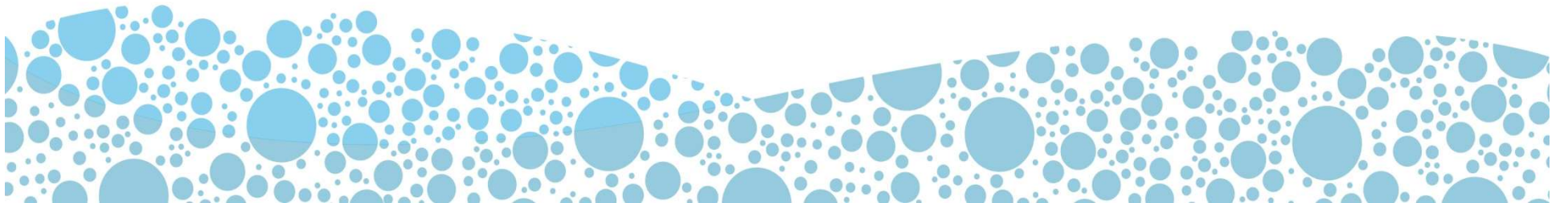




# BREXIT AND THE ACs: CONCEPT NOTE





## BACKGROUND: CONTEXT OF ACs WORK

- Third meeting organised by the ACs:
  - NWWAC “brainstorming” session – first impressions
  - PELAC seminar - SWAT analysis and where we are
  - LDAC seminar – initiate in depth reflections and formulate proposals on future models or scenarios

Work developed so far on

- Letters by the NWWAC
- Questionnaire by the PELAC
- Position paper by the SWWAC
- Concept Note by LDAC



# Topic 1: Role and competencies of ACs

## **QUESTION: How the role of ACs will evolve after Brexit? How relation will be developed btw EU Stakeholders through ACs with UK as Coastal State?**

- The current CFP Regulation establishes the ACs role and competencies  
→ Legal basis: Arts 41-43 + Annex 3 of CFP EU Reg. 1380/2013.
- Main duty: provide evidence-based advice to the European Commission and Member States on matters pertaining to fisheries management within the remit of sea basin/fishery (including control)
- Art 18 - Regionalisation: advise Member States specifically on
  - Multiannual Management Plans
  - Implementation of Landing Obligation: Discard Plans
  - Technical Measures

***FOR REFLECTION: In line with the forthcoming CFP reform by 2023, should there be a new AC dealing with Brexit or should existing Acs reshape and/or coordinate themselves (possibility of setting up a dedicated “task force” and/or debate on subjects of common interest)?***





## Topic 2: Current vs future setup of the ACs

**QUESTION: How should ACs adapt their strategy and internal structure after Brexit to shape decision-making?**

- Consultation procedures: articulate dialogue between EU ACs and UK stakeholders
- Review of governance Framework and geographical scope of the ACs
- What models for stakeholders' participation: liaising with UK administration for shared stocks on regional basis (parallel to MS WG)





## Topic 3: Composition of the ACs

**QUESTION FOR DEBATE: What the role and input of UK nationals/organisations in the ACs will be during the transitional period and/or when post-Brexit starts?**

- UK members have currently a wide presence and representation in several ACs, including membership of ExCom and Chairs/Vice Chairs of Working Groups
- Should they have a differentiated status as “qualified observers/invited experts” or abide by the same principles than other third countries in terms of participation at Acs: two-tier approach on topics?



## TAKE AWAY POINTS OR ACTIONS

### *Assuming transitional period scenario*

- Legal Clarification required and desired flexibility on the functioning of the ACs (CFP Regulation)
- AC Structure/setup split between “business as usual” and advice on “negotiations”
- Reciprocity on consultations on both EU-UK stakeholders bodies (define/extent of topics) ?





## TAKE AWAY POINTS OR ACTIONS

### *Assuming transitional period scenario*

- What does the EC/EU27 expect from the ACs?
  - One/many advice on negotiations?
  - Joint Advisory structure/setup agreed by negotiators for the fisheries agreement
  - How to deal with UK representatives (members/observers)?
  - Other issues of interest





## WAY FORWARD

- Proposal for next Joint AC meeting
  - To be held in Brussels
  - Around March 2019
  - PELAC-NWWAC-LDAC offer to organise
  - Open to all interested ACs
  - Format to be decided (topics, plenary, break-out rooms...)

