

# **Menai Strait Fishery Order Management Association**

**Meeting, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014, Porth Penrhyn**

## **Minutes**

### **Attendance**

Sue Utting	Chair
Lewis le Vay	Bangor University
Tim Croucher	Welsh Assembly Government
James Wilson	Bangor Mussel Producers Ltd
Rowland Sharp	Natural Resources Wales
Ioan Thomas	Gwynedd County Council

### *Advisors*

Jim Andrews	
Trevor Jones	Menai Strait (West) Fishery Order

### **1. Election of Chair**

Mr James Wilson proposed that Dr Sue Utting should be re-elected as Chair of the Association.

Dr Utting accepted this nomination. There were no other nominations for the post.

The proposal was seconded by Dr Lewis le Vay. All present welcomed the re-appointment of Dr Utting.

### **2. Chair's announcements**

### **3. Apologies**

Mike Barton	Ynys Môn County Council
Keith Andrews	Licensed hand pickers

### **4. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting that took place on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013 were accepted.

### **5. Matters Arising**

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

### **6. Membership of the Association**

There were no new Members of the Association.

## **7. Financial Update**

It was reported that the annual accounts had been submitted, and that the company details on the Companies House website had been brought up to date.

The Association was making the transition to a more efficient on-line accounting system which would be used to generate lease and licence invoices in the next FY.

## **8. Leased Areas Update**

### **a) Least area boundaries**

It was confirmed that a letter had been sent to the lessee of Area 2 concerning the decision not to alter the boundary of this cultivation area.

### **b) Lease fees**

Mr Jones and Mr Wilson declared their interest in this agenda item and did not participate in the discussion.

Proposals for new lease fees for cultivation areas were discussed by the Association. It was agreed that the "equal allocation" option (a charge of £3,612pa for the 2014-15 FY) should be adopted. It was agreed that the fees charged for leased area should be reviewed when the proposed new cultivation areas were established.

**Action: Secretariat**

## **9. Developing the Fishery Order Area**

The meeting reviewed report setting out the legal procedures for establishing new cultivation areas within the Fishery Order area.

It was agreed that Area A should be progressed as a smaller (15ha) area rather than the initial 37ha proposed.

The Association considered that it was not necessary or appropriate to carry out a public consultation on the proposal. It was felt that the consultation with the two County Councils ensured that wider public considerations had been taken into account, and that the creation of new cultivation areas in an existing Fishery Order would not materially affect the interests of the general public.

Some minor errors were noted in some of the supporting documentation for the Habitats Regulations Assessment. It was agreed that these did not affect the overall outcome of the assessment, but that they should be corrected before the application was submitted to the Minister.

It was agreed that an application to create the new leased areas should be submitted to the Minister after the amendments to the supporting documentation had been reviewed and approved by at least two of the Members of the Association.

**Action: Chair**

## **10. Bangor Pier Proposals**

It was reported that renovation work on the pier is due to proceed. The proposals to extend the pier are currently thought to be under review and it is uncertain whether they will proceed.

There was some discussion at the meeting about whether a Marine Licence might be required for this work.

It was agreed that progress with the proposals for the pier should be kept under review.

### **11. NW IFCA Activity**

The report about NWIFCA proposals to establish a new Fishery Order in Morecambe Bay and to introduce a new vessel size byelaw was received.

It was agreed that it would be appropriate to write to the NWIFCA to seek confirmation that the proposed new Byelaw 2 (vessel size) was not applicable to mussel dredgers, as this was felt to be unclear in the current draft of the Byelaw.

**Action: Chair**

### **12. Menai Strait (West) Fishery Order**

The Chair provided an update on recent meetings and correspondence involving the applicants for this Order and Welsh Government officials. The local AM, Mr Rhun Ap Iorwerth had provided valuable support to the work on this proposal.

WG lawyers were still insistent that there were obstacles to the creation of Fishery Orders within European Marine Sites. WG officials had therefore indicated that it would not be possible to create a Fishery Order that lasted for any more than 7 years. The industry view was that it was not possible to secure the investment required to start cultivation work against such a short timescale.

After some discussion it was agreed that it would be appropriate to encourage WG to re-evaluate their position. To this end it was felt that it would be appropriate to remind the Minister of his commitment to boost aquaculture production in Wales to 20,000t pa by 2020; and to draft a Fishery Order for WG lawyers to consider and provide some feedback on.

**Action: Chair**

### **13. Fishery Management Issues**

#### **a) *Bonamia***

The discovery of *Bonamia ostreae* had been found in flat oysters (*Tiostrea chilensis*) during 2013 meant that a control zone was still in place between Fort Belan and the Conwy Estuary. Discussions were underway about both the management response and research into this issue.

The removal of *T. chilensis* was under consideration. This species is not found in the eastern Menai Strait and it was felt that it would be important to ensure that it is excluded from the area.

#### **b) Invasive Alien Species (IAS)**

##### ***Didemnum vexillum***

Rowland Sharp reported WG had funded more *D. vexillum* control work and that all areas of concern were due to be treated during March 2014.

A further survey was scheduled for the summer, and meetings between WG and NRW were due to take place to determine the management strategy for the area.

**Pathways Project**

NRW had established this project as a mechanism to detect IAS at an early stage. An update on progress would be provided at future meetings.

**c) *Norovirus***

Menai Strait mussel farmers were still funding a PhD studentship examining *Norovirus* in the area. Research was also being carried out using EFF funding, in partnership with Dwr Cymru.

The Chair reported that SAGB are promoting an HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) approach to managing *Norovirus* risks. Progress with this would be reported at future Association meetings.

**14. Any Other Business**

**a) Correspondence**

The meeting considered the following items of correspondence:-

**Anglesey Boat Company**

ABC had written to the Chair to request minutes and agendas for past meetings of the Association, which were not on the MSFOMA website. The Chair had provided them, and requested that the website should be brought up to date.

**Action: Secretariat**

**15. Date for next meeting**

The next meeting is set for 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014 at 10am.