

## MARINE AND FISHERIES

### MARINE USER STAKEHOLDER UPDATE

JUNE 2019

#### Introduction

The Wales Marine Action and Advisory group (WMAAG) provides a forum for discussion and debate, and the provision of support and advice to the Welsh Government, on strategic marine and coastal policy. It is the overarching stakeholder group for the work of the Marine and Fisheries Division of the Welsh Government, sitting alongside the Welsh Marine Fisheries Action Group (WMFAG), the lead Welsh Government fisheries industry forum in Wales.

The WMAAG is comprised of 32 stakeholder leads who represent the interests of all sectors with an interest or investment in the Marine in Wales. Details of sectors and lead organisations can be found within the group's [Terms of Reference](#).

This publication is an update from the Welsh Government Marine and Fisheries Division together with updates from members of WMAAG.

#### Welsh National Marine Plan

Since the draft Welsh National Marine Plan (dWNMP) consultation closed, we have been finalising the policies within the plan and settling the text with input from a wide range of stakeholders. At the end of January, we held a feedback meeting with members of the Marine Planning Stakeholder Reference Group. Our stakeholders positively welcomed the redrafted plan and acknowledged the engagement that had happened since consultation. Over the last few weeks, we have been working with Welsh Government and UK policy leads to sign off the policies within the plan - this will be finalised by late spring.



Stakeholder feedback indicated a need for detailed implementation guidance - which was originally part of the dWNMP. However, many commented the plans length and complexity masked the key policies and objectives. Over the last year, we have been working with stakeholders to refine the dWNMP before adoption to reduce its length and promote accessibility for users. We have separated out the implementation guidance and underpinning evidence (from the core WNMP) into a supporting framework, which we are developing with stakeholder input.

Engagement is also going well with the Marine Planning Decision Markers Group (MPDMG), made up of Relevant Public Authorities (RPAs) who will need to take decisions in line with the plan when it comes into force. Three meetings have taken place since the summer.

The work of the Technical Working Group set up consider the Tidal Lagoon Policy and results of the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Assessment has now concluded and advice sent to the Minister.

Publication of the Welsh National Marine Plan is scheduled for summer 2019 and we are reviewing the need for Independent Investigation on a regular basis.

Contact: [Marineplanning@gov.wales](mailto:Marineplanning@gov.wales)

### National Development Framework

Work on the National Development Framework (NDF) is progressing, following the consultation on the Issues, Options and Preferred Option between 30 April and 23 July 2018. The draft NDF will be published for consultation in July 2019.

More details are available on the NDF Webpages here: [www.gov.wales/ndf](http://www.gov.wales/ndf)

### UK Marine Strategy

The Marine Strategy Regulations 2010 (The “regulations”) requires the UK administrations to take action to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) in our seas by 2020 (subject to certain exceptions).

The regulations require the Secretary of State, in cooperation with the UK administrations, to produce a Marine Strategy for UK waters. The Marine Strategy was published in 2012 and is made up of the following components, which are reviewed individually on a six yearly cycle in line with the regulations. It is the combination of these three parts which make up the overall UK Marine Strategy:

UK Marine Strategy Part 1: an assessment of marine waters, objectives for GES and targets and indicators to measure progress towards GES (first published in December 2012);

UK Marine Strategy Part 2: sets out the monitoring programmes to monitor progress against the targets and indicators (published August 2014, review due in 2020); and

UK Marine Strategy Part 3: sets out a programme of measures for achieving GES (published December 2015, review due in 2021).

We have been working in collaboration with the other UK administrations, UK Statutory Nature Conservation Advisors and scientific experts from the UK and OSPAR Commission, to review and update the Marine Strategy Part 1 to assess and demonstrate our progress towards achieving GES in the UK between 2012-2018.

The UK Government and Devolved Administrations have launched a joint consultation, which will run from May 9 until June 17. The consultation covers the assessment of progress made against each of the eleven ecosystem components or descriptors using targets set for Good Environmental Status (GES) in the Marine Strategy Part One in 2012.

The proposals cover updated high level objectives, targets and operational targets to be used for 2018 to 2024. These build on those set in 2012 and take account of the assessment findings and developments toward achieving coordinated targets, indicators and thresholds nationally, in the European Union and in the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the North East Atlantic.

Supporting the consultation is the first Marine Online Assessment Tool (MOAT), which includes the evidence used to assess progress towards GES. The MOAT makes the detailed science underpinning the assessments readily available and easily accessible to all.

The consultation and supporting Marine Online Access Tool can be found here:

<https://gov.wales/marine-strategy-part-one-uk-updated-assessment-and-good-environmental-status> Please ensure all responses are sent direct to Defra.

### Harbour Porpoise Special Areas of Conservation

#### Conservation Objectives and Advice on Activities

Final conservation objectives and advice on activities documents for the three harbour porpoise SACs are now available on JNCC website and NRW website:

Bristol Channel Approaches:

[http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/BristolChApproaches\\_ConsAdvice.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/BristolChApproaches_ConsAdvice.pdf)

North Anglesey Marine:

[http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/NAnglesey\\_ConsAdvice.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/NAnglesey_ConsAdvice.pdf)

West Wales Marine:

[http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/WestWales\\_ConsAdvice.pdf](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/WestWales_ConsAdvice.pdf)

### Native Oyster Network

The Native Oyster Network connects native oyster restoration projects, production companies and fisheries, which are based in the UK and Ireland. Follow the link and click on the map for more information on the Wales Native Oyster Restoration Project led by Natural Resources Wales. The four-year European Maritime and Fisheries Fund project, administered by the Welsh Government, investigates questions surrounding the approach and feasibility of restoring native oysters in the Milford Haven waterway.



<https://nativeoysternetwork.org/restoration-projects-partnerships/>;

### Wales Marine Fisheries Advisory Group (WMFAG)

Full details of the Wales Marine Fisheries Advisory Group (WMFAG) progress report and operations branch reports are available on the Welsh Government website:

<https://beta.gov.wales/welsh-marine-fisheries-advisory-group>

### Fisheries and Brexit

All the latest news on Brexit for the Fisheries Trade and Industry can be found in the Brexit Bulletin. These bulletins are available on our website or you can subscribe to receive directly to your inbox.

<https://gov.wales/subscribe-fisheries-and-brexit-bulletin>

### Natural Resources Wales (NRW)



### Biosecurity Planning for Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC: EMFF Project

In October 2018 NRW were successful in gaining European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) funding of £188,000 for a project entitled “Biosecurity Planning for Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau Special Area of Conservation (PLAS SAC)”. The project is 100% funded by the EMFF grant and started on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 for a duration of 3 years. The day-to-day work of the project will be delivered by the Project Officer, Kate Griffith.

#### **Project background and summary**

Marine Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) are a significant threat to global biodiversity and can have detrimental socio-economic impacts on activities such as fishing, shipping and aquaculture. Biosecurity measures can prevent the introduction and spread of INNS and limit the likelihood of a species entering an area in the first place; such measures are particularly important for marine ecosystems, where eradication and control techniques have been shown to be less effective.

This EMFF project will develop a biosecurity plan for the PLAS SAC and inform the longer-term implementation of effective biosecurity planning for Wales' network of marine protected areas. A crucial aspect of the project is to engage with key stakeholders such as local fishermen and the SAC Liaison Group. The project will be delivered in 3 work packages which will;

- 1) Gather evidence to underpin biosecurity planning for PLAS:
  - Assess and map the extent of INNS in the site
  - Assess potential impacts of INNS on features and fisheries
  - Investigate pathways of introduction and spread
  - Work with fishermen to review outputs from the evidence gathered
- 2) Develop a biosecurity plan for PLAS to minimise new anthropogenic introductions and reduce the spread of existing marine INNS to include:
  - Action plans for high-risk pathways of introduction and spread
  - Species Action Plans
  - Monitoring, management and awareness raising actions
- 3) Implement the biosecurity plan and monitor its effectiveness:
  - Workshops to promote the biosecurity plan
  - Work with Local Authorities to embed the plan through local planning policies and licences
  - Lessons learnt exercise

### State of Natural Resources Report – SoNaRR 2

The primary purpose of SoNaRR is to report on the status of Wales' natural resources to track the progress being made towards achieving the sustainable management of natural resources. In delivering this, SoNaRR will make available the information needed for Welsh Ministers to set priorities for action at the national level as well as information to inform the selection of appropriate areas for the implementation of those priorities by Natural Resources Wales. The first report was published in September 2016. The next is due December 2020.

In addition to the main report we will be producing an Interim report in December 2019, which will be used to inform the next Natural Resources Policy. The purpose of the Interim report is:

- To describe the emerging changes in terms of what the evidence is telling us since the last SoNaRR.
- To describe newly identified evidence gaps and any update to previously identified evidence gaps; how filling the gaps is being prioritised and include any work being initiated to address them.
- To include an update on the look and feel of the next report.

NRW is planning the next SoNaRR. We have agreed the method, building on the first report, and we're looking for individuals and organisations to help contribute to the next report. We also want to understand how you need to use the information in the report. This will help us design the format of the report and other products.

We are linking SoNaRR2 with other initiatives. If you feed in information to the Area Statement process, then we will use relevant information in the assessment of the sustainable management of natural resources at the all-Wales level for SoNaRR. We are considering how the report will be presented, along with Area Statements and evidence required for PSBs. We will inform stakeholders when we envisage specific work will be taking place, so those who are able to help can feed in at the appropriate time.

We will be basing our assessment of natural resources in SoNaRR2 around the four measures of SMNR. These measures have been translated into four objectives of SMNR:

#### **1. Stocks of natural resources are safeguarded and enhanced**

Tackling overexploitation to ensure that stocks of renewable natural resources are safeguarded and enhanced to meet the needs of current and future generations. Stocks of non-renewable natural resources are used in a sustainable manner and, where depletion is unavoidable, that substitutes are put in place to meet future needs.



### **2. Ecosystems are resilient to expected and unforeseen change**

Building ecosystem resilience to safeguard and *enhance supporting ecosystem services* and tackling the impacts of habitat change, climate change, pollution, invasive alien species and other identified pressures.

### **3. Contributing to a circular economy with more efficient use of natural resources**

Reducing the environmental impact of production and consumption and our environmental footprint within Wales and internationally, while optimising benefits of *provisioning ecosystem services*.

### **4. Wales has healthy places for people, protected from environmental risks**

Environmental regulation protects people from risks, such as air, water and noise pollution, flooding etc. *Regulating and cultural ecosystem services* are managed to increase wellbeing and provide a healthy environment for all.

Dan Crook is the lead for the marine ecosystem contribution to SoNaRR 2. Please get in touch if you would like to discuss getting involved. It is envisaged that WMAAG will be the main route for engagement on the marine component of SoNaRR 2.

## **Marine Litter Advisor**

NRW have been successful in an application to Welsh Government for funding for a new post in relation to marine litter. The role will be recruited on a one-year basis initially to lead on the provision of marine litter technical and specialist advice and knowledge to shape and inform Welsh Government and NRW decisions, programmes, plans, guidance and strategies. A key focus of the role will be to integrate across marine, freshwater and waste functions related to marine litter and promoting a source to sea approach.

## **Marine and Coastal Casework Guidance Project**

Natural Resources Wales established the Marine and Coastal Casework Guidance (MCCG) project in 2016 as it was recognised that there was little guidance for marine developments in Wales. The MCCG project aims to:

1. To produce marine and coastal casework guidance which is fit for purpose.
2. To establish a long-term and efficient method of managing and progressing marine and coastal casework guidance.

The MCCG provides a coordinated approach to developing guidance, with appropriate governance and ownership by the Marine Programme Board. The MCCG project management team have strong links with wider NRW guidance development to ensure a consistent NRW approach. The MCCG project has recently

secured a Marine Guidance Coordinator post for 2 years. This will ensure that the project continues and provides additional resources for project management and guidance development.

The project has set up a dedicated [Marine and Coastal Guidance webpage](#) to access guidance. All new guidance will be published on the website. Recent guidance products include:

- [GN003](#) Marine vertebrate conservation legislation in Wales
- [GN006](#) Marine ecology datasets for marine developments and activities
- [GN011](#) Seaweed harvesting
- [GN030](#) Benthic habitat assessment guidance for marine developments and activities

The next steps for the project include developing a framework for marine and coastal guidance, Welsh National Marine Plan implementation guidance and transforming to digitized content.

### Wales Non-Licensable Activities Project

This project focusses on the non-licenced activities of greatest concern at the network scale in Wales. It seeks to develop the evidence base on the spatial and temporal distribution, intensity and impacts of these activities on features protected in the network and will involve working with appropriate stakeholders to identify and implement feasible and effective management interventions (e.g. regulation, financial incentives, behavioural change, etc.), where required, to mitigate impacts. Phase 2 of the project (2018/19) delivered work on the four priority topic areas below;

- **Recreational sea angling**  
NRW commissioned a literature review of the potential impacts of recreational sea angling in Wales. We are currently considering whether we will be adapting the draft report into a NRW evidence report.
- **Recreational boating – anchoring, mooring and launching**  
NRW let a contract in 2018/19 which produced GIS layers for areas of anchoring, mooring and launching in Wales, with an indication of the intensity of these activities. We are currently working to make these spatial outputs available.
- **Bait digging and collection of living resources**  
NRW have produced draft activity layers which indicate the location of these activities around the Welsh coast. We have used this data to conduct some investigatory work to identify areas potentially sensitive to these activities.
- **Foot access**  
A report was commissioned in 2018/19 which outlines potential ways in which the location and intensity of foot access can be determined around the Welsh coast. This will be available as NRW report shortly. A second contract was awarded to the BTO to map the location of the high tide roosts in Welsh SPAs and SSSIs. Data from this contract will become available from the BTO website.



A project workshop was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019 to discuss the potential next steps for Phase 3 of the project. The outputs from this workshop are currently being discussed by the project team and a project plan for 2019/20 will be produced in June 2019.

### Angel Shark Project Wales

Contact: Ben Wray (NRW) [ben.wray@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:ben.wray@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)

Angel Shark Project Wales is a multidisciplinary project which seeks to safeguard one of the world's rarest sharks through fisher participation, heritage and citizen-science. The project is funded by Welsh Government and Heritage Lottery Fund with staff time (Ben Wray – Project Manager), support and resources provided by NRW.

The Critically Endangered angelshark (*Squatina squatina*) is one of the most threatened sharks in the world. Following widespread global decline over the past 100 years, Wales is one of the last places where angelsharks still occur, giving hope that they can be saved from extinction. Combining conservation and social science, the project benefits both angelsharks and local communities. By engaging with the aged community, fishers, divers and Key Stage 2 schoolchildren in five focal areas around Wales we will deliver four major outcomes for heritage, people and communities:



1. The status and ecology of angelsharks in Wales is understood through community heritage, citizen science and fisher data.
2. Fishers in Wales are stewards of angelshark conservation, providing vital data and improving chances of caught angelshark survival when released.
3. Loneliness in the aged community is tackled through contributing their knowledge to help safeguard angelsharks and sharing this with younger generations
4. Wales Angel Shark Action Plan, informed by heritage and science, is published with commitment for implementation secured with Welsh government and key stakeholders.

Since commencement of the project in June 2018 a number of elements from the project plan have been completed. These include:

- Project partnership agreements in place,
- Recruitment of staff (project coordinator),
- Inaugural steering committee meeting,
- Project Launch (visual identity, digital channels and media engagement),
- Key milestones (articles written, press releases, interviews),
- Representation of project at key events (Royal Welsh, Living Seas Project Events, Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum, WWF Elasmobranch workshop Netherlands)
- History of Angels' roadshow events completed (5 focal areas around Wales)
- Press release and media coverage reached 39,972,381 people globally





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ANGEL SHARK PROJECT: WALES



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## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

5 Angelshark roadshows were completed at Nefyn Maritime Museum, Milford Haven Heritage Museum, National Waterfront Museum (Swansea), The National Library of Wales (Aberystwyth) and Holyhead Sea Cadets. 497 people attended, sharing a number of photos and memories of Angelsharks from Wales, England, Scotland and Ireland.



Angelshark Roadshow at Nefyn Maritime Museum

HLF Approved Purposes	Progress
Recruit Staff	
Establish Steering Group	
Create Brand & Digital	
4 Outreach Events	
Recruit Citizen Scientists	
Train Fishers	
Gather Fisher Records	
2 Dive for Angel Events	
History Roadshow	
History of Angels iBook	
History of Angels Exhibit	
Celebration Events	
Action Plan	
Provide Info/Evidence	
HLF Acknowledgement	



Graham Maddick brought in his Angelshark photo taken in 1960.

## QUARTERLY REPORT 3 : DEC – FEB 2019



### FISHERS BECOME ANGELSHARK STEWARDS

- 10 informal meetings with fishers completed to talk about the project and distribute leaflets.
- 2 fishers participated in timeline analyses and participatory mapping.



### STATUS AND ECOLOGY OF ANGELSHARKS UNDERSTOOD

- Over 80 Angelshark records were shared by fishers dating back to the 1950s.
- 1 new Angelshark record from 2018.
- A variety of Angelshark records were collected in the roadshows: 3 books with Angelshark references, 9 newspaper articles dating back to 1908, 2 fisher logbooks, 3 audio memories, 4 Angelshark photos from Wales and 8 Angelshark photos from Ireland.



### SHARING INFORMATION ACROSS THE GENERATIONS

- 5 roadshows completed with 497 attendees.
- Press release and media coverage reached 39,972,381 people globally (47 online articles, 29 broadcast articles and 11 print articles).
- Project filmed for an episode of BBC Blue Planet UK (to be aired in March 2019).
- Web and social media reached 112,163 people



### DEVELOPMENT OF WALES ANGELSHARK ACTION PLAN

## A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ANGELSHARK HISTORY ROADSHOW

We have been delighted by the response to the Angelshark History Roadshows. We would like to thank everyone who attended or contributed one of the amazing new records or memories of Angelsharks in Wales and across the British Isles. Below are some highlights:



**GRAHAM'S "BIG FISH DAY"** During the Roadshow in Swansea, Graham Maddick brought in a photo of an Angelshark he caught from Swansea pier in 1960, when he was 17 years old. He explained that he had to carry the shark for 2 miles for it to be identified at the local fish market – they told him it was a monkfish (a common name used for Angelshark at the time). He kept hold of the photo and newspaper clippings congratulating him on his catch ever since!

### STEVE & STEVE'S COLLAGE OF ANGELSHARKS IN IRELAND

After seeing information about the roadshow broadcast on BBC Breakfast, Steve & Steve drove over 2 hours from the Wirral to share their fishing photo collage which included 2 Angelsharks they caught in Ireland in the 1980s. Best friends, Steve and Steve fish in the Llŷn Peninsula every month and have since encouraged other fishers from the Wirral to share their memories!

### DAFYDD JONES – LOGBOOK UNOPENED FOR OVER 25 YEARS

In 1980 Dafydd Jones was a commercial netter who fished in Cardigan Bay targeting thornback ray. He brought a set of his log books to the roadshow held in Nefyn, which hadn't been opened in over 25 years. These logbooks are a treasure trove of information, with details on fishing effort and over 23 new Angelshark records from Wales.



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### PETER DAVIES – RETIRED FISHER

As a full time carer to his wife, Peter was unable to attend the roadshows but wanted to share his Angelshark and fishing memories with the project. We brought the roadshow to his home in Burry Port, whilst travelling between roadshow venues. During the visit Peter not only recalled memories of catching Angelsharks off South Wales, but also shared a variety of fishing magazines he wrote articles for and gave us his old fishing charts showing where he used to catch Angelsharks.

### Refill Wales

Hannah Osman – Wales Refill Co-ordinator



The Refill Campaign in Wales is going from strength to strength. There are currently 33 Refill schemes set up in communities across Wales. There are 848 Refill stations as of March 31<sup>st</sup> with more being added daily.

When focusing on the Wales Coastal Path, I am on track to hitting the target of all large communities having refill schemes by September 2019. Out of 31 large communities there are currently 14 with active Refill schemes and 30 of them have at least one refill station on the Refill app.

With regards to Local Authorities, out of the 22 in Wales, we have 10 that are actively engaged in promoting and supporting Refill.

I have been working closely with Hafren Dyfodwy who arranged two action days before Christmas in Wrexham and Newtown. Their volunteers helped sign up refill stations in both towns.

I have also been working with Welsh Water on a number of events and they have been providing advice and guidance on installing water fountains and taps for events.

I have been working closely and collaborating with a number of organisations, businesses and charities to help promote the Refill Campaign and bring attention to plastic pollution in Wales. These include:

- Cardiff Airport: Water fountains
- Keep Wales Tidy: single use cup campaign with Cardiff Met.
- Ramblers Cymru: Walking Festival 2019
- Wales Coastal Path: Business Toolkit
- Techniquet: Under the Sea: After Hours Event
- Sea Quest: Porthcawl Cragen Event





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- Cardiff Harbour Authority: World Ocean Day Event
- RSPB: Refill Ramsey Island
- Abergavenny Food Festival
- Tafwyl Festival
- Run 4 Wales
- Nhs Sustainability Roadshow: Hospital Trusts to add Refill stations in hospitals.
- CADW: adding refill stations to their locations across Wales.

We are currently gearing up for National Refill Day on the 19<sup>th</sup> June. We have the full support of the Government Ministers and Comms team who are going to be actively promoting National Refill Day via press releases, launch events, and social media posts.



### Clean Seas Partnership



### The Marine litter Project

Run by MCS, Keep Wales Tidy with Eunomia the aim of the Marine Litter Project is to deliver actions from the Clean Seas Partnership Marine Litter Action Plan, thereby maintaining Good Environmental Status by 2020 under the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

A co-ordinated effort between Keep Wales Tidy, Eunomia Consulting and the Marine Conservation Society has resulted in research being conducted with marine litter action groups, local authorities and higher education institutes.

To date the project has hosted litter strategy workshops, working with local communities groups, local authorities (including National park authorities) and organisations such as Welsh Water and Cardiff University to gain insight into the opportunities and challenges we are facing on a local level in tackling litter and taking forward a marine litter action plan for Wales. The workshops took place in South, Mid and North Wales. A report was produced summarising the findings of each workshop (not yet publicly available) and provided useful information moving forward with this project in what we need to consider when looking at consistent key messaging, creating a clear to call action plan and preventing litter on a national scale.

As part of looking at opportunities and challenges at a local level, surveys were carried out with every local authority within Wales to summarise current interventions, strategies, cleansing regimes and communication. (Report to become available soon). This also includes carrying out a spatial analysis of Local Environment Audit Management Surveys (LEAMS) and Beachwatch data from the past three years.

Working with higher education institutes the project has also produced insightful research into current activities in this sector most relevant to our understanding of marine litter and the delivery of the Marine litter Action Plan (MLAP) for Wales. The crucial role of university research in this area is not limited to one field and a great variety of disciplines, from social sciences to engineering and technology to the natural sciences, all have a role to play in exploring solutions to our current challenges. The higher education review summarises some of the key elements of current research, current institutions and current funding allocations so that we can consider the future needs and priorities.

Most recently we have completed a Best Practice Review which has captured a snapshot of the local, national and global efforts to tackle marine litter, looking at key



campaigns and organisations, Education and school engagement, Community group activity, Fishing Gear initiatives and Funded Projects.

A Clean Seas Partnership workshop took place on May 8th, to provide stakeholders with an insight into the projects progress so far and review the next phase of the project.

Phase 2 of the project will likely start in September 2019 and finish in June 2020 and will focus mainly on education and business engagement, however this is funding dependent.

### **Surfers Against Sewage**

79 Welsh cleans took place during our Big Spring Beach Clean: Summit to Sea series, including one of our reps who swam 26km from Snowdon to the sea, conducting cleans en route. <https://www.sas.org.uk/news/campaigner-swims-26k-from-snowdon-to-the-sea-collecting-plastic-pollution-evidence/>

There are now 55 active Plastic Free Community's across Wales, 13 of which have achieved status. 72 Welsh schools are enrolled in our Plastic Free Schools program, and finally, during first three weeks of July we'll be running 24 'Ocean Schools' sessions across Wales. The sessions are free and open to any schools, requests are now open. A minimum of 5 of the sessions will be delivered in Welsh.

### **National Federation of Women's Institutes – End Plastic Soup event**

a round-up of the End Plastic Soup drop-in event recently held at the Senedd:- <https://www.thewi.org.uk/wi-in-wales/news-and-events/end-plastic-soup-drop-in-event-at-the-national-assembly-for-wales>

### **Small World Theatre**

Clean Seas Cragen project is complete. Our final performance was at Porthcawl Harbour 16/4 and marketing included the Clean Seas Wales logo. Over 3,000 people attended with partners SeaQuest creating a mini-festival event including stalls and family activities. Dwr Cymru, Techniquet, RNLI, Keep Wales Tidy were among those taking part. The 10 month project far exceeded expectations reaching 33K + spectators and generating impressive social media coverage. ITV Wales covered Cragen and plastic pollution to their 6pm news on 16/4.



Small World Theatre has completed its pledge, but we'd like to stay in touch and remain dedicated to the Clean Seas campaign. Our new environmental theatre production tackles Biodiversity. We've started work on Making a Difference Engine/ Periant Newid Pethau and we're applying for grants to tour it across Wales in 2020.

### KEEP WALES TIDY



Keep Wales Tidy has continued to work with organisations to help reduce waste. In January, a new initiative was launched at Cardiff Metropolitan University to tackle single-use cup waste by introducing recycling facilities and encouraging staff and students to switch to reusables.

Waste minimisation was a key topic for Eco-Schools taking part in Eco Days of Action between January to March. Pupils carried out a range of activities, including school assemblies, plastic free days and #2minutebeachcleans. Resources based on this year's Eco Days of Action, including additional information on reducing single-use plastics, have been created to support other schools to make positive changes.

Keep Wales Tidy's national clean-up campaign, Spring Clean Cymru was held from 22 March to 23 April. More than 370 events took place with thousands of people joining forces to collect and safely dispose of litter from our streets, parks and beaches.

As part of the campaign – with the support of local authorities – volunteers were asked to recycle as much as possible using the 'three bags full approach', separating what they collected into three bags; one for plastic bottles, one for aluminium cans and one for general waste.



**Cyswllt Amgylchedd Cymru**  
**Wales Environment Link**

Wales Environment Link have produced its third species Species Champion Newsletter spring 2019

[http://www.waleslink.org/species\\_champions/newsletters](http://www.waleslink.org/species_champions/newsletters)

### Marine Conservation Society



We have carried out extensive Seasearch underwater surveys with a full report available here: <http://www.seasearch.org.uk/achievements.html#Wal>

#### Seasearch news

Surveys of Priority Species. Sea Fan Anemones - *Amphianthus dohrnii* in south Devon and Cornwall A Seasearch report has been published on a six-year photographic monitoring project carried out on the wreck of the Rosehill in Whitsand Bay, Cornwall by Sally Sharrock of Devon Seasearch.

[www.seasearch.org.uk](http://www.seasearch.org.uk)

For further information please contact [Charlotte.bolton@mcsuk.org](mailto:Charlotte.bolton@mcsuk.org)

MCS are part of the Summit to Sea project, for more information please visit <https://www.rewildingbritain.org.uk/our-work/summit-to-sea-or-mynydd-ir-mor>



#### Summit to Sea - Rewilding Britain

Our first project in mid-Wales aims to show there can be a different future for the land and sea, which works for both people and nature. Summit to Sea (O'r Mynydd i'r Môr in Welsh) is an initiative to restore flourishing ecosystems and a resilient local economy, on a scale never before seen in Britain.

### Cool Seas Explorer Centre | Marine Conservation Society



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MCS have added to our education work through our Clean Seas Explorer Centre:

The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) is the UK's leading charity for the protection of our seas, shores and wildlife. Our seas are under immense pressure: too many fish are being taken out, too much rubbish is being thrown in and too little is being done

[www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org)

We have updated our Good Fish Guide responsible seafood ratings, now with a fish finger guide: <https://www.mcsuk.org/responsible-seafood/>



### Responsible Seafood | Marine Conservation Society

Responsible Seafood. Ever wondered where the fish you eat comes from? Or if you are choosing the right ones? Use the Good Fish Guide to make a sustainable choice. The future of the fish supper is no longer guaranteed.

[www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org)

MCS have launched the Bottles for Change campaign to raise the profile of the DRS consultation and encourage participation.

Details can be found here:

<https://www.mcsuk.org/campaigns/bottles-for-change-business>

### Action for Business | Marine Conservation Society



Action for Business. We are looking for support from businesses large and small, industry, parliamentarians and other organisations for a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for bottles and cans that will really deliver positive change for our oceans. [www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org)

Also in January MCS held a successful Reverse Vending Machine event in the Senedd, which was well attended by 14 AMs from all parties except UKIP.

### Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum



#### Project updates:

**Pembrokeshire Marine Code** - Engagement events to promote the reason, aims and benefits of extended the MC to Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau were held in Aberdyfi & Abersoch. In Pembrokeshire, training days for adventure guides and community members: Rockpools/sea shore flora & fauna identification; Geology, climate change and changing coasts. Feedback and self-policing of Marine Code Buoys was reported as successful and will be re-deployed for the fourth year. Welsh version of MC App ready. <https://www.pembrokeshiremarinecode.org.uk/>

**Sustainable Recreation Management** - In partnership with the National Coasteering Charter a coasteering workshop was held in March to highlight and share best practice including safety and minimising impacts on the natural environment. Two training days were delivered linking the outdoor and wider tourism sectors focusing on seabirds & minimising impacts of activities; wildflowers and pollinators. <https://www.pembrokeshireoutdoors.org.uk/>

**Wales Activity Mapping** – Interviews with key stakeholders have commenced to update the system. Visual and user improvements will be made, and additional activities to be reported include bait digging, SUP journeying and sea angling split shore/ boat based; sunset watching; overnight camping; powered/non-powered light aircraft; wild camping; drone flying; event hotspots; gathering living resources. <http://www.walesactivitymapping.org.uk/>

**Building Resilience in Catchments:** BRICS - draft 'Drivers and Structure' report reviewed by the BRICs PES Sub Group incl. ID of Stakeholders and Situational Framework/ Identification of Drivers/ Requirements of a proposed scheme/ Analysis of EnTrade model. Next report will show: Quantification of nutrient reduction / Management Actions / Fit alongside Regulation/Policy. <https://www.planed.org.uk/brics/>





**Marine Energy Wales** MEW conference in April with 200+ global delegates in attendance, Key note by Lee Waters, AM. First Minister launched MEW [State of the sector report](#) which provides an overview of the Welsh marine sector.

Pembroke Dock Marine, Swansea Bay City project is progressing through approval process.

<https://www.marineenergywales.co.uk/marine-energy-in-wales/projects/pembroke-dock-marine/> ORJIP work on the consenting process in Wales v approaches in other devolved nations due to be completed in April.

**Marine Energy Test Area – META** Planning and consenting of META is ongoing with phased approach carried out. Extensive early stakeholder engagement and public exhibitions held in December (100 attending across the 5 events). Feedback obtained at events indicate 97% satisfaction from stakeholders with the proposed test areas. <https://www.marineenergywales.co.uk/meta/>

**Wider PCF work in marine:** Working with WWF UK & Swansea Uni on Seagrass restoration stakeholder engagement scoping; Continue to manage the Coaststeering Concordat with National Trust to ensure sustainable use of NT sites; Stakeholder engagement for the Freshwater West steering group including National Park, National Trust, RNLI, local authority; Activity tourism feasibility for Vale of Glamorgan is ongoing; Stakeholder engagement event on Seaweed & Aquaculture was successful with further requests for engagement/ coordination; Sharing best practice with Swansea City and Ceredigion Councils on voluntary codes of conduct and agreements vs formal leasing of coastal activity; Working with Pembroke Dock Town Council to maximise opportunities and impact of Marine Litter Sculpture (Bertie) Article [here](#).

**Pipeline project: Coastal Communities Adapting Together (CCAT)** –Interreg bid. To strengthen awareness and responsibility of local and regional communities towards their environments, landscapes, cultures. Focusing on climate change.



### CHERISH Project



Comisiwn Brenhinol  
Henebion Cymru  
Royal Commission on the Ancient  
and Historical Monuments of Wales

CHERISH (Climate, Heritage and Environments of Reefs, Islands and Headlands) is a 5 year (2017-2021) European-funded Ireland-Wales project between the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, the Discovery Programme: Centre for Archaeology and Innovation Ireland, Aberystwyth University: Department of Geography and Earth Sciences and Geological Survey Ireland. The project will receive €4.1 million through the Ireland-Wales 2014-2020 Interreg Programme.

CHERISH is a cross-disciplinary project. It aims to raise awareness and understanding of the past, present and near future impacts of climate change, storminess and extreme weather events on the rich cultural heritage of the Irish and Welsh regional seas and coast. It employs innovative techniques to study some of the most iconic coastal locations in Ireland and Wales. For further details please visit [www.cherishproject.eu](http://www.cherishproject.eu)

The Geological Survey of Ireland have produced a report of survey work carried out in CHERISH areas off the Isle of Anglesey in 2018. The document provides an overview of survey specifications, standards and quality control measures. It provides a record of the datasets acquired during operations and description of how data was processed. The CHERISH project identified a number of sites around Anglesey for which the project required detailed bathymetric surveys. A number of shipwrecks were also targeted. Full report can be read here:



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final.pdf

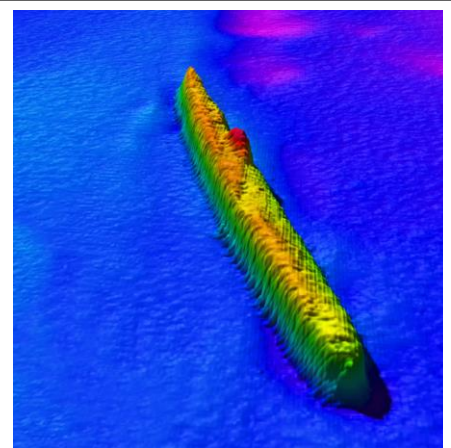


## Yn Coffáu'r Rhyfel ar y Môr Commemorating the War at Sea

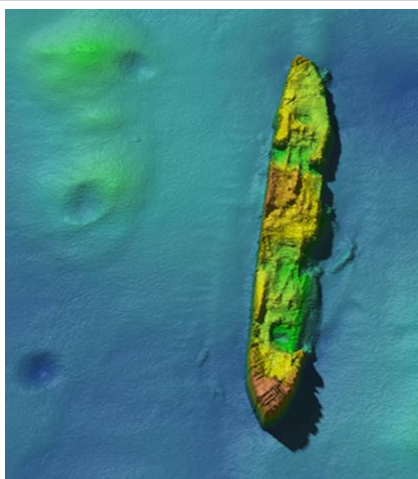
The project is a partnership between the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Bangor University, and the Nautical Archaeology Society.

Now in its second year, the marine work being undertaken by the partners in 2019 includes the launching of an IRecord initiative ([www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/](http://www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/)) to gather marine life imagery and ecological survey information from divers for selected first World War wrecks, and a second underwater archaeological field school on the wreck of the Leysian near Abercastle which will run from 7-17 June.

The project will also be working with the Marine Conservation Society's Seasearch initiative to train and involve volunteers in the marine life identification from imagery captured of key features and along transects designed to explore various niche habitats offered by the wreck sites.



Multi-beam echosounder survey of the U-87 sunk by patrol British patrol vessels on 25 December 1917



Multi-beam echosounder survey of the Damão sunk by U-91 on 28 April 1918

The site chosen for the first underwater archaeological field school in 2018 was the Cartagena, a former Admiralty trawler built in 1917. Underwater video and over 1400 photographic images of the wreck's marine life were gathered by members of the Nautical Archaeology Society and participating dive clubs. The imagery is presently being analysed at the School of Ocean Sciences, Bangor University, to assist in the creation of an introductory guide to the most common marine species found on wrecks. The guide will be featured on the project's www site.

The multi-beam echosounder surveys of eighteen first World War wrecks undertaken by Bangor University in 2018, include large merchant ships (shown left), and both British and German

submarines losses (shown above). Interactive 3D digital models generated from data are now available on the project's www site: <https://ubootproject.wales/>



### Wales International Coastal Centre

#### Project updates

The Marine Centre of Excellence and Storm Centre (Which is under construction) is due to be handed over to the Harbour late November this year. The Centre will offer the same facilities as noted within our 2015 strategy. It is expected that our new tenants should be trading by May 2020.

**Ocean Square Development.** Tender expected to be awarded in July and on-site in August, however, this is dependent on contractor's time availability.

Expected completion September – October 2020 with tenants trading for the New Year.

**Heritage Schooner.** Tender expected to be awarded in July. Build is subject to build and tender constraints, however, boat is expected to be on site by October 2020 at the latest. When complete, the schooner will be a huge attraction on the National Events Deck.

**The National Events Deck,** now complete, can accommodate an audience of 4000. We have already presented concerts by Tenby Male Voice Choir and Cardiff's Philharmonic Orchestra. This decking covers the harbour sluice, so we retain the vital use of the sluice and the very popular children's crabbing area.

The building of the Schooner will occupy a significant amount of decking space. Therefore there are limited events programmed for this year and 2020.

