

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Joint MAC/NWWAC/NSAC Focus Group on Brown Crab

Brussels, 3 November 2020

Rationale

The main EU producing countries of brown crab (*Cancer pagurus*) were originally Ireland, the United Kingdom and France. Recently, the focus moved to the North Sea, while fishing effort increased and entrants joined from a growing range of EU countries.

Following a steady price decrease, the European project ACRUNET was established in 2010, which aimed to ensure and sustain the economic viability of the European brown crab industry through transnational co-operation. In 2016, NWWAC established a Focus Group on Crab to address the unresolved issue of transnational management.

In 2019, the MAC adopted an [advice](#) to the European Commission on the testing for cadmium levels in brown crab exported to the People's Republic of China. This year, NWWAC adopted an [advice](#) on brown crab management. In their [reply](#), the European Commission's welcomed the proposal from NWWAC to establish a joint Focus Group to identify common difficulties and possible solutions to supply chain issues, including different regulatory measures between the EU and Asian destinations for brown crab exports.

Purpose

- Overview of previous work by MAC and NWWAC on brown crab
- Preparation of joint advice on brown crab supply chain issues for the consideration of the relevant Working Groups and potential adoption by the Executive Committees

Proposed outcomes

- Draft advice with a series of recommendations to the European Commission and relevant EU Member States on the brown crab supply chain issues, such as:
 - Management measures
 - Collection of information on fishing effort
 - Sanitary requirements
 - Transport and export to third countries
 - Regulatory alignment with third countries
 - Strategies and preparation for unforeseen circumstances (i.e. Pandemics)
 - Adequate consumer information
 - Potential communication tools and information sources for operators

Composition of the Focus Group

Maximum of four members per AC participating on the basis of knowledge of the issue under discussion, while striving for a fair representation of the different stakeholders.

Working languages

- English

Timeline

- First FG meeting in November 2020
- Dates of additional meetings to be determined by FG members
- Regular progress reports to the relevant Working Groups
- Presentation and final report to the corresponding Working Groups and Executive Committees by September 2021

Location

- Meetings via virtual conferencing
- Possibility of in-person meetings at a later stage, if national safety rules allow
- Distribution of information and documents electronically

Resources, inputs and external sources

- Regulatory framework of the brown crab fisheries
- Data from the European Commission and the Member States on MCRS, landings, stock fluctuations, seasonality, route to market, and other parameters
- Input from members

Focus Group structure

- Chairperson: TBD by FG members
- Secretariat: Pedro Reis Santos (MAC)

Focus Group member organisations

ADVISORY COUNCIL	SECTOR	ORGANISATION	REPRESENTATIVE
MAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aquaculture - Processing - Processing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EMPA - Visfederatie - PSPR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sarah Horsfall - Mike Turenhout - Jarosław Zieliński
NWWAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Catching - Catching - Catching - Catching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KFO - ISWFPO - CRPMEM Hauts-de-France - CRPMEM Hauts-de-France 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Norah Parke - Patrick Murphy - Anaïs Roussel - Stéphane Pinto
NSAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Catching - Catching - Catching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DFPO - VisNed - German Fishermen Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michael Andersen - Geert Meun - Peter Breckling