

# Menai Strait Fishery Order Management Association

Meeting, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018  
FV *Mare Gratia*, Port Penrhyn

## Minutes

### Attendance

Alan Winstone	Chair
Iwan Huws	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Keith Andrews	Licensed hand pickers
Rowland Sharp	Natural Resources Wales
James Wilson	Bangor Mussel Producers Ltd

### Observers

Trevor Jones	Menai Strait (West)
Kim Mould	BMWAG
Tim Croucher	Welsh Government
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### Advisors

Jim Andrews	MSFOMA Secretariat
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### 1. Chair's announcements

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Apologies

Ioan Thomas	Gwynedd County Council
Lewis le Vay	Bangor University (by Skype)
Stuart Evans	Welsh Government (Head of Fisheries Policy)
Nicola Britton	Welsh Government (Fisheries Strategy Officer)

### 3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting that took place on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were accepted.

### 4. Matters Arising

It was considered that any matters arising from the last meeting were addressed on the agenda for the current meeting.

### 5. Membership of the Association

There were no new Members of the Association.

Iwan Huws indicated that council member Cllr Carwyn Jones of Beaumaris was now the portfolio holder at Ynys Môn County Council for maritime issues.

It was noted that the Association had previously agreed that the membership of the Association should be kept under review and that a report considering options

for broadening membership and the quorum for meetings should be considered at this Association meeting. It was agreed that once the application for Menai East had been submitted, this matter should be addressed.

**Action: Secretariat**

## **6. Financial Update**

The financial report presented to the meeting was discussed. It was agreed that the budget and lease fees should be increased at a rate of 2.8% p.a. for the remainder of the duration of the Fishery Order. It was further agreed that the Cabinet Secretary should be informed of this decision.

**Action: Secretariat**

Keith Andrews enquired whether it would be possible to reduce the fee for the new cultivation area at Ballast Bank, which is currently not productive. It was agreed that this issue should be considered at the next Association meeting.

**Action: Secretariat**

## **7. Welsh Government Activity**

The activity of the various different fisheries groups that have been established by the Welsh Government was discussed. It was recognised that these are in a state of flux. MSFOMA members participated in the key groups, and would provide a verbal update of any significant decisions to the Association.

It was agreed that MSFOMA should prepare and submit a response to the proposal for a Welsh National Marine Plan before the deadline of 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

**Action: Secretariat**

## **8. NW IFCA Activity**

The report on recent activities of the NW IFCA was received and accepted by the meeting.

## **9. Menai Strait East Fishery Order Renewal**

The report on progress and plans for renewal of this Fishery Order was accepted. The draft application forms were discussed and some amendments were proposed. It was agreed that revised application forms should be presented for approval at the next meeting of the Association.

**Action: Secretariat**

It was noted that consultations with landowners around the Fishery Order area were progressing, and that initial consultations with statutory bodies with an interest in the area were due to take place.

It was agreed that regular (2-weekly) meetings of the proponents for the Fishery Order application should resume to ensure that progress is maintained.

**Action: Secretariat**

## **10. Menai Strait West**

The report on this matter was received and discussed. An update was received from Stuart Evans during the course of the meeting indicating that advice had been received from WG lawyers, and that officials would shortly be submitting a report to the Cabinet Secretary concerning the determination of the Fishery Order.

It was felt that if evidence of progress was not provided shortly then it might be appropriate for the Association to write to the Cabinet Secretary and local Assembly Members to raise concerns about the administrative delays with this application.

## **11. Offshore seed mussel collection / production**

The report was received and discussed.

James Wilson reported that in order to keep the project simple, it now looked likely that it would proceed initially in the area currently leased from the Crown Estate, and that the lease for this area would be extended from 2020 to 2022.

Rowland Sharp and James Wilson indicated that discussions were ongoing between NRW, operators and the Crown Estate about leasing and licensing operations. A new Habitats Regulations Assessment would be required to allow the increase to up to 6 independent seed mussel collection longlines.

There was not need at this point for any action by the Association. James Wilson and Rowland Sharp agreed to provide updates on progress with the proposal.

## **12. Fishery Management Issues**

### **a) Bangor Pier**

There was no additional news on maintenance of the pier.

### **b) *Bonamia***

The Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI) designation of the Menai Strait as a designated control area for *Bonamia ostreae* has been made permanent. This control applies to the relaying of shellfish, and does not affect their safety for human consumption.

### **c) Invasive Alien Species (IAS) / Invasive Non Native Species (INNS)**

The report of *Didemnum vexillum* in the Menai Strait had been investigated. It was found on a buoy near Caernarfon. The Caernarfon Harbour Trust was keeping a lookout for any further signs of this species.

NRW reported that they are seeking funding for a further survey of Holyhead harbour during 2018.

### **d) *Norovirus***

No further news.

**e) Sand in the dock at Port Penrhyn**

Mussel farmers indicated that they had raised concerns with the Penrhyn Estate about siltation of the dock as a result of sand blowing into the dock from the quayside.

**f) Micro plastics**

The Centre for Applied Marine Science (CAMS) has taken mussel samples to look for evidence of micro plastics. Preliminary results are still being analysed.

**13.Any Other Business**

**14.Date for next meeting**

The next meeting was set for the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018.