

The North Sea Advisory Council



NSAC

Annual Application

Chairman of NSAC Ecosystem Working Group

1st November 2019 – 31st October 2020

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.2 An obligation of receiving EC funding is that NSAC must follow tendering and contracting guidelines for publicly funded bodies, this means that posts within the NSAC that receive financial return must be subject to a tendering procedure.

2. APPLICATION INFORMATION

- 2.1 The role of a NSAC Working Group Chair is to prepare for and Chair meetings of the NSAC Working Group. To achieve this, the Working Group Chair will:

a. Prepare for NSAC Working Group meetings.

This is achieved through liaising with the NSAC Secretariat to agree meeting dates and venues, and ensure that any costs to be incurred are aligned with the NSAC budget; preparing an agenda for the meeting; preparation of discussion papers, as appropriate; identifying the need for participation of a Rapporteur/external speakers/representatives of the European Commission and/or other relevant institutions, and arranging this via the Secretariat.

b. Chair meetings of the Working Group

A key role of the Chair of a Working Group is to facilitate balanced and productive discussions at formal meetings in order to produce advice and policy on behalf of NSAC members for consideration by the NSAC Executive Committee. The Working Group Chair must ensure that the meeting objectives are achieved within the given time constraints, acting impartially to ensure that all participants are given the opportunity to present their opinions and that these are considered accordingly in advice prepared by the Working Group. Prepared advice must be a representation of all of the members' interests and not an individual sector or country.

- 2.2 The organisations that employ Working Group Chairmen will be awarded a maximum day rate of €500 (five hundred euros). They can claim 2 days per meeting, one planning / travel and one delivery. Expenses to attend meetings will be paid at normal NSAC rates as set out in the travel and expenses policy.
- 2.3 Parties interested in the position of Working Group Chairman for period 2019-2020 must complete the attached application form and return to the NSAC Secretariat at tamarat@nsrac.org no later than 17th September 2019.
- 2.4 Applications will be considered by the NSAC Chairman and Vice Chairmen. Their recommendation will be presented to the Executive Committee during the meeting on 19th September 2019.

3. APPLICATION FORM

Name of Working Group
Ecosystem Working Group
Name of Individual Who Will Act as Working Group Chair
Anne-Cécile Dragon
Question 1. Please state what you consider to be the priorities and key activities of the NSAC Working Group for 2019/2020
<p>I consider the main priority of the NSAC Working Group for 2019/2020</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) to make the group more representative by encouraging greater participation from industry stakeholders from the fisheries and energy production sectors and by working more intensely with external organizations (see question 3) on the following topics2) to ensure prepared advice is evidence based and is representative of all of the members' interests and not an individual sector or country3) that the NSAC Working Group delivers results notably regarding the<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of the Technical and Conservation Measures Regulation adopted in August 2019• Development of good practices for further implementation of the ecosystem-based approach• Marine Spatial Planning in the North Sea: cohabitation of marine usages between wind farms, marine protected areas and fisheries. <p>Depending on the interests of the working group, other topics that could be considered priorities are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the monitoring of the landing obligation to evaluate its impact on the reduction of bycatch in fishing activities;• noise disturbances stemming from fisheries activities,• offshore wind farms and other causes of seabirds decline in the North Sea• marine litter with a special focus on fishing gears and the single-use plastic directive etc. <p>The key activities of the NSAC Working Group for 2019/2020 will be the formal work group meetings, the preparation of the agenda and preparatory documents, the distribution of the minutes of those meetings, and the provision of recommendations to other stakeholders.</p>

Question 2.**Please state how these priorities will be achieved.**

As Chair of the meetings of the Ecosystem Working Group of the NSAC, I will aim at facilitating balanced and productive discussions between all NSAC members. Achieving these priorities will rely on the production of evidence-based advice for consideration by the NSAC Executive Committee, as well as on acting impartially to ensure that all participants are given the opportunity to present their opinions and that these are considered accordingly in the draft advice.

One of the key actions in the Ecosystem working group will be to continue having scientific speakers at each formal working group meeting in order to increase the understanding of the different factors involved when it comes to the North Sea conservation. Having all stakeholders, including decision makers from the Scheveningen group and of all marine sectors active in the North Sea will also be sought to increase the dialogue between fisheries experts and the other North Sea actors.

Regarding each of the priorities listed in Question 1:

Implementation of the newly adopted Technical and Conservation Measures Regulation

The Ecosystem Working group will help the NSAC in continuing to provide advice at a regional level on the Conservation of Fishery Resources and the Protection of Marine Ecosystems through the implementation of the newly adopted regulation on the Technical and Conservation Measures, with a specific focus on bycatch reduction.

Good practices for further implementation of the ecosystem-based approach

We will also provide advice at a regional level to ensure a better and further implementation of the ecosystem-based approach by discussing and highlighting identified good practices and the process to facilitate their adoption in the North Sea.

Marine Spatial Planning in the North Sea: cohabitation of marine usages between wind farms, marine protected areas and fisheries

The construction of major offshore wind parks and their cumulative impact on fishing and the environment will be considered. We will continue to work closely with wind park developers such as TenneT to fully understand their plans and provide stakeholder opinion to their proposals. We will also consider the noise impact of such developments on spawning and migratory patterns of fish.

We will continue to participate in discussions related to management measures in Natura 2000 and Marine Protected Areas, such as in the case of the Dogger Bank. It is difficult for an AC to provide consensus advice on these issues but

where possible this will be provided.

If time allows, other topics of discussion could be:

- the **monitoring of the landing obligation**. At the beginning of the NSAC operational year in November 2019, it is expected that the Brexit framework withdrawal agreement will be available and its implications better understood by the NSAC. We will engage with the Commission and the Member States to discuss the implication of Brexit for the NSAC members especially regarding the full implementation of the landing obligation and its monitoring, which aims at achieving healthy fish populations in the whole North Sea.

- **anthropogenic disturbances** in the North Sea from which seabirds decline is stemming, such as noise disturbances from vessels and wind turbines. The Ecosystem working group will seek expert advice on seabird populations in the North Sea, to identify possible causes for the decline in numbers, links with and impacts from fisheries. We will continue the discussions on sources, impacts and reduction of noise in the marine environment and prepare advice where common objectives are identified.

- **marine litter** with a special focus on fishing gears to discuss the reduction and disposal of marine litter (including micro-plastics) in the marine environment and facilitate the implementation of the newly adopted single-use plastic Directive.

Question 3.

Please state what external organisations you would wish NSAC to work with to achieve the Working Group Priorities in 2019/2020.

All North Sea stakeholders: scientific experts such as ICES and STECF experts, the European Commission, national decision makers from the Scheveningen Group, windfarm industry representatives, NGOs experts in seabirds and by catch.

Representatives of other ACs, regions, and researchers who are working on similar issues.

Question 4.

Please demonstrate how you will approach and deliver this service. How you will engage with NSAC members, secretariat and all stakeholders to encourage joint working and to maximise the potential for influencing decision making. Identify how you will work to encourage co-operation, joint working and decision making between members.

I have worked the last 13 years on the anthropogenic impact on natural resources. I have led and collaborated in > 20 international projects focusing on the understanding and management of natural resources. I am used to working in multicultural environment in projects gathering inputs from a wide range of

stakeholders.

For the last 2 years, I have been an active member of the North Sea Advisory Council (NSAC). During this time, I have developed relationships with NSAC members, the secretariat and a growing number of stakeholders and am aware of the issues that are of key importance to the different stakeholders.

As Chair of the Ecosystem working group, I will use these relationships and my deep knowledge of the anthropogenic impact on natural resources to encourage joint working and to maximise the potential for influencing decision making, which focuses on the priorities and key activities of the NSAC Working Group for 2019/2020.

Collaboration, however, does take considerable time and effort, and fortunately WWF European Policy Office (EPO), where I work, shares the North Sea Advisory Council vision of encouraging co-operation, joint working and decision making between members. As such, I will be able to devote more than the 8 days planned to this work.

Specifically I will prepare for NSAC Working Group meetings

- by liaising with the **working group members and the NSAC Secretariat** to agree meeting dates and venues no less than 3 months in advance, and ensuring that any costs to be incurred are aligned with the NSAC budget.
- Preparing at least 2 months in advance, in consultation with **working group members and the NSAC Secretariat** an agenda for the meetings;
- Work with **working group members and the NSAC Secretariat** to ensure the development and circulation of discussion papers, as appropriate;
- Identifying **working group members and the NSAC Secretariat** the need for participation of a rapporteur/external speakers/representatives of the European Commission and/or other relevant institutions, and arranging this via the NSAC Secretariat.

When acting as Chair of the meetings of the Working Group

- I will facilitate balanced and productive discussions at formal meetings in order to produce advice and policy on behalf of NSAC members for consideration by the NSAC Executive Committee by preparing the agenda collaboratively for the meetings and sticking to the agenda.
- I will ensure that the meeting objectives are achieved within the given time constraints, acting impartially to ensure that all participants are given the opportunity to present their opinions and that these are considered accordingly in advice prepared by the Working Group via

close time keeping and via a speakers list.

- I will ensure prepared advice will be representative of all of the members' interests and not an individual sector or country by circulating any prepared advice for comments well in advance of any meetings and only with the 2/3 majority of the working group members.

3.2 Costs

Working Group Activities	Days	Cost per day (€)	Total Cost (€)	Cost inc VAT (if applicable) (€500 max)
Meeting preparations	4	400	1600	1936
Chairing meetings	4	400	1600	1936
TOTAL PROJECT COST	8	800	3200	3872

3.3 This Tender will be awarded on the basis of the offer which is most economically advantageous from the point of view of NSAC and Responses will be evaluated as follows:

Evaluation Criteria	Weighting
Price	30
Question 1	20
Question 2	20
Question 3	10
Question 4	20

4.0 DECLARATION

We hereby certify that the information supplied in this application is accurate, to the best of my/our knowledge and understanding.

SIGNED:

Ester Asin

Ester Asin

Director

ON BEHALF OF: _____WWF European Policy Office_____

ADDRESS: _____rue du Commerce 123,
1000 Bruxelles, Belgium_____

DATE: _____16_____ of _____September____ 2019

To be signed by an officer who has the authority to legally represent the organisation.