



Minutes for the RCG Decision Meeting 2022

Date Time 19 September 2022

14:00

Venue **Brussels**

Agenda

14.00 - Afternoon session

- 1. Welcome of participants
- 2. Adoption of agenda
- 3. Decisions from SECWEB
- 4. Decisions from RCG NANSEA and RCG Baltic

15.30 – 15.45 Coffee break (in the lobby)

15.45 - Afternoon session continuation

- 5. Decisions from RCG Med & BS
- 6. AOB
- 7. Wrap-up of the meeting

17.30 - Closure

Specific issues addressed

- Rosa Fernández (CETMAR) in her role as responsible for the pilot Secretariat for the RCGs as setup in the SecWeb project opened the meeting thanking all in the room for attendance, the DG MARE officers for hosting the meeting and for their support with the meeting arrangements and the RCG chairs for their work preparing the decisions and recommendations to be disused.
- House keeping rules and presentation of the RCG Chairs (including those ending the mandate and the incoming chairs) were also addressed.
- The agenda was presented and it was informed a last minute modification to incorporate one decision by RCG Large Pelagics about its chairpersonship assignment.
- A briefing about the decision process was given; national correspondents (NCs) were instructed to only indicate if they did not agree to a decision. Thus, a decision is accepted if nobody expresses an objection. For each decision it was clearly specified which NCs were involved. In the event of NCs not been present at the decision meeting, the relevant NC is contacted by email after the Decision Meeting, in which all relevant decisions are communicated accompanied with a deadline (start of Liaison Meeting), emphasizing that no response would be considered as agreement.
- Afterwhich, the decision concerning the chairmanship of RCG Large Pelagicas was adopted with no objections from the attendees.

















- There was one pan regional decision, relating to SECWEB. The decision for SecWeb was presented by Els Torreele, asking to agree on the adoption by all Member States (who did not so already in 2021) of the text provided after the pre-decision meeting to be included as part of the NWPs Text-Box I.b, and each Member State to formally agree on the principles for the long-term implementation of the Secretariat in support of the RCGs.
 - No objection was expressed.
 - Representative from Spain expressed concerns about the direct contract to a service provider as it can only be a short-term solution.
 - Els Torreele explained that during the NCs meeting it is planned to go into more details about an approach where it will be needed to combine a short-term solution for one year with the steps for the setup of a long-term structure.
- RCGs NANSEA and The Baltic Chairs presented a total of six decisions. Those had been advanced and discussed during the on-line pre-decision meeting on September 2nd so no questions or further comments were expected at the Decision Meeting.

There were no objections expressed for any of the Decisions proposed, therefore all of them were adopted.

It was pointed out that for some of the decisions (D01, D02, D03, D04, D06 and D07) Sweden was implicated and should participate in the process. As they could not attend the meeting, the decision documents were submitted to this country NC and feedback requested before the Liaison Meeting was accomplished.

Comments in relation to NANSEA & Baltic Recommendations:

- Jørgen Dalskov (DK) with reference to Decision 06 on the list of ISSGs proposed to work during the Season 2022-2023 comments that he'd been privileged to work for several ISSGs and expressed his hope that all the countries make their assignments. He reminded for all that the assignment of participants to the ISSGs is a part of mandatory regional coordination under the DCF regulation.
- Regarding the list of recommendations presented addressed to DG MARE:
 - Leonie O'Dowd commented: For Recommendations 04 and 05 affecting the Control Regulation, the point was taken and an update on the state of play of the Control Regulation was included in point 6 of the agenda of the NCs meeting to be hold the day after the DM.
 - For the recommendation 06 about a list of prioritized species for PETS, the RCGs are informed that the consultation has been made (by DG MARE) to DG ENV and an update will be provided at the Liaison Meeting.
- Finally, the prospects for 2023 Technical Meeting were presented; it is expected to be in Poland and to be an in-person meeting. If for any circumstances it could not be planned in Poland, the alternative of Vigo (ES) (as long as the Secretariat continues in place with no interruption of service) will be adopted. The dates proposed are 6-9 June with some previous on-line meetings in May.
- After the coffee-break it was the turn for Jurgen Mifsud the chair of RCG Mediterranean and Black Sea to go through the list of recommendations they agreed to present during the recently accomplished Technical Meeting, while there were no decisions to be taken by the NCs for the RCG Mediterranean and Black Sea. No further comments were made from the audience.
- Josip Males as Chair of RCG Large Pelagics (LP) presented a decision to undertake the system agreed in the context of the RCG Technical Meeting for a random assignment of a chair and co-chair person in 2023 and ahead. The decision proposed is the approval of the random assignment system. The following comments were made:









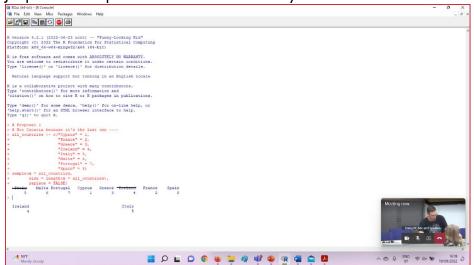








- Josip commented on a possible need to amend the RoPs to fit the system but Irek Wojcik said that there will be no need for that.
- o The representative from Cyprus, attending remotely asked about the results of a consultation process carried out to find a solution to the problem of the assignment of chairs in RCG LP. Josip informed that these results had been presented during the RCG LP TM by Leonie O'Dowd. She takes the floor to synthesise the findings from the consultation.
- o The discussion went through several of the arguments found by the countries rejecting to make a direct and volunteer assignment of chair and co-chair for this RCG: e.g. establishing differences between large and small countries had been shown controversial when considering what is a large country in the context of RCG LP; another example was about the lack of sufficient expertise in the LP fisheries. It was said that it is not necessary for the chair to be an expert in all the fisheries and aspects of the fisheries addressed by the RCG.
- Irek Wojcik (PL) suggested to check the ToRs and see if this decision can be taken by majority and not necessarily by consensus. Then if there is sufficient support the RCG should go for it.
 The information is consulted and it is suggested that a decision like this could be taken by majority.
- Josip run the script and the outcome from the system is as follows:



Linda O'Hea (IE) confirmed that Ireland was willing to undertake the chairpersonship for RCG LP in 2023. This opened already the possibility for a swap in the order agreed by the affected countries, in this case Ireland and Italy (who had no NC present at the meeting), who will replace one-each-other in their turns according to the script output.

Like in the case of Sweden, it was pointed out that a few other countries were absent from the meeting and should be informed and given the chance for feedback on those Decisions that they were affected by, and before the accomplishment of the Liaison Meeting. It was the case for Slovakia and Italy and, during the first part of the agenda of the DM, for France. It was agreed that the Secretariat would contact these countries NCs asap and invite them for a last chance to provide feedback on the Decisions and Recommendations presented before the LM.

There were no other issues proposed by the audience, so the meeting went to its final comments with Rosa Fernández shortly wrapping-up, i.e. mainly highlighting that all the decisions had been approved and recalling on commitments for action towards the non attending Member States. She expressed gratitude once more to the attendees, to the RCG chairs and the EC-DG MARE officers and the meeting finalised at 17:18 (CET).

















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Last name	First name	Organisation	Delegation
IOANNOU	Myrto	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment	Cyprus
FERNÁNDEZ OTERO STÖTERA	Rosa María Sven	CETMAR RCG Baltic chair (DE)	RCG Secretariat RCG Baltic
ADAMOWICZ MALEŠ	Maciej Josip	RCG Baltic co-chair (PL) RCG LP chair (HR)	RCG Baltic RCG Large Pelagics
EGEKVIST		,	RCG NANSEA
VAN OVERZEE	Josefine Harriet	RCG NANSEA (DK) Incoming chair RCG NANSEA (NL)	RCG NANSEA
REIS STERCZEWSKA	Dalia Monika	RCG NANSEA (PT) DG MARE	RCG NANSEA DG MARE
HURRELMANN METTALA	Annette Jaana	DG MARE DG MARE	DG MARE DG MARE
O'DOWD PEYRONNET	Leonie Arnaud	DG MARE DG MARE	DG MARE DG MARE
VERHEYEN	Francoise	MARE	DG MARE

The meeting ends by 17:18 (CET)











