

Wales Marine Fisheries Advisory Group (WMFAG)

Notes of meeting held on Thursday 12 March 2020, Trawscoed Room, WG office, Rhodfa Padarn – 10am to 3pm

PRESENT

Nick O’Sullivan, Chair, Welsh Marine Fisheries Advisory Group
Jim Evans, Welsh Fisherman’s Association
Trevor Jones, MSFOMA
Kevin Denman, South West Wales Fishing Communities
Brett Garner, Llyn Fisherman’s Association
Mark Roberts, North Wales Fishermen’s Cooperative
Holly Whiteley, Seafish
Sean Evans, NRW
Gareth Bevington, Deputy Director, Marine and Fisheries, Welsh Government
Mike Dowell, Deputy Director, Marine and Fisheries, Welsh Government
Julian Bray, Domestic Fisheries Policy and Management, Welsh Government
Mike Jones, International Fisheries Policy and Negotiations, Welsh Government
Louise Durns, Welsh Government (note taker)

1 Welcome and Apologies:

Chair welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made.
Apologies were received from:
Gill Bell, MCS UK and Sion Williams, Llyn Pot Fishermans Association

2 I) Approval of notes of meeting held on 5th December

Minutes approved.

II) Progress on Actions from previous meeting

Julian reported on actions from the previous meeting, most of which had been completed.

Action 1 – No acknowledgement is being received from council when registering, Nick agreed to write to WLGA for advice on consistency. **Action: Nick**

Action 3 – Comments on poster circulated should be fed through to Jim Evans and also identify high/medium priorities and locations. Holly Whiteley to contact North Wales FLAG to avoid possible duplication. Louise to send electronic version of poster to Holly. **Action: Louise and Holly**

Action 7 – As no update provided Gareth will discuss with Bekah Cioffi. **Action: Gareth**

1	<p>Welcome and Apologies:</p> <p>Chair welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made.</p> <p>Apologies were received from:</p> <p>Gill Bell, MCS UK and Sion Williams, Llyn Pot Fishermans Association</p>
3	<p>Introduction – Update</p> <p>Following earlier introductions Gareth and Mike explained how they would be working together going forward with Mike concentrating on International Fisheries and Marine but reiterated that Marine and Fisheries will remain as one division.</p>
4	<p>Control & Enforcement</p> <p>GB provided an oral update on the current control & enforcement situation.</p>
5	<p>Domestic Fisheries Policy and Management</p> <p>Julian announced the consultation on Whelk Management would be starting on 16th March 2020. Jim acknowledged the work which has gone into getting to this point and engagement with the industry was praised. Julian explained the new proposed new measures and how they would be looking to set up a Whelk Management group as sub-group of the WMFAG which would probably meet twice a year. Gareth thanked the team for their work on this. An update was also provided on the other streams of work ongoing within the team.</p>
6	<p>International Fisheries Policy and Negotiations</p> <p>Mike Jones joined the meeting and provided an update on the work ongoing in this area. WG are continuing to input on the 2021 negotiations and are expecting the latest ICES advice to be released June/July time. MJ ran through the basics of the final December Council outcome which has just been released, he also thanked Jim for his work on this and attending.</p>
7	<p>International Trade</p> <p>Gareth announced both the Boston and Brussels food events had been postponed to due to the Coronavirus. Gareth asked that if there is evidence of issues or examples where businesses are effected to send them through. Brett suggested to prevent industry standstill fishers could assist with science/research work such as V-notching lobsters.</p>
8	<p>UK Fisheries Bill Presentation</p> <p>Gareth presented the presentation which had recently been given to WMAAG members, a discussion was held on some of the contents within the Bill. Aquaculture was one of the areas covered and it was agreed that language was frustrating.</p>
9	<p>Marine Area Statement – Update</p> <p>Sean Evans talked through the paper provided by NRW.</p>
10	<p>Fisheries Science and Evidence team update</p> <p>Suggested the RAG status could work best as a Gant chart which could also help to manage resources, Gareth to discuss with Bekah Cioffi. Action: Gareth</p> <p>EMFF successor Scheme</p> <p>EMFF to be an item on the next agenda – discussion held on what items were covered under the available funding. Action: Louise</p>

1	<p>Welcome and Apologies:</p> <p>Chair welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made.</p> <p>Apologies were received from:</p> <p>Gill Bell, MCS UK and Sion Williams, Llyn Pot Fishermans Association</p>
	<p>Fishing Gear Research</p> <p>Jim talked/updated the meeting on the progress of the Fishing for Gear, the group were encouraged to support the industry completing questionnaire.</p> <p>Update on the Introduction of iVMS</p> <p>Gareth asked that this information not be shared any further at the moment.</p>
11	<p>AOB</p> <p>No other business was discussed.</p> <p>Funding letter from Escape Gaps was signed by Jim Evan at the end of the meeting.</p>
	<p>The Chair then drew the meeting to a close.</p>

Actions	
Action 1 : Nick to write to WLGA for advice on consistency of acknowledgement when completing FSA registration	NOS/JB
Action 2 : Holly to contact North Wales FLAG to avoid possible duplication of guideline posters.	HW
Action 3 : Louise to send electronic version of poster circulated to the meeting to Holly	LD
Action 4 : Gareth to discuss update for Action & on previous minutes – discuss potential survey work with Colin, Brett, Mark, Kevin & Jim	GB
Action 5 : Gareth to discuss with Bekah Cioffi the suggestion of changing RAG status within her update to a Gant chart which will also help to manage resources.	GB
Action 6 : Request for EMFF to be an item on the next agenda.	LD