



**NSAC**

# North Sea Advisory Council Stakeholders Update

October 2015

Update No. 8

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## NSAC Prepares for the Landing Obligation

The work of the North Sea Advisory Council has continued to move forward this year. As expected it has been a very busy year for our members as we prepare for the implementation of the Landing Obligation in January 2016. This has seen us attend more than double the number of meetings to provide guidance and information to interested parties.

Over the year we have worked with the Scheveningen Group of fisheries Directors and related technical groups in the preparation of the Joint Recommendation, Discard Plan for Demersal Fisheries in the North Sea.

In May we published our advice “[The Implementation of the EU Landing Obligation for the Demersal Fisheries of the North Sea: Exemptions and Other Issues](#)” and since then we have continued to work on other areas including, quota uplift, monitoring control and enforcement, quota uplift and choke species. We have also continued to work closely with the European Commission on the review of the technical measures.

Our work has however not been completely focused on the Landing Obligation and we have continued to work to provide advice in many areas. Our work in Marine Spatial Planning continues and we have met with a number of Member States to discuss their proposed measures for implementing the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. We have also recently published advice on Pulse Fishing and Brown Shrimp.

In September we held our annual General Assembly which was hosted by the Belgian Government in Brussels. Our members approved a work plan for the coming year which will see us continue to work actively in many areas.

All of these ongoing activities will only be possible by continuing to strengthen our links with scientists, member states, Members of the European Parliament and other organisations. We look forward to another challenging and productive year.

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Niels Wichmann  
NSAC Executive Committee Chairman

## NSAC General Assembly

The 12<sup>th</sup> NSAC General Assembly was held in Brussels on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Our hosts were the Belgian Government who provided an excellent meeting venue.

Our members agreed our plan for the coming year which will see us work in the following areas;

### Landing Obligation.

As the Landing Obligation is applied in the North Sea we will work to provide advice on choke species, quota uplift, flexibilities, documentation, monitoring control and enforcement, survivability and *de minimis*.

### Mixed Fisheries

We will contribute towards the development of a mixed fish plan for the North Sea. We will give particular consideration to the integration of cod management into a mixed fisheries plan including how to develop a set of harvest control rules and how to manage trade-offs.

### Long Term Management Plans

Within the context of the emerging mixed fisheries management plan we will work towards the development of multi-annual management plans for Seabass, brown shrimp in the North Sea, sole in the Skagerrak and Kattegat and *Pandalus borealis* in the Skagerrak.

### Marine Spatial Planning

NSAC will continue to meet with offshore renewable developers to understand and influence their plans. We will continue to cooperate with Member States as they develop their plans for implementing the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

### Technical Measures

NSAC will engage with the European Commission and the Scheveningen group on the development of a revised framework for technical measures for the North Sea.

Thank you to the Belgian Government, our hosts of the 2015 General Assembly.



Left to right; Emiel Brouckaert, Managing Director, Rederscentrale, Marc Welvaert, Director, Department Landbouw & Visserij and Niels Wichmann, Chairman NSAC Executive Committee.

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## NSAC Advice Published

Since our last newsletter our members have published the following advice and policy documents;

[A Long Term Management Plan for North Sea \*Nephrops\*](#)

[Development of a New Framework for Technical Measures in the Reformed CFP.](#)

[The Implementation of the EU Landings Obligation for the Demersal Fisheries of the North Sea: Exemptions and Other Issues.](#)

[Advice on a Mixed Fishery Plan for the North Sea](#)

[Use of Pulse Trawls in the North Sea](#)

[Advice on the Brown Shrimp Road Map provided by ICES](#)

Click on the titles to download the advice papers.

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## NSAC Welcomes New Members

This year we have welcomed 2 new members to our Executive Committee. The Dutch Elasmobranch Society and Oceana have joined bringing with them a range of experiences that will broaden the knowledge within the NSAC membership.

If your organisation is interested in joining NSAC as a member of the General Assembly please contact [admin@nsrac.org](mailto: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](http://www.nsrac.org) .

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## Forthcoming NSAC Meetings

Forthcoming NSAC meetings planned are;

Demersal Working Group, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015, Hamburg  
Executive Committee Meeting, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016, London  
Executive Committee Meeting, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016, Netherlands tbc  
General Assembly, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016, Netherlands tbc

Full details of these meetings and links to registration are on the NSAC website.  
<http://nsrac.org/category/meetings/>

Observers are welcome to attend.

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## 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](mailto:admin@nsrac.org) .

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