

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Joint NWWAC/NSAC/MAC Workshop on Brown Crab

XX February 2023

Rationale

In autumn 2022 the North Western Waters AC, the North Sea AC and the Market AC set up a joint Focus Group on Brown Crab to follow on from previous joint work and to specifically work on:

- Overview of previous work by NWWAC, NSAC and MAC on brown crab
- Overview of outcomes from the ACRUNET project
- Preparation of joint advice on brown crab fisheries management and supply chain matters for the consideration of the relevant Working Groups and potential adoption by the Executive Committees
- Review the impact of emerging environmental issues such as:
 - o Possible threat to brown crab populations due to rising sea temperatures, invasive species, new infections
 - o MPA, which limit fishing opportunities but may improve Crab survival – finding a balance
 - o Necessary reduction in emissions which will negatively affect fishing effort and the supply chain (in particular live transport: both vivier and air freight of live crab)
- Review the role of EU (DG SANTE & TRADE) regarding brown crab
- Review the route to market(s) and identify obstacles/solutions
- Develop clear guidelines for industry regarding exports to Asian countries
- Follow up on DG SANTE proposals to introduce levels for inorganic arsenic

In preparation for this workshop, the Focus Group met monthly since October 2022 gathering background information and initiating dialogues with experts on the topic.

Purpose

- To bring together stakeholders from all three Advisory Councils and representatives from the scientific community to discuss in detail and progress the following issues:
 - a. Management measures – co-management in the North Sea - grading (regulation vs market)
 - b. - Collection of information on fishing effort and fleet structures
 - c. - Potential communication tools (harmonised and agreed grading approach) and information sources for operators (ACRUNET?)
 - d. - Specific socio-economic challenges for stakeholders in this fishery.
 - e. - Better informed industry particularly regarding potential markets and supply

- f. Supply chain issues including potential guidelines for industry regarding exports to Asian countries

Proposed outcomes

- Workshop report
- Advice with a series of recommendations to the European Commission and relevant EU Member States on brown crab supply chain issues

Workshop participants

- Members of the joint NWWAC/NSAC/MAC Focus Group Brown Crab
- ICES
- Representatives from national research and development institutes, including the Marine Institute, BIM, Wageningen University, IFREMER
- UK representatives, e.g., scientists from Defra, Cefas

Working languages

- English (consider simultaneous interpretation for French)

Location

- In-person workshop in CNPMMEM, Paris, XX May 2023
- Distribution of information and documents electronically

Resources, inputs and external sources

- Previous advice on brown crab from NWWAC, NSAC and MAC
- Background information on stock status from Member States
- Results from ACRUNET project
- Reports from ICES WGCRAE
- Additional contributions from COM, national marine research institutes, national seafood development agencies (STECF?, ICES?)

Cost

- Travel for members and experts
- Interpretation?

Draft agenda

09:00 – 09:10	Welcome & introductions
09:10 – 09:15	Video
09:15 – 09:35	ICES? STECF?
09:35 – 09:50	Presentation
09:50 – 09:55	Video
09:55 – 10:10	Presentation
10:10 – 10:25	Presentation
10:25 – 10:40	Coffee break
10:40 – 11:30	Roundtable discussions in small breakout groups
11:30 – 11:35	Video
11:35 – 12:30	Roundtable discussions in small breakout groups
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 – 14:30	Roundtable discussions in small breakout groups
14:30 – 14:35	Video
14:35 – 15:30	Plenary sessions on results from breakout sessions
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 – 16:25	Plenary summary & next steps
16:25 – 16:30	Close