

Menai Strait Fishery Order Management Association

Meeting, 18th June 2019
Marine Centre Wales, Menai Bridge

Minutes

Attendance

Members

Alan Winstone
James Wilson*
Keith Andrews*
Lewis le Vay

Chair
Bangor Mussel Producers Ltd
Licensed hand pickers
Bangor University

Observers

Howard Mattocks
Kim Mould
Michelle Billing†
Rowland Sharp
Trevor Jones

Beaumaris Town Council
BMWAG
Welsh Government
Natural Resources Wales
Menai Strait (West)

Advisors

Andy Olivier
Jim Andrews

Bangor University
MSFOMA Secretariat

Notes

* *These Members are also Directors of the Association*

† *Participating by conference phone.*

1. Chair's announcements

No announcements.

2. Apologies

Bethan Jones
Gareth Roberts
Ioan Thomas
Iwan Huws

Welsh Government
Bangor City Council / Gwynedd C.C.
Gwynedd County Council
Isle of Anglesey County Council

3. Declarations of Interest

The Chair drew attention to the opportunity to declare an interest in agenda items on the meeting attendance register and the agenda item on the "Register of Interests" on this item. Members were asked to verbally declare their interests at the start of the meeting.

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting that took place on 13th March 2019 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.

Some items raised at the March meeting were discussed:-

Management Accounts

James Wilson gave a verbal update on the bank balance. It was agreed that JA & JW should work together to ensure that management accounts were presented at future meetings.

Action: JW & JA

Community Fund

In the absence of feedback from The Crown Estate it was felt that MSFOMA should look at opportunities for positive engagement in community projects in the area by itself or with local partners.

Action: Secretariat, All

Code of Good Practice (CoGP)

There was some discussion about progress with the revision of the CoGP. It was felt that this should clearly focus on species and spatial / site specific issues that are relevant to MSFOMA and the Menai Strait. It was noted that the revised draft CoGP had started to look at wider issues.

Rowland Sharp indicated that NRW were due to create and fill a new staff position and that the new recruit would be tasked with finalising the CoGP.

After some discussion it was agreed that there should be discussion between NRW and MSFOMA to refine the CoGP and to ensure that adequate resources (including the opportunity for experts from the Shellfish Centre to provide advice).

Action: Rowland Sharp, Secretariat, JW

Sand in Penrhyn Dock

James Wilson reported that he had spoken to the Penrhyn Estate about this issue. There had been a change in the vessel transporting sand, but it was still accumulating in the dock. It was agreed that it would be appropriate for the Association to write to the Estate and the operator about this issue once again.

Action: Secretariat

Caernarfon Harbour Trust

There was some discussion about the charges proposed by CHT for commercial fishing vessels operating in the harbour limits. It was agreed that MSFOMA should contact CHT to make enquiries about the basis for these charges.

Action: Secretariat

6. Membership of the Association

The report was discussed and accepted.

It was noted that NRW had recently confirmed its participation as an "Observer" at Association meetings.

7. Articles of Association

The report was discussed and accepted.

It was reported that lawyers had been instructed to amend the Articles of Association as within a budget of £2,000. It had been hoped that amended Articles would be discussed at this meeting but they were not yet available. It was agreed that they should be presented to the next meeting of the Association in September 2019.

Action: Secretariat

8. Register of Interests

The report on this subject was accepted and discussed.

After some discussion it was agreed that MSFOMA should be open & transparent. It was not felt that it was appropriate to maintain a register of interests. After some discussion it was agreed that MSFOMA should adopt the following measures to ensure that this was achieved:-

- a) Participants at meetings should declare their interests at the start of the meeting and record these on the attendance list.
- b) The revised attendance lists incorporating the declaration of interests should be retained by MSFOMA.
- c) Participants should provide a brief description of their role to MSFOMA that is suitable for publication on the MSFOMA website.
- d) Participants should comply with the Nolan Principles of public life and a statement about this should be put on the MSFOMA website.

Action: Secretariat

9. Financial Update

James Wilson reported that the MSFOMA bank account had a balance of £52,969.44.

It was agreed that action would be taken to ensure that management accounts were available at the next meet.

Action: James Wilson & Secretariat

10. Public Profile of the Association

Andy Olivier gave an update on the use of Twitter by the Association locally. Andy has taken on the role of raising awareness and in the brief period he has been working on the MSFOMA twitter account has increased the number of followers and raised the profile of the Association.

Andy asked if all of the participants in MSFOMA could provide any information of interest for the MSFOMA Twitter feed. Examples of information that could be of interest included:-

- Past research papers & existing research activities (ideally with a photograph / figure from research).
- Food-related items (such as food festivals; items relating to Food & Drink Wales)
- Welsh Seafood Cluster activities
- Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) related items

Action: All

Any items can be sent to Andy Olivier (avdsolivier@bangor.ac.uk).

11. Welsh Government Activity

a) Meetings

Progress with the fisheries groups established by Welsh Government was reported by delegates who had attended these meetings as follows:-

- **Inshore Fisheries Groups** - are still suspended, so there have been no recent meetings.

- **Welsh Marine & Fisheries Advisory Group** - Lewis Le Vay had attended the WMFAG meeting in February. No items of interest to the Association had been discussed at that meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for late June.
- **Aquaculture Advisory Group** - James Wilson reported that no meetings had been held recently. There had been a discussion in March about establishing a new forum / group that would have a more positive and collaborative approach but there was no evidence of this happening yet.

b) Consultations

The two consultations that are presently open were discussed. Key points were:-

- **Marine Strategy Part One** - it was agreed that it would be appropriate to respond to this consultation before the 20th June deadline, and to highlight the value of the ecosystem services provided by shellfish cultivation.

Action: Secretariat

- **Brexit and our Seas** - this document was discussed at some length. Concern was raised about its negative stance with respect to Fishery Orders and the vagueness of the proposals for future alternative arrangements. It was noted that a series of roadshows are being held to support this consultation, with an event scheduled for 8th July in Caernarfon. It was agreed that a response should be submitted to the consultation prior to the deadline of 21st August.

Action: Secretariat

c) Staff changes

It was noted that there had been some changes in the senior staff at WG fisheries department.

Michelle Billing reassured the Association that her post had been unaffected by these changes and that she would continue to work on Fishery Orders. The Association welcomed this and thanked Michelle for the update.

12.NW IFCA Activity

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

13.Menai Strait East Fishery Order

The report on this Fishery Order was received and discussed.

It was noted that a very constructive meeting had been held in May with WG officials about internal administrative procedures for Fishery Orders. It was agreed that on the basis of the discussion at that meeting it would be appropriate to formally confirm that the Association would like the renewal of this Fishery Order to progress under the new process.

Action: Secretariat

It was further agreed that the response to the Minister should stress the importance of the Menai Strait Fishery Order to the local economy and that consideration should therefore be given to prioritising this application above others; and also that we remain of the view that contingency plans should be put in place to address the risk of a delay.

Action: Secretariat

It was agreed that a consultation / liaison meeting should be organised with RYA Cymru & RAYC.

Action: Secretariat

14. Menai Strait West

The report was received and discussed.

Michelle Billing (WG) confirmed that a draft of the revised assessment for Pacific oysters had been received, and that this was due to be sent to WG lawyers with instructions for a revised Fishery Order to be drafted by the end of the week.

It was confirmed that there would be a period of consultation on the revised Fishery Order through the formal process for making a Statutory Instrument.

All agreed that it would be important to let stakeholders know about progress at the earliest suitable opportunity. Michelle Billing (WG) agreed to let the Association know when a draft of the proposed Fishery Order would be available that could be shared with stakeholders.

Action: Michelle Billing

It was agreed that the Secretariat should liaise with WG to ensure that progress was maintained and that any information requests were addressed swiftly.

Action: Secretariat

15. Funding proposals

Lewis LeVay provided an update on the funding proposals being progressed by the University:-

- **Shellfish Centre** - Lewis Le Vay indicated that the Shellfish Centre was keen to identify potential new collaborative research projects. Under the terms of Shellfish Centre funding, these must be research & innovation projects that are collaborative with an industry partner (rather than consultancy projects). An example of a project currently being progressed was one that is looking for *E. coli* environmental risk indicators for shellfish, linking with parallel projects in England and Northern Ireland in collaboration with SEAFISH and FSA. This project could include the Conwy Estuary and potentially extend to the eastern Menai Strait.. This project could be extended to the Conwy Estuary and potentially to the eastern Menai Strait.

Another project that was currently being considered for investigation is the collection of seed mussels at inshore locations (the Conwy Estuary).

All were asked to consider whether they had any research & innovation projects that would be suitable for the Shellfish Centre.

Action: All

- **Menai Offshore Subsurface Shellfish Systems (MOSSS)** - the pilot test site is established, and is being used for further trials of seed mussel collection to emulate the Dutch cultivation approach (seed collection and bottom cultivation). as well as longline on-growing. This work is a collaboration with Bangor Mussel Producers and is being assisted by vessel support from Conwy Harbour and Deepdock Ltd.

16. Fishery Management Issues

a) Coastal / marine developments

i. Bangor Pier

Work on the pier is still ongoing.

ii. Dickies Boatyard Development

There had been no further consultations about this project.

iii. Beaumaris Pier

No news.

iv. Sand in the dock

Further to the earlier discussion it was agreed that a letter about the accumulation of sand in the dock should be sent to the Penrhyn Estate.

Action: JW, Secretariat

b) Environmental / health issues

i. *Bonamia*

No additional news.

ii. Invasive Alien Species (IAS) / Invasive Non Native Species (INNS)

As noted previously, NRW is working with the industry to develop a new code of practice.

iii. *Norovirus*

No additional news.

17. Any Other Business

No items of AOB had been raised.

18. Date for next meeting

17th September 2019.

Summary of Actions

Item	Action	Responsibility
1.	Management Accounts - make sure that these are available for next meeting.	JW & Secretariat
2.	Community Fund - identify opportunities for local stakeholder engagement.	All, Secretariat
3.	Code of Good Practice - develop proposal to complete this and refine it for operations in the Menai Strait.	RS, JW, Secretariat
4.	Sand in Dock - write to Penrhyn Estate to raise further concerns about this issue.	JW / Secretariat
5.	Caernarfon Harbour Trust - write to CHT to enquire about the basis for the revised fees for commercial fishing vessels	Secretariat
6.	Articles of Association to be amended and presented to September MSFOMA meeting.	Secretariat
7.	Register of Interests - provide brief description of interest suitable for publication on MSFOMA website.	All
8.	Register of Interests - revise MSFOMA website to provide a statement of interests and reference to the Nolan Principles.	Secretariat
9.	Social media - send any items suitable for the MSFOMA Twitter feed to Andy Olivier (avdsolivier@bangor.ac.uk).	All
10.	Marine Strategy Part One Consultation - submit response before 20 th June deadline highlighting ecosystem services provided by shellfish cultivation.	Secretariat
11.	Brexit and our Seas - compile draft response & circulate to MSFOMA members; submit consolidated response by 21 st August deadline.	Secretariat, All.
12.	Menai East - write to Minister to confirm that MSFOMA wish to follow the new process for making Fishery Orders; to enquire about process for prioritising applications; and request that a "safety net" is established.	Secretariat
13.	Menai East - progress liaison with RYA Cymru and RAYC	Secretariat
14.	Menai West - provide confirmation of the point in the process when a draft Fishery Order is available that can be shared with stakeholders.	Michelle Billing
15.	Menai West - liaise with WG officials to maintain progress	Secretariat
16.	Shellfish Centre - all to consider opportunities for bilateral projects.	All, Secretariat
17.	Date for next meeting - 17 th September 2019	Secretariat