

# Menai Strait Fishery Order Management Association

Meeting, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011, Port Penrhyn

## Minutes

### Attendance

Alan Winstone  
James Wilson  
Keith Andrews  
Lewis le Vay  
Phil Capper  
Rowland Sharp  
Sue Utting

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

### Advisors

Jim Andrews

### 1. Chairman's announcements

The Chair offered congratulations for the MSC certification of the fishery.

### 2. Apologies

Hefin W Thomas  
Hugh P Hughes

Ynys Môn County Council  
Gwynedd County Council

### 3. Minutes of last meeting

With minor amendments to some wording, the minutes of the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010 were accepted by all.

### 4. Matters Arising

Many of the items in the minutes of the last meeting were addressed on the agenda for the current meeting. Specific matters arising from the previous minutes were:-

**Licensing** - CCW have been consulted over adjustments to the licensing regime for hand gathering in the fishery.

**Fishery Order Boundary** - James Wilson had met with the parties in Beaumaris who had been interested in varying various Fishery Order boundaries. The meeting had seemed useful and had concluded that Ynys Môn County Council would be the correct body to take any further action on this issue.

**Website** - Jim Andrews had registered "msfoma.org" as a domain name and had put some background information on the website ([www.msfoma.org](http://www.msfoma.org)). Further information would be posted and circulated to members before search engines were allowed access to the site and its existence is publicised.

## **Membership of the Association**

Lewis le Vay (School of Ocean Sciences) had joined as a member of the Association since its last meeting.

## **5. Financial Update**

Lessees and licence holders had been consulted over the proposed financial plan and budgets for the Order. These proposals had been met with approval.

## **6. Enforcement issues**

Phil Capper reported that no enforcement issues had been identified since the last meeting.

## **7. Beaumaris Pier Extension**

James Wilson circulated some plans which showed the design of a proposed extension to Beaumaris Pier. WAG have advised Ynys Môn County Council that they need to secure the consent of MSFOMA for this work.

It was noted that MSFOMA does not have any power to consent such work, but would be duty bound to object to and resist any proposals that would adversely affect cultivated areas in the Fishery Order. It appeared that whilst the Pier and proposed work extended into the Fishery Order area, it seemed unlikely that there would be significant direct or indirect effect of the work on any cultivated areas. The Association was therefore of the view that there were no grounds for objection.

There were some concerns that the construction and operation of the jetty may involve the use of vessels and other equipment that has been in contact with the water in the Holyhead harbour area, where the invasive tunicate *Didemnum vexillum* has been found (see item 11 below). It was understood that CCW had raised concerns about the risk of this species being brought into the Strait as a consequence of the pier extension. It was felt that these concerns should be reiterated by the Association.

The Association also discussed the effects that sediment disturbed during the construction process might have on mussels.

**Action:** A response should be sent to YMCC to record that the Association has no objection to the work on the pier, providing that it is carried out in a manner that would prevent any direct or indirect effects on mussel cultivation areas.

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

The Association discussed the letter from Mr Trevor Jones, inviting MSFOMA to act as the grantee of any renewed Fishery Order established in the Wester Menai Strait.

It was felt that this proposal had considerable merit, and that it would be useful to organise a meeting between Mr Jones, WAG and the Association to discuss how this might be progressed.

**Action:** a meeting with Mr Trevor Jones, WAG and MSFOMA would be convened to discuss this matter in more detail.

### **9. Proposed Morecambe Bay Fishery Order**

The North Western Sea Fisheries Committee has proposed a new Fishery Order to regulate cockle and mussel fishing in Morecambe Bay. The Association considered a report summarising key elements of the draft Management Plan for this Fishery Order.

It was felt that it would be appropriate to respond in general terms to the NWSFC about their proposals, and to seek a meeting with them to discuss them in detail. It was also felt that it would be useful for a representative of NWSFC to be invited to attend the next MSFOMA meeting.

**Action:** send a response to NWSFC concerning the proposed new Morecambe Bay Fishery Order; organise a meeting with NWSFC, and invite them to attend the next MSFOMA meeting.

### **10. Non-native species update**

#### **a) *Didemnum vexillum***

The Chair reported that she, James Wilson and Lewis le Vay had attended a meeting with CCW on the 4<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the proposals to eradicate the invasive tunicate *Didemnum vexillum* from Holyhead Harbour.

WAG had funded an unsuccessful attempt at eradication in 2010, and more funds (around £350k) were sought for a renewed attempt in early 2011. Although MSFOMA had pledged £10,000, CCW had been unable to secure sufficient funding from other sources in time for any eradication work to be carried out in 2011.

As a fall-back, CCW and Holyhead Harbour have been working together to develop an action plan that would help to contain *Didemnum*. Notices would be issued to yacht owners, asking them to check their boats for signs of the species, and a quarantine berth was to be established at the marina. Monitoring and survey work was scheduled for Holyhead during 2011, and also at the three other areas considered most at risk (Pwllheli, Milford Haven and Neyland).

Funding would be sought for another eradication attempt in Holyhead for 2012.

All agreed that this species was a significant potential threat to the marine environment and mussel cultivation in the Menai Strait. Because of this, it was agreed that it was appropriate to provide financial and verbal support for the efforts being taken by WAG and CCW to control and eradicate it in Wales.

The Association discussed the need for all users of the marine environment to contribute to this work, particularly those sectors considered to provide the vectors for spreading *Didemnum* around the world.

**Action:** a letter should be sent to CCW and the Minister in support of the action plan for managing *Didemnum* in Holyhead and a national strategy for this species. Funding (up to £10k) should be offered to CCW in support of this work. CCW and

WAG should be encouraged to ensure that all sectors, particularly those associated with the spread of this species, should contribute to its management and eradication.

**b) *Crepidula fornicata***

It was reported that a survey would be carried out in the spring to determine whether eradication of this species had been successful. It was now 5 years since the initial introduction, and if this year's survey found no *Crepidula*, then it was most probable that the eradication had been fully successful.

**11. Any Other Business**

**a) Correspondence**

James Wilson reported that there had been some correspondence received.

Mr Daffydd Jones of Anglesey Boat Company had written seeking clarification of the identity of Mr Keith Andrews, who he had mistakenly thought had previously been the Chief Executive of the North Western & North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee.

Mr David Thomas had written to enquire of the number of licences to gather shellfish that had been issued for the Fishery Order.

**Action:** it was agreed that appropriate responses should be sent to these correspondents.

**12. Date for next meeting**

The next meeting is set for 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at 10am.