



WG2

Date : February 28th, 2018, 14h-17h30

Venue: Comité National de la Conchyliculture (CNC), 122 rue de Javel, 75015 Paris, France

Attendants: **Angeles Longa** (Chair), Paul Denekamp (Vice-Chair), Cécile Fouquet (Secretariat), César Dro (Secretariat), Bruna Campos (BirdLife Europe), Bruno Guillaumie (EMPA), Eoin Mac Aoidh (DG MARE), Marc-Philip Buckhout (Seas at Risk), Richie Flynn (IFA Aquaculture), Sarah Horstall (SAGB), Wouter van Zandbrink (CEP), Belén Quintana (Archipelagos), Pier Antonio Salvador (Copa), Andrea Fabris (API), Audrey Lainé (CNC), Stéphane Alleaume (CRC Bretagne Nord), Mohamed Soula (ANFACO)

Excused : Silvia Lourenco (LPN), Erik Bjorn Olsen (Danish Society for a Living Sea), Denise Ade (Deutscher Tierschutzverband e.V.), Jean Christophe Raymond (CNPMEM), Dr. Neil Auchterlonie (IFFO), Jamie Smith (Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation), Karin Dubsky (Coastwatch), Célia Potdevin (CLCV)

Abbreviations: European Commission (EC), Member States (MS), Working Group (WG), Working Programme (WP). TTX (tetrodotoxin), European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), Water Framework Directive (WFD), Executive Committee (ExCom), European Parliament (EP)

- **Point 1:** Welcome by the Chair (**Angeles Longa**, Mexillon de Galicia)
- **Point 2:** Approval of the agenda and the minutes of the previous session.

Due to the timing of the connexion via videoconference with the Commission, the minutes will be discussed and approved after the three presentations, agenda is approved.

- **Point 3:** Presentation on the disappearance of the EU Microbiology Laboratory, and talk about the TTX, By Paolo Caricato, EC, DG SANTE.

Paolo Caricato (DG SANTE) explained that the laboratory disappears because of Brexit, the transfer of competences to other laboratories will begin in March 2018 and should come to an end on the 31.12.2019). The activities of the CEFAS will be divided between the existing laboratories in Rome (specialised on the E.Coli), the Netherlands (Salmonella), Sweden (food viruses) and the Vigo biotoxins laboratory (classification duties).

On TTX: No action will be taken at the European level as long as more information has been collected and a method was agreed. The Dutch Government will continue its own action plan on TTX in the meantime, limited to the Dutch production.

The AAC Members asked for a better communication from the EC with stakeholders on the issue of the laboratory.

Chair: The TTX paper will contain the WG 2 comments and what the EC has just said, which corresponds to what is written in the report. It will then be sent to the ExCom for approval.

- **Point 4:** Presentation on the evaluation of the WFD, by Juan Pablo Pertierra, EC, DG ENVI

Juan Pablo Pertierra (DG ENVI): 2 documents are foreseen: an EU-wide report on the implementation of the WFD and individual reports from each MS. The EC will keep the AAC updated.

On the revision of the WFD, inputs are needed during the consultation period (the public consultation should be launched in August 2018, as soon as the analyses of the results are published). The AAC should contribute.

Chair: We can work on the basis of the EMPA document to develop an AAC position.

- **Point 5:** Presentation of the work in progress concerning the EU-funded study on the oyster's virus (baseline survey of Norovirus in oysters, by José Cortiñas Abrahantes (EFSA).

Mr. **José Cortiñas Abrahantes** (EFSA) made the presentation. The ppt. is available on the Members' part of the AAC website.

Questions / Comments:

- Is the 2-years control interval pertinent? Could this method be applied to production zones controls? What are the difficulties?
- One cannot associate a concentration to a risk.
- Is this type of methodology flexible enough to be used on other pathogens?
- Some ring tests use wrong S-curves and these laboratories use positives without S-curves. Do you have this kind of problems in your survey?

José Cortiñas Abrahantes: The study was designed to determine the presence or absence of Norovirus in an area, not to measure the levels of the virus in a given production site. We can use points of sampling to circumscribe areas in which we want to know the prevalence and variation of the Norovirus. We are not trying to assess the concentration, but rather to quantify the types of Norovirus that we can find. The sensitivity of the test is very high. The ISO standards that we use allowed us to differentiate between different types of virus as well.

Chair: This method could estimate the concentration of Norovirus at the exit of residual wastewater treatment plants so as to avoid penalising the people (shellfish producers) that suffer from this pollution.

José Cortiñas Abrahantes: We have developed a web application that can be used by the public in this objective.

- **Point 2:** Adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the previous WG2 meeting (October 25th, 2017)

Secretariat: The minutes of all WGs were sent to the Commission. The EC had no comments on WG2 minutes.

Vice-Chair: A remark on point 7 of the minutes: "Welfare up to consumers and not to producers". As such, it is a general responsibility for the whole chain.

Chair: Animal welfare does not depend on the producers. Producing well is the objective of any producer but it also depends on the quality of the waters, for which the sector is not responsible. The choice to eat or not is up to the consumer. **Minutes are approved.**

- **Point 6:** Post-2020 EU funding for fisheries and maritime sectors reflection – WG2 Contribution to AAC advice.

Chair: This point is also on WG1 and WG3 agenda. We need to reflect upon our specific needs towards this EU funding.

Note by the Secretariat: The final decision taken by the WGs on this point was that the AAC would not be able to provide the EC with a detailed answer in such a short timeframe. Members were encouraged to send their individual contributions to the EC.

- **Point 7:** Date and place of forthcoming meeting

Chair: Next meeting will be on May 16th in Brussels. There will be a preparatory meeting in Brussels beforehand. Further meetings of the AAC are scheduled as 3rd and 4th of October 2018, the WG2 meeting being on the 3rd.