

**RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE NORTH WESTERN WATERS REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
SUB-AREA WORKING GROUPS**

**Introduction**

1. The Regional Advisory Council for the North Western Waters will concern itself with fisheries issues within the EC waters of ICES Area V, VI & VII. Given the size of the area, the fisheries specific areas and the individual ecosystems within this coverage it proposed that four working groups be established based on clearly defined, sub-areas.
  - i. ICES areas Vb (EC) VIa, VIb;
  - ii. ICES areas VII (except d, e & a);
  - iii. ICES areas VIIId & VIIe;
  - iv. ICES area VIIa.

**Names**

2. Based on these Sub-Areas the Working Groups shall be named respectively:
  - i. West of Scotland Working Group;
  - ii. Western Approaches, West of Ireland & Celtic Sea Working Group;
  - iii. English Channel Working Group;
  - iv. Irish Sea Working Group;

**Objectives**

3. The objectives of the working groups shall be to assist the Executive Committee in developing fishing-area-specific proposals and advice within the overall objectives of the North Western Waters RAC.

**Remit**

4. The Working Groups will work through the Executive Committee to:
  - i. *Submit suggestions, of their own accord or at the request of the Commission or a Member State, on matters relating to fisheries management;*
  - ii. *Give an opinion on Commission or Member State proposals on conservation and management dealing with a fishery relevant for the region concerned;*
  - iii. *Comment on and recommend improvements in the implementation of the Community legislation in the region concerned;*
  - iv. *Conduct any other activities which are necessary to fulfill their functions.*

**Powers**

5. The Executive Committee of the RAC will coordinate the day-to-day activities of the RAC and its Working Groups and will be the final arbitrator of all advice and opinion issued by the RAC. Working Groups will report directly to the Executive Committee and will operate within prescribed rules and procedures established by the RAC. Working Groups may exercise latitude appropriate to the diversity of characteristics and fisheries that fall within their remit, when undertaking their work programme.
6. These groups shall not preclude any changes to the area coverage of the Working Groups, the establishment of additional issue-focused Working Groups, or any other sub-groups, at the determination and direction of the Executive Committee.

**Membership**

7. To ensure that Working Groups are sufficiently large to include all those with an appropriate interest, yet small enough to provide an appropriate working environment.
8. Voting members of Working Groups must be members of the NWWRAC.
9. The Executive Committee will be responsible for the appointment of members of Working Groups.
10. Nominations to Working Groups will be forwarded to the Member States for information.

11. Member organisations of the NWWRAC that nominate members to a Working Group, should so far as is practicable, ensure that there is appropriate continuity of membership.
12. Working Groups will actively encourage the participation of relevant observers in their work.

#### **Chairpersons of Working Groups**

13. Working Groups will select, by consensus or by a vote as appropriate, a Chairperson from amongst their members.
14. A Chairperson of a Working Group who is also an elected member of the Executive Committee will retain the right to vote on all matters at all meetings of the Executive Committee.
15. A Chairperson of a Working Group who is not also an elected member of the Executive Committee will attend Executive Committee meetings as an active (non-voting) observer.
16. Working Groups will submit recommendations in writing to the Executive Committee for consideration. The Chairperson of a Working Group will speak for the Working Group and will be responsible for liaison with the Executive Committee on all matters relevant to the Working Group.

#### **The Secretariat**

17. The Secretariat to the North Western Waters Regional Advisory Council shall be Secretariat to the Working Groups and shall perform all duties as outlined in the Rules and Procedures of the North Western Waters RAC.

#### **Organisation of Meetings**

18. Working Group meetings will **not** take place at the same time as the Executive Committee but will meet consecutively over a number of days in advance of Executive Committee meetings.
19. Working Group meetings will be simultaneously conducted in French, Spanish and English where necessary.

#### **Amendments to the Rules of Procedure**

20. These Rules of procedure shall be agreed by the Executive Committee.

#### **Dissolution**

21. Dissolution of any Working Group shall require a two-thirds majority of the members of the Executive Committee.