

Joint AC Seminar Impact of Post-Brexit Functioning of Advisory Councils

View Scottish Industry

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Overview

- Brexit will change fishery landscape – in some shape or form
- Shone a spotlight on fishery sector
- Hot topic in Brussels and London
- Draft agreed text's - Withdrawal agreement and Future Economic Partnership
- Strong commitment to work closely on sustainable management joint stocks

UK – AC Participation

- UK has engaged enthusiastically in AC's
- Played a key role in establishment of AC's
- Value greatly work undertaken
- Have taken on positions as chairs in WG's and Executive Committees during the period
- Scottish perspective committed to working within AC's until no longer possible to be members

What do Advisory Council do best?

- Respective AC's work load covers a breadth of policy areas e.g.
 - Policy consultation response
 - Some AC's provide end of year TAC advice
 - Development of long term management strategies
 - Increasing engagement in fisheries science

UK Observer Status in AC's

- Some discussion about UK stakeholders being invited to attend AC's as observers
- Not sure how much buy in there will be from EU or UK stakeholders
- Need to split meeting in two parts
 - Internal EU affairs
 - Common interest issues
- Su-optimal as does not recognize new situation of co-management between EU and UK

UK Fishery Consultation Bodies

- In Scotland – Fishery Management Advisory Committee (FMAC)
- Participants – Industry, NGO's, Government (Policy & Science)
- Created when cod recovery plan implemented – now meets ad hoc
- Assumption - FMAC will be strengthened post Brexit
- Not certain – but believe similar structure exists in England

UK Fishery Consultation Bodies

- One option may be for the UK stakeholders within these groups to organise themselves in an AC type body
- Would provide a structure to meet with EU AC's
- Establish a ToR and identify issues of common interest
- Attendee numbers would need to be manageable – otherwise difficult to agree any valuable output
- Meeting frequency bi-annually?

International Pelagic Collaboration

- International pelagic collaboration has improved in recent years
- Brexit provides right opportunity to build on this
- European industry fully engaged in scientific projects – some with Norway
- Collaboration has come about through MSC work
- Harmonization of fishery conditions and soon also timelines
- EU, Norwegian, Faroese and Icelandic industry have met on two successive years – working on joint action plan

International Pelagic Collaboration

- Currently facing challenges with 3 key stocks – mackerel, ASH and blue whiting
- No comprehensive sharing agreement – can't carry on indefinitely
- Not role of industry to conduct negotiations or set management measures
- Brexit offers opportunity to create a North East Atlantic Pelagic Forum to discuss these issues
- It would require EU/UK industry to take the initiative

- Several years ago pelagic sector asked NEAFC possibility to create industry committee under auspices of NEAFC
- Did not find favour from Secretariat and some Contracting Parties
- Much has changed since - including people who blocked the idea
- Would be right organisation to anchor such a NEA Pelagic Forum

Summary

- UK industry very open to engagement with EU AC's post Brexit
- Essential to work together in sustainable management of joint stocks
- Possibility to create UK group to meet with AC's
- Believe Brexit offers opportunity to create a North East Atlantic Pelagic Forum – needs to include Norway, Faroe Islands and Iceland