

FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

North Sea AC

Agreement number: S12.697035		Convention period: 01/11/2014 to 31/10/2015	
Year: 2014/15	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: .01/11/2014 To: 31/10/2015	
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.

.....
 (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: Niels Wichmann

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

Place & Date:

Report to be returned to the following address:	European Commission Directorate General Maritime Affaires 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 final report, covering the complete duration of the period of the agreement, should be submitted to the Commission within sixty days following the end of the period of eligibility and without prior request on behalf of the Commission.

The final report should present the objectives, work and results achieved and reflect the collective effort made by the AC throughout the Agreement's lifetime. An original¹ of all results and/or products (see part C) must be sent to the Commission, together with this report.

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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Country	UK

Contact Person

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Authorised signatory

Name	Mr	Niels Wichmann
Position	Chairman and Director	

¹ Or hyperlink to webpage

B. OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

B.1 – Work Programme achievements

Did the AC meet its targets in terms of outcomes (as given in the Agreement's work programme)? Please comment on any under or over achievements of targets?

PRIORITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

CFP reform: *NSAC will continue to actively contribute to the implementation of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy working closely with the European Commission and responding actively to all consultations. NSAC are readily available to give advice and participate in preparing, implementing and delegating regulations. We will follow and respond to economic impact assessments published by STECF and monitor the development of the new Market Advice Advisory Council to identify areas of common interest.*

Progress

The NSAC has worked with the Scheveningen Group to contribute to the development of the Joint Recommendation, Discard Plan for Demersal Fisheries in the North Sea. We have also worked with the European Commission on the consultation of the technical regulations. The Executive Committee has been informed about the new Marketing Advice Advisory Council and we await its launch.

Marine Spatial Planning: *The Spatial Planning Working Group will continue to liaise with wind farm development organisations in order to understand their plans and to inform them of the interests of NSAC members. NSAC will identify and contribute to relevant public consultations. NSAC will identify issues within the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Natura 2000 Directives that relate to fisheries, assess where advice is required on behalf of members and form policy where required.*

Progress

The Spatial Planning Working Group met on two occasions during the year. A meeting was held with the Netherlands Member State to discuss the plans for implementing measures within the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. We discussed their plans for seabed protection of the Frisian Front and Central Oyster Grounds. A meeting was also held with the Belgian Member State who outlined their plans for fisheries measures proposed to achieve good environmental status in the Belgian part of the North Sea. We have continued to monitor progress of energy providers responding to specific enquiries where required.

Long-Term Management Plans: *We will complete our update of the nephrops Long Term Management Plan. We will co-operate with the North West Waters Advisory Council to hold a sea bass workshop to discuss emerging issues and will consider establishing a focus group to develop a long term management plan following the outcome of the STECF sea bass report. For other species we will move from single species plans to develop a multi species long term management plan. NSAC will continue to engage with the scientific community through active participation in projects including GAP 2, MYFISH and MAREFRAME.*

Progress

An update of the Nephrops Long Term Management Plan was published following advice provided by STECF and in the later part of the year we provided advice on management of the Farne Deeps area. A sea bass workshop was held in partnership with the NWWAC and SWWAC in May 2015. This has proved to be a very difficult area to achieve any common approach. NSAC is continuing the update its advice in this area and has made a contribution to the EC Sea Bass consultation by providing a summary of stakeholder's experiences to date and have mapped out where we need to continue working in 2016. The information gathered during this work will contribute to the ongoing development of a Sea bass LTMP in the coming year. Progress was made with the publication of advice on the ICES roadmap for Brown Shrimp and we are now considering our next steps in developing advice for this species. We have

continued to contribute to GAP2, MYFISH and MAREFRAME, with representatives of these projects making regular contributions at the NSAC Demersal Working Group meetings and NSAC representatives attending project meetings.

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. They will consider developing a set of harvest control rules and how to manage trade-offs. We will continue to work closely with scientists in this field using emerging science to inform our decisions and policy formulation.*

Progress

We submitted an advice paper on mixed fisheries in April 2015. Subsequently we have commenced work on the development of a mixed fisheries plan through our Demersal Working Group. Through our work in the MAREFRAME project we have looked at a planning tool for mixed fisheries.

Cod Management; *NSAC will continue to contribute to the review of the Council Regulation (EC) No. 1342/2008 of 18 December 2008 by providing policy and advice. The Cod Management Focus Group will continue its work in 2014-15 by developing a long term management plan and will liaise closely with the Demersal Working Group on its work regarding the implementation of a discard ban.*

Progress

During this year we have focused less on developing a plan for cod management and have increasingly integrated it into our development of a mixed fisheries plan and advice for the implementation of the landings obligation.

Discards: *The work of the Landings Obligation Focus Group will continue to consider all discard ban issues including science requirements, quota uplift, flexibilities, survival rates and de minimis provisions. We will consider the development of a system to undertake a continuous inventory/overview of selectivity trials and gear developments and use the NSAC as the platform for exchange of such information. We will work closely with the Scheveningen Group of fisheries directors and member states to facilitate the development of landings obligations plans. We will be partners in the Discardless project.*

Progress

The forthcoming implementation of the Landings Obligation has continued to be the focus of the majority of the NSAC's work through the year. We have worked with the Scheveningen Group by attending meetings of the High Level and Technical groups. We have issued advice on phasing within the Landings Obligation and made proposals regarding exemptions. We continue to develop our advice on Monitoring, Control and Enforcement and quota uplift conditions, this is ongoing work with advice expected to be released early in the 2015-16 operational year.

Develop close links with the Scheveningen Group. *NSAC will continue to develop a close working relationship with the Scheveningen Group of fisheries directors. We will contribute to their management meetings and all technical meetings. We will actively seek a Memorandum of Understanding between the group and NSAC which sets out guidelines regarding consultation processes and representation at meetings.*

Progress

The Directors of the NSAC have regularly attended the Scheveningen High Level Group meetings. This proved to be difficult for part of the year as the group was without a Chairman for a considerable period of time. A work plan for the Scheveningen Group has been shared with the NSAC which will greatly assist in the planning and development of our

work to submit to the group. We continue to develop this relationship with a positive approach acknowledging that they have incorporated much of the NSAC advice into their plans.

Developing closer links with Member States. *The NSAC will develop relationships with the Member States through local relationship development and link internationally with the Scheveningen group. We will actively encourage Member State representatives to attend NSAC meetings.*

Progress

We have continued to work with Member States meeting with them to discuss topics where there is an international dimension. This has mostly been through the work of the Spatial Planning Working Group although we have had MS contributions in the Nephrops Focus Group, Pulse Focus Group and the Demersal Working Group.

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

We have been proactive in keeping MEP's informed of our work through the publication of a newsletter specifically for members of the PECH committee. In addition committee members all received copies of advice published by the NSAC and MEP's are invited to attend NSAC meetings where they have a specific interest in the meeting topic.

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

We regularly have scientific input at our meetings. Scientists were particularly active in the development of our Nephrops advice for the Farne Deeps and plans for mixed fisheries. NSAC members have regularly attended relevant ICES and STECF meetings.

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

For the third year running our mid-year meeting of the Demersal Working Group has been attended by representatives of the Norwegian Fishing industry. They have brought with them experience and a practical knowledge of working within a landing obligation. This exchange of information has proved to be very interesting and one that we will continue to develop in the coming years.

B.2 – Recommendations

Please comment on the recommendations adopted by the AC during the convention period² and on the replies received to your advice.

During 2014/15 NSAC issued 10 advice / policy papers. <http://www.nsrac.org/advice/approved/advice-and-opinions-nov-2014-oct-2015/>

Six responses have been received. <http://www.nsrac.org/advice/responses-from-commission/>

B.3 – Collaboration with other partners

Describe the initiatives taken by the AC to develop cooperation with the other ACs, the Commission / Member States / European Parliament, ICES / STECF / scientists etc.

During the whole year the NSAC have endeavoured to communicate developments in our work to a wide range of partners. We have achieved this by the following means;

Communications

1. All partners receive copies of approved NSAC advice as soon as it has been published.
2. The Commission and Member States receive monthly reports detailing the NSAC activities and future meetings.
3. All other parties received 2 stakeholder newsletters every year from the NSAC.

Partners' attendance at NSAC meetings.

In addition to communications the NSAC invites all stakeholders to participate in our meetings. We regularly host Member State representatives and scientists at our working groups and focus groups, identifying the specialists that can best provide assistance for a particular topic. The scientific support provided by research institutions and Member State organisations has been a vital element of our advice development through the year and is highly appreciated.

NSAC Representatives at partner meetings.

The NSAC has been represented at meetings of the Scheveningen High Level and Technical Groups, STECF and ICES meetings relevant to the North Sea. Following these meetings the NSAC representative is responsible for providing feedback to all other NSAC members either via a written or verbal update. During this year we have seen a doubling of the number of meetings attended by NSAC representatives.

B.4 – Internal Functioning

Report on possible difficulties in the internal functioning of the AC. Describe the actions that have been taken to solve the problems and improve the internal functioning of the AC. Propose further action (if needed).

Managing finance has been the key issue for the NSAC and towards the end of the year we had to delay work in some areas due to lack of funds. We have seen a significant increase in the number of attendees at NSAC meetings and our representatives have attended double the number of meetings compared to the previous year, in particular those with the Scheveningen Group (7 High Level groups and 6 Technical groups attended). This has seen a substantial increase in the amount of funding we have had to spend on travel and expenses.

² E.G. number, replies to consultation / own initiative, subject etc. Do you see an evolution in comparison with previous years? Specify the level of consensus achieved among the AC members. Overtime, how do you perceive the impact of the AC recommendations? Give concrete examples (positive/ negative).

In response we are looking at a number of ways to manage this. We have significantly increased the use of on-line meetings, for focus groups this is now the first option with face to face meetings only held where necessary. We have made further costs savings, changing contractors to lower options for services where possible and we have identified a list of venues that we can use for focus group meetings at no cost. We are considering options for increasing membership fees in future years to ensure that we have sufficient financial resources in place to continue to produce advice at a consistent level of quality and in time to meet required deadlines.

Due to the diverse range of views and opinions within our increased membership it has proved difficult to reach a consensus with some of our advice and majority papers with a minority view are now often published. We recognise that this is not ideal, the purpose of the NSAC is to find areas of common ground. We will look at options to structure meetings and develop advice in a way that facilitates the reaching of a consensus opinion.

B.5 – Membership and representativeness

Comment on the composition of the AC (total number of members, representation of the different Member States / interests). Explain the actions taken in order to improve the representativeness of the AC.

NSAC has 40 General Assembly members.

Of the 25 Executive Committee places 24 are currently taken; 15 fisheries organisations and 9 others, this gives 1 vacancy remaining for “other interest” members. A full list of members is available on the NSAC website;

<http://www.nsrac.org/category/about-nsrac/members-list/>

New members of the General Assembly during this year are;
Bluefish

We had 2 new Members elected to the Executive Committee
Dutch Elasmobranch Society
Oceana

Members withdrawing from the NSAC
European Association of Fishing Ports and Auctions
Fonds Régional d'Organisation du Marché du Poisson
Union National des Syndicats de Marins Pêcheurs CFTC.

Spain Member State are to leave the NSAC at the end of the 2014/15 operational year. The rational for this is that there are no longer any NSAC members from Spain represented in the Executive Committee and that they wish to use their resources to work on areas with a higher priority to them than the North Sea.

B.6 - Communication

Report on activities taken towards the effective communication of programme results to the targeted audience (the fisheries sector, the other interested groups, the policy-makers).

The NSAC website is updated on a daily basis and used for all stakeholders to access information.

A monthly activity report and forward schedule of meetings is sent out to all members, some choose to pass this onto their wider membership. <http://www.nsrac.org/reports/nsrac-org/monthly-reports/>

A stakeholder's newsletter is sent out twice a year to people who have previously attended NSAC meetings or have expressed an interest in NSAC activities. <http://www.nsrac.org/uncategorized/nsac-newsletters/>

Other letters are sent to relevant groups when we need to raise awareness of a specific issue.

We maintain contact with fisheries journalists and communicate with them when it is appropriate to do so.

C. RESULTS / PRODUCTS

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

Blue shading indicates meetings organised by the AC, orange are those meetings attended by AC representative.

Title of the meeting	Date	Place	Key results of the meeting (brief summary of the minutes)
Spatial Planning Working Group	11th November	Brussels	Subjects discussed included the latest developments with wind farms and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. Attendees were informed of the delays of the Dogger Bank Steering Group in trying to achieve a Joint Recommendation. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/spwg/spatial-planning-working-group-11th-november-2014-brussels/
Nephrops Focus Group	11th November	Brussels	At this meeting the group agreed to final amendments to the Nephrops Long Term Management Plan (LTMP) which included an improved definition of B _{Buff} and B _{Trig} . http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/nfg/nephrops-focus-group-11th-november-2014-brussels/
Demersal Working Group	12th November	Brussels	The main areas of discussion at this meeting were the Landings Obligation and the development of a Mixed Fishery LTMP. An update from the MAREFRAME project was given. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/dwg/demersal-working-group/
Pulse Focus Group	17th November	IJmuiden	Presentations were given from scientists who had undertaken research into the effectiveness of Pulse fishing and potential impact or injury to fish. The group agreed to collectively map out their questions and concerns to begin pulling together advice for presentation to the NSAC Demersal Working Group. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/pulse-group/pulse-trawl-focus-group-17th-november-2014-ijmuiden-netherlands/
Scheveningen Technical Group	25th November	The Hague	Documentation of catches
Landings Obligation Focus Group	26th November	London	Progress was made to agree a paper on the phasing of the Landings Obligation. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/discards/landings-obligation-focus-group-26th-november-2014-london/

Skagerrak and Kattegat Working Group	28th November	Copenhagen	The group reflected on the outcome of EU-Norway negotiations and discussed closed areas in the Kattegat, shrimps and sand extraction. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/skwg/skagerrak-kattegat-working-group-28-november-2014-copenhagen/
Scheveningen High Level Group	10th December	Brussels	
MAREFRAME Annual Meeting	9-11th December	Aberdeen	
DG Mare Landings Obligation Meeting	12th December	Brussels	
ICES MIACO	13-14th January	Copenhagen	
Landings Obligation Focus Group	19th January	London	The group continued to work on their paper on the phasing of fisheries within the Landings Obligation which was to be presented to the Scheveningen group. They also commenced work on a paper looking at exemptions within the Landings Obligation. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/discards/landings-obligation-focus-group-19th-january-2015-london/
Scheveningen Technical Group	27th January	Copenhagen	Exemptions for species with high
Demersal Working Group	4th February	Copenhagen	The main items for discussion were the Landings Obligation (phasing of fisheries and exemptions), the EC technical measures consultation, LTMP for Nephrops and our work on developing a plan for Mixed Fisheries. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/demersal-working-group-4th-february-2015-copenhagen/
ICES WKNSEA Benchmark	2-6th February	Copenhagen	
ICES MSFD D3 Commercial Fisheries	10-12 February	Copenhagen	
ICES MSFD D6 Seafloor Integrity	16-19 February	Copenhagen	

Scheveningen High Level Group	17th February	Paris	
EFCA Advisory Group	18th February	Brussels	
Scheveningen Technical Group	25-26th February	Copenhagen	
GAP2 Final Conference	24-26th February	Barcelona	
Pulse Focus Group	5th March	Amsterdam	An update from scientists and the Dutch Member State was provided, they answered questions that had been presented in advance by the group members. The NSAC advice paper for Pulse Fishing was further developed. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/pulse-group/pulse-focus-group/
EFCA Advisory Group	5th March	Vigo	
Skaggerak & Kattegat Working Group	6th March	Gothenburg	The group discussed EU-Norway discussions, cod stocks in the Kattegat and minimum landing size for shrimp. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/skwg/skagerrak-kattegat-working-group-6th-march-2015-goteborg/
Mixed Fisheries Focus Group	10th March	Copenhagen	The purpose of the meeting was to further develop the NSAC Mixed Fishery Management Plan. CEFAS presented scientific updates. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/mffg/mixed-fisheries-focus-group-10th-march-2015-copenhagen/
Executive Committee	11th March	Copenhagen	Landings Obligation was the central element of the day's discussion. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/ex-comm/nsac-executive-committee-meeting-11th-march-2015/
STECF Multi Annual Management Plans, North Sea	16-20th March	Ispra	
Scheveningen High Level Group	17th March	Paris	
MYFISH Annual Project Meeting	24-25th March	Palma de la Mallorca	

Scheveningen Technical Group	25th March	The Hague	
Brown Shrimp Focus Group	31st March	Amsterdam	The purpose of the meeting was to review the ICES advice on North Sea Brown Shrimp and discuss if the NSAC should provide an advice paper. It was agreed that the NSAC should develop advice which would be developed over the next 2 months. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/past-fgs/bsfg/brown-shrimp-focus-group-31st-march-2015-ijmuiden/
Scheveningen High Level Group	8th April	Paris	
Demersal Working Group	14th April	Paris	Main areas for discussion were the Landings Obligation and the NSAC response to the Commissions Mixed Fisheries consultation. A representative of the Norwegian Fishermen's Association attended allowing for an exchange of information and experiences. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/dwg/demersal-working-group-14th-april-2015-paris/
DISCARDLESS Project Launch	22nd April	Bilbao	
Scheveningen Technical Group	30th April	London	
Scheveningen High Level Group	12th May	Paris	
Brown Shrimp Focus Group	19th May	Utrecht	We continued to discuss the ICES advice on Brown shrimp and developed NSAC advice which was to provide feedback on the ICES advice and outline the next steps required to commence the development of a management system for brown shrimp. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/past-fgs/bsfg/nsac-brown-shrimp-focus-group-19th-may-2015-the-netherlands/
Pulse Focus Group	19th May	Utrecht	Final amendments were made to the Pulse fishing paper. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/pulse-group/the-pulse-trawl-focus-group-19th-may-2015-the-netherlands/
Sea Bass Workshop	26th May	Paris	NSAC together with NWWAC and SWWAC delivered a joint workshop on Sea Bass. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the emergency measures introduced by the Commission for 2015 and proposed measures moving forward into 2016. Following the meeting it was not possible to agree joint advice however a summary of opinions was produced as an output of the meeting and circulated to the Commission and Member States. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/sea-bass-workshop-26th-may-2015-paris/

Scheveningen High Level Group	29th May	Paris	
ICES Drafting of Advice for the North Sea	1-4th June	Copenhagen	
Skagerrak & Kattegat Working Group	8th June	Copenhagen	The Skagerrak & Kattegat Working Group met in Copenhagen on 8 th June. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/skkg/skagerrak-kattegat-working-group-8th-june-2015-copenhagen/
STECF landings Obligation Part 5	8-12th June	Arona	
Executive Committee	19th June	Edinburgh	The Executive Committee meeting was held in Edinburgh on 19 th June. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/nsac-executive-committee-19th-june-2015-edinburgh/
DG Mare Inter AC Meeting	23rd June	Brussels	
EFCA Monitoring the Landings Obligation Conference	24-25th June	Roskilde	
Spatial Planning Working Group	7th July	Schiphol	The meeting was very well attended with the Member States, fishing and other interest groups all well represented. The main topic of discussion was the proposal from the Dutch government to introduce Marine Protected areas in the Frisian Front and Central Oyster Grounds as part of their response to the MSFD. An update of the Dogger Bank was also provided. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/apatial-planning-working-group-7th-july-amsterdam/
Demersal Working Group	13th July	Brussels	The implementation of the Landings Obligation continued to be a main topic for discussion. A presentation on the ICES advice for 2016 was given. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/demersal-working-group-13th-july-2015-brussels/

DG Mare State of the Fish Stock Seminar	14th July	Brussels	
Nephrops Focus Group	10th September	Edinburgh	The Nephrops Focus Group met in Edinburgh on 10 th September. The purpose of the meeting was to consider feedback on the LTMP provided by STECF and agree advice on the Farne Deep's Fishery. The meeting was well attended by scientists and representatives from Member States. The advice is currently being considered by the Executive Committee. http://www.nsrac.org/category/reports/meetings-c/nfg/
Spatial Planning Working Group	22nd September	Brussels	The Spatial Planning Working Group met in Brussels on the 22 nd September. A presentation was given by the Belgian Member State to outline measures proposed under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/spwg/spatial-planning-working-group-meeting-22-september-brussels/
Executive Committee	22/23rd September	Brussels	The NSAC Executive Committee met in Brussels on 22 nd and 23 rd September. Appointments and plans for 2015-16 were approved. There were detailed discussions about our next steps for the Landings Obligation and our relationship with the Scheveningen Group. http://www.nsrac.org/reports/meetings-c/ex-comm/executive-committee-meeting-22-23-september-brussels/
General Assembly	23rd September	Brussels	The 12 th General Assembly was held on 23 rd September. We approved plans for 2015/16 and financial reports for 2013/14. A presentation on technical regulations was provided by the European Commission. Applications to become Ex Com members were considered and 2 organisations appointed. http://www.nsrac.org/category/reports/meetings-c/general-assembly/
Scheveningen High Level Group	7th October	Paris	
Scheveningen Technical Group	21st October	Paris	

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

N°	Full title	Date of adoption
1	Phasing the Implementation of the EU Landings Obligation for the Demersal Fisheries of the North Sea. 1-1415 2014 12 08 Phasing LO for Demersal in NS	8 th December 2014
2	A Long Term Management Plan for North Sea Nephrops http://www.nsrac.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/2-1415-2015-02-16-Nephrops-LTMP.pdf	4 th February 2015
3	Management of Nephrops stocks in the North Sea, especially in relation to the Farne Deeps fishery. 3-1415 2015 02 17 Advice for the Farne Deeps	4 th February 2015
4	Development of a New Framework for Technical Measures in the Reformed CFP. http://www.nsrac.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/4-1415-2015-03-11-Tech-Measures.pdf	11 th March 2015
5	The Implementation of the EU Landings Obligation for the Demersal Fisheries of the North Sea: Exemptions and Other Issues. http://www.nsrac.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/5-1415-20150331-Landings-Obligation-Exemptions.pdf	31 st March 2015
6	Advice on a Mixed Fishery Plan for the North Sea http://www.nsrac.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/6-1415-20150430-Advice-on-Mixed-Fish-Plan-for-NS.pdf	30 th April 2015
7	7. Use of Pulse Trawls in the North Sea 7-1415 20150923 Use of Pulse Trawls in the North Sea	23 rd September, 2015
8	8. Advice on the Brown Shrimp Road Map provided by ICES 8- 1415 Advice on the Brown Shrimp roadmap	22 nd September, 2015
9	9. Management of the Farne Deeps Nephrops Fishery 9-1415 20151012 Mgmt of FD Nephrops Fishery	12 th October, 2015
10	10. Comments on Sea Bass Advice 2015 and Proposal for Development of Future Advice 10-1415 20151030 Sea Bass Advice	30 th October, 2015

Please enclose in annex the minutes of the AC meetings and all the recommendations adopted by the AC³.

³ Or mention the hyperlink to the AC website where these documents are available.

E. GENERAL COMMENTS and SUGGESTIONS to the Commission

1. We would like to see DG-Mare representatives increasingly involved in NSAC meetings. Whilst we acknowledge that DG-Mare has been represented at most meetings it is at times only for the section of the agenda directly relevant to the person attending. There is often a missed opportunity to become involved in further discussions as the meeting progresses.

2. We would ask that we are given at least 8 weeks' notice to respond to requests for information or contribute to consultations. This is the time required to fully develop advice and work towards a consensus.

3. Whilst we acknowledge that funding from the European Commission is to increase to €300,000 per year, for the NSAC this will not come into effect until October 2016. This being the case the operational year 2015-16 will continue to challenge us. Cost savings have been made where possible and meetings will be kept at a minimum to reduce costs, however this is difficult given that this is a very important year coinciding with the introduction of the Landing Obligation.

