



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government Fisheries Division

The Cockles Fisheries Management and Permitting
(Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024.

PERMIT TO TAKE COCKLES from the Areas defined below for the period 1st September 2025 – 31st May 2026.

THIS PERMIT entitles the Permit Holder to fish for and take cockles from the area defined in the Schedule to this permit ("the Area"), subject to the Conditions set out below.

There will be a daily catch limit of 350kg until further notice.

CONDITIONS:

1. Only the Permit Holder may fish for and take any cockles from the Area. The Permit Holder may not be assisted by any other person and this Permit cannot be transferred to any other person.
2. The Permit Holder may only fish for and take any cockles from any fishery within the Area which is not subject to a closure pursuant to The Cockles Fisheries Management and Permitting (Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024.
3. This Permit is valid from 00:01 on 1st September 2025 until 23:59 on 31st May 2026. This Permit expires automatically, if not terminated or withdrawn before that date.
4. The permit holder must have a valid permit and be prepared to be asked by a Welsh Government Officer or any Marine Enforcement Officer on demand for your personal details in order to confirm your identity and that you have a valid Welsh Government permit.
5. The Permit Holder must comply with all reasonable demands and instructions issued by any Welsh Government Official or any Marine Enforcement Officer.
6. The Permit Holder must make a full and true report ("catch return") of cockles taken from the Area via the online catch return portal [Apply for a fishing permit | GOV.WALES DAILY](#). The catch return must specify the date, location and quantities (in kilogrammes) of live weight of cockles that were taken from the Area. If appropriate the catch return must specify that no cockles were taken.
7. No person shall fish for, take or remove cockles between half an hour after sunset on any day and half an hour before sunrise on the following day.
8. Gathering must be undertaken by hand or by rake and fixed mesh sieve, cockle must not pass through a gauge having a square opening of 20mm measured across each side of the square, (in accordance with The Cockles Fisheries Management and Permitting (Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024". The use of net bags is prohibited. Undersize cockle shall be returned immediately to the bed at a position as nearby as possible from where the undersized cockle was taken.



9. **Cockle sacks up to a size of 25kg (approximately 45cm x 60cm) are to be used to remove cockle from the cockle beds. Gathered cockle must be carried in these sacks to the point of landing on the permitter of the specified area.**
10. **Identification tags for all sacks need to be securely attached to the cockle sacks and the tags must clearly display the permit holder's permit number.**
11. Tonne bags to transport cockle from the cockle beds to the shore must not be used.
12. The use of tamps, or any other instrument used to fluidise the sand, is prohibited.

Traeth Lafan

13. The Permit Holder **must** access the fishery and land and remove cockles from the fishery through the Aber Ogwen car park situated adjacent to **Point A** in the Schedule definition of this area.
14. In addition, the Permit Holder **must** access the fishery along the access route shown on the map entitled "Traeth Lafan Access Map" at **Annex 3**.
15. The Permit Holder **must** not enter the two areas marked "Keep Out" on the map entitled "Traeth Lafan Access Map" at **Annex 3**.
16. **Gathering to take place on Mondays, Thursdays and Friday ONLY, commencing 1st September 2025.**

Traeth Melynog

17. The permit holder must only access the fishery and land and remove cockles from the fishery at Point C in the Schedule to this Permit.
18. In addition, the Permit Holder **must** only access the fishery along the route marked "Access" on the map titled "Traeth Melynog Access Map" at **Annex 4**.
19. The Permit Holder **must not** cause, allow or permit any cockle gathering activity to be undertaken in a way which could affect any Dwarf eelgrass (*Zostera noltei*). A map showing known locations of Dwarf eelgrass (*Zostera noltei*) is attached at **Annex 5**. This map provides a number of defined areas in which gathering activity is **prohibited**.
20. **Gathering to take place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays ONLY, commencing 11th November 2025.**

Red Wharf Bay – will remain closed.

21. **Termination:** The Welsh Ministers may, in their absolute discretion, withdraw this Permit at any time. Where possible prior notice of withdrawal will be given, but in any of the following circumstances, this Permit may be withdrawn immediately (i.e. without prior notice)-
 - a. in the case of emergency.
 - b. if the Permit Holder breaches any of the conditions of this Permit.
 - c. if it should transpire that the activities authorised by this Permit will result or are likely to result in a significant effect to any European Marine Site (as defined by Regulation 8(4) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/490).
22. Breach of any of the conditions of this Permit is a criminal offence and will result in the immediate termination of this Permit.



Any person who contravenes the terms and conditions of this Permit is guilty of an offence under section 190 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. A person found guilty of an offence under that section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £50,000. In addition, the Court may order the forfeiture of any fishing gear used in the offence and any sea fisheries resources in respect of which the offence was committed or a sum of money representing the value of that fishing gear or resources. The Court may also suspend the Permit or disqualify the individual from holding such a Permit for such period as the Court thinks fit.



Mark Alexander
Deputy Director, Fisheries Division
Welsh Government
Date: 4 November 2025

This Permit is issued under authority of the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, one of the Welsh Ministers pursuant to The Cockles Fisheries Management and Permitting (Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024.



Please note:

1. This Permit is issued pursuant to The Cockles Fisheries Management and Permitting (Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024 and relates only to that Statutory Instrument.
2. The Permit Holder must comply with all other applicable legislation (including fisheries and environmental legislation) and obtain any other necessary permissions and/or authorisations before fishing for and taking any cockles from the Area defined in the Schedule to this Permit.
3. The Permit does not authorise the use of vehicles on or otherwise grant access to land bordering the Area. This authorisation does not provide any defence to prosecution under any other legislation. It has no effect in relation to and will not provide a defence to any other legal provision or requirement, including any provision of the Road Traffic Act 1988 or any other legislation applying to the use of a vehicle.
4. In addition to other statutory provisions, you may be committing a criminal offence if you use a vehicle in the Area and bordering areas without first obtaining the prior permission of all relevant landowners (and any other relevant bodies) over whose land you intend to travel. You should also note that unless each relevant landowner has carried out all assessments required under any relevant nature conservation or environmental legislation (for example under the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)) before granting permission to use your vehicle in the specified area, you may still be committing a criminal offence even if you have the landowner's permission.
 - Permit holders should be aware that it is a legal requirement that each batch of cockles must be accompanied by a Registration Document (previously movement documents) when moved from the production area, i.e. the shellfish bed, or when first placed on the market. In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, Registration Documents must be completed and include the gatherer's details, the bed from which the shellfish were gathered and the date, before the cockles are transported. These documents can be obtained from either Anglesey County Council (Traeth Melynog) or Gwynedd County Council (Traeth Lafan) using the following contact details:
 - Traeth Lafan - Permit holders should contact Food Safety Team, Gwynedd Council via telephone (01766) 771000 or email bwyd@gwynedd.llyw.cymru
 - Traeth Melynog - Permit holders should contact: Food Safety Teams, Anglesey Council via 01248 752820 or email ehhealth@anglesey.gov.uk
5. Permit holders are advised that in order to utilise vehicles on Traeth Melynog, including All-Terrain Vehicles/Multi-Purpose Vehicles/quad bikes, authorisation will be required from Natural Resources Wales and Anglesey County Council in accordance with their byelaws. Gatherers requiring further advice should contact:

Natural Resources Wales:

Email: enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

Tel: 0300 065 3000

Anglesey County Council:

contactmon@anglesey.gov.wales

For information, a copy of Anglesey County Council's byelaws may be obtained from:
<http://www.anglesey.gov.uk/>



6. The Welsh Government has determined a Harvestable Surplus (“HS”) of Cockles from Traeth Lafan of **424 tonnes** and Traeth Melynog of **265 tonnes** for the 2025/2026 season.
7. When this HS has been reached, the relevant area will be closed by the Welsh Government pursuant to The Cockles Fisheries Management and Permitting (Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024.
8. Similarly, if it should transpire that the activities authorised by this Permit will result or are likely to result in a significant effect to any European Marine Site (as defined by Regulation 8(4) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/490) the Welsh Government will close the fishery.
9. Any closure of the Area to cockle fishing activity will be notified, in the first instance, by Welsh Government Enforcement Staff present at the site and by notices put up in that area. A communication will also be sent to each permit holder confirming the area, which is closed, and the relevant closure notice will be published on the Welsh Government website at: [Cockle fishing: guidance | GOV.WALES](#)
10. The hatched area shown on the plan at **Annex 2** illustrates, for information purposes only, the area at Traeth Melynog which is classified as a bivalve mollusc production area for the purposes of EU Regulation 854/2004.



Schedule

In this Schedule a group of six or eight figures identifying or associated with any point represents the map co-ordinates of that point on the grid of the national reference system used by the Ordnance Survey on its maps and plans.

All latitude and longitude co-ordinates given are in degrees, minutes and decimal fractions of a minute and are co-ordinates of the World Geodetic System 1984.

The Area
<u>TRAETH LAFAN (Menai Strait – East)</u> Defined as: A straight line from position: A). SH 6157 7241; 53°13.84'N, 04°04.53'W Thence in a straight line to position: B). SH 6092 7486; 53°15.15'N, 04°05.17'W Thence in a straight line to position: C). SH 6732 7654; 53°16.15'N, 03°59.46'W Thence in a straight line to position: D). SH 6801 7548; 53°15.59'N, 03°58.81'W Thence along the line of Highest Astronomical Tides to position A above. A map of this area can be found at Annex 1 . A map may be viewed on the Cefas website at: https://www.cefas.co.uk/data-and-publications/shellfish-classification-and-microbiological-monitoring/england-and-wales/classification-zone-maps/
<u>TRAETH MELYN OG (Menai Strait – West)</u> Defined as: A straight line from position: A). SH 4370 6308; 53° 08'.51N, 04°20.29'W Thence in a straight line to position: B). SH 4460 6345; 53° 08'.73N, 04°19.50'W Thence along the line of Highest Astronomical Tides to position: C). SH 4504 6328; 53° 08'.63N, 04°19.02'W Thence along the line of Highest Astronomical Tides to position: D). SH 4633 6210; 53° 08'.91N, 04°17.96'W Thence in a straight line to position: E). SH 4633 6210; 53° 08'.03N, 04°17.91'W Thence along the line of Highest Astronomical Tides to position: F). SH 4553 6150; 53° 07'.69N, 04°18.61'W Thence in a straight line to position:



G). SH 4633 6210; 53° 07'.67N, 04°19.64'W

Thence along the line of Highest Astronomical Tides to position **A** above in this section.

A map of this area can be found at **Annex 2**. A map may be viewed on the Cefas website at:

<https://www.cefas.co.uk/data-and-publications/shellfish-classification-and-microbiological-monitoring/england-and-wales/classification-zone-maps/>

Red Wharf Bay

Red Wharf Bay Cockle Fishery in eastern Anglesey, which lies in the area below the line of Highest Astronomical Tides enclosed by a line drawn between the points A and B set out in the table below.

	Latitude	Longitude	OS Grid reference
A	53° 18'.87N	04°12'.30W	SH 5320 8200
B	53° 18'.95N	04°07'.76W	SH 5825 8200

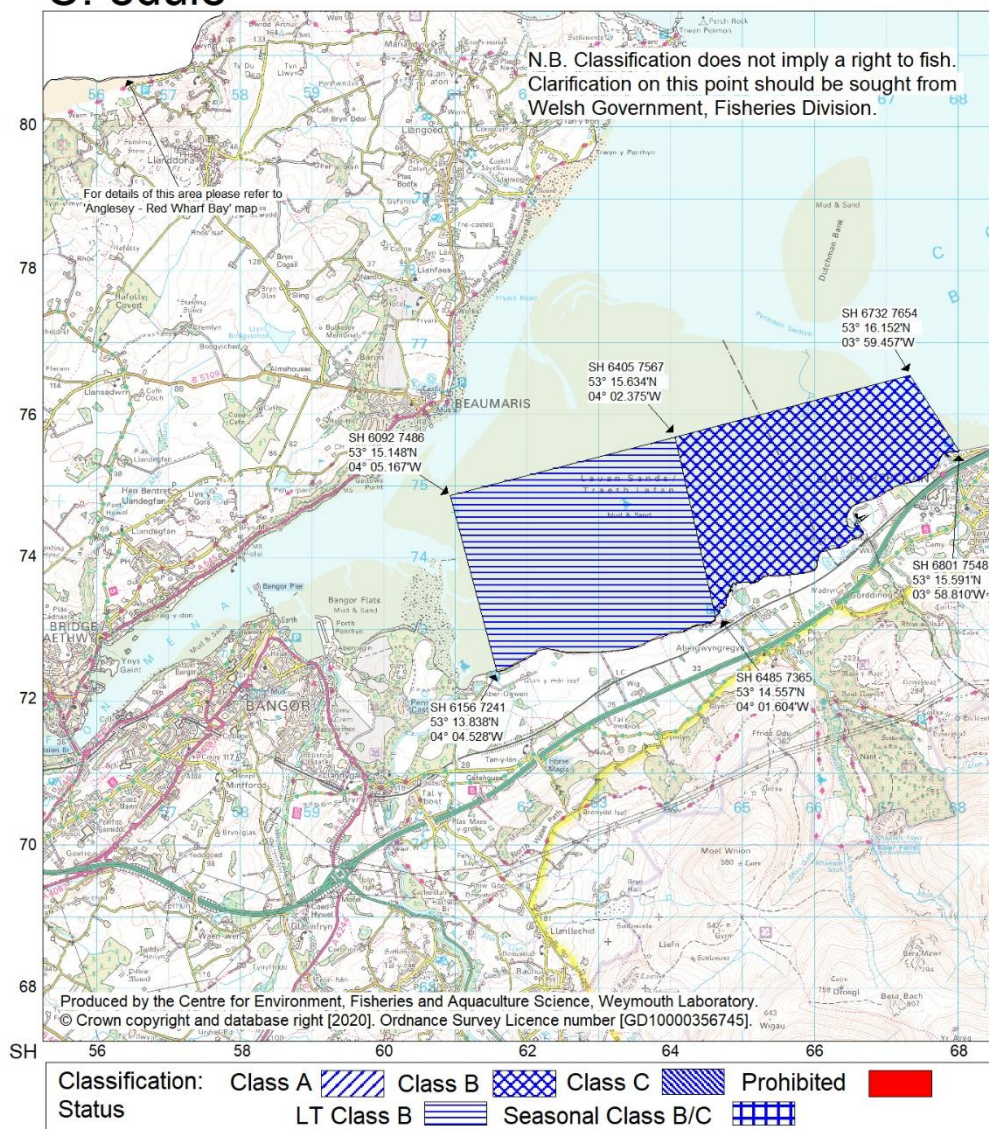
A map of this area can be found at **Annex 6**. A map may be viewed on the Cefas website at:

<https://www.cefas.co.uk/data-and-publications/shellfish-classification-and-microbiological-monitoring/england-and-wales/classification-zone-maps/>



Menai Strait - East C. edule

Scale - 1:80000



Classification of Bivalve Mollusc Production Areas: Effective from 1 September 2020

The areas delineated above are those classified as bivalve mollusc production areas under Regulation (EU) 2019/627.

Further details on the classified species and the areas may be obtained from the responsible Food Authority. Enquiries regarding the maps should be directed to: Shellfish Microbiology, CEFAS Weymouth Laboratory, Barrack Road, The Nothe, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 8UB.
(Tel: 01305 206600 Fax: 01305 206601)

N.B. Lat/Longs quoted are WGS84.

Unless otherwise stated, non-straight line boundaries between co-ordinates follow the OS 1:25,000 mean high water line.

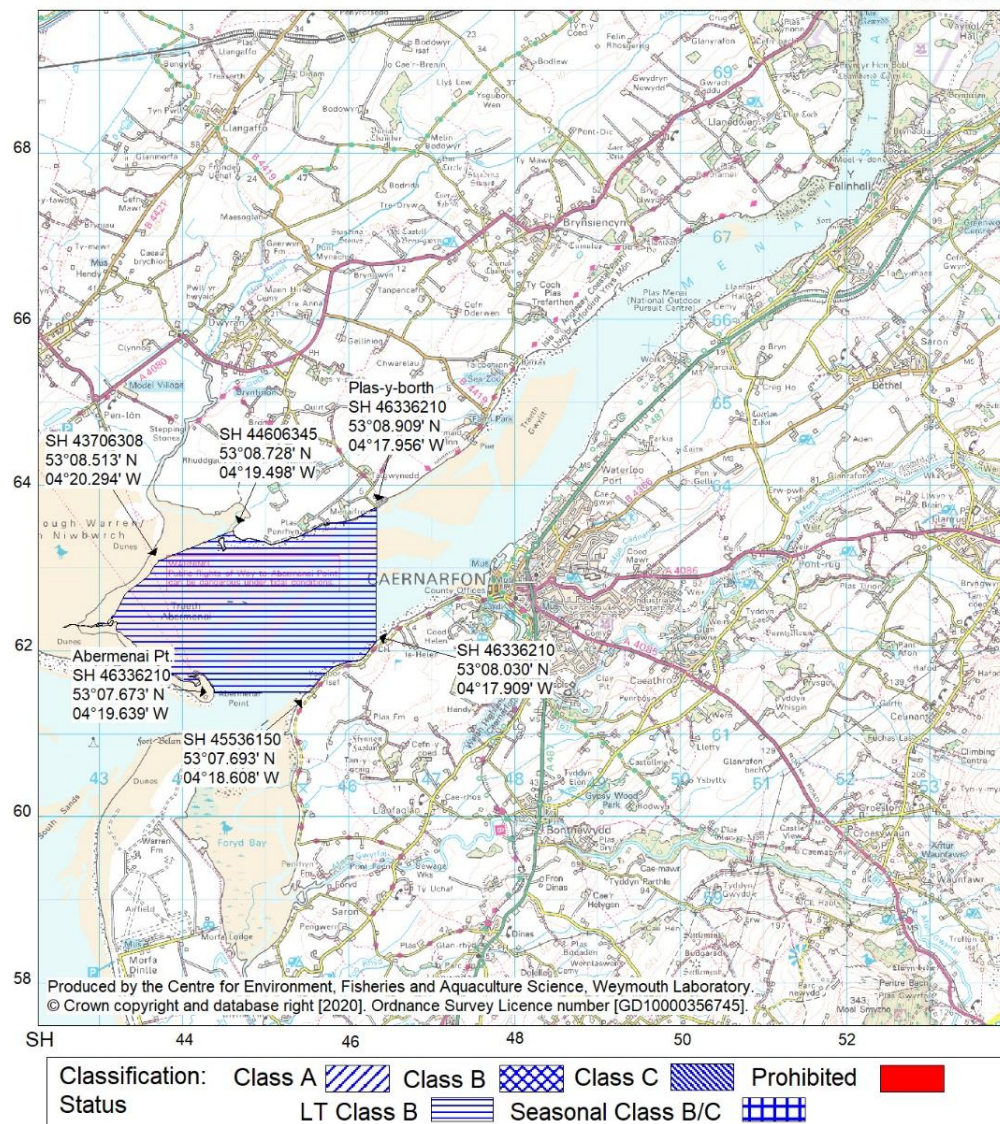
Separate map available for *Mytilus* spp. at Menai Strait - East.

Food Authority: Gwynedd County Council



Menai Strait - West C. edule

Scale - 1:70000



Classification of Bivalve Mollusc Production Areas: Effective from 1 September 2020

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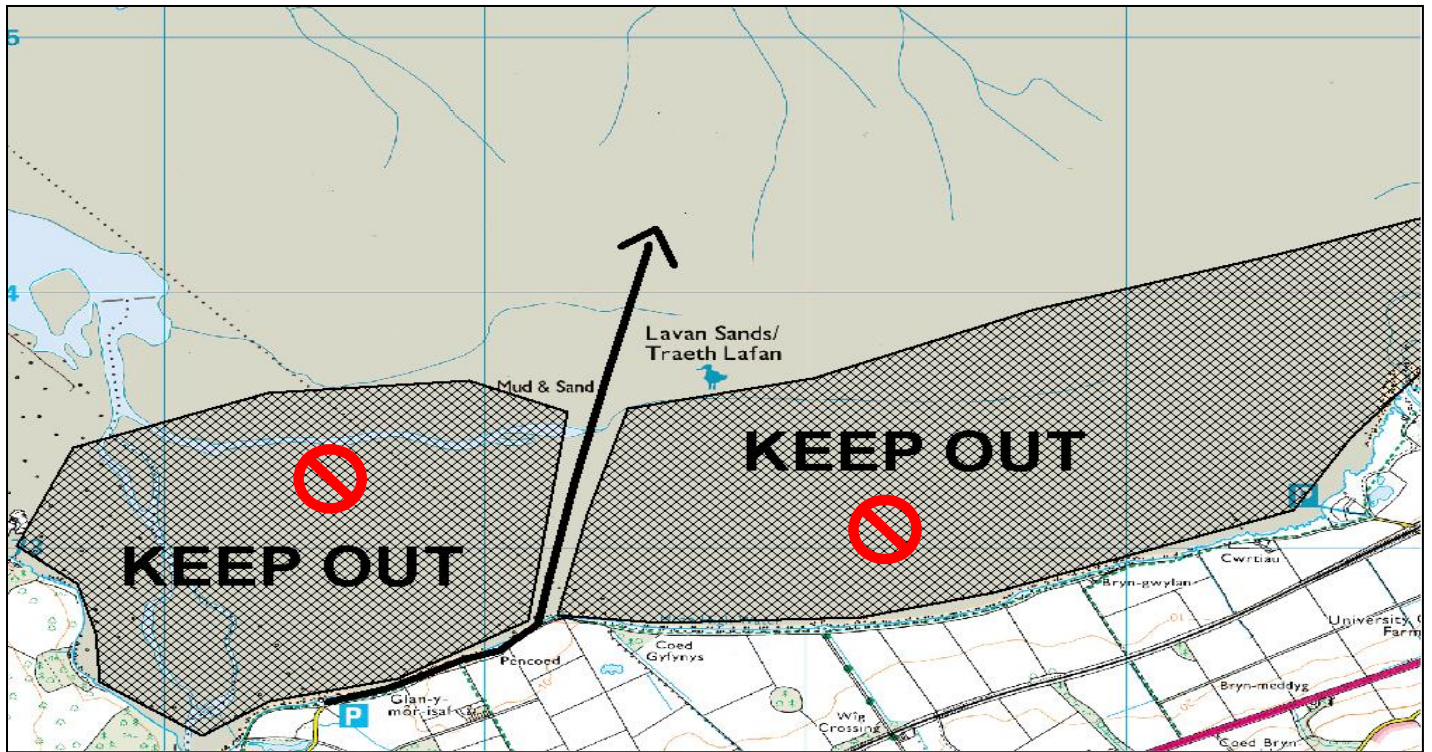
Separate maps available for *Mytilus* spp. and *C. gigas* at the Menai Strait - West

Food Authorities: Ynys Mon - Isle of Anglesey County Council - Northside
Gwynedd County Council - Southside



Annex 3

Traeth Lafan Access Map



Annex 4

Traeth Melynog Access Map



X (Easting)	Y (Northing)
-4.311207	53.145636
-4.317488	53.144160
-4.322200	53.144755
-4.323723	53.144375
-4.324277	53.144950
-4.325405	53.145719
-4.326604	53.144918
-4.327063	53.144828
-4.329540	53.142934
-4.326223	53.139910
-4.328382	53.138512
-4.330256	53.136638
-4.331386	53.134050
-4.331785	53.130953

Annex 5

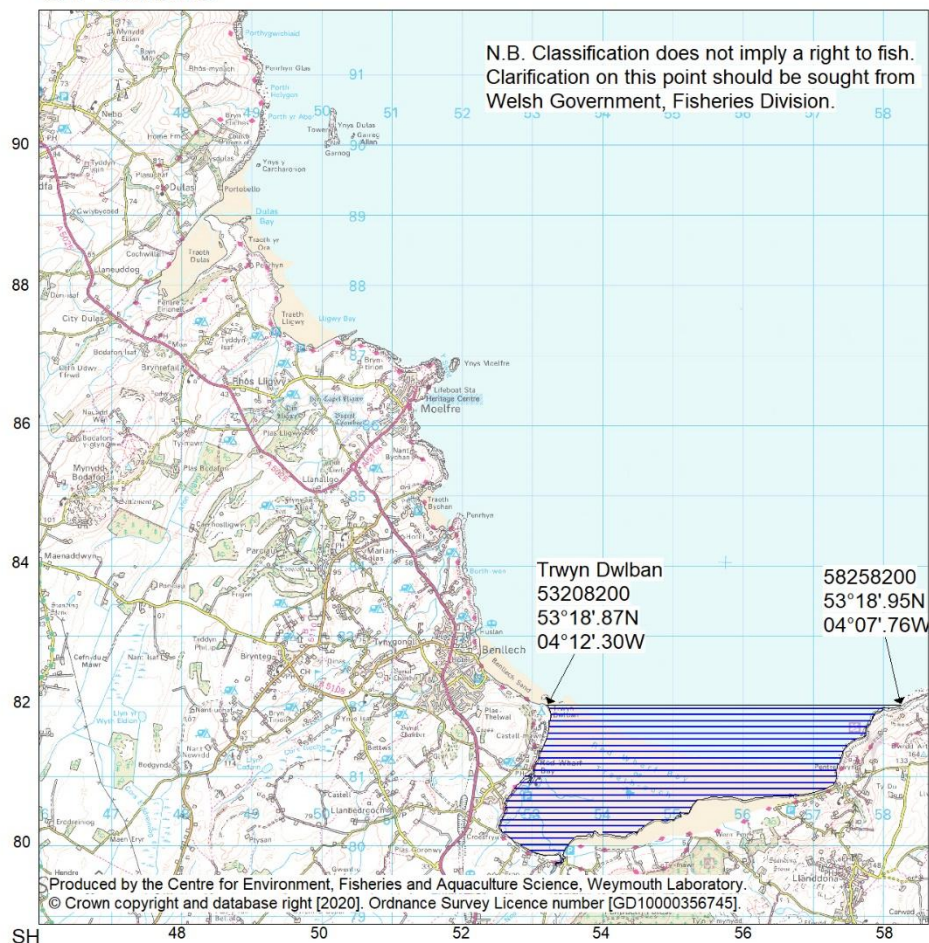
■ Seagrass beds (*Zostera noltei*) **Restricted areas to avoid**

Permit Holders MUST NOT disturb the Seagrass beds while gathering Cockle



Anglesey - Red Wharf Bay C. edule

Scale - 1:81000



Classification:	Class A	Class B	Class C	Prohibited
Status	LT Class B	Seasonal Class B/C		

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Food Authority: Ynys Mon - Isle of Anglesey County Council

