



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Welsh Government  
Informal Consultation – summary of responses

## Proposed Whelk Permit Conditions 2023-24

Proposed whelk permit conditions for the permit  
period and Whelk Period-1 March 2023 to 28  
February 2024

28 November 2022

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.  
This document is also available in Welsh.

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### 1. Background

The Welsh Government sought views on proposals to change aspects of the Wales whelk fishery through a two-week consultation.

The proposed changes are for the 2023-2024 whelk permit period commencing on 1 March 2023 and include:

- The permit fee and how it was calculated
- A single minor change to permit conditions
- A reduction in the Annual Catch Limit (ACL)

### 2. Consultation Period and Distribution

The consultation ran from the 15-28 November inclusive.

The consultation was publicised on GOV.WALES and a letter sent to all registered Welsh fishers as well as other fishers known to fish for whelk in the Welsh zone and whelk buyers/processors.

Respondents were able to respond by email or by providing a written response.

### 3. Responses

The Welsh Government would like to thank everyone who took the time to submit their views and respond to the consultation, all responses will be considered before the permit conditions are introduced.

During the consultation period, responses were received from 2 individuals who have an interest in the Welsh whelk fishery.

Of the 2 responses, 1 commented on permit conditions, with the remainder providing comments relating to the whelk fisheries management measures as a whole. We have previously consulted on those measures in 2020 and again in 2021, and although we have noted the comment, we will not be addressing them again in this report.

## 4. Consultation

The consultation sought views on the proposed permit fee and the methodology used to determine it, removal of one permit condition, no changes or additions to remaining conditions, reduction in Annual Catch Limit by 10% and setting initial monthly catch limit at 50 tonnes. These conditions will apply to permits that will be required by anyone wishing to fish for whelk commercially using pots in the Welsh zone for the permit period 1 March 2023 to 28 February 2024.

<b>Whelk Permit Fee and Calculation Methodology</b>
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No comments
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<b>Removal of one permit condition</b>
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No comments
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<b>No changes or additions to existing conditions</b>
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One respondent commented on the effect one of the spatial restrictions imposed because of the Habitats Regulations Assessment was having on their small business.
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<b>Reduction in Annual catch Limit by 10%</b>
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No comments
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<b>Initial Monthly Catch Limit of 50t.</b>
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No comments
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<b>Other</b>
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One respondent had concerns a track record might be required to get a whelk permit and whether the permit could affect the value of their fishing vessel license.
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## 5. Summary

Two comments were received during the informal consultation period. One comment related to the effects on their business of spatial restrictions on an area in which they fish. A further respondent raised concerns as to whether a track record was required for a permit and whether it would affect the value of their fishing license.

## 6. Next Steps

Welsh Government policy officials have considered all responses and comments which were received. Officials will now prepare a brief for the Minister on the results.

Officials expect to open the permitted whelk fishery on the 1 March 2023.

It is anticipated that a permit application window will open later this month and officials will provide information to all fishers at that time.

Any additional permit conditions required to comply with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 will be confirmed before the first permit period starts on 1 March 2023.