

## **Meeting: NWWAC Focus Group meeting 18<sup>th</sup> June on Marine Plastics, virtual meeting**

Short report:

Several ACs joined together with the NWWAC, which has been the lead on producing recommendations on the implementation of the Single Use Plastics Directive and operational aspects of the Fishing for Litter Scheme. Other ACs have been invited to contribute to the draft. The BSAC has made an active contribution to the work.

The NWWAC chair pointed out that this was primarily an advice from the NWWAC. But they were glad that other ACs have joined in: it will carry a lot more weight if other ACs join in. A lot of work has gone into this. They were not looking for a substantial re-write of the draft.

The meeting went through the draft and discussed the various inputs. It didn't open up the recommendations already approved and adopted at the two earlier workshops: the NWWAC-MAC workshop on Marine Plastics and the Seafood Supply Chain 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and the 4 ACs workshop on re-imagining gear in a circular economy 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The BSAC took part in both workshops.

The work focused on recommendations to the Directive implementing the Single Use Plastics Directive, and on operational aspects of the Fishing for Litter Scheme.

A couple of important points from the BSAC:

Implement an EU wide colour coding of various polymers to ease identification for recycling. The BSAC suggests deleting this. The BSAC thinks that colour coding will be very complicated because colour is already used to distinguish different gears. The colour is also an important factor of fishing gear time reaction. BSAC suggests following wording for a new Point 4: "Investigate ways of identifying or labelling different materials such as polymers, so as to ease identification for recycling." There will be a reformulation here.

All measures directed at the marine litter problem should be checked for cost-effectiveness. It is important to know how much money and how much effort and bureaucratic burden must be invested in order to solve how much of the marine litter problem (which is not only a lost fishing gear problem).

The final section of the recommendations on the harmonisation of Fishing for Litter schemes gave a good opportunity for other recommendations that came up during the meeting to be written in here. It will be a good list of suggestions not only to FFL but also broader.

Thoughts or recommendations to the BSAC for follow-up/action: to keep up collaboration on this