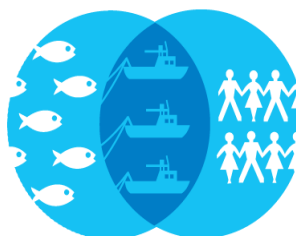




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WATERS**
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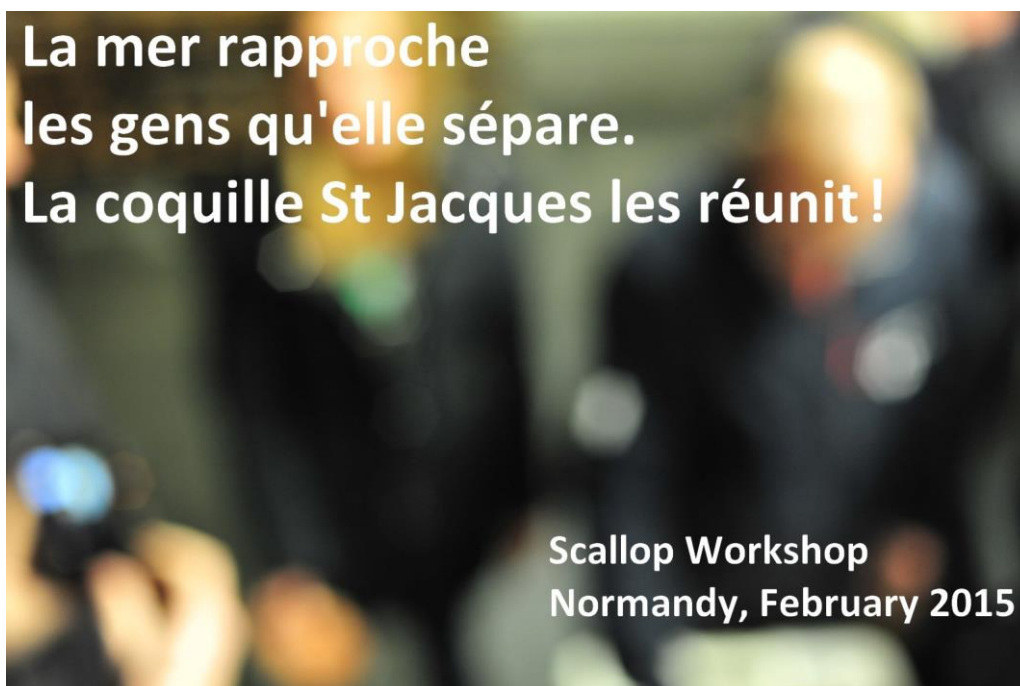


GAP

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**SECOND CHANNEL SCALLOP MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP:
GAP2 AND NORTH WESTERN WATERS ADVISORY COUNCIL (NWWAC)**

10 – 12TH FEBRUARY 2015, PORT EN BESSIN, FRANCE



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Photo Credit: Dimitro Rogoff (Normandie Fraicheur Mer)

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Executive Summary

A two-day workshop on the future management of the Channel scallop fishery was held in Port-en-Bessin, Normandy, France from 10 - 12 February, 2015. The event was attended by a diverse group of approximately 55 participants, including industry (fishermen and their representatives, quota managers, supply chain), government, academia, and environmental organisations (see Annex A for a full delegate list).

The workshop's purpose was to build on the dialogue and outputs from the first GAP2 Channel scallop workshop held in Brixham, England in April 2014¹. Organisers sought to inspire and motivate participants to engage in a process seeking commitment to a long-term management plan, thereby better ensuring the future health and success of the Channel scallop fishery.

The workshop was funded by GAP2² and logistical support was provided by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) UK, the Environmental Defense Fund EU Ocean Program, and the North Western Waters Advisory Council (NWWAC).

Delegate discussion converged upon three themes: 'leadership and governance', 'science and data', and 'management measures'. The main outputs/actions from these themes were documented by the GAP2 team³ and are set out below:

- **Establish a 'science and data working group' with the aim of designing regional protocols for data collection on both sides of the Channel.**
- **Recognise the need for harmonisation of management approaches without homogenisation and set up a 'management working group' exploring how best to achieve this.**



(Photo Credit: Dimitri Rogoff; Port en Bessin fish auction)

- **Convene a scallop focus group through the NWWAC Channel Working Group 3.**
- **Explore the potential for UK industry to undertake a selectivity trial of the French specification dredges.**

¹ <http://gap2.eu/gap2general/its-good-to-talk-channel-scallop-fishers-come-together-at-gap2-workshop/>

² GAP2 is an international EC funded research project <http://gap2.eu/>

³ The content of this report includes opinions and views from all participants during the course of the two-day event, and are not attached to any particular organisation or the GAP2 project.

The spirit of the workshop was open and constructive, and participants remained highly engaged in discussions throughout. The final report and key outputs will be presented at a future NWWAC meeting, most likely in Edinburgh during July 2015.

Section 1: Workshop outputs and emerging key themes

The Normandy workshop aimed to build on the dialogue and outputs from the first GAP2 Channel scallop workshop held in Brixham, with the following desired outcomes documented in advance of the event:

- Build on trust and good will developed during the Brixham Channel scallop event.
- Explore opportunities and practical next steps for enhanced data collection through an industry-led pilot that will trial innovative technologies to support industry-dependent data. Trials should be appropriately funded, and help to inform the scientific process.
- Develop a roadmap – created by participants – establishing a path towards agreeing a regional, long-term management plan for the Channel scallop fishery.
- Establish a co-management working group that builds on existing initiatives to progress Channel scallop management issues.



The workshop was designed with these outputs in mind and the two-day schedule was developed collaboratively with the aim of giving a voice to different perspectives. The team of facilitators – led by Edward Kellow of Kellow Learning⁴ and his co-facilitator Sophie des Clers – guided participants through a range of exercises including ‘reflections from Brixham’, updating the previous workshop’s ‘proposed roadmap’, and a session on ‘putting ideas into action’.

(Photo Credit: Dimitri Rogoff; Delegates in action)

On Day One, a significant amount of time was given to presentations covering a wide range of topics on science, technological approaches to data collection, management, markets and industry perspectives. A full list of presentations can be accessed here: <http://gap2.eu/gap2general/gap2-scallops-2015-the-presentations/>. During the ‘reflections’ exercise, there was much discussion about how participants on both sides of the Channel need to continue to listen and learn from different viewpoints and exchange ideas through solution-focused discussions. There was recognition that participants are all working towards the same goal: sustainable scallop fisheries in the Channel. Achieving this requires sustained collaboration

⁴ Kellow Learning provides facilitation services; more on the organization can be found here: <http://www.kellowlearning.com/>

and digging deep to find ways to manage the different fleets through a joined-up, strategic approach.

When asked to ‘put ideas into action’, there was the sense that now is the time for change. Discussions circled around finding ways to use existing and new research to create a baseline of information to inform next steps. It was also felt that science and management must come together through one strategic plan. Some participants felt the workshop could be even more action-oriented and were calling for clear next steps to drive forward change.

Day Two saw much more discussion about how to take steps forward, lending more time for dialogue and consensus building. Participants worked in three groups that focused on one of the three emerging themes – ‘science and data’, ‘management measures’ and ‘leadership and governance’. Highlights from these themes are set out below with a more detailed readout captured in Annex B of this report.

Science and Data

Science data was an important theme underpinning much of the workshop discussion. It was felt that there needs to be greater coordination of existing data using existing structures, alongside the collection of further data to enhance what we already know about Channel scallops. There was also recognition that a lot of data already exists for the scallop fishery - what is needed is a more standardised approach to data collection but a means to identify key evidence gaps, making use of synergies where possible. These points were identified as key in securing a robust evidence-base to inform future stock management. Industry has a pivotal role in exploring new ways to collect data and should be brought into the process.

It was noted that industry-led pilots to trial new and innovative data collection techniques could be a good way of getting a ‘snapshot’ of what is happening on the water and could be scaled up if they demonstrate success in terms of incorporating real-time industry data into the scientific evaluation process. Pilot sites would need to be carefully identified, along with securing willing industry participants. They could help develop ideas around appropriate monitoring and real-time survey techniques and explore the role of technology and spatial management to support this. Pilots should be adequately supported and funded with outputs of the group feeding into the ICES Scallop Working Group and the NWWAC.

Relevant scientific institutions should work together, along with industry professionals to agree standardised protocols that aim to develop a comprehensive scientific framework for Channel scallops. The role of ICES will be central to success. Industry should be fully incorporated into survey and monitoring design where fishermen understand the value of their input and what the outputs will be. This collaboration should help establish an over-arching scientific survey that covers all scallop stocks in the Channel through a shared scientific protocol.



(Photo Credit: Dimitri Rogoff; Port en Bessin fish auction)

Dialogue has already begun between Cefas, Ifremer and several academic institutions and this work should form the basis of a future science and data working. The most appropriate fora to take forward this work should be explored

Management Measures

It was felt that a more accurate picture of the Channel scallop fleet is needed to reflect current fishing activity and understand better the fleet differentiation. The WWF-funded socio-economic baseline study should go some way to inform what is happening in the Channel and help build a picture for future projects and research.

Future management scenarios must take into account the different fleet structures operating within the Channel as well as different approaches to fishing and management/science regimes. The idea that there should be a harmonised approach to management without a homogenised system was highlighted as an important concept for consideration in future planning and research. Area specific strategies that take into account regional differences but include joint management measures working towards the same over-arching goal would be a constructive approach.



More specifically, French participants were keen to agree joint technical measures with the UK, specifically for all UK vessels fishing in the Channel to conform to a 92mm belly ring size (to match French measures). The South West Fishermen's Producer Organisation (SWFPO) stated they would be willing to conduct a pilot, looking at selectivity options such as moving towards a 92mm ring size instead of 80mm ring size to improve selectivity.

Volunteers⁵ agreed to convene a small working group to take matters forward. This group should recognise the need for fishermen to work in different fleet segments in different ways but through a common vision to achieve shared goals. Such a working group could explore how best to achieve this within the socio-political context of the Channel scallop fishery. It could test ideas and new tools to help inform possible future management scenarios. The scope of the group, and how it feeds into other workstreams and initiatives at local and national level, will need further exploration and discussion.

(Photo Credit: Dimitri Rogoff; UK delegates examining bigger scallop ring size)

Leadership and Governance

Governance of Channel scallop management was a central theme of the workshop, including identifying what the governance model should look like and who should lead the engagement. A recommendation was made to use the existing structure of the NWWAC Channel Working Group

⁵ Claire Catherell, Eric Foucher, Richard Brouze, Sonia Muller

3 to establish a subgroup focusing specifically on scallop issues. By using the existing governance model for NWWAC Channel Working Group 3, the group collate the research and evidence from science and management workstreams and feed this into the development of a regional management plan for Channel scallops.

The focus group would need to include industry, government (observers), environmental organisations, scientists and academics to ensure adequate representation and full discussion. Emerging initiatives would be industry-led but supported by the workstreams. The group should have representation from all Member States involved, including Ireland and Belgium. There should be shared purpose and ways to achieve mutual goals across through sustained collaboration. The Chair of the NWWAC Channel Working Group 3 agreed to propose convening such a group at a future NWWAC meeting.

In terms of UK governance, it was discussed that UK administrations should examine the existing make-up of the Scallop Sustainability Working Group and evaluate whether broader representation would be beneficial. It is also important that UK fishing administrations consider how they can more effectively work with industry and industry-led initiatives to create mutual learning and support. There may be lessons to gather from the fishery-led approach taken in France, whilst respecting the institutional differences between the two countries. This point might be considered more thoroughly with UK industry and UK fishing administrations at a future Scallop Sustainability Working Group meeting.

Section 2: Building a roadmap of success towards a long-term management plan

The following attempts to bring together discussions over the two days, to shape next steps by categorising actions, priorities and outcomes from 6 months – 2 years. This process should help drive forward thinking, create forums for sustained collaboration, and create pathways to support and fund future work. Information is used both from the Normandy and Brixham workshops, producing a resulting map that, if followed through, could help steer the Channel scallop fishery towards a regional, long-term management plan.

Long-term (2 - 3 years): What success looks like

- **Clear goals/objectives agreed for Channel scallop management, endorsed by all Member States accessing the resource.** Developed within 6 months but realized within 1 – 2 years.
- **Management changes lead to a system of positive rewards, results, and responsibilities where fishermen feel supported in their fishing activities** and are able to fish to market, increasing quality and price of product. Greater security over investment leads to system of positive incentives and sustainable fishing.
- **Genuine bottom-up approach is embraced, where fishermen are part of all working groups that lead to supportive outcomes for the Channel scallop fishery.** All segments of the fleet are represented through co-management process and viewed as integral to data collection methods and in developing ideas for future management of the stock.
- **Long-term management plan is agreed through a co-management process.** Management plan is based on robust science and features measures that support future sustainability of the scallop stock.
- **Plentiful, healthy scallops in Channel with thriving ecosystems, improved access to UK and French markets, viable fleet contributing to thriving coastal communities.**
- **French and British fishermen work synergistically on the interpretation of European sanitary regulations concerning toxin ASP and DSP, during scallop shelling.**
- **Channel scallops used as model of success with positive media attention and potential for continued high investment and sustainability of the stock.**

Medium term (next 12 months)

- **Establish working groups on science and management, responsible for progressing research and reporting back.** Working group members provide evidence-based recommendations that evaluate future management and science needs of the Channel scallop fishery. These might include deepening understanding and problem-solving around:
 - ✓ Data collection techniques, involving industry input
 - ✓ Establishing pilots across Channel to test technological innovations to improve data collection techniques
 - ✓ Creating a standardised approach/protocol on sampling techniques
 - ✓ Collation of existing data and research to improve understanding
 - ✓ Assessment of whether spatial management or rolling closures might be a viable option for Channel scallop fisheries.
 - ✓ Evaluation of alternative management techniques, including potential for approaches that enable fishermen to plan more effectively, provide greater security and create positive incentives to fish sustainably
 - ✓ Review of UK management system, assessment of industry needs against regulatory landscape

- Outputs of working groups help inform the framework for a regional, long-term management plan for Channel scallop fisheries, supported in principle by the NWWAC by end 2015/early 2016.

Short term (next 6 month)

- **Establish a science and data working group, including fishing administration scientists, with the aim of designing regional protocols for data collection on both sides of the Channel.** Working group aids in the development of data collection pilots to trial new and innovative data collection techniques. (Action: Ewen Bell (Cefas) and Eric Foucher (Ifremer) coordinate as science leads from UK and France to set up new group that includes academic institutions and fishing administrations).
- **Establish a working group to examine management scenarios that recognise the need for harmonisation without homogenisation.** Working group considers other initiatives and seeks representation from groups such as Fishing Into the Future, the Scallop Sustainability Working Group, Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs), French POs and comités des pêches, etc. to establish potential partnerships and target funding collaboratively. (Action: led by those volunteering to set up group but with representatives across Channel and across different governing levels).
- **Convene a scallop focus group through the NWWAC English Channel Working Group 3.** This could be proposed at a future NWWAC meeting with the purpose of acting as a landing place for research and innovation and to progress a regional management plan for the fishery. (Action: Chair of NWWAC Channel Working Group 3 to propose at next meeting).
- **Explore the potential for UK industry to undertake a selectivity trial of the French specification dredges,** which use larger rings that are thought to improve selectivity by allowing smaller scallops to escape, mature and reproduce. This trial would see UK fishermen moving from a 80mm dredge to a 92mm dredge. (Action: SWFPO to lead trial in conjunction with French counterparts).
- **Outputs of WWF-funded socio-economic baseline study on Channel scallop fisheries presented to relevant groups and made widely available once published.** This study lays the foundation for future research and should help inform industry and government on potential future management options. The study should also help in targeting future funding opportunities (Action: WWF-UK and/or EDF to provide update at an upcoming NWWAC meeting, likely Edinburgh in July).
- **Create an action plan to govern the set up and execution of the working groups and include clear milestones, deliverables, and resources required to make plan a success.** This would require one or two organizations having oversight of all activities to streamline research into the NWWAC Channel scallop focus group (should such a group be established). This will help ensure linkages are made, and funding is directly targeted. This approach will help ensure success of the action plan. See Annex C for infographic on possible structure. (Action: EDF to lead with relevant groups).

Section 3: What happens next?

The scallop workshop organisation team continue to be committed to this project, despite the end of the GAP2 Project funding and in the absence of a WWF-project officer to lead the work. The team are currently identifying funding, such as EU Interreg, to support the work going forward. This team includes Erin Priddle (Environmental Defense Fund), Edward Kellow (Kellow Learning), John Hermes (Scallop Association), Giles Bartlett (independent), Ewen Bell (Cefas), Eric Foucher (Ifremer), and Rosie Maguida (Mindfully Wired). The CNPMEM will help too (Delphine Cioelk). There will also be follow up of additional contacts volunteering to pursue a working group on management of Channel scallops.

The next related event will be the NWWAC meeting held in Edinburgh during July. There will likely be an opportunity to present the report outputs, convene a scallop focus group and possibly hold a side meeting with key representatives to establish a partnership to target funding going forward. We intend to keep delegates and those interested in Channel scallop fisheries informed and encourage feedback and input to ensure sustained collaboration going forward.

Annex A : Participation List

Last Name	First Name	Organisation	Country
Bartlett	Giles	WWF UK	United Kingdom
Bates	Quentin	Fishing News International	United Kingdom
Becquet	Olivier	CRPMEM Haute Normandie	France
Bell	Ewan	Cefas	United Kingdom
Bonardelli	John	Shellfish Solutions AS	United Kingdom
Brouckaert	Emile	REDERSCENTRALE	France
Brouzes	Richard	OPBN	France
Carroll	Noel	ISEFPO	United Kingdom
Cathrell	Clare	Bangor University	United Kingdom
Charrier	Frédéric	FFSPM	France
Ciolek	Delphine	CNPMEM	France
Courtay	Gaelle	IFREMER	France
des Clers	Sophie	Kellow Learning (Co-facilitator)	France/UK
Dall'Agata	Juliette	Seaweb	France
Defrance	Dominique	FranceAgriMer	France
Favret	Margaux	MSC – France	France
Foucher	Eric	IFREMER	France
Françoise	Sylvaine	IFREMER	France
Françoise	Paul	Commission Coquillage du CNPMEM (Président)	France
Hermse	John	Scallop Association	United Kingdom
Hunter	Helen	DEFRA	United Kingdom
Joseph	Alice	FranceAgriMer	France
Kellow	Edward	Kellow Learning	United Kingdom
Lambert	Gwladys	Bangor University	United Kingdom
Laptikhovsky	Vladimir	Cefas	United Kingdom
Lefèvre	Daniel	Channel group of the NWW AC	France
Legalloudec	Fabien	DPMA (French Administration)	France
Mackinson	Steve	Cefas	United Kingdom
Marcellier	Marc-Adrien	Equalogy	France
McLennan	Shaun	DEFRA	United Kingdom
Muller	Sonia	CRPMEM Haute Normandie	France

Murray	Lee	Bangor University	United Kingdom
North	Chloe	MSC	United Kingdom
Pilgrim-Morrison	Sarah	MMO	United Kingdom
Portus	Jim	SWFPO (CEO)	United Kingdom
Priddle	Erin	Environmental Defense Fund	United Kingdom
Prudhomme	Jehane	CRPMEM Bretagne	France
Prust	Nick	SWFPO (Chairman)	United Kingdom
Raymond	Jean-Christophe	CNPMEM	France
Riou	Philippe	IFREMER	France
Rogoff	Dimitri	Normandie Fraicheur Mer	France
Romiti	G�rard	CNPMEM (Pr�sident)	France
Roncin	Delphine	CRPMEM Nord Pas de Calais Picardie	France
Rossiter	Tom	Succorfish	United Kingdom
Schapira	Mathilde	IFREMER	France
Schofield	Keith	Scallop Association	United Kingdom
Scott	Andy	Macduff Shellfish Ltd	United Kingdom
Seron	Jean-Louis	CRPMEM Haute Normandie	France
Spear	Iain	Scallop Association (Chairman)	United Kingdom
Stewart	Anne-Margaret	SWFPA	United Kingdom
Stokesbury	Kevin D.e.	ICES and University of Massachusetts (SMAST)	United Kingdom
Tindall	Charlotte	Consultant	United Kingdom
Ui Aodha	Caitlin	ISEFPO	United Kingdom
Venzat	Damien	Cobr�nord	France
Vimard	Mathieu	OPBN	France
Whelan	Ciaran	ISEFPO	United Kingdom
Young	Barry	SWFPO (Board Member)	United Kingdom

Annex B: Detailed discussion on the key themes arising

Governance and leadership

Governance of Channel scallop management was a central theme of the workshop, including identifying what the governance model should look like and who should lead the engagement. When questioned whether a separate group should be established to take forward Channel scallop issues, some participants responded that a system of co-management is already taking place and adding an additional layer onto this would be unnecessary and cumbersome. This discussion formed the basis for the recommendation to propose a small scallop focus group to operate through the NWWAC Working Group 3. The Chair of the NWWAC Channel Working Group 3 agreed to propose the idea of this group at an upcoming meeting.

There was general agreement that future work must be industry-led but supported by other interest groups that can add valuable knowledge and expertise on the governance, management and science themes. Industry must find a way to work together to better understand existing EU rules and how they are applied in practice, as well as to apply caution to further EU rules being imposed so decisions can be taken nationally as well as locally, where appropriate.

Governance should support sustained collaboration where all parties involved commit to achieving the mutual goal of achieving sustainable fisheries. This requires representatives from all Member States accessing the resource, including Ireland and Belgium in addition to the UK and France.

External working groups or future workshops should ensure adequate representation from the NWWAC. This will help ensure appropriate leadership and governance going forward.

Given the different approaches to scallop management between France and UK, some participants felt there should be a UK discussion on the benefits of a fishery-led approach and discuss whether there are opportunities for further learning and knowledge sharing on some of the benefits of the French system where industry professionals are closely involved in making management decisions. Such a discussion should examine how decisions are taken on both sides. For example, the UK Producer Organisations are voluntary so do not represent all segments of the fleet, whereas industry co-management in France is representative of the fleet and well integrated within the management system in France.

Questions were raised on how such a group would operate, including its roles and responsibilities (e.g. develop evidence-based policies), terms of reference and participation. It was felt it should be industry-led but supported by scientists and technical experts from the UK and France. How to ensure small scale UK interests are represented was raised and whether the Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities should be represented. It was also noted that UK Government should attend, but perhaps as observers as the constitution of the Advisory Councils do not allow Government as sitting members. However, arrangements to ensure UK initiatives are fed into the group would need to be in place. Recognising the different levels of governance between the two countries is important to generate best result for the fishery.

Management measures

It was felt that a more accurate picture of the characteristics of the Channel scallop fleet is needed. This picture should reflect current activity, fleet differentiation and the number of part-time vs. full-time fishermen. The WWF-funded socio-economic baseline study should go some way to inform what is happening in the Channel and help build a picture for future projects and research.

In terms of management, several participants observed that it is difficult to develop one management scenario for the Channel due to the nature of the fleet structure and different approaches to fishing for scallops. However, the need to explore what controls may be needed for the UK and French fisheries, and whether there could be harmonisation of existing measures, was noted. Management planning would need to be aware of these differences in any harmonisation exercise, with tailored solutions sought for developing area specific strategies in the different regions. For example, it was noted that ICES areas VIID&E are too big to have one management solution.

It is also important that management is tailored to a specific stock or zone and according to productivity (e.g. scallops in Eastern Channel have faster growth rates). Fishermen must be part of the planning process and need to validate the management plan through the appropriate forum, such as through a focus group of the NWWAC. Participants reiterated that any differences would need to be taken into account in any joint management measures for the Channel.

It was noted by several UK participants that they would like to fish less in summer but regulations prohibit this and mean that some fishermen have no choice but to fish all year around. These are the types of issues that a 'management working group' should be exploring.

There was support for the principle of harmonisation of measures in Area VIID but also appreciation for differences in cultural background (e.g. UK – business, France – family). Participants seemed to understand and respect this. Some collaborative measures discussed included the possibility for UK and French fishermen to fish with the same mesh size. This type of constructive dialogue demonstrates there are measures fishermen can 'come together' on.

More specifically, French participants were keen to agree joint technical measures with the UK, specifically for all UK vessels fishing in the Channel to conform to a 92mm belly ring size (to match French measures). The South West Fishermen's Producer Organisation (SWFPO) stated they would be willing to conduct a pilot, looking at selectivity options such as moving towards an 80mm ring size to avoid capturing juvenile scallops. Any trial would need to recognise the different growth rates of scallops and take into consideration that the maturity of stocks are different in different parts of the Channel. It is important to understand what the economic impacts could be of switching gear, and whether such changes would be unprofitable for UK fishermen in particular.

Linked to the governance and leadership theme, there was discussion around France's approach to management, which is very much led by industry and includes a legislative framework to make

decisions. Discussions extended to explore whether such a system could be adopted in the UK. The Scallop Sustainability Working Group could delve into this idea further exploring the potential to develop this type of arrangement between industry and Government.

Note that in France, fisheries are viewed as a shared resource where rights are managed collectively. National and regional licenses are provided in France and a quota system is in operation. This system prohibits the trade of licenses but provides a means by which new entrants can join the fishery or, in the case of unused licenses, they are withdrawn and go back to the common pot and reallocated. In terms of ownership in the UK, there is more of an open access system without many constraints on who can enter the fishery. There is presently concern that non-scallop fishermen can easily enter the fishery, reducing security, investment potential and stewardship over the resource.

Regardless of the different approaches to management, it was noted that those countries accessing the resource must come together on shared points of principle and work to create a plan that helps define the future health and sustainability of the Channel scallop stocks and fleet. Introducing a management plan with appropriate measures is a key way to achieve industry and others' goals for this fishery. The best way to create and validate a management plan is through the AC, with a defined group to progress actions.

In terms of the Western Waters Effort (WWE) regime, French participants felt strongly that it should remain as it is. However, some UK fishermen disagreed and would like to see the regime reviewed, with one participant noting that there is no correlation between Days at Sea (DAS), the WWE regime and the state of the stock. It was noted that in 1992 the first negotiation of the WWE took place, the second negotiation was in 2002 and in 2012 the negotiation was supposed to happen, but fell through. It's useful to note that the WWE is for shellfish stocks more broadly, not just scallops and therefore why there was a position to keep scallop management out of WWE negotiations.

Reviewing this regime in a way that evaluates current and future benefits for UK, French and other fishermen might be considered in future discussions. Such a review could highlight the pros and cons of the existing system where annual negotiations for effort and quota swaps take place. One participant felt that any WWE review should not form part of strategic plan for scallop management and should be considered outside of management discussions. Others felt that a review of the regime should be part of a scallop management plan to create an allocation system that is based on stock health and historic fishing patterns.

Volunteers at the workshop agreed to convene a small working group to take matters forward. Such a group should operate in coordination with the science working group and any group that may be convened through the NWWAC Channel Working Group 3. These volunteers included Claire Catherell, Eric Foucher, Richard Brouzes, and Sonia Muller.

Science and data

Science data was an important theme underpinning much of the workshop discussion. It was felt that there needs to be greater coordination of existing data rather than starting fresh. There was recognition that a new process equates time and money and so it was felt by some participants that it's better to use existing structures and data to enhance what we already know and build from there.

French participants felt well supported by scientific research, but they are wary that IFREMER will disengage itself from the fishery and that stock evaluations will cease from 2016. There was also recognition of the different approaches to fishing, where French scallop fishermen operate in more localised areas whereas UK fishermen have a more transient, international fleet. It is therefore important to have management that is tailored to the specific stock or zone and according to productivity (e.g. scallops in Eastern Channel have faster growth rates). There is an important role for spatial mapping to help inform future science and management needs and create a coordinated but strategic approach to management in the Channel. Spatial mapping could also deliver improved stock abundance from leaving certain areas unfished.

It was noted that pilots could be a good way of getting a 'snapshot' of what is happening on the water. They could also perform a harvest analysis to determine where best harvest rates occur – perhaps using an appropriate technology provider. Pilots could then be scaled up across the Channel over the course of one or two year trials. Industry must be willing to provide vessels and Governments must be willing to fund scientific research to create a system that can evaluate changes over the years. It is essential that IFREMER and Cefas work together, as should industry professionals, to agree standardised protocols to secure a comprehensive scientific framework across the Channel.

This effort would seek to develop an over-arching scientific survey that would cover all stocks (or at least all shared stocks) in the Channel creating a shared scientific protocol that would make stock assessment data comparable. The model used in some places in France (where fishing industry collect data and IFREMER designs the survey protocol and analyses the data) could be considered for the UK given resource constraints. More specifically, UK industry were interested in looking at catch rates per dredge and whether there is a cut-off point to ensure future sustainability.

There needs to be greater knowledge around the opportunities for research how to access funding for joint research projects. One of the first ports of call should be targeting funding through EU Interreg where cross-border collaboration projects are encouraged and supported.

Markets

While markets did not feature as one of the workshop's 'key themes', discussions on the importance of markets was weaved throughout the programme with a session dedicated specifically to market aspects and improving quality of product. It was noted that too many

scallops on the market is not a good thing for stock health or profitability of the fleet. The aim should be to produce a good product and receive a good price.

It was felt that better regulation of market forces could help control supply meaning less production, less work, and a higher price. However, the counter to this is that if you have a system that enables fishermen to fish to the market with improved security of tenure, then there will be a natural reduction market boom because fishermen are more in control of their business activities and can choose how much to put on the market and when – i.e. supply and demand.

Both UK and French participants felt the Channel scallop market is increasingly threatened by the export market (e.g. Chile) and the problem will continue if both sides do not find a way to work together.

Similarly, fishermen need access to good markets – supermarket commitments to source certified products influence how Channel should fish and there should be an aim to supply a product that satisfies local consumer demand. While MSC was discussed as a driver to access more local markets, some participants struggled to see how a MSC scallop fishery in the Channel might work in practice.

It was noted that UK and France need to come together on issues of shared importance, one being the threat from cheaper, foreign imports. For example, sanitary aspects of scallop handling and catch was also presented and discussed with shared views on improving the understanding and knowledge of this area to ensure a premium product. Both countries agreed to work together to make the most of their product and protect their markets against imports through improvements to marketing, such as selling Channel scallops as a premium, sustainable product. It was felt that a long-term management plan for Channel scallops could help achieve this goal.

Annex C: Diagram of groups, processes, and structure to secure management plan for Channel scallops

