

Under 10m Commercial Fishing Vessel Survey 2016

Objectives

The aims of carrying out the vessel survey were to:

- To maintain and improve contact with Welsh registered under 10m (U10m) fleet.
- Improve understanding of the fleet by collecting data using a questionnaire.
- Provide all Welsh registered under 10m vessels with a laminated copy of the front two pages of their licence to keep on their vessels
- Collate a comprehensive database of photographs of all vessels, along with photos of outboard engines.

Introduction

There are approximately 400 licensed U10m vessels in Wales at any one time although this figure varies on an almost weekly basis. The majority of vessels registered in Wales are U10m. Because these vessels are small and can be trailer launched or kept on moorings in isolated creeks, it can be challenging to maintain contact with this section of the industry.

It is important that the Welsh Government has contact with and a good understanding of the Welsh under 10m fleet. In 2016 a questionnaire was produced and circulated to the fisheries officers for them to complete in discussion with the licensed fishermen in their area. The survey in 2016 was the first of its kind and can be built upon and improved, with the aim of gaining a better understanding of the Welsh fishing industry as a whole.

Method

Copies of the front two pages of the licenses for the Welsh U10m vessels and the questionnaires were circulated to the relevant fisheries officers. The fisheries officers delivered these by hand to the U10m licensed fishermen and took the opportunity to fill out the questionnaire at the same time.

The questionnaire results were then collated in a spreadsheet where the results could be analysed.

Results

Officers met and completed questionnaires with 337 (81%) of the 415 license holders in 2016. A breakdown of the key responses is shown below:

Figure 1. Pie chart showing the percentage of fishermen in fishing associations. Of the 337 interviewed 189 (49%) were not members of associations, 143 (37%) confirmed they were members of associations and 53 (14%) provided no answer.

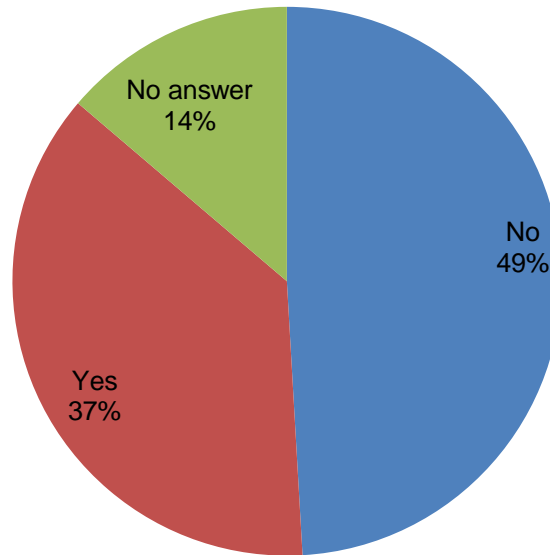


Figure 2. Pie chart showing the breakdown of fishermen belonging to associations.

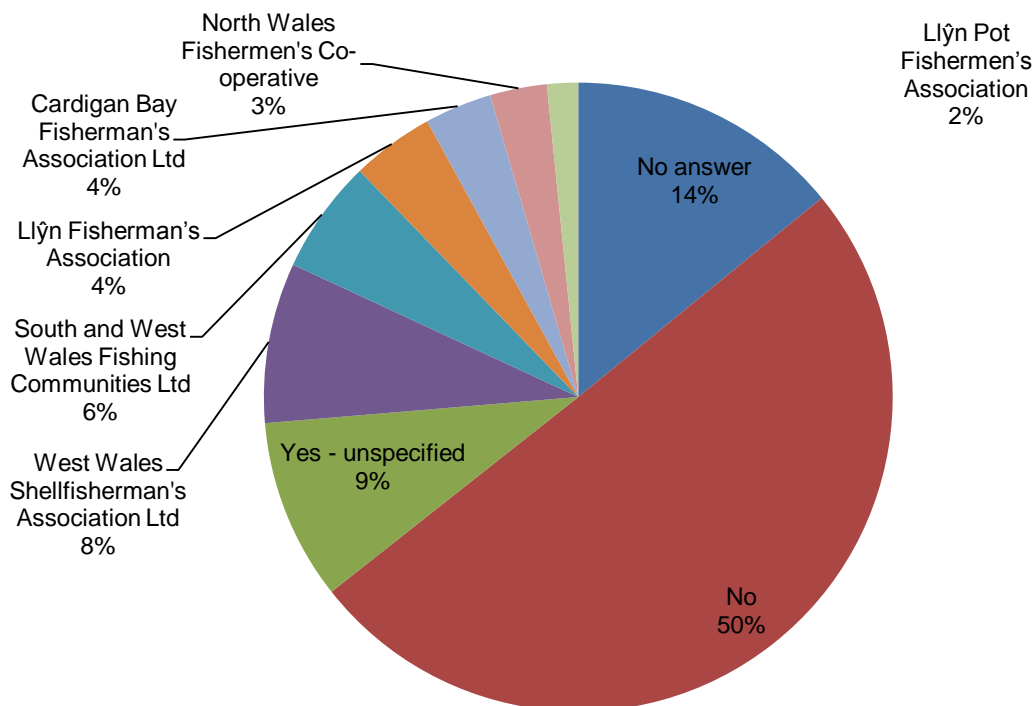


Table 1. Number of fishermen part of fishermans associations

| Association | Number of fishermen |
|--|----------------------------|
| No answer | 53 |
| No | 189 |
| Yes - unspecified | 35 |
| West Wales Shellfisherman's Association Ltd | 31 |
| South and West Wales Fishing Communities Ltd | 22 |
| Llŷn Fisherman's Association | 16 |
| Cardigan Bay Fisherman's Association Ltd | 13 |
| North Wales Fishermen's Co-operative | 11 |
| Llŷn Pot Fishermen's Association | 6 |

The biggest fishing association in terms of membership was the West Wales Shellfisherman's Association Ltd with 31 members from the questionnaire responses (Figure 2, Table 1).

The questionnaire results for membership of fishing association were lacking as there were 53 forms which returned a blank answer, and 35 fishermen said they were part of an association without stating which one (Table 1).

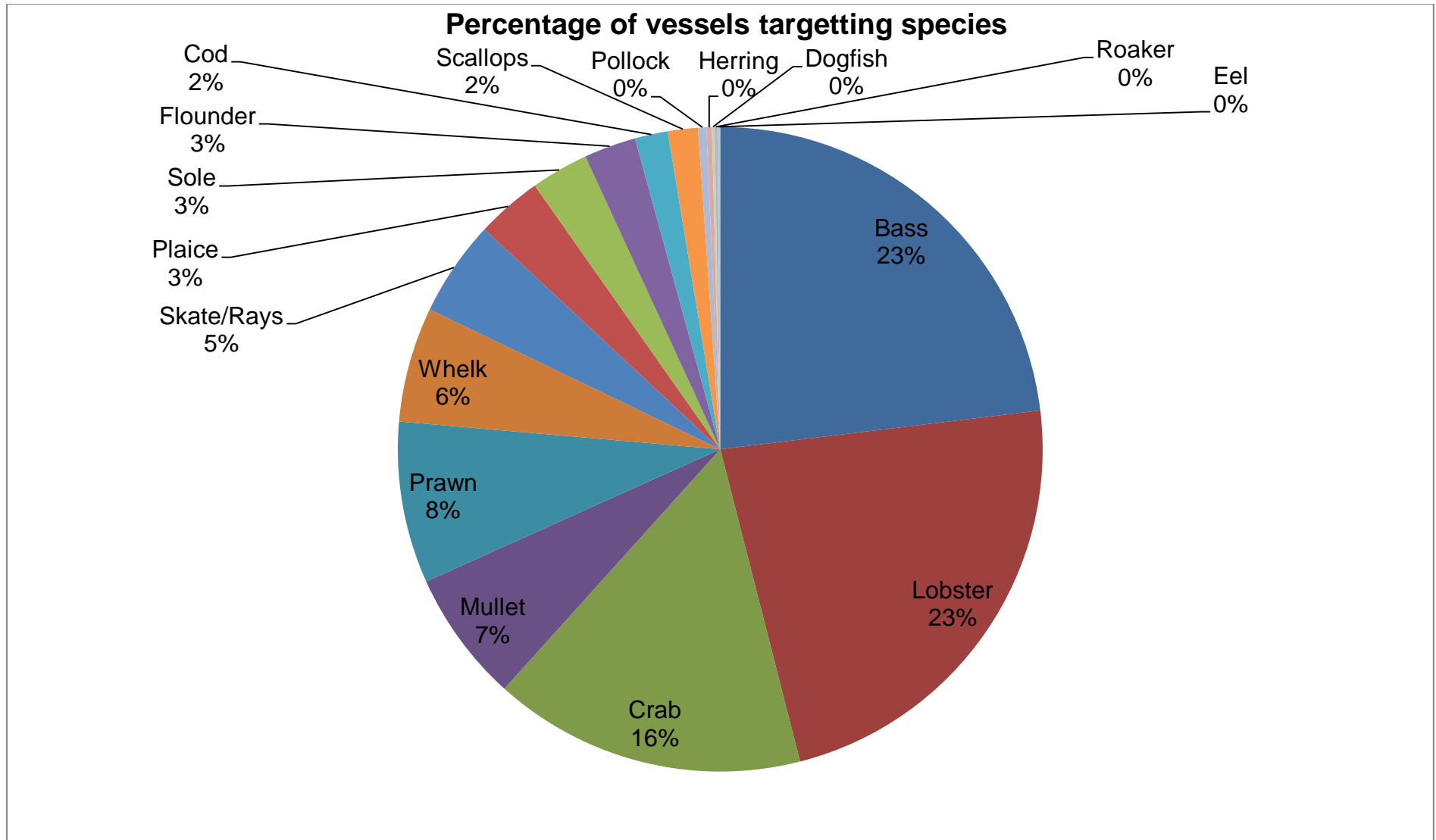


Figure3. Pie chart of species targeted by percentage of vessels.

Table 2. Species targeted by number of vessels. The most commonly targeted species by the Welsh under 10m fleet were Bass (23% of the under 10m fleet), lobster (23%), crab (16%), prawn (8%), mullet (7%) and whelk (6%) (figure 3).

| Species | Number of vessels targeting |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| Bass | 168 |
| Lobster | 167 |
| Crab | 114 |
| Mullet | 48 |
| Prawn | 59 |
| Whelk | 42 |
| Skate/Rays | 35 |
| Plaice | 24 |
| Sole | 21 |
| Flounder | 19 |
| Cod | 12 |
| Scallops | 11 |
| Pollock | 3 |
| Herring | 2 |
| Dogfish | 1 |
| Roaker | 1 |
| Eel | 1 |

Figure 1. Bar chart showing the distribution chart of vessel kW power. The majority of under 10m Welsh vessels were under 110 kW.

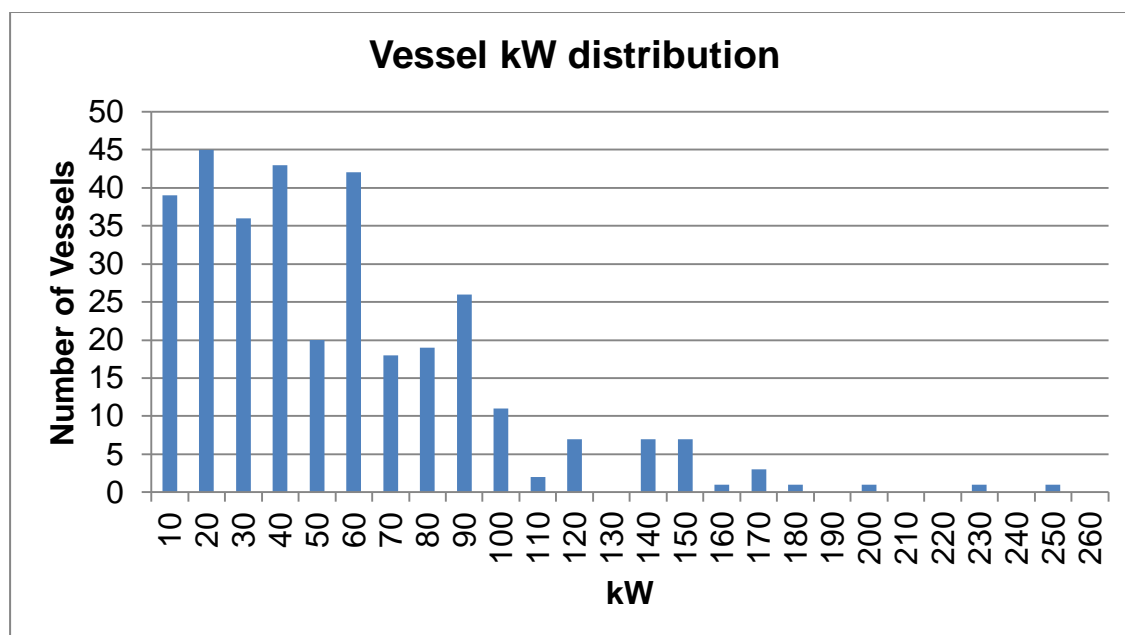


Table 3. List of main home ports with number of vessels

| Home Port | Number of vessels |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Burry Port | 25 |
| Milford Haven | 19 |
| Swansea | 17 |
| Llanelli | 16 |
| Cardigan | 14 |
| Holyhead | 12 |
| Fishguard | 11 |
| Saundersfoot | 10 |
| Amlwch | 9 |
| Abersoch | 8 |
| Beaumaris | 7 |
| Caernarfon | 7 |
| Conwy | 7 |
| Mostyn | 7 |
| Solva | 7 |
| Aberystwyth | 6 |
| Connahs Quay | 6 |
| Neyland | 6 |
| Port Penrhyn | 6 |
| Porth Dinllaen | 6 |
| Bagillt | 5 |
| Rhoscolyn | 5 |
| Tenby | 5 |
| Dale | 4 |
| New Quay | 4 |
| Porth Colmon | 4 |
| Trefor | 4 |
| Abercastell | 3 |
| Angle | 3 |
| Barmouth | 3 |
| Freshwater East | 3 |
| Greenfield | 3 |
| Little Haven | 3 |
| Porth Meudwy | 3 |
| Porthcawl | 3 |
| Porthgain | 3 |
| Pwllheli | 3 |
| Rhosneigr | 3 |

The busiest ports in terms of number of Welsh under 10m vessels registered were Burry Port, Milford Haven, Swansea, Llanelli, Cardigan, Holyhead, Fishguard and Saundersfoot (Table 3).

Table 4. Number of vessels using different gear types

| Gear used | Number of vessel |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Pots | 170 |
| Nets | 167 |
| Rod & Line | 103 |
| Longline | 49 |
| Trawling | 19 |
| Handline | 15 |
| Dredges | 11 |

Pots, nets and rod & line are the most commonly used gear types (Table 5). Many vessels use a combination of gear types.

Table 5. Preferred language by fishermen

| Preferred language | Number of fishermen |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| English | 283 |
| Welsh | 22 |
| English/Welsh | 27 |

The majority of Welsh under 10m vessel skippers' preferred language is English (Table 6).

Table 6. Number of fishermen using social media

| Social media users | Number of fishermen |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Yes | 85 |
| No | 197 |
| Facebook | 42 |
| Twitter | 0 |
| Facebook/Twitter | 4 |

The majority of fishermen do not use social media. Of the skippers who do use social media, Facebook is the most popular (Table 7).

Discussion and Recommendations

The results regarding the membership of fishing associations showed a large proportion of fishermen are not part of an association. We need to ensure we are able to maintain communication with this unrepresented group and enable them to raise issues where necessary. If the survey was repeated the questionnaire could be modified to identify why such a high proportion of fishermen were /are not part of a fishing association.

The questionnaire responses were insufficient with regards to fishing association membership. Some responses lacked a specific association and some returned a blank response. In addition, there were other parts of the survey where the data collected was incomplete. If the survey is repeated we will need to review and improve the questionnaire, meet as many fishers as possible and in order to gain the fullest picture we need to seek clear answers to as many questions as possible. To enable the survey to provide a more comprehensive picture we could also survey the >10m fleet.