

## Wales Marine Fisheries Advisory Group (WMFAG)

Notes of meeting held virtually on Tuesday 15 September 2020 – 7pm to 9pm

### 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  
Colin Charman, NRW  
John O’Connor, Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers  
Gill Bell, WEL  
Sion Williams, Llyn Pot Fisherman's Association  
Gareth Bevington, Deputy Director, Marine and Fisheries, Welsh Government  
Julian Bray, Domestic Fisheries Policy and Management, Welsh Government  
Phil Wensley, Senior Marine and Fisheries Scientific Officer, Welsh Government  
Rob Floyd, Head of Marine & Fisheries Brexit and Legislation Team, Welsh Government  
Gary Douch, Head of Marine & Fisheries Funding Policy Team, Welsh Government  
Louise Durns, Welsh Government (note taker)

1	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies:</b> Chair welcomed all to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received from: Carwyn Thomas, Pembrokeshire County Council</p>
2	<p><b>I. Approval of notes of meeting held on 24th June 2020</b> Page 1 – John O’Connor organisation is missing – WFSA Page 3, Item 7 – 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph spelling of lost Minutes approved.</p> <p><b>I) Progress on Actions from previous meeting</b> Actions complete</p>
3	<p><b>Fisheries Science and Evidence</b></p> <p>Phil provided an update on the Prince Madog and work being carried out on the Ray tagging survey.</p> <p>A full cockle survey has been carried out on the Three Rivers with some difficulty due to Covid restrictions but the TAC will be updated shortly.</p> <p>Looking to carry out the final Whelk stock assessment late September.</p> <p>Planning gear trials across all 3 Welsh Government (WG) vessels and provide training to vessel crew to form part of the WG vessel specification documents.</p>

4	<p><b>International Fisheries Policy &amp; Negotiations</b></p> <p>Rob provided and update on international negotiations and expanded on the paper provided. The ICES advice has been published for most species and will keep stakeholders up to date on progress as best we can when others are published.</p>
5	<p><b>Marine and Fisheries Funding Policy</b></p> <p>Phase 2 begins on April 2022, WG is aiming for minimum or no gap between funding streams.</p> <p>Comments received:  Jim – Recognise it is a very different feel at the moment are WG looking to use more general powers to begin – Gareth stated WG are part of wider funding negotiations which are ongoing.  Holly – asked how many applications for the Aquaculture support package had been received, Gary confirmed there had been no applications so far.</p>
6	<p><b>Marine and Fisheries Update</b></p> <p>Gareth stated that it was a busy time within the division and WG with Brexit alone, starting to plan for different scenarios which help to influence wider UK work.</p> <p>Provided an update on the Fisheries Bill and confirmed the Brexit and our Seas statement had been published at 5pm.</p>
7	<p><b>WMFAG going forward</b></p> <p>Gareth informed the group that Nick’s time as chair is ending in March 2021 and we are unable to extend any further, because of this it is a suitable time to carry out a review of the group, its purpose and membership. How the next chair will be selected will also be part of the review.</p>
8	<p><b>Control and Enforcement</b></p> <p>Gareth reiterated that vessels are now back at sea.</p> <p>Gareth informed the group that we have successfully recruited 5 MEO’s which have just started and another 1 who will be starting shortly.</p> <p>It was agreed that KPI’s will be re-introduced to the paper at the next meeting in December.</p>
9	<p><b>Domestic Fisheries Policy and Management</b></p> <p>Unusually busy period over the summer with 100 new applicants for Three Rivers which is partly down to the hard work of Andy and Jane.</p> <p>Whelks – a minor consultation may be needed – JB will inform WMFAG once able to. Menai East - currently on hold but will be discussing with MISFOMA shortly</p> <p>Berried Hen – can’t take on any new pieces of legislation until another area is complete due to resources.</p>

<b>10</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Would like MCZ update as helpful for everyone to understand – Chris to provide written update for the next meeting</p> <p>Green Recovery – what exactly is M&amp;F policy and how likely to cover this – to be item on next agenda.</p> <p>Fisheries Evidence Plan – due to Covid the period needed to be changed, Leo is now compiling the information as Bekah is on maternity leave, Colin Charman to forward email for re-circulation.</p> <p>Reminder date of next meeting is 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.</p>
	<b>The Chair then drew the meeting to a close.</b>

Actions	
<b>Action 1</b> : Would like MCZ update as helpful for everyone to understand – Chris to provide written update for the next meeting	CJ/LD
<b>Action 2</b> : Green Recovery – what exactly is M&F policy and how likely to cover this – to be item on next agenda.	LD
<b>Action 3</b> : Colin Charman to circulate email from Bekah Cioffi regarding the Fisheries Evidence Plan	CC