/
EC Natura 2000 Seminar	27-29/09/2016	Malta	2 NSAC representatives attended
MAREFRAME EAFM workshop	04/10/2016	Copenhagen	2 NSAC representatives attended
Sch Technical Group	04/10/2016	Goteborg	3 NSAC representatives attended
Sch Control Expert Group	05/10/2016	Gothenburg	2 NSAC representatives attended
Bel MPAs Ad Hoc Meeting	06/10/2016	Brussels	2 NSAC representatives attended
Sch High Level Group	05/10/2016	Stockholm	3 NSAC representatives attended
North NS MPA Consultation UK DEFRA	20-21/10/2016	Edinburgh	2 NSAC representative attended
Sea bass Focus group	26/10/2016	London	The Sea Bass Focus Group met in London on 26 th October to prepare advice for consideration at the DWG meeting. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/seabass/seabass-focus-group-meeting-26th-october-london/

Table C.2 – List of recommendations adopted by the ACs

N°	Full title	Date of adoption
1	1. Phasing of the Landing Obligation in 2017 and 2018 01-201516 Phasing of the Landing Obligation 2017-18	18th December, 2015
2	2. Implementation of the Landing Obligation 2-1516 Implementation of the Landing Obligation	24th February, 2016
3	3. Implementation of the Landing Obligation; implications for whiting, cod & haddock in 2017 and 2018 3-1516 Implementing the Landing Obligation WCH	12th May, 2016
4	4. NSAC Reflections on the Joint Recommendation of the Scheveningen Group Discard Plan for Demersal Fisheries in the North Sea 4-1516 Reflections on the Joint Recommendation for NS Discard Plan	1st July, 2016
5	5. Reflections and recommendations on the consultation procedure by Member States regarding Article 11 of the CFP (Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013) 5-1516 Guidance for Member States Re Art 11	27th September, 2016

Please enclose in annex the minutes of the AC meetings and all the recommendations adopted by the AC¹.

All available by following the hyperlinks within the text of the report.

¹ Or mention the hyperlink to the AC website where these documents are available.

E. GENERAL COMMENTS and SUGGESTIONS to the Commission**Brexit**

In June 2016 the United Kingdom voted to leave the EU. This will have major implications to how the NSAC is managed and produces advice in the short term and its structure, membership, financing and location in the longer term. This was discussed at the Demersal Working Group meeting on 14th July and the Executive Committee / General Assembly meetings in September 2016. Leadership of the NSAC was discussed and following the nominations process UK members have been retained at NSAC Vice Chairman, Chairman of the Demersal Working Group and Chairman of the Ecosystems Working Group.

NSAC Members have agreed to form a Brexit Focus Group. The terms of reference agreed at the NSAC Ex Com meeting 27th September 2016 includes the following objectives;

1. Prepare advice on the transition of the NSAC through the Brexit process.
2. The Brexit group will assess the appropriateness of UK members' involvement in developing NSAC advice. They will ensure that the input of UK members to the development of advice reflects the future status of the UK.
3. The group will consider options and make recommendations for ongoing consultation and development of advice between the remaining EU countries, Norway and the EU post Brexit.

The Focus Group has not met as at the moment there is insufficient information available to base discussions. Once Article 50 is invoked it is expected that the Focus group will meet to begin to map out the future of a revised NSAC.