



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government
Informal Consultation – summary of responses

Proposed Whelk Permit Conditions 2024-25

Proposed whelk permit conditions for the permit
period and Whelk Period-1 March 2024 to 28
February 2025

28 November 2023

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 2024-2025 whelk permit period commencing on 1 March 2024 and include:

- The permit fee to increase with inflationary costs
- The Annual Catch Limit (ACL) to remain the same as 2023-24
- No change to the initial Monthly Catch Limit (MCL)

2. Consultation Period and Distribution

The consultation ran from the 13-27 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.

4. Consultation

The consultation sought views on the proposed increase of the permit fee to £304, the Annual Catch Limit (ACL) to remain the same as 2023-24 at 4,768 tonnes; and no change to the initial Monthly Catch Limit (MCL) of 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 2024 to 28 February 2025.

5. Summary

Two comments were received during the informal consultation period. One comment agreed the proposals seemed reasonable. A further respondent asked why a graded cost had not been introduced.

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 2024. It is anticipated that a permit application window will open in December 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 2024.