



Draft Report of Brown Shrimp Focus Group, 13th January 2020

Time: 11.00-16.00

Location: Zoetermeer, NSAC

Chair: Pim Visser

Rapporteur: Tamara Talevska

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were given for Guus Pastoor, Visfederatie, and Irene Kingma, North Sea Foundation. Eva Lages, WWF, joined later. Tour de table was conducted.

2. Background

A short background was given to the NSAC 2015 draft Advice on Brown Shrimp and the current focus group. Pim Visser explained that the meetings held between 2010 and 2015 were running in parallel with the MSC certification procedure, causing confusion with at times contradicting endeavours. To allow for the MSC procedure to continue undisrupted, the NSAC decided to halt it's work and put the focus group in a dormant state and resume it at an appropriate time in the future.

The MSC process was finalised in 2017. The underlying reason for a revival of the Brown Shrimp focus group at this point in time are, among others, the discussions on reduced fishing opportunity by reduction of licenses for brown shrimp in the Netherlands. Namely, under the Nature Conservation Act in Natura 2000 there is an obligation to reduce fishing pressure. One of the measures ensuring this is the reduction of fishing licenses. Another threat to fishing opportunities is posed by the windmill-designated area, where according to some estimates 62% of the Dutch continental shelf will be lost to windmills. It has been calculated that 10-15% of fishing grounds will be lost, some estimates say 30%. Adding to the 25% for windmills, this adds to 35-55% in total (according to the Dutch PBL). Phillip Oberdoerffer from Landwirtschaftskammer Niedersachsen confirmed that in Germany these numbers are 60-

66% (windmills+MPAs) of the EEZ area (according to BSH). Windmill companies, according to the Bundesamt für Naturschutz (BfN), have to pay less compensation for their impact on the marine environment if windparks are free from any fishery. This complicates a possible co-use of the windpark areas.

Durk Wieger van Tuinen, Nederlandse Vissersbond, noted that there is currently a discussion on limiting the number of licenses in the Netherlands to 225, but highlighted that this might be challenged at the court, resulting in a higher number of licenses, which would be highly undesirable.

Pim Visser asked Phillip Oberdoerffer to update the group about the MSC procedure. He explained that the first surveillance audit had been carried out in June 2019, the second one expected in May or June 2020. Third surveillance audit will follow.

Durk Wieger van Tuinen, highlighted the importance of a level-playing field in processing sector, which has been neglected in the current management plan and called for its consideration.

Phillip Oberdoerffer expressed his concerns regarding the short notice of the focus group and asked if this could be done in a more timely fashion next time. The chair confirmed that this will be taken into account.

3. Terms of Reference

Eva Lages, WWF, joined the discussions and the group was set to finalise the draft Terms of Reference, which had been sent to the members beforehand. Eva asked what was meant by 'bottom up adaptive management' in the first paragraph, to which Pim Visser replied with delineating the two mainstream approaches: top-down approach following the regular legislation procedure with all three institutions involved (the European commission, the Council and the Parliament) and the bottom-up regionalised management procedure, where the Scheveningen Group and the AC are responsible for drafting the management plan.

Eva Lages asked whether the term 'scientifically underpinned' in first paragraph of the ToR could be replaced with 'scientifically based', to which Pim Visser replied that scientifically based would mean a full ICES assessment and that brown shrimp is in many aspects a difficult metier of fisheries, not well covered in scientific research, 'hence scientifically pinned' is more appropriate.

Phillip Oberdoerffer asked which management plan is meant in the ToRs – an existing one or a future one, now drafted by the AC. He highlighted that there is an existing management plan for 90% of the fleets. Pim Visser told that the subject was MSC industry management plan.

Phillip Oberdoerffer asked for the following sentence to be removed from the ToR, as recruitment overfishing is highly unlikely and growth overfishing was stated by ICES as a risk potential, not actually materialized.

Eva Lages mentioned that she would like to see MPAs included in the management plan, to which Pim Visser replied that MPAs are not part of the fisheries management currently.

Paulien Prent, Visfederatie, mentioned that there is no clear definition of specific local fisheries and said this should be specified. This is important for further considerations on regionalisation, as there are differences between fisheries even with genetically homogenous stocks.

Eva Lages stressed that standards and criteria cannot be managed on a local/regional level. Pim Visser agreed that restrictions should be imposed on the same level, however, this is not always possible - with regionalisation some fisheries are hit harder than others. He mentioned a cod situation as an example, where fishing is possible in the north, but not in the south (of the North Sea). A similar situation in nephrops fisheries had been solved with an application of fishing pressure limits in management units.

4. 2020 NSAC Advice - main headings

Going through the main headings of the advice, members proposed the following amendments. Phillip Oberdoerffer asked to replace “compliance of the fishery with MPA goals” with “evaluation of the interaction between fisheries and MPAs”.

Eva Lages insisted that MPAs should be a part of a future management plan, to which Phillip Oberdoerffer replied that first an evaluation needs to be conducted on the impact of the fishery on MPA and noted that the current law is being fully complied with. He stressed that this has been discussed and agreed with WWF in previous meetings.

Pim Visser underlined that MPAs are not tools for restriction of fisheries but rather a Natura 2000 outcomes and said he does not see MPAs as relevant in management plans.

5. Distribution of work and timelines

Moving to distribution of work, Pim Visser asked the participants whether the NSAC work should build on 2015 draft advice or should it start with a clean slate. Paulien Prent replied that due to significantly altered situation compared to 2015, work should be started anew.

Phillip Oberdoerffer proposed to begin with a background information based on state of play in different Member States regarding the fishery management. Pim Visser reminded that Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark are already bound to a voluntary management plan. Durk Wieger van Tuinen remarked that current MSC management plan should be looked at by the Belgian industry to see to what extent they could support it.

Jasmine Vlietinck and Sander Meyns, Rederscentrale (Belgian fishing industry), agreed to it and added that number of licenses and vessels per country should be looked at as well. Pim Visser agreed and suggested adding ‘landings per member state’. Durk Wieger van Tuinen summarised the required subjects to be covered: licenses, fleet size, type of vessels, horse powers, production plans, (voluntary) rules and regulations per Members State.

It was agreed that the current management plan is sent to NSAC secretariat for further circulation and consideration by the members of the focus group. Furthermore, a metrics with inventory of subjects relevant for the management shall be prepared and filled in by each member state. The responses will be amalgamated in one document representing the state of play in different Member States. This will further be compared with the current MSC management plan. **(Action point)**

The current management plan will be discussed with the Belgian fleet, who should scrutinise the document and prepare outstanding questions for the next focus group meeting. **(Action point)**

6. AOB

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7. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 19th March 2020, 11.00-15.00, in the NSAC premises in Zoetermeer, the Netherlands.

8. Attendance

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGANISATION
Lages	Eva	WWF
Mathiesen	Sofie Smedegaard	Danish Fishermen PO
Meyns	Sander	Rederscentrale
Oberdoerffer	Philipp	Landwirtschaftskammer Niedersachsen
Prent	Paulien	Visfederatie
Talevska	Tamara	NSAC
Tuinen van	Durk Wieger	Nederlandse Vissersbond
Visser	Willem	VisNed
Visser	Noor	Master student at University of Tromsø
Vlietinck	Jasmine	Rederscentale