



Minutes of the brown crab meeting
At Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Elevages Marines
(French National fisheries committee)
Paris 28th of January 2010

The aim of this informal meeting was to reopen the discussion on the brown crab crisis at an European level and plan short-term and long-term actions to improve the market. Next meetings will be settled.

Delegations from Ireland, Scotland, England, Jersey and France were represented. Several ship owners involved in the brown crab fisheries attended this meeting.

- Each delegation presented briefly the management of crab fisheries in his own state (please see attached the presentation of the crustacean fisheries at European and French-national level – is also attached the Normandy presentation of specific regional measures). The management at the European level was described:
 - Special Fishing permit for brown crab and spider crab for vessels over 10 m and vessels under 10 m which are fishing outside the 12 miles (regulation (CE) 1954/2003),
 - Fishing effort limitation regime by zone and Member State for vessels over 15 m and over 10 m for the Biological Sensitive Area (regulation (CE) 1415/2004).
- All representatives agreed on the market crisis on brown crab. This production tends to be less and less profitable because of poor market prices. Vessels from each country are very concerned and some of them stopped their activity.
- Main causes (structural and temporary) were enumerated :
 - Oversupply
 - International crisis which affects strongly south European country
 - Problem of access products to Italian market
 - Concurrence with non-European countries
- A calendar of the **market situation** were drawn:
 - From January to March : the demand is slow but the production is slow too (nevertheless the price is low).
 - April, May and June : the production is increasing but the demand doesn't respond to this production and the price is going down (dramatically in 2009).

- During summer : July and August : the landings are the highest but it is the season for the consumers to eat brown crab. So the demand tends to correspond to the offer.(But given that the price was low the first half of the year, it doesn't grow so much)

The crucial problem happens on May and June were the landings are becoming very high and the market is very low.

- September to October the demand is not there, but processors buy products to transform them for the end of the year.
- November and December : the market is well because of the end of the year's events.

Traditional consumers of brown crab are older people (especially on alive crab) with a good purchasing power. So they could be able to pay a little more. Demand of younger generations is poor.

- **After a hard discussion, some ideas were proposed to address the issue of oversupply:**

- Regulate offer (long-term and short-term actions):

French delegations many encouraged other delegations to put in place technical measures in order to well managed the fisheries and to limit the production. The effort limitation will be a good measure both for the market and the resource.

An assessment of the fishing effort deployed on brown crab and spider crab by vessels from Each Member State would be useful for the futur debate.

Irish and UK delegations indicated that they have to start with cutting the effort before discussing others measures.

Irish representatives underlined the need to have an emergency action because of the poor situation of the shipowners.

- Enhance demand

The idea of a promotion campaign during the « difficult » months were proposed.

The main ideas which need to be explored further are as followed :

- Limitation of the production mainly during may and June,
- Jointly marketing strategy (UK, IRL, FR) :
 - **Propose a minimum price which permit to the industry to be profitable**
 - **Organize promotion on the product mainly on May, June and perhaps in autumn**

The representatives decided to explore those solutions through two next meetings :

- **The first one will be organized in the two following weeks in order to find short term solution on the market crisis.** The biggest ship owners (less than 50 vessels over 15 m represent around 70% of the european brown crab production), buyers (and perhaps transporters) will be invited to this meeting. The aim will be to find solution for this year

(stop some vessels, diminishing the landings in May and June...). CNPMEM will propose different dates for this meeting.

- **Concerning a longer term reflexion on the management of brown crab, it will be proposed at the North Westerns Waters Regional Advisory Committee held on the 29th of January to organize a focus group meeting on brown crab.** The objective will be to discuss the measures : technical measures, effort limitation, license system... wich allows a well management of the fisheries. As brown crab fisheries concerns North sea area also, a joint meeting (NWWRAC and NSRAC) could be envisaged.

List of participants

Ireland

Sean O'Donoghue
Hugh McBride
Norah Parke
Nicolas Ranninger
Ion Lanter

Killybegs fishermen organization
Killybegs fishermen organization
Killybegs fishermen organization
Bord Bia
Bord Iascaigh Mharer

England

Trevor Bartlett
Brian Pawley

South Devon & Channel Shellfishermen
South Devon & Channel Shellfishermen

Scotland

Lachie Murray
Headle Costie
Ross Classon
Iann Gatt

Scottish Catcher
Scottish Catcher
Ainmire Fishing
Scottish fishermen association

Jersey

Don Thompson

Jersey fishermen association

France

Bretagne

André Le Berre
Jacques Person
Thierry Guigue
Yannick Calvez
Jean-Pierre Carval
André Guéguen

CRPMEM Bretagne
CRPMEM Bretagne
Fédération bretonne des comités du Finistère
CLPMEM Nord Finistère
CLPMEM Nord Finistère
OPOB

Basse-Normandie

Daniel Lefèvre
Béatrice Harmel
Véronique Legrand
Eric Leguélinel

CRPMEM Basse-Normandie
CRPMEM Basse-Normandie
CRPMEM Basse-Normandie
CRPMEM Basse-Normandie

National

Lucile Toulhoat
Stéphanie Tachaires

CNPMEM
CNPMEM

Interprète

Mireille Amat