



Executive Committee

Paris, CNC, 30th August (10:00-17:00)

Draft minutes

Date: 30 August 2018, 10:00-17:00

Venue: Comité National de la Conchyliculture, 122 rue de Javel, 75015 Paris

Attendants: **Marc-Philip Buckhout** (Vice-Chair), **Cécile Fouquet** (Secretariat), **Farid Safi** (Secretariat), **Bruna Campos** (BirdLife), **Phil Brooke** (CIWF), **Philippe Le Gal** (CNC), **Christine Absil** (Good fish Foundation) **Paul Denekamp** (Stichting Vissenbescherming), **Marco Gilmozzi** (FEAP), **Courtney Hough** (FEAP), **Giuseppe Prioli** (Associazione Mediterranea Acquacoltori), **Sarah Horsfall** (EMPA), **Balasz Kucska** (COGECA), **Pier Antonio Salvador** (COPA), **Angeles Longa Portabales** (Consello Regulador do Mexillón De Galicia), **Alexander Döring** (FEFAC), **Erik Bjorn Olsen** (Danish Society for a Living Sea), **Bruno Guillaumie** (Observer), **Floor Hulsken** (Observer).

Excused: **Wouter van Zandbrink** (CEP), **Addy Risseeuw** (PO Mosselcultuur), **Katie Miller** (Client Earth), **Jamie Smith** (Scottish Salmon Producers)

Delegation of votes: **Katie Miller** (Client Earth) to **Christine Absil** (Good Fish Foundation); **Jamie Smith** (Scottish Salmon Producers) to **Marco Gilmozzi** (FEAP)

Abbreviations: Member States (MS), Working Group (WG), Animal Welfare (AW), General Assembly (GA), Market Advisory Council (MAC)

1. Welcome by the Chair

Courtney Hough (FEAP) pays tribute to the AAC Chair Richie Flynn, who recently passed away. His Chair has been left empty during the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the previous ExCom meeting (March 22nd).

The agenda and the minutes of the previous ExCom meeting on 22nd of March were approved.

3. Level-playing field

Approval of draft WG1 position

The European Commission sent some comments on this text, suggesting that it had another understanding of what the Level Playing Field.

The Chair proposes to adopt the text as approved by WG1, as this is the AAC vision of what a Level Playing Field for the EU aquaculture should be.

The text is adopted.

Courtney Hough (FEAP) suggests that the AAC requests to be invited to the MAC's Focus group on the Level Playing Field. The Secretariat will send a request.

4. Labelling of caviar

Approval of draft WG1 position

OK for edition for the English languages.
The text is adopted.

5. Advice for the recovery of the European Eel stock

Approval of draft WG1 position

Jan Kappel (European Anglers Alliance) requests the following amendment to article 6 of the advice, to state accurately the 40% escape target:

“6. Provide adequate evaluation of management plans. Management plans put into practice must be assessed to benchmark them against the overall objective for the EU framework (at least 40 % escapement to the sea of silver eels, [relative to the escapement levels that would have existed in the absence of human influences](#)). “

Christine Absil (Good fish Foundation) commented that the effectiveness of restocking for the recovery of eel needs to be clearly stated in the document.

The document is adopted with Jan Kappel's and Christine Absil's changes and comments.

6. Open discussion on AAC advisory process in case of short deadlines

Official decision on OMC and FAO consultations

Both letters were approved.

Then, a discussion took place on the process to provide advices in case of short deadlines. Some structural changes were discussed but no decision taken.

Chair: We have identified some gaps in the statutes and the rules of procedure on which we need to launch a reflection, such as the role of the rapporteur. This reflection may be carried out in the framework of a focus group.

7. AAC Rules of Procedure

Vote on the proposed amendments

- Membership procedure

The AAC received a letter from a Member State administration asking not to accept an association as an AAC Members.

The prerogatives of Member States were unclear to the AAC ExCom Members on this matter (whether Member States only have to say if the organisation is a legal entity or give a more substantial backing to their national associations).

Chair: We will request a clarification to the EC. The answer will be circulated among the Members. New article 5 is thus put on the shelf for now.

- 60/40% weighting for vote in GA

In view of the lack of clarity of the text, ExCom Members requested to rephrase it.

Chair: The Secretariat will link with FEFAC (as this organisation weights votes within its members) to redraft the article. It will then be discussed at the General Assembly.

- Chair's expenses

Chair: The Secretariat and Chair will draft a budget line for non-reimbursed external meetings. The management Committee will decide on who attends (not necessarily the Chair).

- **Correct errors: art. 11/7**

It was agreed to correct errors at art. 11/7 of the Rules of Procedure.

8. AAC Statutes

Vote on the proposed amendments

- **Role of the Vice-Chair**

Chair: The Statutes will need to be revised to state the second vice-Chair (Marco Gilmozzi).

- **Status of the management Committee**

Chair: The amendment is agreed but sent to the Rules of procedure, not the Statutes. It must be clear that the group can meet when needed and by phone or Skype (“meets when needed, electronically if possible”).

- **Working Group Chairs’ group**

Chair: Add “meets when needed, electronically if possible”. Move to the Rules of Procedure.

- **Chair’s situation**

The Secretariat was asked to request the GA for an emergency procedure to designate the new Chair. The Secretariat will send a call for candidates to the ExCom.

9. Working group related topics:

- Working Group 1, Fish – update on state of play

Phil Brooke updates the ExCom on the work of WG1.

- Working Group 2, Shellfish – update on state of play

Angeles Longa Portabales updates the ExCom on the work of WG2.

- Working Group 3, Horizontal – update on state of play

Bruna Campos (BirdLife) updates the ExCom on the work of WG3.

Chair: The Secretariat will ask seaweed producer associations whether they would be interested in joining the AAC or not.

10. FEAP Animal Welfare letter

Marco Gilmozzi (FEAP): We received a request to be part of the Animal Welfare platform (DG SANCO) while the AAC is the place to talk about fish welfare. We must clearly state that the AAC is the body to talk to for aquaculture Animal Welfare issues.

Chair: Courtney Hough will take contact with the Greek Chair of this Fish Animal Welfare platform for a first insight.

11. AAC Membership applications

- *Update*

- *Approval of new Members:*

ROMFISH

EFFAB

IPPIF

RECIRKFISK

FAI CISL

All 5 applicants were approved by the ExCom and invited to the GA, although Pier Salvador (COPA) was against the entry of IPIFF into the AAC.

Chair: Request EFFAB and IPIFF to submit the list of their member organisations to the ExCom before the date of the GA and check that they have no academia Members.

12. Presentation of AAC progress budget 2017-2018

The Secretariat presented the progress budget for 2017-2018.

ExCom requested to try to organise WG1 and WG2 back to back in the same place, with Working Group 3 in the middle.

13. Adoption of AAC draft budget for 2018-2019

Approval of liability insurance proposal

The Secretariat presented the draft budget for 2018-2019.

Decisions taken after discussion:

- Put extra money from part B to part F.
- Leave the same amount of money for interpretation.
- Fund focus groups to improve AAC efficiency.
- Leave space to pay people who actually work for the AAC.
- Reduce the Chair's budget but still keep a provision for the next Chair. Move that money to the "other costs" to support Focus Groups.

14. AAC Work Programme 2018-2019

Approval

The ExCom Members note that:

- Research priorities are the most difficult items to enumerate.
- Further contacts with DG Growth, AGRI and SANTE are needed.
- DG MARE must centralise all regulations and let us know. What happened with the approval of the organic regulation, not being able to discuss it beforehand cannot happen again.

The Work Programme is approved without amendments.

15. Proposal of Calendar of meetings for 2018

To be discussed during the GA on September 13th.

16. Date and place of forthcoming meetings 2018

Working Groups are scheduled on October 3rd and 4th and the next ExCom is scheduled on October 17th (all in Brussels).

17. Any other business

[17:00h End of the meeting]