

Menai Strait Fishery Order Management Association

Meeting, 28th October 2010, Port Penrhyn

Minutes

Attendance

Alan Winstone
Hugh P Hughes
James Wilson
Lewis le Vay
Martyn Boyce
Rowland Sharp
Sue Utting

Environment Agency Wales
Gwynedd County Council
Bangor Mussel Producers Ltd
School of Ocean Sciences, UCNW
Welsh Assembly Government
Countryside Council for Wales
Chair

Advisors

Jim Andrews

Apologies

Hefin W Thomas
Keith Andrews

Ynys Môn County Council
Licensed hand pickers

1. Welcome & Chairing Arrangements

Sue Utting was welcomed to the meeting, and took the Chair. Lewis le Vay was welcomed as the representative from the School of Ocean Sciences.

2. Chairman's announcements

There were no announcements.

3. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of 1st July 2010 meeting were accepted by all.

4. Matters Arising

All of the matters arising from the July meeting were addressed on the agenda for this meeting.

5. Membership of the Association

Huw Hughes had joined as a member of the Association.

6. Amended Standing Orders

With some minor revisions, the Standing Orders were adopted.

7. Financial arrangements

The proposed financial plan and budget for the current and future financial years were discussed and adopted.

It was agreed that the Association should liaise with the lessees and licence holders to confirm that these arrangements were appropriate.

Action: the Association will liaise with lessees and licence holders over the proposed financial plan and budgets for the Order.

8. Licences, 2010-2011

It was agreed that pending consultation with CCW, the licences for hand gathering in the fishery should be amended to allow both hand gatherers to fish all year round.

Action: the Association should consult CCW about the proposal to change the duration of licences.

9. Enforcement arrangements

Martyn Boyce reported that progress was being made with this issue.

10. Request to vary Fishery Order Boundary

Mr Burkham from Beaumaris had written to the Welsh Assembly Government seeking a variation to the Fishery Order area in response to his concerns about the legality of yacht moorings in the area. A report considering his letter and the issues he had raised was considered by the Association.

The Association concluded that varying the boundary of the Fishery Order would have no bearing on the legality of moorings in the area. It would be appropriate to inform the WAG of this, and also to inform Anglesey County Council that the Association was keen to work with them to find a pragmatic solution to any disputes about the location of moorings within the Fishery Order area.

Action: A response would be sent to the WAG in response to the issues raised in Mr Burkham's letter. Anglesey County Council should be informed that the Association is willing work with them to address any issues associated with moorings in the Order area.

11. Administrative issues

The Association discussed options for responding to correspondence. It was agreed that it would be appropriate for the Association to consider any non-urgent correspondence at its quarterly meetings. Any correspondence requiring a more urgent response could be considered by the Directors and Chair, and the response circulated among the Association Members for agreement.

The Association noted that the Freedom of Information Act does not apply to its activities. It was felt that non-commercial information about the activities of the Association should be made readily available. It was agreed that an Association website could provide the most cost-effective means of making information available to interested parties.

Action: responses should be sent to Mr Dafydd Jones in respect of his enquiry about Directors of the company. A website should be set up for the Association.

12. Current fishery issues

a) Non-native species

James Wilson reported that the non-native invasive sea squirt *Didemnum vexillum* had re-established itself in Holyhead despite efforts to exterminate it. The main vector for this species appears to be yachts, and there is great concern that it might spread to the Menai Strait.

The slipper limpet, *Crepidula fornicata*, was accidentally introduced into the Strait in seed mussels from South Wales in 2008. The action taken to exterminate this species seems to have been successful (a survey scheduled for Spring 2011 will confirm whether this is the case).

b) Exports to Holland

James Wilson reported that the Dutch authorities have become very concerned about the possible introduction of non-native species. The industry in the Strait has had to conduct research and survey work to satisfy Dutch import requirements.

13. Any Other Business

a) Correspondence

There was no further correspondence to consider.

b) Marine Stewardship Council assessment

James Wilson reported that the fishery had completed MSC assessment successfully, and that the outcome of this assessment was due to be announced shortly. This was a considerable achievement.

14. Date for next meeting

The next meeting is set for 27th January 2011 at 10am.