



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF  
RÉGIONAL POUR  
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES  
SEPTENTRIONALES

**NORTH WESTERN  
WATERS**  
REGIONAL ADVISORY  
COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO  
REGIONAL PARA  
LAS AGUAS  
NOROCCIDENTALES



**NSRAC**

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**Steering Committee of the Proposed Cod Recovery Symposium  
Meeting on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2006  
Aberdeenshire Council Offices, Aberdeen**

*Proposed Symposium Dates: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2007  
Proposed Venue: Glasgow/Edinburgh*

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Present:

Hugo Andersson – Chair, NSRAC

Patricia Comiskey - NWWRAC

Ann Bell - NSRAC

Sean O'Donoghue – KFO – NWWRAC

Tony Hawkins – NSRAC Rapporteur

Tom Pickerell – WWF

Barbara Strathern - SEERAD

Robin Cook -

Barrie Deas - NSRAC / NWWRAC

Mike Park - NSRAC

*Apologies: Alan McCulla, Neils Wichman & Miriam Garcia Ferrer*

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Hugo welcomed all present to the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee for the Symposium.

The proposed agenda was accepted by all present after Hugo added the item 'Date of Next Meeting' to the end of the agenda.

Following discussions on the Symposium which took place at the Joint RAC meeting on September 14th in Schipol, Hugo invited Tony to present his summary of the discussions, and the following points then arose:

**Support /Participation of The Commission**

A correction to the minutes of the Schipol discussions was proposed, clarifying that funding will NOT be sought directly from the Commission for this Symposium. The Commission has, however, agreed to participate, and Miriam Garcia Ferrer has expressed her intention to attend discussions around the Symposium which may take place at the NSRAC Executive Meeting, which is scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> November in Brussels.

## **Timing of Seminar**

It was suggested that perhaps the end of a week would be better for fishers participation. It was proposed the Seminar be reduced to 1.5 days, to facilitate a greater potential attendance – possibly a full day Friday and half-day Saturday.

## **Format of Symposium**

*After a lengthy discussion on the format of the Symposium, a revised 2-day programme was produced by the Group which is placed at the end of these minutes.*

It was agreed that while the Commission had offered to fund the Symposium itself, as a scientific conference allowing expert speakers the opportunity to express their own ideas, the Commission's offer had been declined by the group in Schipol. The RACS had a different idea of what was needed:- ie. An inter-active conference with plenty of dialogue to help the RACs formulate concrete ideas on the future of cod recovery.

The Symposium would therefore be an Interactive Symposium or Seminar, rather than a traditional format Scientific Conference.

There would be a main theatre-type conference room or lecture theatre for plenary sessions and presentations from the invited speakers, and four break-out rooms set up in round-table format for the discussion groups. As the discussion groups would be area based they could have different translation arrangements.

**All agreed that the RACs should do their utmost to engage fishers and NGOs to attend this seminar. The seminar must be of significant relevance to stakeholders.**

Fishers/NGOs should feel compelled to attend the seminar, and this should affect how it is designed and advertised.

The way we advertise the Dates, Venue, and format will be critical to recruit relevant participation. It is crucial that we get the title right and make the programme sound interesting. A very detailed press release could be issued which outlines the format of the seminar and its aims.

## **Post-Seminar Strategy**

Hugo reminded the group that the aim of the seminar is to combine the best possible scientific knowledge with fishers' experience to assist the RACs in proposing a way forward.

The Symposium should have a significant impact on the RACs, enabling them to bring forward their opinions on cod recovery to the Commission. The seminar is not necessarily aiming to present a single consensus view, but rather it will gather opinions and thinking that can influence the arguments that the RACs will make subsequently to the Commission.

A suggestion was made to conclude the 1.5 day seminar with a half-day discussion session with RACs/Commission, ie. a post-seminar discussion at which the RACs could formally present the Commission with their opinions/ideas. Later, it was agreed that each of the RACs should do this later, once the report of the seminar was

available and had been digested. Each RAC could use the information from the seminar to develop its view on cod recovery for further discussion with the Commission & Member States.

### **Seminar Venue**

Possible venues were considered, given the original proposal to host the meeting at a port location, eg. Peterhead / Thyburon West Jutland, to enable the participation of local fishers. However, it was felt that hosting the seminar at these venues wouldn't necessarily attract a large or relevant attendance of fishers from different countries. Hence these venues were turned down in favour of the more accessible possibilities of Glasgow & Edinburgh. The Secretariats agreed to pursue venue possibilities at these locations as soon as possible.

### **Number of Participants**

Discussion took place around the ideal number of participants for the Symposium. 100-150 participants was deemed desirable with a significant proportion made up of fishers.

As general discussions are virtually impossible with 100 people at a conference, it was proposed that participants be divided into 4 parallel, area-based working groups, with all the groups addressing the same question, but from various area-based viewpoints.

Just over 100 is an ideal number, giving 25-30 per group... (ie. 4 discussion groups). Each group would include a mix of people from different disciplines:

- Scientists
- Economists
- Managers
- Fishers
- NGOs
- Fish processors & retailers

We could possibly allocate a coloured badge to people upon entry, into various groups to enable groups to identify the same questions, but mix the groups so that we don't have the industry grouped separately from NGOs, scientists, etc.....

### **Speakers**

*See 2-Day Programme with potential speakers listed. All speakers would be asked to produce 500 word summaries of their presentations in advance for translation.*

Additional speaker names proposed included:

Jake Rice – Canada. In the event George Rose was chosen with Jake Rice as a possible back-up.

Jon Krisjansson – Icelandic speaker – However, it was decided that he is not a cod specialist. A cod scientist from the Marine Research Institute Iceland was required.

Menakhem Ben-Yami

Jorgen Lockegaard - Fisheries Economist – Danish Fisheries Institute

## **VIP Representations**

The Scottish pre-dinner speaker should be Ross Finnie, the Fisheries Minister  
Commissioner Borg and/or Holmquist would be asked to open the Seminar  
John Farnell's replacement (Pribe) should be invited.

Should we invite all fisheries ministers?

Holmquist would sum up and give his reflections On the meeting, preceded by others  
who would also give their brief reflections.

## **FUNDING**

DEFRA and SEERAD have offered to help with funding of the Symposium, and a  
meeting to move this initiative forward will take place with DEFRA, SEERAD and  
the RAC Secretariats in Aberdeen tomorrow morning. It is possible that the  
Commission might fund the translation facilities, or that this could be funded from the  
RAC translations budgets.

A group brainstorm on funding possibilities took place, with the following being  
discussed:

As there would be a limited budget we would charge a Registration fee – eg. £50 to  
cover meals, etc. A separate fee could be payable for each day in case some  
participants were only able to attend the second day

Is it appropriate to ask Member States to pay for speakers/participants to come?

A local organisation might be persuaded to provide a lunch/dinner.....

Required Languages:

French, Eng, Dutch, Scandinavian, German, but not all the discussion groups would  
require the full range of interpreters

A website linked to existing RAC websites –

Registration Leaflet /Poster advertisement of Symposium Inserted into fishing press

The Registration leaflet would be required in several languages.

The leaflet should contain the various issues to be covered and the content of the  
meeting and should stress the breakdown into geographical areas to attract wide  
attendance

Possible Symposium title: "A NEW COD RECOVERY PLAN?"

Public Relations – VERY IMPORTANT

**We should invite *Fishing News OR Fish Update* to participate in the symposium  
by offering funding/advertising.**

Additional Sponsorship for speakers might be sought from different participants.

The Date of the Next Meeting of the Steering Committee was set for:

The Morning of **16<sup>th</sup> November Wed. 2006. in Brussels**

(to coincide with the NSRAC ExCom. Meeting)

## Draft Agenda

### Symposium on the European Cod Recovery Plan

Organised by  
The North Sea RAC and the North Western Waters RAC

Purpose: To combine current scientific, socio-economic and fisheries stakeholder knowledge and expertise of the cod fisheries in the North Sea and North Western Waters in order to consider whether and how the cod stocks in these areas may be recovered. The outputs from the symposium will be used by the North Sea and North Western Waters RACs in producing advice for the Commission and Member States on cod recovery in the areas they cover.

#### DAY 1

Welcome & Introduction

Chairperson Day 1: Hugo Andersson

Chairperson Day 2: Sam Lambourn

Topics to be addressed by the meeting as a whole and by the initial speakers:

- Causes of the cod decline
- Success/Failure of management measures
- Is cod recovery possible?
- What measures will be needed to deliver cod recovery?

#### Morning

Welcome

Hugo Andersson

Keynote speech

Commissioner Joe Borg

#### **Session: Background**

**Chair: Paul Connolly**

ICES Speaker

Martin Pastoors

Commission

Ernesto Penas Lado

Canada

George Rose

Iceland

Jóhann Sigurjónsson

Faroe

Jon Kristiansson

*Break*

Economic Factors

Paval Salz/Jorgen Lockegaard

Environmental Change

Chris Reid

Control and Enforcement

Peter Gullestad

*Lunch*

#### **Session: Stakeholder's Reflections**

**Chair: Hugo Andersson**

Environmentalist Perspective

Euan Dunn/ Matthew Gianni

Fishing Industry Perspective

Barrie Deas

Consumer / Retailer Perspective

ASDA/M&S/Waitrose

Processor Perspective

(Mike Parker) Young's Bluecrest

**Working sessions, each to be addressed at the beginning by Area Expert & an Industry speaker**

- North Sea / Kattegat *Chair: Neils Wichman, Rapp: Coby Needle, Expert: Robin Cook, Industry: Mike Park*
- West of Scotland *Chair: Helen McL., Rapp: Bertie A., Expert: Norman Graham, Marine Inst. Irl. Industry: Sean O'Donoghue*
- Irish Sea *Chair: Lorcan O' Cinneide. Rapp: Tom Pickerell Expert: Paul Connolly/Ciaran Kelly Marine Inst. Irl, Industry: Alan McCulla*
- Celtic Sea: *Chair: Sam Lambourn Rapp: Jason Whooley Expert: Alan Bisseau IFREMER Industry: Jacques Pichon*

*(SECRETARIATS to contact all the above people re; their participation)*

All four parallel Working Groups will address the same questions:

- Is Cod Recovery Possible?
- What Measures will deliver Cod Recovery?

**DAY 2**

**Chair: Sam Lambourn**

**Feedback from work shops - 4 x Rapporteurs - 15 min each**

- Tony Hawkins
- Bertie Armstrong
- Tom Pickerell
- Jason Whooley

**“Reflections from the Commission”**

*(following them having met with the 4 rapporteurs on the previous evening)*

**4 x AREA-BASED BREAK OUT SESSIONS**

North Sea	<i>Chair: Natalie Steins</i>	<i>Rapp: David Wilson</i>
West of Scotland	<i>Chair: Euan Dunne</i>	<i>Rapp: Michael Keatinge</i>
Irish Sea	<i>Chair: Sean O'Donoghue</i>	<i>Rapp: Lyndsay Harris DEFRA</i>
Celtic Sea	<i>Chair: Jacques Pichon</i>	<i>Rapp: Carl O'Brien</i>

**A NEW COD RECOVERY PLAN - HOW TO DELIVER THIS IN PRACTICE?**

- What roles should the RACs play in this new process?
- Inefficiencies created by management regimes

**Report from various Day 2 Working Groups**

**REFLECTIONS:**

- **Member States**
- **European Parliament**
- **Norway** **Petter Mier**
- **Commission** **Jorgen Holmquist**

Plenary session

Close

Preparation of a full report on the meeting by the Rapporteur.