

Wales Marine Action & Advisory Group

Stakeholder Update

March 2018

The Welsh National Marine Plan (WNMP): Update March 2018

Development of draft WNMP

- 16 week public consultation launched on 7th December online and circulated to stakeholders.
- Letters to local planning authorities and statutory consultees requesting feedback issued.
- Responses to consultation being considered.
- Approximately 30 responses have been received by 28th March 2018 i.e. one day before closing date for the consultation.
- Welsh Assembly Senedd debate on WNMP held in 9th January 2018.
- Committee workshop on draft Marine Plan held 14th March 2018.

Engagement

- Six public events/drop in sessions around Wales and national Conference held.
- Policy bilaterals on draft planning policy and consultation feedback ongoing / being planned.
- Stakeholder bilaterals held / offered.
- Liaison with Republic of Ireland and Isle of Man ongoing as well as engagement with England, Scotland & Northern Ireland.
- Officials attended SIMCelt closing conference 28/29 November.
- Stakeholder Reference Group meeting held 24th October. Next meeting 3rd April 2018.
- Meeting with MMO held 21st February 2018; regular meetings ongoing.
- Marine planning 'game' session held with Liverpool University.

Evidence

- Continued with Monitoring and Reporting development.
- Testing of Version 3 of Portal ongoing.
- Worked with consultant - Iwan Ball - to analyse responses to consultation on subnational Marine Planning.
- Initiated EMFF IMP project 'Sustainable management of marine natural resources' and held EMFF project advisory group meeting.
- Carried out procurement for contractor to deliver Phase 1 of EMFF project – awarded to ABPMer.
- Continued development of marine planning evidence roadmap.
- Five year agreement has been put in place for the RYA UK Coastal Atlas of Recreational Boating GIS dataset. Data being added to portal.

Implementation

- Developing plan implementation workstream
- Ways of working Welsh Government MMO document agreed and adopted.
- Establishing Public Authorities Group to support implementation.

Microbeads Ban

Headlines

There has been significant media attention around the damaging effects of microplastics in the marine environment. Plastic microbeads are a common ingredient in many hand cleansers, face scrubs, toothpastes and other cosmetic products. They are washed down the drain and are too small to be completely filtered out in sewage treatment systems and end up in the sea. We, along with the rest of the UK are taking positive action to reduce the amount of plastic which ends up in our oceans.

Our recent public consultation about when the microbeads ban will come into effect and how it will be enforced in Wales showed widespread support for this ban. The Summary of Responses is available on our website <https://beta.gov.wales/banning-manufacture-and-sale-cosmetics-and-personal-care-products-containing-plastic-microbeads>.

We are progressing with legislation to introduce the full microbeads ban in Wales, on both the manufacture and sale of products simultaneously, by **30 June 2018**. The draft Regulations

are available for the public to comment on and can be found on the Marine and Fisheries web page <http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/marineandfisheries/?lang=en>.

Once the ban is in place, it will be a criminal offence for anyone to manufacture, sell or offer to supply any rinse-off cosmetic or personal care products which contain plastic microbeads in Wales.

We have been working with the Welsh Local Government Association in developing proposals for enforcement to be carried out by the Local Authorities Trading Standards services. Trading Standards officers will be able to impose a range of civil sanctions, including variable monetary penalties, compliance notices and stop notices to encourage compliance.

Our understanding is that Welsh businesses are unlikely to be affected by the manufacturing ban as we have no known manufacturers in Wales who use plastic microbeads. Furthermore, the cosmetics industry has already begun to phase out the use of microbeads and there are few if any manufacturers in the UK still using them. Therefore, the supply of products containing microbeads is diminishing.

Given these factors we believe retailers will be sufficiently prepared for this ban and non-compliance issues should be minimal.

Changes to marine and wildlife licensing in the Welsh offshore region

Headlines

The UK Government made a commitment to devolve further powers to the Welsh Ministers following recommendations made by the Silk Commission, Silk II Report on Legislative Powers to Strengthen Wales.

On 30 November 2017, the responsibility for protected species licensing in the Welsh offshore region, under the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, transferred to the Welsh Ministers. The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) agreed to administer species licence applications in the Welsh offshore region on behalf of the Welsh Ministers until 31st March 2018, when the responsibility for the administration of applications will transfer to Natural Resources Wales (NRW), who will be acting on behalf of the Welsh Ministers.

From 1st April 2018, the Welsh Ministers will be the marine licensing authority in the Welsh offshore region under the Wales Act 2017, when the administration of marine licence applications will transfer from the MMO to NRW, who will act on behalf of the Welsh Ministers.

What does this mean for you?

If you have submitted an application to the MMO prior to 1 April 2018 for a marine and/or wildlife licence, this will continue to be determined by the MMO. Once the licence application has been determined, if there are any post licence requirements, such as monitoring or discharge of conditions, these will be considered by NRW.

If you conduct any activities in the Welsh offshore region, please refer to The Marine Licensing (Exempted Activities) (Wales) Order 2011 for details of activities exempt from the requirement for a marine licence in Wales.

If you make an application for a marine licence or a wildlife licence in the Welsh Offshore region after 1 April 2018, this must be made to NRW.

NRW contact details:

Marine Licensing:

Email - marinelicensing@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

Telephone: General Enquiries line on 0300 065 3000.

Website:

<https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/marine-licensing/marine-licences/?lang=en>

Species Licensing:

Email: specieslicence@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk (English)
trwyddedrhywogaeth@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk (Welsh)

Telephone: 0300 065 4974 or 0300 065 4921

Website:

<https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/protected-species-licensing/?lang=en>

Changes to Harbour Regulations for harbours in Wales

Under the Wales Act, from 1 April 2018 the Welsh Ministers will also take over responsibility for port development policy for harbours wholly in Wales apart from major trust ports. This responsibility extends to applications for Harbour Revision and Empowerment Orders, private act ('Admiralty') consents, applications for powers to make harbour directions and confirmation of byelaws. To help ensure a smooth transition to the new arrangements, the Department for Transport (DfT), the MMO and the Welsh Government have agreed that the DfT or the MMO will be responsible for certain applications received before 1 April 2018. All applications received after 1 April 2018 will be handled by the Welsh Government.

Draft MPA Network Management Framework and Action Plan for Wales, 2018 – 2023

Background

The MPA Network Management Framework and Action Plan for Wales has been developed by the MPA Management Steering Group to:

- help move towards a joined-up and consistent approach to MPA management;
- set out the priority MPA network management actions for delivery as agreed by the MPA Management Steering Group
- make better use of monitoring and review of completed work to inform future management; and
- encourage management authorities to make the best use of the resources available to them.

The Steering Group has agreed the first iteration of the Framework will have a life cycle of five years. This will allow for review of the Framework and assessment of outcomes, ahead of the next round of reporting requirements for the OSPAR Commission and under the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009).

The MPA Network Management Framework for Wales

The Framework is set out over five sections and three annexes.

Section 1 provides an overview of the Framework and how it contributes to legislation such as the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales Act (2015), other strategies such as the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales, and obligations to the OSPAR Commission.

Section 2 sets out the vision and objectives for management of the network as agreed within the Steering Group's terms of reference, which are available on the Welsh Government's website. This section also draws links with the OSPAR Commission guidance on managing the network of MPAs. It introduces five management principles which the Steering Group has agreed should be used to guide delivery of the vision and objectives:

1. **Strategic Planning:** Management is guided by strategic planning processes at both a sectoral and all-Wales level. It supports sustainable use of the MPA network in ways which maintain, enhance, and contribute towards resilient marine ecosystems, wellbeing and delivery of sustainable management of natural resources.
2. **Regulation, development consenting and assessment processes:** Regulatory processes and consenting decisions are delivered consistently and proportionately across the network, and proactively consider and support the maintenance or enhancement (where possible/appropriate) of the condition of relevant sites and features across the network.
3. **Management advice and guidance:** Decision-making and management operations are supported by clear and consistent advice and guidance on MPAs, including their conservation objectives.
4. **Understanding the condition of, and pressures and threats on, sites and their features to inform management:** management is informed by formal assessment and reporting on the condition of features, sites and the network and the associated pressures. Assessment and reporting is informed by a prioritised evidence programme (including monitoring) which improves our understanding of the relationship between pressures and threats and condition.
5. **Wider management:** management activities across the network are prioritised towards those that have the potential for greatest improvement on condition and security of management. Common management challenges are addressed collectively across the network

Section 3 gives an overview of the network of marine protected areas in Wales and sets them in the context of the wider network in UK waters.

Section 4 sets out how MPAs are managed in Wales. It covers strategic planning, regulatory consenting and assessment processes, provision of management advice and guidance, the

importance of understanding the condition of sites and their features, and wider management activities.

Section 5 provides information on how the management and condition of the network can be improved, reinforces the five management principles and also gives information on governance arrangements for the Framework and Action Plan.

Annex 1 is a list of species and habitats protected at each Marine Protected Area in Wales.

Annex 2 sets out links to further information and guidance for management authorities.

Annex 3 is a table of management authorities together with their statutory responsibilities and the legislation and conventions which apply to them.

The MPA Network Management Action Plan

The Action Plan, which will be updated on an annual basis reiterates the vision and five management principles for MPA management. The Plan sets out the key actions identified by the MPA Management Steering Group to maintain and improve the management and condition of the MPA network across Wales in 2018-19.

Next steps

The Steering Group will meet again shortly to discuss applying prioritisation criteria to the actions identified in the Action Plan. The Group hopes to be in a position to provide a further update at the WMAAG meeting in June. In the meantime if you have any comments on the structure of the draft Framework and the five management principles please contact Richard Lowcock James on 03000 253241 / richard.lowcockjames@gov.wales.

Completing the Welsh Marine Protected Area Network

In November 2016, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) published its assessment of how existing MPAs in Wales are contributing towards the establishment of an ecologically coherent well-managed network of MPAs in the UK. The assessment concluded Welsh MPAs are making a substantial contribution. It notes, our network is well connected, with the majority of habitats and species being represented and where possible replicated to provide resilience in the network.

However, a small shortfall in ecological coherence was identified in the assessment for Welsh seas. This means we need to take action to address the shortfall to meet our national and international network obligations. We remain committed to working in partnership with WMAAG to address the shortfall, which we expect will complete the MPA network in Wales. We anticipate work to begin this autumn. Further details, including a project timeframe will be shared with WMAAG in the coming months.

We will work with stakeholders through a new MPA Network Completion Task and Finish Group. To date, the WMAAG members listed below have expressed an interest in being a

member of the new task and finish group. If there are WMAAG members not listed below but wish to put their names forward or if you think there are other organisations outside of WMAAG, which you think may have an interest in this work, please do let us know by emailing Sharon.Davies23@gov.wales by **1 June 2018**.

MPA Network Completion Task and Finish Group Members

Jim Evans, Welsh Fishermen's Association

Scott Fryer, Wildlife Trust Wales

Gill Bell, Marine Conservation Society

Emily Williams, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Rosie Kelly, The Crown Estate

Lucy Taylor, Severn Estuary Partnership

Emma Barton, Royal Yachting Association

Alan Morgan, British Marine

Peter Barham, Peter Barham Environment Ltd

JNCC and NRW

Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme

The Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP) is a UK-wide programme established in 1990 to provide a co-ordinated approach to surveillance of cetacean strandings and to investigate causes of death of stranded cetaceans, and occasionally other vulnerable species such as turtles and basking sharks in the UK. Information on strandings is made available to the devolved administrations on a quarterly basis.

The Welsh Government co-funds CSIP along with Defra and the Scottish Government. We have recently agreed to establish a new contract and continue funding CSIP for a further two and a half years, until October 2020. The contract allows for twenty post-mortems to be carried out each year on cetaceans which have stranded in Wales. The evidence gathered by the Programme provides us with information on the levels of interaction between cetaceans and human activities in Welsh waters, and is also used for MPA management purposes.

MARINE AND FISHERIES OPERATIONS BRANCH REPORT

OCTOBER 2017 – DECEMBER 2017

OPENING / CLOSING / PERMITS & AUTHORISATIONS

Andy Bradick

- The Welsh Scallop fishery opened on 1st November
 - 28 Authorisations issued to fish within the 6nm limit.
- The North Wales cockle fisheries of Traeth Melynog, Traeth Lafan and Red Wharf Bay opened 1st September
 - 113 Permits issued.
- The Conwy Bay and Estuary Mussel fishery
 - 7 Authorisations issued 10th September.
- The Whiteford Point Mussel Seed Vessel Dredge fishery
 - The single Authorisation expired 30th November.
- The Three Rivers cockle fishery, temporary closure has been extended until 31st December 2018, subject to ongoing cockle abundance assessment, to determine if there is sufficient stock to open the fishery.
- Recreational razor clam fishery at Llanfairfechan and Penmaenmawr was closed from the 18 August 2017 until 1 January 2018.
 - This decision was taken in light of new information from Bangor University which suggests the stock may be at risk of collapse as a result of the current levels of harvesting and in order for the commissioning, completion and review of an appropriate survey.
 - This closure will be extended until 31st Dec 2018 to allow for completion of this work.

MAIN FISHERIES

1. Cockles

Barrie John / Greta Hughes

The North Wales cockle fisheries opened on 1 September with healthy Total Allowable Catches (TAC) at Traeth Melynog (283 tonnes), Traeth Lafan (195 tonnes) and Red Wharf Bay (59 tonnes). Activity has been centred on Traeth Melynog with 6 cocklers intermittently collecting for the live market. Approximately 8 tonnes have been removed and there have been no minimum landing size or permit issues.

The Three Rivers fishery has remained closed throughout the period. While illegal activity has continued during the period, our high profile enforcement has successfully prevented numerous attempts by the poachers. Several offences have been detected and case files are now being prepared by the officers concerned. Reports of activity moving west (Saundersfoot) have also been successfully tackled.

2. Bass

Barrie John

Although the measures introduced by the 2016 TACs & Quota Reg have led to a reduction in the volumes of Bass being landed, there were a number of positive reports received from industry on the state of the stocks and the numbers of juveniles seen.

3. Crustaceans

Greta Hughes

Lobster pots were generally brought ashore or moved closer inshore although there was an offshore crab fishery in Cardigan Bay. Lobster and crab catches typically tapered off as the period progressed with low effort chasing high prices. The Cardigan Bay prawn fishery was initially very good but declined from November onward perhaps due to easterly winds reducing prawn movement. Overall, catches were consistent with previous years.

4. Scallops

Barrie John / Greta Hughes

There has been limited scallop activity in Cardigan Bay during the first couple of months of the season. However, those who have fished have reported back that the fishing is an improvement of the previous year. To date only 3-4 local vessels and the same number of visiting vessels have fished within the SAC. Reports of more vessels arriving from the South have yet to materialise.

North Llŷn and North Anglesey fisheries have been confined mainly to local vessels.

5. Queen Scallops

Greta Hughes

Trawling for queen scallops off North Anglesey yielded satisfactory catches at the beginning of the period but it is not known whether this activity will continue after the close of the current king scallop season. Some trawled queen scallops were landed at Aberdyfi by vessels working approximately 20 nautical miles offshore.

6. Whelks

Barrie John

The Whelk fishery continues to be one of our most prolific fisheries. At least 20% of the Welsh fleet are now active within this fishery. The prolific fishing seen earlier in the year in Cardigan Bay has now reduced and a number of the vessels who exploited this fishery have now migrated back south to more traditional areas. There appears to be continued support by the majority of industry for increased regulatory safeguards to ensure the sustainability of the fishery.

ASSETS AND RESOURCES

7. Fishery Patrol Vessels

Mark Pole / Paul Rowley

Vessel crew have assisted shore side enforcement operations and conducted sea patrols under the direction of the Operations Room.

Resources have been limited due to the vessel replacement programme, but joint working has recently been undertaken with Northern Ireland to patrol Cardigan Bay. This was successful and further joint working patrols are planned.

8. Vessel Procurement

Craig Jones

The procurement programme for the three new vessels has now completed, contracts were signed with the successful ship builders and the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs on 16th February 2017. The programme has now entered the build initiation phase. The build time differs for the vessels but they have been initiated in parallel. The anticipated delivery times for the three are as follows:

- Rapid response cabin RIB vessel (MST Ltd): February 2018 (delivered)
- South Fisheries Patrol Vessel (mono-hull) (Mainstay Marine Ltd): Sept 2018 August 2018
- North Fisheries Patrol Vessel (catamaran) (Mainstay Marine Ltd): Sept 2018 August 2018

9. Review of Health and Safety

Tim Croucher

The Operations team are now implementing the first of the finalised risk assessments which focuses on intertidal work. A safe system of work has been produced to provide staff with simple guidance on how to work safely in this area. The remaining risk assessments and safe systems of work will be implemented using a staggered approach over the next 6 months. The risk assessments are now being used to provide a comprehensive review of PPE within the branch.

CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE

10. Compliance with Control Regulation

Barrie John

Work continues to ensure compliance with the EU control regulation. All our vessels and agents who are required to submit electronic data have now been migrated onto the new UK Fish hub. Officers have worked with industry to ensure a smooth transition and also to assist where problems have arisen. The Ops Room monitors all vessel movements within the Welsh Zone via VMS technology and also scallop vessels using mobile technology. This data is also cross-checked against fishing effort to ensure a comprehensive picture is maintained on activity in our waters.

Concerns have been raised about vessels under-recording their engine power. Working alongside colleagues in Marine Scotland, we have begun work on identifying any such issues within the Welsh fleet and appropriate steps will be taken to correct any anomalies detected.

11. Foreign Vessel Landings

Barrie John

It has been a relatively quiet period with regard to landings by OMS vessels. This is predominately down to sufficient quota of key species in the Celtic Sea. Close scrutiny of VMS and E-logs is being paid to those that have remained as evidence would suggest vessels are misreporting the area of capture for some quota species. Investigations into two such vessels have begun.

No landings by Anglo Spanish vessel to report – but this is down to the fleet moving from the Grand Sol banks to more lucrative fishing nearer Porcupine Banks, West of Ireland.

12. Fish Buyers Inspections

Barrie John

The move to the new Electronic Hub for sales data has resulted in a few delays with data submission. This was to be expected therefore MEO's have visited and supported buyers as they migrate and move to the new Hub and reporting procedures. Other buyers with a statutory obligation to submit data within acceptable parameters are also being supported to ensure accurate Quota Management.

13. Marine Licencing

Phil Marshall

Poor weather and shorter daylight hours have greatly reduced the amount of marine licensable work being carried out on the coast. As a result the number of inspections has declined. Office based work has progressed well, which includes the completion of an investigation file.

14. EMFF

Work is underway to apply for the £2,300,000 European Marine and Fisheries Fund allocated to Wales for use on control and enforcement. The application was formally submitted in January and we expect to receive an initial response shortly. The scope of this project includes aspects such as the development of vessel detection systems for all vessels operating in Welsh waters as well as enhanced catch reporting systems for the under 10m fleet. This information will allow an improved risk based management model for the control of marine fisheries in Wales as well as strengthening Wales's position in relation to its statutory obligation for the traceability of fish and aquaculture products.

DIRECT ENFORCEMENT

15. Investigations & Prosecutions

Barrie John

The Operations team currently have 37 live investigations underway for fishery related offences. The offences being investigated cover a range of different activities, such as illegal intertidal shellfish gathering, non submission of statutory data, the landing of undersize fish, illegal fishing in closed areas and Vessel Monitoring related infringements.

First hearings of 5 cases were held in December and all were granted adjournments. Dates for these, and a further 5 cases have now been set in January (see 21. Recent Prosecutions) and March. A further 15 cases are either with, or will soon be, with Council General and we hope to receive the necessary sign off to proceed to prosecution shortly.

Work continues on the move to introduce Fixed Administrative penalties and it is hoped that a consultation on this will be launched in the near future.

FLEET MANAGEMENT

16. Vessel Licencing

Barrie John

The licencing of Welsh Fishing Industry remains as a key priority. We currently licence 29 >10m and 385 <10m vessels. We have continued to see delays with registration which in turn impacts on our ability to licence vessels in a timely manner. We continue to support our industry by ensuring those affected are able to work while these delays are resolved.

There were 104 licence transactions carried out over the last quarter, 11 of which were licence disaggregation's.

17. Quota Management

Mike Jones

The Quota team were very busy in the last quarter of 2017 successfully obtaining extra cod, sole, skates and ray for the under Welsh under 10m fleet. Extra quota was sourced from the MMO and DAERA pools, the South West FPO, East of England PO and the North Sea PO and the Northern Ireland FPO. Overall Welsh under 10m vessels had access to monthly quota limits in excess of their English counterparts. We were therefore able to finish the year with no need to close a single fishery to our fleet. Our largest uptake was with skates and rays where over 80% of our allocation was taken. All other species fell safely within their parameters. Outcomes from December Council are nearly all positive and we can expect increased quota allocations for our under 10m fleet in 2018.

18. Sea bass

The original proposal from ICES and the European Commission to ban all catches of sea bass was rejected at December Council and following very difficult negotiations annual catch limits for hook and line fisheries annual and an unavoidable by-catch allowances for gill nets for 2018 were agreed. Although these will be lower than those set last year the limits agreed were made despite very strong opposition and the scientific advice that the bass stock in the wider European waters continues to be in a very serious position.

The following catch restrictions for quantities of Sea bass unavoidably caught by commercial vessels will apply in 2018:

- Using demersal trawls – a maximum of 100 kilograms per month and 1% of the weight of the total catches of marine organisms on board in any single day.
- Using seine nets – a maximum of 180 kilograms per month and 1% of the weight of the total catches of marine organisms on board in any single day.

- Using hooks and lines – a maximum of 5 tonnes per vessel per year.
- Using fixed gillnets – a maximum of 1200 kgs per vessel per year.

In all recreational fisheries, including angling from shore, only catch-and-release fishing for Sea bass shall be allowed. However, at the December Council the European Commission gave a specific undertaking for a review of the Sea bass stock assessment to be complete by the end of March of this year. Once the outcome of the re-evaluation is known the Welsh Government will publish an update on its website.

19. Wrasse

Mike Jones

Marine Harvest have indicated they aim to avoid any dependency on taking wrasse from the wild to supply to the salmon farm trade. Operations staff will meet Marine Harvest in March to discuss their business plans for the future in Wales.

20. Porpoise strandings

Greta Hughes

An article and accompanying photograph regarding a mutilated porpoise washed up near the Little Orme appeared in the Daily Post, 29th December 2017. A local angler / angling shop proprietor suggested that the death could be attributed to discarded fishing nets and his comments contributed to several misconceptions within the article with regard to netting and enforcement responsibilities along the North Wales coast. Marine Enforcement Officers visited the premises and an information pack was provided. A photo of another porpoise washed up at Nefyn over the same period also appeared in the article.



Porpoise calf near Little Orme



Porpoise at Nefyn

Welsh Government and the UK and Scottish Governments jointly fund the Cetaceans Strandings Investigations Programme which provides, where possible, evidence of the cause of death of porpoises, dolphins and whales stranded on the Welsh coast. The cause of death of these particular porpoises cannot be established but the Programme shows that porpoise deaths can be caused by a variety of reasons including bottle nose dolphin and grey seal attack, neonatal starvation/hypothermia and boat strike in addition to fishing by-catch. Welsh fisheries are not considered to pose a threat to cetaceans because of the low levels of netting activity. The poor weather conditions over Christmas and New Year period allowed for minimal netting activity and it is highly unlikely that nets contributed to the above porpoise deaths.

21. Prosecutions

Barrie John

On 29th January 2018, five Investigations files, which had received authorisation to proceed to court, were heard at Haverfordwest Magistrates. A brief summary of the five cases and their outcomes are listed below:

1. Providing Star – PFV's 4975 & 4977. Both cases relate to illegal scalloping in Cardigan Bay during December 2015 where offences relating to fishing in a closed area, failing to comply with vessel tracking requirements and Statutory catch data issues. Owners and Master pleaded guilty to all charges. The combined charges for the 2 cases are as follows

Owners fined £40,000, plus £3000 costs plus £340 victim support charge (vsc)

Master fined £4000, plus £457 costs, plus £90 vsc

Total £47,887

2. Anne Mary B – PFV4988. Case related to illegal Whelk fishing within the 6 mile limit on the North Wales Coast. Owners and Master pleaded guilty with the following penalties awarded

Owners fined £9000, plus £1000 costs, plus £170 vsc

Master fined £2000, plus £360 costs, plus £100 vsc

Total £12,630

3. Michael Hough – PFV5137. Case related to repeat offending in relation to illegal cockle picking in Three Rivers Area and obstruction of an MEO in the course of his duties.
Guilty Plea

Fined £2500, plus £2000 costs, plus £170 vsc

Total £4,670

4. Brian Arthur – PFV5079. Case related to the retention of lobsters which were below the minimum landing size. Both parties pleaded guilty

Owner fined £400, plus £600 costs, plus £40 vsc

Master fined £400, plus £600 costs, plus £40 vsc

Total £2,080

Two further dates have been set at Haverfordwest Magistrates in March where a further 10 cases are due for their first hearing.

Appendix 1. Fisheries Operations Performance Indicators for October 2017 – January 2018

Work Area	Activity	October 2017	November 2017	December 2017	January 2018
Enforcing Marine Fisheries legislation	Patrols at sea	1	1	2	0
	Inspections at sea	0	3	2	0
	Inspections in port	44	56	19	19
	Ports visited	92	117	91	72
	RBS checks	14	15	16	5
Investigating Marine Fisheries Crime	Infringements detected	2	3	2	0
	New investigations	1	2	1	0
	Live investigations	36	37	38	32
	OWW	0	0	0	0
	Successful prosecutions	0	0	0	5
Enforcing the Marine Licensing regime	Active Marine Licenses	95	88	85	82
	% of Marine Licenses Checked	2	1	0	1
	Infringements	2	0	0	0
	Live Investigations	2	1	1	1

Volvo Ocean Race

Cardiff Stopover May 2018



Volvo Ocean Race Update:

The Volvo Ocean Race (VOR) is an epic race around the world, visiting 12 cities and touching six continents. The fleet set off from Alicante, Spain on October 2017 and for the first time in its history the race will stop in Cardiff, Wales from 27 May to 10 June 2018.

Sailors will leave Newport, Rhode Island, U.S., on May 20 for the race's transatlantic leg and will cover approximately 2,900 nautical miles until they reach Cardiff. The transatlantic leg is traditionally one of the nine-month event's biggest highlights and toughest tests for sailors in often challenging conditions. Antonio Bolaños López, acting CEO, Volvo Ocean Race, said: "The transatlantic race between Newport and Cardiff promises to be one of the real highlights of the Volvo Ocean Race 2017-18.



The Volvo Ocean Race festival site, called the Race Village, will be located on the scenic Cardiff Bay Barrage. The two week free event will host a variety of entertainment and Volvo Ocean Race-themed attractions.

VOR and WMAAG

Since presenting to WMAAG on VOR back in November, we have been working across Welsh Government and partner organisations to engage with the event owners during the on-going preparations for the VOR – Cardiff leg, particularly in regard to the over-arching theme of sustainability and, specifically, the campaign against ocean plastics/marine waste – operating in partnership with UN Environment’s Clean Seas campaign. Specific areas of activity include:

- **Ocean Summit – Tuesday 5 June, Wales Pavilion, Race Village**

The Ocean Summit is organised by Volvo Ocean Race and brings together sport, science, government, NGO’s and the private sector. Designed to generate discussion and create local relevance. The Summit is invite only, and high-level international delegates will be attending, with a key purpose of the Summit being to secure commitment by government and industry to ensure clean seas for the future.

The Agenda for the Summit and Speaker list is currently being finalised, however the Sessions are likely to focus upon –

- Keynote Address – Welsh Government;
- Setting the scene, the science of plastic pollution;
- Circular economy: The solution;
- Solutions from private sector along the plastic value chain, and;
- Sustainable Innovation in Sport.

- **Eco Schools Day - Wednesday 6 June, No Fit State Circus Big Top, Race Village:**

‘Eco-Schools’ is the largest sustainable schools programme in the world and is operated by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). It is funded in Wales by the Welsh Government and run by Keep Wales Tidy. The 2018 Annual Eco-Schools Day is coordinated by Keep Wales Tidy and will be held at the VOR.

This one day education event will bring 350 schoolchildren from schools across Wales to take part in a programme of environmental workshops and discussions. International links with eco schools in Rhode Island have also been established to take part in the conference. More information available from: pam.bacon@keepwalestidy.cymru

- **Education Workshops**

Week 1: 27th May – 3rd June.

A programme of 30 minute lectures/workshops will be held daily in the education marquee located in the Race Village, between 11:00 – 18:00 with Cardiff University and the National Marine Aquarium providing content and discussions ongoing with VOR Education team, Sky Ocean Rescue, Marine Conservation Society and Welsh Water.

The National Marine Aquarium and Cardiff University will also provide ‘busking’ education and soapbox science sessions in the race village.

Week 2: 4th June – 10th June.

Opportunities for school visits have been promoted via the Council and education partners' data base. Two programmes will be held daily for Primary and Secondary Schools, the programmes will consist of:

- Globe Cinema - School groups meet at globe cinema shown race film as an introduction before starting rotations.
- Volvo Education – Volvo Ocean Race sustainability education programme.
- Volvo Pavilion - Exhibition and product decks. Samples, stories, films etc. from all the Volvo brands, including Volvo Cars, Volvo Penta, Volvo Trucks, Volvo Construction Equipment and Volvo Buses.
- National Marine Aquarium - The Education Team from the National Marine Aquarium will run a specialist workshop to enable students to understand some of the physics and geography behind sailing across the ocean. Using native 'By-The-Wind Sailors' as an example, students will investigate how the anatomy of this jellyfish is similar to a sailing boat and how they both use wind and currents to travel across and survive in our ocean.
- Making their own By-The-Wind Sailor, they will investigate the effect of ocean currents and prevailing winds by navigating their jellyfish around a submerged map of the ocean. Following the route that the Volvo Ocean fleet takes, their jellyfish will experience the difficulties and challenges that face the Race competitors, as well as gaining a further understanding of the ecological consequences of an interconnected ocean, namely the distribution of plastics in our seas and how we can work together to reduce this environmental problem.
- Marine Conservation Society – session on the Plastic Challenge and on the 'Unflushables' - items that are commonly flushed down the toilet but should be binned instead, like cotton buds.
 - Airbus – Virtual reality activation
 - Race Village Tour – Guided tour of the other race village assets team bases, boat yard, boat cross section etc.

Education Workshops – some slots still to fill, so if any interest from members of WMAAG organisations, please contact: Simon Allen, Cardiff Council: SiAllen@cardiff.gov.uk

- **Clean Seas Wales Partnership**

The Welsh Government's Major Events team have been working with the CSW Partnership, forging links with the UN's Clean Seas Programme and helping to coordinate activity at the VOR event.

We are working with Cardiff Council, the official delivery partner of the VOR, to develop a Clean Seas Wales designated area on-site, influence the agenda of the Ocean Summit and ensure CSW key messages are incorporate into the event and that where possible, single-use plastics are not used on-site.

Want to get involved?

The Volvo Ocean Race is looking for volunteers to help out at the event in a variety of roles. If you have experience of volunteering at events, or would like to gain some, please visit the [‘The Sports Hub Cardiff’](#) website to find out more about the opportunities available.

For more information on the event, take a look at the [Volvo Ocean Race Cardiff website](#)

Presence at the Event: Expressions of Interest – presence at Race Village:
<https://www.volvoceanracecardiff.com/contact/>

Tara Croxton / tara.croxton@gov.wales

Major Events Unit, Welsh Government

Visit Wales: Year of the Sea

Visit Wales would like to this opportunity to thank the group, they are very grateful for the ideas that came through from the workshop in the November 17 meeting of WMAAG.

Visit Wales now have numerous revenue applications in to their funding scheme that the group will be interested to know about, if they are successful, but as yet they have not gone to panel.

Claire Carew works closely with Keep Wales Tidy on the Clean Sea Partnership and Visit Wales are fully engaged with them on the 30th Anniversary of Blue Flag wales.

Claire is also engaged with RSPB Wales and looking to assist them in the promotion of their 25 year anniversary celebration of the ownership of Ramsey Island.

In terms of YOS general activity Visit Wales are now at the stage where they are rolling out campaigns.

As mentioned above Claire is working closely on all matters linked to marine plastics...one of these being the consideration of how we reduce plastic water bottles. Visit Wales are also promoting the many beach cleans that are taking place organised by KWT and National Trust.

The only other news is that Year of the Sea ambassadors have been confirmed. You are unlikely to know them as they are not high profile enough for the general public, but they are very credible ambassadors and all are passionate about the ocean and Wales. They are all also very passionate about the marine environment . Detail on ambassadors in this link <http://www.visitwales.com/sea/sea-ambassadors>

Claire Carew: Visit Wales

Royal Yachting Association, RYA Cymru Wales and The Green Blue

Youth World Championships sailor Hatty Morsley has been crowned as the RYA Regional Youth Champion for Wales. The North Wales 18-year-old made the change to senior level in the 470 class of boat and hopes to follow in the wake of Olympic gold medal winner Hannah Mills – and is even one of her old boats. Each of regional award winners presented with a trophy at the RYA Dinghy Show 2018 by Olympian Dylan Fletcher. The theme for this year's show was #dinghysailingforlife, celebrating a lifetime sport for all.



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The RYA and British Marine's joint environment initiative 'The Green Blue' has revealed University of Manchester Sailing Club as the overall winner of the University Sailing Sustainability Challenge 2017-18. After six months of enthusiastic competition, the successful students claimed their prize on the main stage at the RYA Dinghy Show. Aberdeen University Sailing Club clinched second place with a Silver Award and a £250 prize and in 3rd place was Swansea University Sailing Club, achieving the Bronze Award and a £100 prize.

Invasive Species Week will be back from 23-29 2018. Throughout the week, the RYA will be joining with The Green Blue to focus on a different theme – and you can join in by following @CheckCleanDryGB or searching #InvasivesWeek. Non-native Species Secretariat (NNS) and Defra the first Invasive Species Week in 2015, bringing a range of organisations to raise awareness of non-native species and inspire people to #GetINNSvolved and stop the spread.



March forces each day

The GB launched together invasive



RYA Cymru Wales has earned an InSport bronze award for governing bodies for their work in making the sport more inclusive for people with a disability. The award is thanks to working with people of disability to bring them into sailing and make the sport more inclusive, including the Sailability scheme. RYA Cymru Wales Chief Executive Phil Braden was presented with the award on behalf of Disability Sport Wales by their Chief Executive Fiona Reid.



CHERISH

CHERISH fieldwork is underway on the terrestrial coastal sites with a programme of work over the coming months – to include: Castlemartin, Bardsey Island, Ramsey Island, and Puffin Island. The Skerries, Grassholm and Skomer Island will be visited later in the year. Teams from the Royal Commission and Aberystwyth University will be visiting the sites together to obtain as much data as possible

Aerial survey work will continue over the coming year to record the coastline to add to the data collected last year and the CHERISH drone (CHERISH operator licenced by the CAA) will now be deployed to take additional photographs at key sites

The website is fully functional – Welsh language site to be available from end of May, the site includes an interactive map of the coastal sites and clearer definition on the areas to be surveyed.

Maritime survey will commence in the survey season for 2018, Geological Survey of Ireland will be undertaking the work and dependant on the weather will be visiting the Welsh sites. The boats will survey the areas that the weather conditions allow and will endeavour to survey as much of the area as possible which may also include the Smalls and Grassholm, additional areas have been identified but as the time available is limited the priorities have been identified as those listed below. NRW have approved the approach to be taken within Marine Protected Areas (GSI will use the approach taken in the Irish SACs, all crew members are trained Marine Mammal Observers)

The Skerries
Ty Cores to Dinas Dinlle
St Tudwals and Abersoch
Sarn Padrig
Cardigan Island
Ramsey Island and Clerks
Solva and Green Scar
Skomer and Marloes

Events have been arranged to include a free CHERISH Professional Seminar on 17th May in Llandudno discussing Climate Change and Coastal Heritage – see Eventbrite website for more detail: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/seminar-proffesiynol-cherish-professional-seminar-tickets-42562996067>

A free CHERISH Public Day School will also be held in Aberystwyth on Saturday 6 October – more details will be available on the CHERISH website: www.cherishproject.eu and the CHERISH project will also be at the bandstand in Aberystwyth for Europe Day on 9th May

Social media presence remains very active and we can be followed on Facebook – CHERISH Project and twitter @CHERISHproj. We have produced a newsletter which is available on the website in Welsh/English. <http://www.cherishproject.eu/en/resources/publications/newsletter>

Clare Burgess: **Project Manager CHERISH European funded project**