

**Provisional text: submitted by Ton Ijlstra for information purposes to the
NSRAC Spatial Planning Working Group**

Continued 2011 FIMPAS process on Dogger Bank

1. Introduction

A follow-up process for continued work on the Natura 2000 conservation objectives for the Dogger Bank was agreed at FIMPAS 3 . The main argument for this process is to achieve international coherence in the approach taken by UK, NL GER and DK governments. Such a process will lead to integrated ICES advice for fisheries measures in the entire Dogger Bank area, based on a fourth FIMPAS workshop in September, preceded by a governmental workshop in April / May.

Meanwhile the UK government, on January 21st , has requested ICES to provide advice on the UK section of the Dogger Bank, in a similar way as International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) prepares advice in the FIMPAS project for NL section.

2. Aim of this paper

This paper outlines:

- process between now and the delivery of ICES advice
- preparatory work to be undertaken by ICES and others in this process

3. Main steps

- Mid February: agreement between ICES, NL, and UK on continued ICES work
- Mid Feb – April: Further work by ICES , in preparation of govt. workshop
- Feb/March: German interministerial proposal (following the EMPAS advice)
- 23 March: North Sea RAC (members & collectively) invited to draft zoning proposals
- May: Doggerbank governmental workshop (NL, UK, GER, ICES + DK + EC), based on preparatory work by ICES and zoning proposals from Member States and RAC (sector/NGOs)
- Summer: inform relevant flag states
- September: FIMPAS 4 (in cooperation with the North Sea RAC)
- October: ACOM advice
- Nov/Dec: Joint CFP proposal on fisheries measures by GER, NL, UK

4. FIMPAS 3 Outcome

At FIMPAS 3 it was agreed that the management approach to be taken to Dogger Bank was to:

- “Ban Beam, otter trawls, demersal seines in specific areas; in other areas controlled fishing. The areas will include various benthic communities on the Dogger Bank.
- Note: This is done with the purposes of conservation, understanding recovery and human impact.”

The next step is to get the right data in place to underpin a zoning approach. In this paper it is proposed that ICES takes the lead in this work. Getting different layers of (spatial) data will inform any proposals being put forward, either by Member States, Fisheries sector, NGOs, individually or jointly (including by North Sea RAC) . At the FIMPAS 3 closing plenary several suggestions were made on the scope of such further ICES work.

5. UK letter to ICES

In its 21 January letter, UK requests ICES to produce advice on fisheries issues on UK section of the Dogger Bank, with a focus on:

- Gathering information on ecology-fisheries interaction
- Gathering information on fishing activities
- Best available science
- Advice on management options in conformity with EC guidance
- Advice on displacement
- Basis for UK management proposals to be made coherent with NL and GER approach

All of the above items are in conformity with the approach in the FIMPAS project, so it is expected that this request can be integrated in ICES' work, with important data made available to ICES by UK government.

6. Organization of the Governmental workshop

Participants in the workshop are: NL govt, UK govt, GER govt, DK govt, EC, FIMPAS steering group members.

Timing of the meeting would be dependent on when ICES can complete the work as outlined under item 6 above. A meeting in April / May would best fit the proposed time schedule. It is proposed to invite dr. Paul Connolly to chair the meeting.

6. Organization of FIMPAS 4

FIMPAS 4 will be organized in good cooperation between all participating Dogger Bank states, International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the EC.

Approximate date will be towards the end of September.