

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