



NSAC

North Sea Advisory Council Stakeholders Update

July 2014

Update No. 7

In This Issue

- NSRAC Becomes NSAC
- NSAC Publishes Landings Obligation Vision
- NSAC Advice Published
- NSAC Welcomes New Members
- Forthcoming NSAC Meetings
- NSAC Contact Details

Contact Us

<http://www.nsrac.org>
admin@nsrac.org
Tel.
+44 (0) 784 111 7625

Follow us on
Twitter @northseaac
Facebook northseaac

NSRAC Becomes NSAC

As the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy is implemented the RAC's have become Advisory Councils or AC's. The move will see the introduction of up to four new Advisory Councils and a move towards increased regionalisation. This will see the NSAC working more closely with Member States at an individual level and collectively via the Scheveningen Group of Fisheries Directors.

We look forward to increasing our activities at a regional level.

NSAC Publishes Landings Obligation Vision

The members of the NSAC have published their first major document directly related to the implementation of the EU Landings Obligation. The document presents a vision for the future and an overview of how the Landings Obligation will be met. Over the coming months we will continue to work on developing more specific advice on the preparation of discard plans and the basis of any exemptions.

Our long-term vision places emphasis on the economic and social benefits to be derived from sustainable fishing practices. In our vision of the future, the North Sea Demersal Fisheries will be based on:

Higher Yields

Progress will continue to be made towards high yield fisheries, with low fishing mortality rates

Greater Stability and Profitability

Fishing businesses will be more stable and based on long term management plans. Reforms to fisheries policy will provide the basis for a profitable sector in which fleet renewal is possible without subsidy.

Better Food Security

Maintenance of food supplies will be a priority. Global demand for food is continuing to increase while production growth is slowing, against a background of future climate change. The North Sea will continue to provide a source of high quality food with full assurances on food quality, safety and traceability.

Better Governance

Fisheries management in the North Sea will have the support of fishers and other stakeholders. Management will be more professional, with fishers confident that they will be able to participate fully and their input taken seriously. Management will operate at minimal cost to taxpayers.

Sustainable Harvesting and Healthy Ecosystems

International commitments aimed at ensuring the sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources will be fully implemented. Impacts of fisheries on species, habitats and ecosystems will be minimised, and where possible eliminated, through full and consistent implementation of the Habitats and Species Directive, the Birds Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Relevant Co-decision Taking

Co-decision at the European level will be reserved for overarching, strategic, policy issues; and for auditing the European fisheries management system as a whole. Co-decision will not obstruct practical management of the fisheries. Detailed policy will be determined largely at regional level, by cooperating member states working closely with the North Sea Advisory Council. Environmental NGO representatives consider there remains a strong need for some overarching objectives and minimum common standards to apply across the EU. Some measures, primarily conservation measures relating to non-commercial by-catch species and habitat protection, should remain regulated at a high level (e.g. agreed through co-decision) to ensure that these are interpreted, implemented, monitored and enforced consistently across all member states.

Cooperation with Norway

There will be close cooperation and a high degree of mutual understanding between Norway and the EU on the development of management plans and the implementation of the landings obligation in the North Sea.

Results-based Management, with Full Documentation of Catches

A system of management will be implemented that is focused on outputs and results. There will be a high degree of transparency throughout the system, underpinned by detailed and accurate documentation of catches. There will be greater delegation of responsibilities to the regional and vessel level. As stocks improve, and as full catch documentation is implemented, there will be less reliance on input controls.

Mixed Fishery Management Plans

Most TACs will be set within the context of long term management plans applicable to mixed fisheries rather than individual fish stocks, incorporating full consideration of interactions between species. Those plans will be based on scientific assessments, and in addition they will take account of the characteristics and interests of the different fishing fleets. Plans will be developed on a regional basis by cooperating member states, working with the Advisory Councils and scientific advisers.

Economic Incentives

Economic Incentives will be aligned with management objectives. Perverse incentives that act against conservation interests will be identified swiftly, and removed promptly.

Contact Us

<http://www.nsrac.org>
admin@nsrac.org
Tel.
+44 (0) 784 111 7625

Follow us on
Twitter @northseaac
Facebook northseaac

Improved Selectivity

Technical conservation rules will be replaced by selectivity measures, determined at vessel level by each skipper, aimed at achieving the optimum catches/landings consistent with the vessel's quotas and with the requirements of the landings obligation.

Fewer TACs

After a range of flexibilities including quota uplifts and exemptions have been considered and implemented, it may be necessary to consider reducing the number of TACs or to combine TACs as a last resort, in a similar way to the "Norway Others" quota, to avoid the serious problem of choke stocks. In that eventuality will be essential to then safeguard minor, non-commercial and by-catch stocks by means of technical, spatial or other measures so as to ensure the sustainable harvest of all stocks.

Less Emphasis on Micro-management

There will have been a decisive move away from prescriptive micro-management, accompanied by a greater delegation of responsibilities. Fishers will find their own ways of meeting fishery objectives under a system of system of transparent and verifiable results-based management.

High Survival Rates

Post-capture survival rates of both target and non-target species will have improved as a result of increased gear selectivity, improved technology and handling practices. Within the landings obligation, some quota species will continue to be returned to the sea, when there is scientific evidence that post capture survival is high.

Control and Enforcement

There will be a high degree of understanding of the rules in force; and those rules will be internally consistent, coherent and cost efficient. If fisheries controls are more intelligent and pragmatic then it will follow that there will be a higher degree of compliance, co-operation and co-responsibility from the fishing industry.

On-board Sampling

Various forms of delegated responsibility will operate, within a wider framework of external monitoring, incentives and sanctions. Cost-efficient, effective, on-board sampling of catches will be common aboard fishing vessels. There is likely to be a trade-off between the degree of on-board monitoring of catches and the burden of prescriptive requirements. The greater the confidence in the reporting of catches, the less need there will be for prescriptive measures and intrusive external monitoring.

Fishing Vessels as Research Platforms

Fishing vessels will participate in various types of monitoring and research with some fleets serving as reference fleets, where appropriate. Partnership agreements between scientists and fishermen will be the basis for a highly effective information system that will help inform management decisions. Fishers will be trained to deliver accurate information through a process of on-board sampling.

The full document is available on the NSAC website;

<http://www.nsrac.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/11-1314-2014-07-23-Implementation-of-the-EU-Landings-Obligation.pdf>

Contact Us

<http://www.nsrac.org>
admin@nsrac.org
Tel.
+44 (0) 784 111 7625

Follow us on
Twitter @northseaac
Facebook northseaac

NSAC Advice Published

Since our last newsletter our members have published a number of advice and policy documents;

The NSAC Response to the EC Consultation on Technical Measures
[7-1314 2014 05 05 NSAC response to Tech measures cons](#)

Comments on consultations between the EU and Norway on fishing arrangements for 2014

[8-1314 2014 06 30 EU Norway Neg](#)

Dumping of Contaminated dredged material in the Kattegat

[9-1314 2014 06 30 Dredged material in Kattegat](#)

NSAC Response to DK Natura2000 Consultation

[10- 1314 2014 07 23 NSAC response DK Natura2000.doc](#)

Implementation of the EU Landings Obligation

[11-1314 2014 07 23 Implementation of the EU Landings Obligation](#)

NSAC Welcomes New Members

At our Executive Committee meeting on 18th June in Brussels the following organisations were admitted as members of the General Assembly.

Hallandsfiskarnas PO

Mallaig and North West Fishermen's Association Ltd.

Dutch Elasmobranch Society

Environmental Defence Fund

The Pew Charitable Trust

We look forward to contributions from our new members at forthcoming meetings.

If your organisation is interested in joining NSAC as a member of the General Assembly please contact admin@nsrac.org for further information, or visit our website to review the range of meetings and subjects we are currently working on www.nsrac.org .

Forthcoming NSAC Meetings

Forthcoming NSAC meetings planned are;

23/24th September 2014, Executive Committee, Stockholm

24th September 2014, General Assembly, Stockholm

7/8th October 2014, Landings Obligation Focus Group, Amsterdam

8th October 2014, Mixed Fisheries Focus Group, Amsterdam

11th November 2014, Nephrops Focus Group, Brussels

12th November 2014, Demersal Working Group, Brussels

Full details of these meetings and links to registration are on the NSAC website.

<http://nsrac.org/category/meetings/>

NSAC Updates

Please feel free to pass this update onto anyone who you consider may be interested in receiving it. To register to receive the update or to stop receiving it please e-mail us at admin@nsrac.org

Contact Us

<http://www.nsrac.org>

admin@nsrac.org

Tel.

+44 (0) 784 111 7625

Follow us on

Twitter @northseaac

Facebook northseaac