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Summary of the Further Review of Cockle Fishery Management in Wales 2013



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Overview

The Vision of the Wales Marine and Fisheries Strategic Action Plan (M&FSAP) is for clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse seas. The M&FSAP aims to introduce an ecosystems approach to the management of our seas protecting and preserving natural resources, using healthy populations as the basis to drive sustainable economic growth. The challenge for managers is finding the balance between the need to avoid activity that harms our environment and maximising the value of activities that we can undertake sustainably.

Fishing for cockles is embedded deep within the history and culture of coastal Wales. Humans have gathered cockles for food since Neolithic times; today a modern, multi-national industry has grown up around the processing and supply of cockles to markets in Wales, Europe and beyond. Cockles form the basis of a significant part of the activities of a number of professionals engaged full time in the shellfish industry, including gathering, buying, processing, marketing or a combination of all these.

The Minister for Natural Resources and Food announced in March 2012, as Deputy Minister, his intention to review the management of intertidal fisheries in Wales. A formal consultation on those proposals was successfully carried out in 2012. The results and analysis have prompted further consideration of some of the elements contained within the proposals, namely the methodology for allocating permits under a new cockle management regime in Wales.

Therefore, a further consultation was launched to seek your views on the details of the allocation methodology and to clarify the protocols of the forthcoming new management scheme for cockle fisheries in Wales.

Presented below is a summary of responses received.

Introduction

A public consultation took place between July and October 2012 on Cockle Management in Wales, for the purpose of seeking views on the proposal of new management of cockle beds in Wales. The new management regime would action the need for increased regulation to ensure the future sustainability of Cockle Fisheries in Wales.

The Summary of Responses to the consultation provided a clear mandate for introducing a new regime for Cockle Fisheries across Wales, to deliver sustainability of the fisheries, and increase traceability and enforcement. Support was shown for the introduction of:

- a) a revised cockle scheme in Wales;
- b) adopting a multi agency approach;
- c) an improved traceability system;
- d) a young fishers/apprenticeship scheme;
- e) greater regulation and restrictions; and
- f) year round fishing, by way of a total allowable catch;

However, it was apparent that further consideration was required where the results of the exercise were inconclusive. A further consultation exercise was held outlining Welsh Ministers' detailed proposals on these and other measures.

Purpose of the consultation

The second consultation entitled 'Further Review of the Management of Cockle Fisheries in Wales 2013' was launched with the aim of answering these outstanding issues. The consultation sought views on the below proposals in order to ensure effective management for a sustainable fishery for future generations that works with the needs of local communities.

The main proposal was for an All Wales Permit Scheme for commercial cockle gathering, in combination with a separate specific area permit scheme for the selected major cockle fisheries. The existing byelaw regulations are also proposed to change (or be revoked).

We also proposed to introduce a new system of compulsory catch returns. The purpose of these returns would be to improve the traceability of cockles for fisheries management purposes from the production area to processors. These documents would be required of all gatherers and processors in

possession of cockles harvested from beds in Wales and would need to be produced on request.

It was also proposed that the Welsh Government would hold a database of shellfish collection records that would enable cross-checking against other records held by processors. We intend to share this database with appropriate stakeholders such as Local Authorities and the Food Standards Agency. An application for any permit will include an appropriate declaration regarding the acceptance of data sharing by relevant authorities.

Consultation Period and Distribution

The consultation ran for a period of 12 weeks starting on 10 July 2013, and closing on 2 October 2013. The consultation was published on the Welsh Government website and a letter was sent to approximately 2000 stakeholders advertising the consultation and included the web-address that it could be found at. The consultation documents were available online only.

Responses Received

The Welsh Government would like to thank all those who responded to the consultation. All the responses were analysed and considered as part of the process of determining which measures will be implemented. In total there were 58 responses received to the consultation, primarily from individuals. A list of the respondents is at Annex A. The table below shows the breakdown of responses.

Table 1: Responses received split by sector

Sector	Number of responses	% of total respondents from each sector
Cockle Gatherers	42	72%
Cockle Industry	0	0%
Community/Organisations with Community Interest	13	23%
Other Organisation	3	5%
Total	58	100%

Consultation Questions

- 1) Do you agree with the detail of the proposed All-Wales Permit Scheme *and* the separate specific permit scheme for the selected major cockle fisheries in Wales as set out within this consultation document?

Yes
No

Reason (if any):

- 2) Do you agree that there should be a maximum number of Major Permits to fish any major Welsh fishery per person? (including fisheries subject to a Regulating Order)

Yes
No

If yes, how many Major Permits do you think should be the maximum per person?

One
Two
Three
Four

Reason (if any):

- 3) Do you agree with the proposed method of allocating permits to applicants for the major fisheries?

Yes
No

Reason (if any):

- 4) Do you agree with standardising the minimum landing size at 20mm across Wales? (Subject to scientific advice in major fisheries with a Local Management Plan).

Yes
No

Reason (if any):

5) Do you agree with the proposals for compulsory catch returns for all cockles gathered in Wales?

Yes

No

Reason (if any):

6) We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

Responses to each question

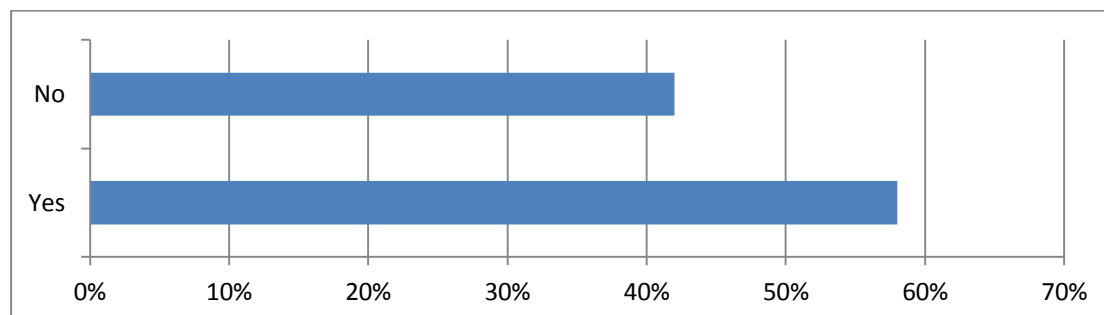
There were a total of 58 responses. The percentage (calculated to the total number of responses) for each answer is stated under each question below. Where relevant, alongside some answers is a graph highlighting the percentage of respondents who gave a yes/no opinion.

Question 1 - Do you agree with the detail of the proposed All-Wales Permit Scheme and the separate specific permit scheme for the selected major cockle fisheries in Wales as set out within this consultation document?

As shown on the table below on the whole the respondents were in favour of the proposed All-Wales Permit Scheme and the separate specific permit scheme for the selected major cockle fisheries in Wales as set out within the consultation document. Of the respondents who expressed a yes/no opinion to this question 58% agreed.

Yes	57%
No	41%
No Comment	2%

Percentage of respondents who answered Yes or No



52% of the Cockle gatherers did not agree with the proposals with the majority stating or commenting with a similar response of: *“one Cockle bed is enough for any fisherman at one time”* and expressing a further desire to keep the beds for *“local”* fishermen.

The 48% of gatherers who agreed supported their answers with comments such as: *“this would reduce illegal poaching”*; *“will bring order”*; *“enabling a move to full time fishing”*; *“better regulations and safer fishing”* and *“supporting a controlled permit scheme”*.

Other respondents from organisations offered support but also included some advice if this proposal was to go ahead. Some of the advice imparted was aimed at the documentation that should be provided by the gatherers to include Health and Safety certifications. Advice was also imparted on the resourcing and enforcement of all harvesting areas.

Organisations who disagreed with the proposal made reference to the fees being “*un-affordable to young fishermen and older local fishermen*”.

Question 2 - Do you agree that there should be a maximum number of Major Permits to fish any major Welsh fishery per person? (Including fisheries subject to a Regulating Order)

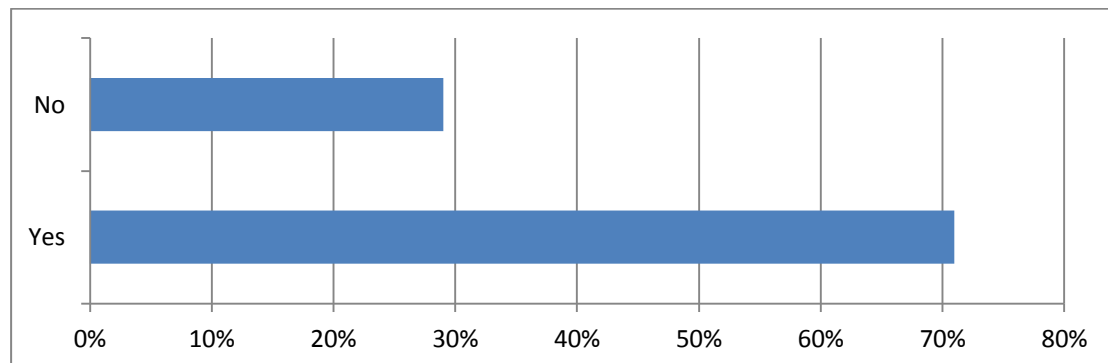
And

If yes, how many Major Permits do you think should be the maximum per person?

As shown on the table below the majority of respondents agreed with the proposals for a maximum number of Major Permits to fish any major Welsh fishery per person, with the majority of those in favour indicating that one permit is a sufficient number of permits. This data set will need clarification as the question was misunderstood (explained below). A process was put in place to seek clarified answers. Of the respondents who expressed a yes/no opinion to this question 71% agreed.

Yes	69%
No	28%
No Comment	3%

Percentage of respondents who answered Yes or No



Although 71% of Cockle gatherers supported the need for a maximum number of permits for the major fisheries, this number should be greatly increased as it is clear that the question was misunderstood. The vast majority of the 29% of the disagreeing Cockle gatherers stated: *“one permit is more than enough for any one fisherman, you can’t be on more than one bed at any one time”*. This statement in-fact supports the proposal, with a maximum number of permits set at ‘one’. This question has not been answered effectively by the Cockle gathering community and therefore would require further. The Cockle gatherers opposition to this proposal can therefore not be relied upon in light of a clear misunderstanding of the question. Those responses that genuinely disagreed with the proposals will be revisited once clarified responses have been sought.

Comments from the gatherers in support of the proposals ranged according to their answers to the second part of the question (the maximum number of major permits to fish any major Welsh fishery per person). Those who felt that

the maximum number of permits per person should be 'one' stated: *"it is not possible to fish two fisheries at the same time"; "more than one licence per person would handicap the local fishermen"; "one licence would create employment instead of feeding the greedy" and "more than one licence would mean that the Cockles on whichever fishery not being fished would be left to die"*.

Comments from Cockle gatherers in favour of 'two' permits per person were: *"this would reduce the hundreds of people descending on the estuaries and leaving litter that harms the environment"*.

Comments from Cockle gatherers in favour of more than 'two' permits per person included: *"the picking can be shared out on the different beds making it more sustainable" and "maximum availability of permits in order to promote Welsh Cockles"*.

Comments given from the community and organisations in favour of these proposals included: *"support of the young fishers/apprenticeship scheme with potential apprenticeship TAC" and "limit the intake of gatherers and provide sustainable cockle beds whilst taking into account local needs for employment"*

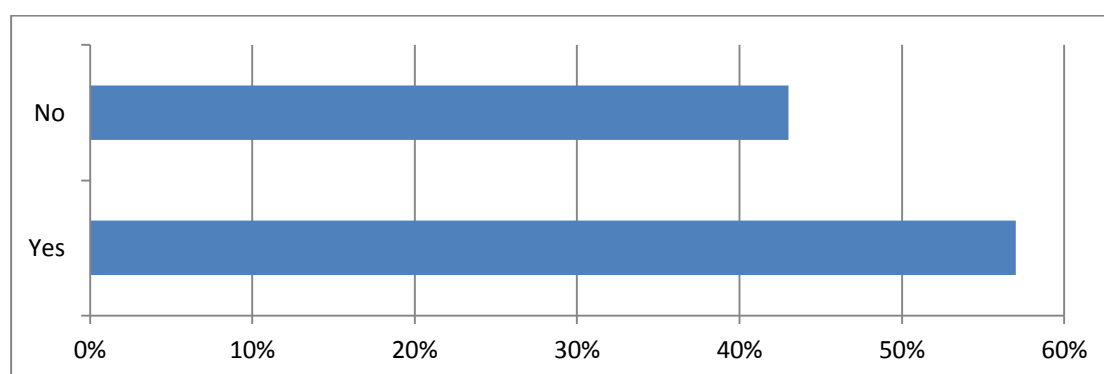
Comments in disagreement of proposals received included: *"if the fishery for which they hold a permit were to be closed for any reason, gatherers would not be able to work" and "Restricting gatherers to holding permits for two out of the 4 fisheries could be considered to be a restriction of trade and potentially subject to legal challenge"*.

Question 3 - Do you agree with the proposed method of allocating permits to applicants for the major fisheries?

As shown on the table below, on the whole the respondents agreed with the proposed method of allocating permits for the major fisheries. Of the respondents who expressed a yes/no opinion to this question 57% agreed.

Yes	55%
No	41%
No Comment	4%

Percentage of respondents who answered Yes or No



52% of the Cockle gatherers agreed with the proposal outlined in the consultation document with one supporter stating that the proposals are *“totally fair to other fishermen in the scheme”*. Other positive comments included: *“it gives hope to future generations”* and *“supports those who are local and wish to fish seriously”*. One supporter stated that they agree *“but use more up-to-date data to support the points’ scheme. There are “old-heads” that have not been fishing 99% of the time but have been licenced and returning 0kg catch returns. This would not be favourable to present-day gatherers.”*

The 48% of Cockle gatherers disagreeing with the proposals were united with the statement: *“The fisheries officers should choose as they know who’s been gathering day-in and day-out.”* Similarly, those who disagreed also commented on the seemingly advantageous position those who have other major permits are put in, according to the points system. Some also contested that those who have failed to make it on to waiting list would be overlooked along with young fishermen who’ve not had a long history in the industry.

Suggestions of a “locality” factor to be considered in the Points scheme was made by an organisation in favour of the proposals.

One organisation that disagreed commented: *“the proposed allocation procedure does nothing to address the injustice that was done to some Dee gatherers who have all the required criteria from cockle gathering prior to the Dee cockle order. These people who are on the current waiting list have had no opportunity to gather the criteria required under the current proposals, so*

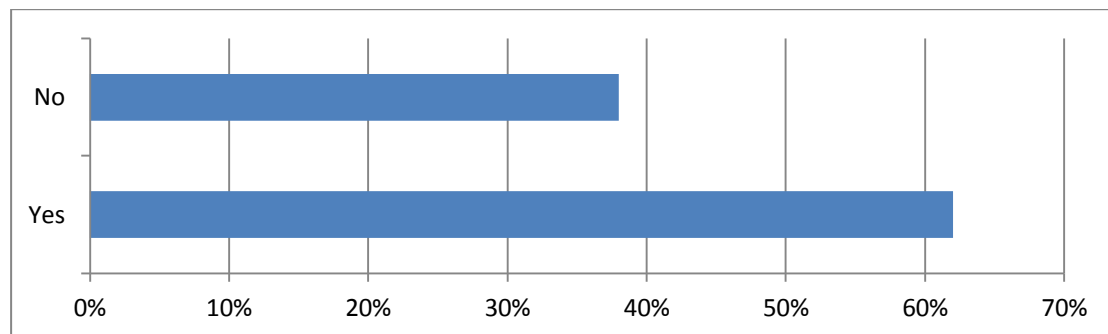
the injustice they endure can never be rectified". Concerns over the exclusion of young fishermen under these proposals were also raised by organisations with community interest.

Question 4 - Do you agree with standardising the minimum landing size at 20mm across Wales? (Subject to scientific advice in major fisheries with a Local Management Plan).

As shown on the table below the majority of respondents agreed with standardising the minimum landing size at 20mm across Wales (subject to scientific advice in major fisheries with a Local Management Plan). Of the respondents who expressed a yes/no opinion to this question 62% agreed.

Yes	59%
No	36%
No Comment	5%

Percentage of respondents who answered Yes or No



55% of the Cockle gatherers agreed with the proposal of standardising the minimum landing size of Cockles at 20mm across Wales. Most chose not to support their answers, although the few who did mentioned that it would *“create clear guidelines while keeping stocks at a reasonable healthy level”*.

The 45% of Cockle gatherers were united in voicing that *“Cockles don’t seem to grow to 20mm any more”* supported by the comment *“they might die before reaching 20mm”*. Those opposing also commented on the available market for smaller Cockles, suggesting that if the processors create a market for smaller Cockles, then they should be gathered. One respondent suggested that surveys should be conducted and when the minimum size is reached then the fishery should be opened.

Community and Organisations commented that the standardisation of a minimum landing size would be welcomed providing that there are sufficient means of enforcement. Some thought that the proposals would lead to an improvement in enforcement consistency.

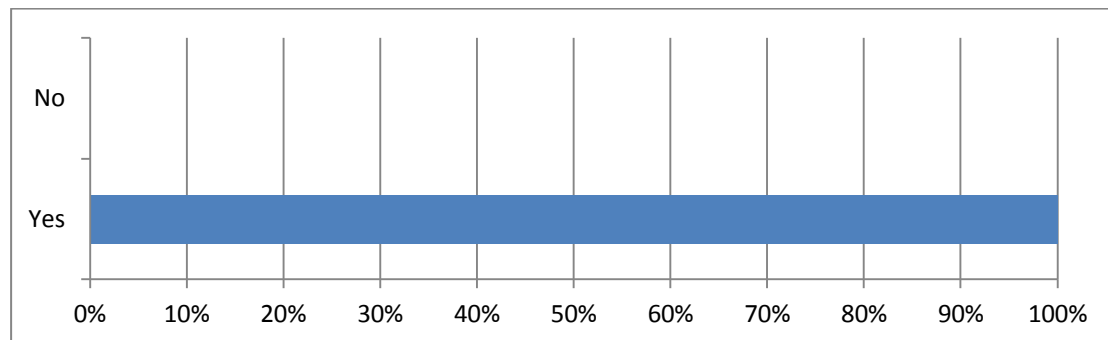
Those disagreeing with the proposals mentioned that *“17mm would be an adequate minimum landing size to support sustainability”*, going on to say that *“if the Cockles were left to reach 20mm then suffocation and death of the cockles would lead to environmental degradation and issues for biodiversity”*.

Question 5 - Do you agree with the proposals for compulsory catch returns for all cockles gathered in Wales?

As shown on the table below, all who chose to comment on the proposals for compulsory catch returns for all cockles gathered in Wales agreed. Of those respondents who expressed a yes/no opinion to this question 100% agreed.

Yes	93%
No	0%
No Comment	7%

Percentage of respondents who answered Yes or No



98% of the Cockle gatherers agreed with the proposal, with the remaining 2% choosing not to comment on the proposal.

Comments in support of the proposal include: “*it will help towards (the cockle beds) being properly managed*”; “*will stop poaching*” and “*it will give a good indication of remaining stocks*”.

Of the other 16 respondents, none chose to disagree with the proposal although 3 chose not to comment.

All community and organisations that expressed a yes/no answer were in favour of this proposal. Many agreed that it would “*reduce poaching and illegal collection/handling of Cockles*”.

Where all respondents were positive towards the proposals, 3 organisations were keen to offer/insist on a collaborative approach between themselves and the Welsh Government to implement a documented catch return process, with the information shared within the industry. This collaborative approach would “*ensure a fully traceable industry where each cockle is accounted for, with effective enforcement in place*”.

Question 6 - We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them.

Of the 58 total respondents, 16 chose not to contribute any further views.

Comments made were in favour for a meeting to discuss the proposed consultation details:

“Let’s have a meeting where everyone can attend...”

“We haven’t had any meetings about this yet. Can you sort one where everyone can attend?”

“Organise a meeting for all to attend...”

Further comments suggested concerns with the allocating of permits:

“Don’t...issue a select few a permit for all the beds. Operate fairly with families livelihoods in mind...”

“These questions are totally limited to obtain the needs of what appear to be already decided actions favouring stakeholder producers. The needs and financial gain to local communities being involved are ignored.”

“I hope that you don’t decide to give a licence to people who already have one...and then make people like myself lose my job...”

“As a local I want to work local and provide to my local area. Limiting to a chosen few doesn’t do best for an area”

A selection of both organisations and cockle gathers raised concerns with regards to enforcing the changes and keeping permit holders informed:

“The permitting of 5kg personal gathering is a welcome gesture, concern should be had however as to incidences where personal gathering takes place with organised trips for parties 20+ persons, effectively producing a larger catch which can not be controlled.”

“...We agree with the proposals outlined in the cockle management consultation... The current difficulties encountered in the cockle industry regarding traceability, illegal gathering etc...with the increase in popularity of shellfish ...it is possible that enforcement agencies will encounter similar difficulties to the current cockle issues unless an effective management policy is implemented...”

A number of Cockle gathers used this opportunity to support the answers given in response to previous questions. Further clarification of responses will be required from the respondents in order to outline opinions on the proposal.

Next Steps

Having taken on board all of the responses and the results of the review, the consultation has produced a clear mandate for the following requirements to be introduced:

- a) compulsory catch returns for all cockles gathered in Wales;
- b) a maximum number of major fishery permits per person;

However it was apparent that further clarification of responses was required from the respondents in order to outline opinions on the proposal. It was clear from some of the responses that the reasons given in support of answers to questions did not relate to the proposals in the consultation document. The Welsh Government, therefore, invited the 58 respondents to express an interest in discussing this consultation document with Welsh Government Staff on an appointment basis. These expressions of interest were sent to all respondents, in order for a “surgery style” appointment to be arranged at an appropriate location.

The Surgery Process

The Welsh Government sought to clarify responses from the 58 stakeholders who responded to the consultation via a surgery style appointment. This approach had been used in the Agriculture sector to aid progress of applications.

An Expression of Interest (EOI) form (Annex B) was sent with a covering letter, by mail, to all 58 respondents. The EOI form was to be returned before the deadline date of 8 November 2013, allowances were made for EOI forms post marked 8 November 2013 but delivered later.

Appointments were arranged at hourly intervals lasting 45 minutes per appointment at 3 locations over 4 days and followed a set procedure. Invitation letters (Annex C) were sent to the respondents who requested an appointment which detailed the date, time and location of their surgery, the limitations of discussion and the process to be expected.

The surgeries took place at Carmarthen, Penlleger and Caernarfon. The locations were decided once all EOI forms were received and arranged according to respondents Post Codes.

33 respondents took part in the surgery process. Respondents were positive about the process and were thankful for the opportunity to discuss their industry on a face-to-face basis with the Welsh Government. There were 2 points made obvious during the process:

1. Although there were 58 responses, most responses represent more than one stakeholder/respondent. Responses were filled in and submitted by an individual/organisation which represents a group of people. So with that in mind, the response to this consultation was stronger than initially apparent.
2. A measured communication channel needs to be opened between Welsh Government and stakeholders to keep the industry updated. This should take place through the medium of an action group. This would keep abreast of industry issues, progress of regime changes, dispelling hearsay and creating a positive relationship between the Welsh Government and its stakeholders.

Surgery responses to each question

Comments made additionally or in place of original responses are documented below. Comments made during the surgery that were the same as documented in their original responses have not been included in this section. Additional or changed responses were as a result of the proposals being explained and discussed during the surgeries. A revised result of the consultation is found later in the document.

Question 1 - Do you agree with the detail of the proposed All-Wales Permit Scheme and the separate specific permit scheme for the selected major cockle fisheries in Wales as set out within this consultation document?

Comments made on the proposals were positive on the whole. Many agreeing that one licence (which details that the individual is a legitimate cockle gatherer in Wales) is "*better than having multiple licences*". The proposal was explained in two parts where the All-Wales Permit would act as an official cockle gathering ID and allow fishing at selected certified cockle beds in Wales and the specific permit scheme explained as the permissions to gather cockles in the major fisheries added on to the official ID.

Those who expressed opinions on this proposal all indicated that a revision of name is required, as "All-Wales" suggests "*something it's not*". Others who commented mentioned concerns about the licence fee, where "*local gatherers may not be able to afford it*". Some suggested that "*processors should pay for the licences in exchange for exclusivity of gathered Cockles*". Although these comments have been noted it is important to consider that these comments were raised as concerns from respondents that agree with the proposal.

All respondents who took part in the surgeries agreed with this proposal, although all commented that certain minor aspects (that do not affect the structure or validity of this consultation proposal) should be revised.

Question 2 - Do you agree that there should be a maximum number of Major Permits to fish any major Welsh fishery per person? (Including fisheries subject to a Regulating Order)

And

If yes, how many Major Permits do you think should be the maximum per person?

Comments made on this proposal during the surgeries were positive on the whole. Most agreed that a maximum number of major fishery permits per person should be capped at 1. The comments made to support this mirror the comments made during their original responses. "*This will create more jobs in the industry*", "*measured, managed and organised*" and "*that's what we've always wanted*" were positive comments made in favour of these proposals.

Queries were raised regarding derogations if beds on their respective major fisheries were closed and what would happen if permit holders were injured and unable to meet 75% of their quota. These concerns, however, were raised by those who were in favour of the proposal.

Respondents who disagreed during the surgeries challenged the legality of the proposal. Others expressed no wish for a limit on permits per person to be agreed as that would limit the earning potential of individuals.

Question 3 - Do you agree with the proposed method of allocating permits to applicants for the major fisheries?

The majority of comments made on this proposal were aimed more towards the implementation of the points system, slight changes to the process and introducing substantiation

“No fairer way” was a comment that was repeated often during the surgeries.

Those who disagreed expressed concerns over not being able to provide the documentation needed as they have had to seek other work to substitute the loss of income from fishery closure etc.

Question 4 - Do you agree with standardising the minimum landing size at 20mm across Wales? (Subject to scientific advice in major fisheries with a Local Management Plan).

Many chose not to change their answers during the surgeries but the majority of those who chose to strengthen their responses were against the proposal.

“The Burry Inlet [gatherers] were allowed to pick Cockles as small as possible and have experienced their best stock for years”

“Needs to be flexible”, “19mm to be the same as Burry Inlet” and “Lowered to 17.5mm” were comments made against standardising the minimum landing size at 20mm.

It is important to note that the majority of respondents who attended surgeries expressed that they would (and have when considering their response) relied heavily on the scientific advice clause as they believe that a 20mm stock wouldn't be abundant enough to make some beds commercially viable.

Question 5 - Do you agree with the proposals for compulsory catch returns for all cockles gathered in Wales?

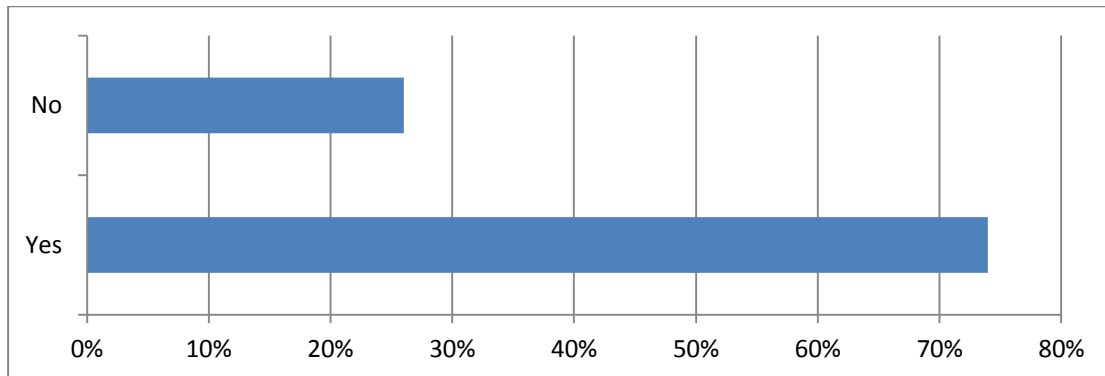
During the surgeries, this proposal drew the least amount of comments. No respondent disagreed nor made any comment to strengthen their answer.

Comments were made, however, in respect of implementation. Suggesting that a *“better [than current]”* catch return process would need to be applied.

Final Results

The below results do not take into consideration those respondents who chose not to comment on the proposals. The percentages are based on those who expressed a yes/no answer only.

Question 1 - Do you agree with the detail of the proposed All-Wales Permit Scheme and the separate specific permit scheme for the selected major cockle fisheries in Wales as set out within this consultation document?

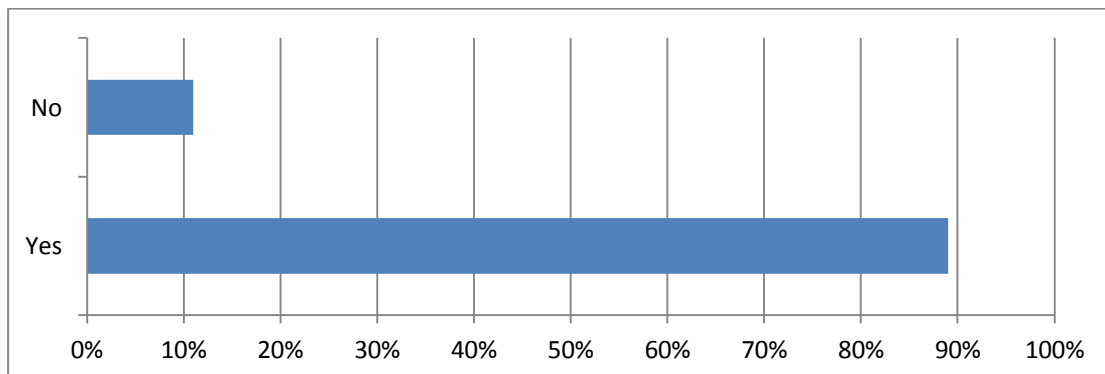


74% of respondents (who expressed a yes/no answer) agreed with the detail of the proposed All-Wales Permit Scheme and the separate specific permit scheme for the selected major cockle fisheries in Wales as set out within the consultation documents.

Question 2 - Do you agree that there should be a maximum number of Major Permits to fish any major Welsh fishery per person? (Including fisheries subject to a Regulating Order)

And

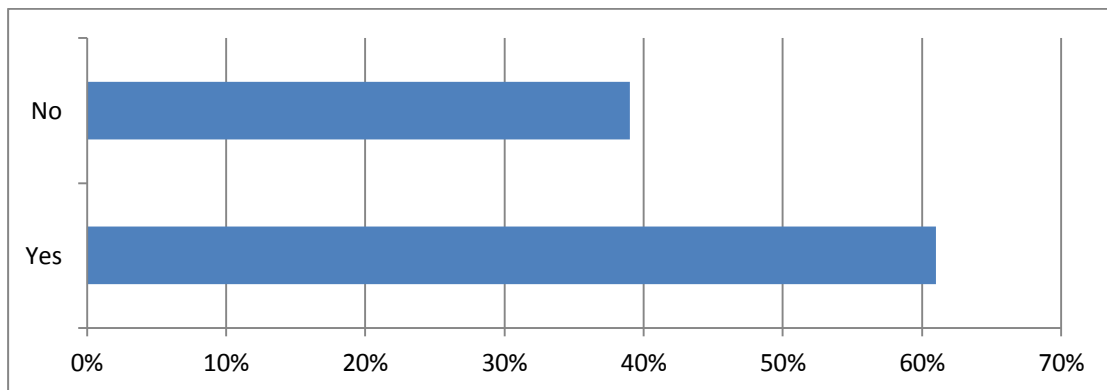
If yes, how many Major Permits do you think should be the maximum per person?



89% of respondents (who expressed a yes/no answer) agreed that there should be a maximum number of Major Permits to fish any major Welsh fishery per person.

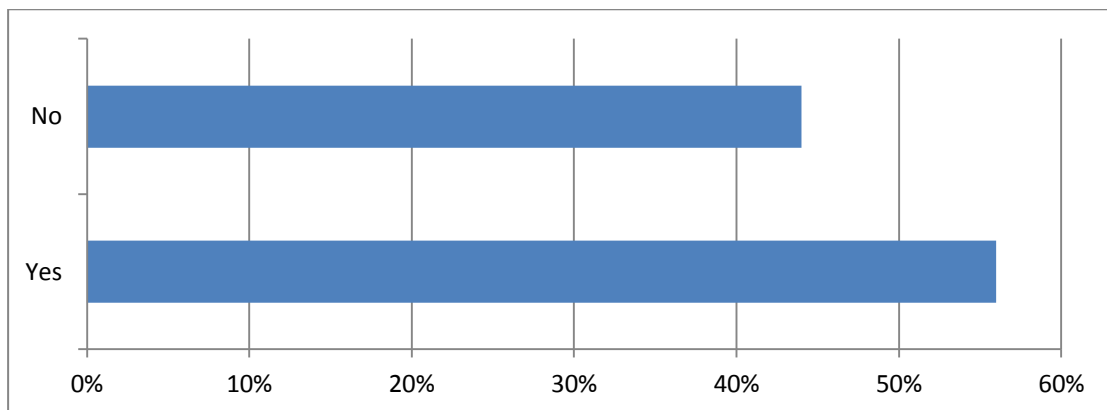
Of the 89% (50 respondents) who agreed with the proposal, 82% (41 respondents) indicated that the number of major permits per person should be a maximum of 1.

Question 3 - Do you agree with the proposed method of allocating permits to applicants for the major fisheries?



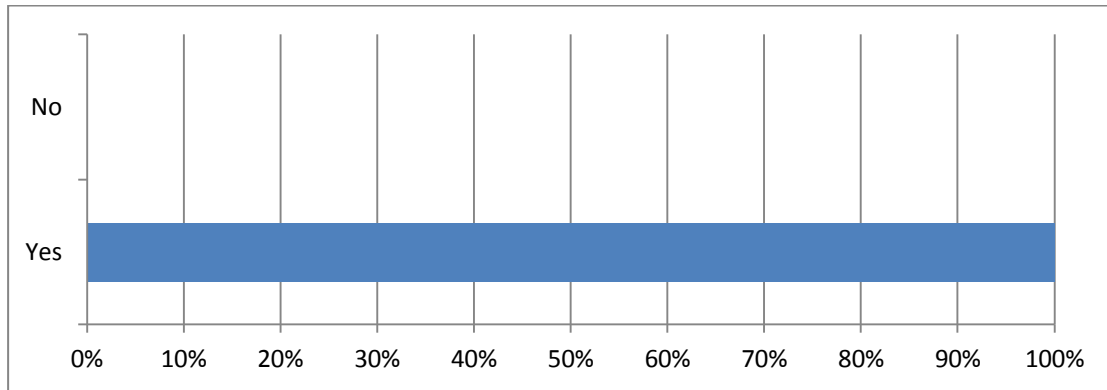
61% of respondents (who expressed a yes/no answer) agreed with the proposed method of allocating permits to applicants for the major fisheries.

Question 4 - Do you agree with standardising the minimum landing size at 20mm across Wales? (Subject to scientific advice in major fisheries with a Local Management Plan).



56% of respondents (who expressed a yes/no answer) agreed with standardising the minimum landing size at 20mm across Wales.

Question 5 - Do you agree with the proposals for compulsory catch returns for all cockles gathered in Wales?



100% of respondents (who expressed a yes/no answer) agreed with the proposals for compulsory catch returns for all cockles gathered in Wales.

Annex A

List of respondents*

Darren James Scott
David Arnold Mustoe
David Hutton
Luke Muir
Scott Clague
William Jones
David Arthur
Dennis Price
Phill Thomas
Christopher Price
Ryan Arthur
Llansteffan and Llanybri Community Council
Owen Harries
Phillip Rees
Alyn Rees Thomas
EA Davies
Peter Huw Thomas
D Thomas
Mark Harding
Phillip George Wassel
S Preece
Sarah Bush
Nathan Francis
Owen Davies
Ian Bartholomew
Sean Page
Dale Robinson
Mark Page
National Resources Wales
PE, EN James & EM Thomas
Michael Hough
James Bartholomew
Anglesey County Council
Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries
Gwynedd County Council
Conwy County Council
Andrew Walters
Liam Walters
Food Standards Agency
Swansea County Council
Flintshire County Council
Marine Conservation Society
Pembrokeshire County Council
Carmarthenshire County Council

**The above do not include those who wish to be kept anonymous or confidential*

Annex B

Surgery EOI

Consultation Response Surgery: Expression of Interest

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Interest in Cockle Fisheries

Please tick one of the boxes below that describes your interest in Cockle Fisheries in Wales

Cockle Gatherer ()

Industry ()

Community ()

Other Organisation (Please state): _____

Would you like an opportunity to clarify your consultation responses with Welsh Government staff on an appointment only basis? (*Various locations in Wales will be available*)

Yes () No ()

Please return to the address below no later than Friday 8 November 2013.

Expressions of interest can also be made via email to:

fisheriesmailbox@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Annex C

Surgery Invitation

Dear Stakeholder,

Thank you for expressing an interest to attend a surgery style appointment to discuss the "*Further Review of Cockle Fishery Management in Wales 2013*" consultation document and your responses.

I can now confirm that an appointment has been made for you, details of which are at the bottom of this letter.

Please be aware of the following information:

- Please can you inform me at your earliest convenience of your attendance by contacting me on xxxxx xxxxxx. Unfortunately it is only this appointment that can be offered to you therefore we would appreciate if you let us know if you cannot attend.
- You are present at your appointment location 10 minutes before your allotted surgery.
- Parking will be available at your surgery location. Details of how to get to your appointment is enclosed.
- Your surgery will last 45 minutes and will follow the structure laid out in the consultation document where each question will be discussed in turn. Late comers will be awarded the remaining time of their surgeries only.
- It is only the "*Further Review of Cockle Fishery Management in Wales 2013*" consultation document and your responses that is permitted to be discussed. Any other enquires will not be addressed and should be aimed at the Welsh Government through established means.
- Copies of the consultation document and your original responses will be available during the surgery.

Your appointment is at xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx at xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.

Yours,



Rhys Jones

Annex D

Surgery Waiver

Further Review of the Management of Cockle Fisheries in Wales 2013: Surgery Consultation

By signing this document I, the Stakeholder, declare that I understand and agree to the following information:

- It is **only** the proposals outlined in the “*Further Review of the Management of Cockle Fisheries in Wales 2013*” consultation document and your responses that will be discussed. Any enquiries/comments that aren’t directly related to this will not be discussed during the surgery and should be directed to Welsh Government officials through the established means.
- The responses discussed during this surgery will be collected and used in a summary document on the outlined proposals presented to the Minister for Natural Resources and Food for consideration. Those who wish to remain anonymous should check the box at the bottom of the page.
- Unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated at any time. Any unacceptable behaviour will lead to termination of the surgery, responses to the consultation will be discounted and individuals will be asked to leave the premises.
- The surgery will last up to 45 minutes and will follow the structure of the consultation document, where each question will be discussed in turn. Copies of the consultation document will be available along with your original responses. There is no provision for longer surgeries. The Welsh Government reserve the right to end a surgery once the allotted time has passed.

I wish my responses to the consultation be anonymous

Signed

Print Name