

# Menai Strait Fishery Order Management Association

Meeting, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011, Menai Bridge

## Minutes

### Attendance

Alan Winstone  
Martyn Boyce  
James Wilson  
Keith Andrews  
Lewis le Vay  
Rowland Sharp  
Sue Utting

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

### *Advisors*

Jim Andrews

### *Observers / Guests*

Trevor Jones  
Kim Mould  
Mandy Knott

Bangor Mussel Producers' Association  
Bangor Mussel Producers' Association  
North West Inshore Fisheries &  
Conservation Authority

### 1. Chairman's announcements

The Chair welcomed Kim Mould, Trevor Jones, Jim Andrews and Mandy Knott to the meeting.

### 2. Apologies

Hefin W Thomas  
Hugh P Hughes

Ynys Môn County Council  
Gwynedd County Council

### 3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011 were accepted.

### 4. Matters Arising

Most of the matters arising from the last meeting were addressed on the agenda for the current meeting.

- **Beaumaris Pier Extension** - a response had been made to the request for permission to work on the pier, and there had been some subsequent correspondence about this proposal. All outstanding issues had been resolved, and it was anticipated that this work would now proceed.

### 5. Membership of the Association

It was noted that there had been recent organisational changes at Ynys Môn County Council. Their original representative on the Association had not

attended the past two meetings, and it would be appropriate to enquire about future representation.

## **6. Financial Update**

The accounts for the first financial year were being prepared by the accountant.

## **7. Enforcement issues**

Martyn Boyce reported that no enforcement issues had been identified since the last meeting.

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

The Chair reported that a meeting had been held in March with Trevor Jones and WAG, to discuss the re-creation of the Menai Strait (West) Fishery Order that lapsed in 2008.

WAG had advised that if MSFOMA was to be the Grantee of this Order, then MSFOMA would need to submit the application for the order. The shellfish farmers from the western Strait were happy to work with MSFOMA to ensure that this approach could be adopted.

Mr Trevor Jones and Rowland Sharpe advised the meeting that CCW and the mussel farmers were working together to ensure that the proposal was compatible with the wildlife interests of the area.

It was agreed that progress with this proposal should be kept under review by the Association.

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

Mandy Knott from the NW IFCA gave a presentation to the meeting about the proposals for a new Fishery Order in Morecambe Bay. The detail of the proposals was set out in papers circulated prior to the meeting.

There was a discussion of the proposals after this presentation. Key points raised were:-

- In principal, the proposals to improve the regulation of the mussel fisheries in Morecambe Bay were supported.
- There is a need to ensure “relative stability” so that established commercial operations are not unduly affected by the new Fishery Order.
- There seemed to be a risk of “collateral damage” from certain proposals that were intended to manage fishing pressure, and the wording of the proposals in the Order itself would need to be very precise and careful to avoid this.
- There was concern that the proposed management arrangements for the Order would duplicate the management arrangements that have recently been established for the IFCA, particularly with regard to representation of wildlife interests.

Mandy was thanked for her presentation, and the Association agreed to write formally to the IFCA on this matter.

**Action:** send a response to the IFCA offering support for the proposals, subject to the concerns raised during the meeting.

## **10. Fishery Management Issues**

### **a) Non-native species**

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

It had previously been reported that the efforts to obtain funding for further efforts to eradicate this invasive species from Holyhead harbour and marina had not been successful.

Rowland Sharpe reported that recent efforts had concentrated on attempting to prevent further introductions of this species, and establishing a monitoring programme within the harbour and marine area, as well as around Anglesey. CCW and the School of Ocean Sciences were working together on this.

The Association was disappointed that its funding of the management proposals had not been matched by funding by other bodies. It was agreed that every opportunity should be taken to encourage action to properly tackle this issue.

The Association noted that further efforts to raise funding for eradicating this species would be made later in the year.

#### ***Crepidula fornicata***

The final survey of the Strait to determine whether eradication of this species had been successful was due to take place in June. It was now 5 years since the initial introduction, and if this year's survey found no *Crepidula*, then the Strait would once again be classed as *Crepidula*-free.

### **b) Water quality**

Concerns had recently been raised about possible norovirus contamination of mussels in the Strait. James Wilson and Kim Mould had recently met with Welsh Water / Dwr Cymru to discuss these concerns, and it was hoped that some research into this issue would be carried out over the summer.

### **c) Shellfish Water Regulations**

Jim Andrews reported that he had recently been consulted over some proposed changes to these Regulations in England, and was unsure whether any changes were proposed in Wales.

Alan Winstone offered to investigate this.

## **11. Any Other Business**

### **a) Retirements**

Martyn Boyce reported that both he and Phil Capper were due to retire on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

All present expressed their gratitude for the work that both Martyn and Phil had done to support fisheries in North Wales.

**b) Annual Report**

James Wilson and Jim Andrews were working to finalise the Annual Report for the Fishery Order for the Minister.

**c) Inshore Fisheries Group**

Kim Mould informed the Association that he had been appointed to the Inshore Fisheries (North) Group by WAG

**12. Date for next meeting**

The next meeting is set for 4<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at 10am.