

## ANNEX I

### WORK PROGRAMME

#### PRIORITIES

Please describe the key priorities of the RAC for next 12 months and the expected results (recommendations, meeting, projects etc)

*Example:*

*Fishing opportunities for YYYY: The RAC will discuss the policy statement and contribute to the Commission consultation by the end of June. The RAC will organise a meeting on the presentation of the scientific advice, in coordination with ICES (end of June / beginning of July). The RAC will be represented in meetings organised by the Commission to discuss fishing opportunities. The RAC may propose recommendations to the Commission and the Member States on management options for the main stocks by end of November.*

- **CFP reform:** NSRAC will actively contribute to the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy as it progresses through the co-decision process. While all areas of the reform will be of interest to NSRAC, particular attention will be placed on the role of Regional Advisory Councils. Work will be co-ordinated through a dedicated CFP Focus Group. Initial work will focus on the General Regulation, but consideration will be given to accompanying regulations if time and resources allow (e.g. Technical Measures). NSRAC will provide advice to the Commission through participation in meetings, the production of advice papers and formal responses to consultations.

- **Marine Spatial Planning:** NSRAC will continue to explore Marine Spatial Planning matters which can affect the fishing sector, such as offshore renewable energy developments. It will also consider the impacts of designating Marine Protected Areas and Natura 2000 sites on the fisheries sector. Particular attention will be paid to stakeholder engagement in the designation process and co-ordination between Member States. This work will be carried out through a dedicated Marine Spatial Planning Working Group. NSRAC will provide advice to the Commission if applicable and engage with Member States and offshore marine energy developers. The development of a North Sea Stakeholder Forum will also be monitored.

- **Long-Term Management Plans:** Focus Groups tasked with developing Long Term Management Plans for particular species (e.g. whiting, nephrops, flatfish and brown shrimp) will continue their work and produce draft plans and advice to the Commission. A related priority will be fisheries-science partnerships and NSRAC will continue to work with scientists on LTMPs and other issues through a range of projects such as GAP 2 and MYFISH. NSRAC will continue to support the North Sea Fishers Survey.

- **Mixed Fisheries:** NSRAC will focus on the complexities of fisheries management in mixed fisheries. A conference bringing together a number of high level speakers and stakeholders will be organised to take place in January 2012 in partnership with the North West Waters RAC and other partners. A report of the meeting will be prepared and sent to the Commission and follow-up work undertaken.

- **Cod Recovery:** NSRAC's Cod Recovery Focus Group will continue its work in 2011-12. The Group will consider the impacts of the Cod Recovery Plan and provide advice to the Commission as appropriate.

- **Co-ordinated Approach:** NSRAC will take account of other factors and non-fisheries legislation, working in a holistic way and taking an eco-system approach to its work. Partnership working with other RACs and scientists throughout its work will be a priority.

(minimum 3 - maximum 6)

#### OTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST

Please describe the other actions envisaged by the RAC (other issues for discussion / information of the members, initiatives to improve the internal functioning of the RAC, relations with other partners).

#### PROVISIONAL PLANNING

Title of the meeting	Date	Place	Issue to be discussed
Demersal Working Group	2 November 2011		
Executive Committee	8 February 2012		
Skagerrak & Kattegat Working Group	28 February 2012		
Demersal Working Group	29 February 2012		
Spatial Planning Working Group	7 March 2012		
Demersal Working Group	30 May 2012		
Spatial Planning Working Group	6 June 2012		
Skagerrak and Kattegat Working Group	20 June 2012		
Executive Committee	27 June 2012		
Demersal Working Group	19 September 2012		
Skagerrak and Kattegat Working Group	26 September 2012		
General Assembly	10 October 2011		
Executive Committee	10-11 October 2011		