

Legislation Update

- The Welsh Government has recently launched Phase 1 of their consultation on proposals for the management of the inshore crustacean fishery. The first phase of the consultation is seeking views on the **minimum landing size** of lobster, crawfish, brown/edible crab, spider crab and velvet crab. The proposals aim to standardise minimum size restrictions so that a single size for each species applies across the entire Welsh coastline, out to 12 nautical miles. The consultation also covers measures to **protect the breeding stock of lobsters** in Wales.

Seafish and the Welsh Fisherman's Association funded a review of evidence for best practice in crustacean fisheries management, in order to inform the Welsh Government's proposals. This document is attached for your information.

Phase 2 of the consultation will deal with further conservation measures such as **maximum size and escape gaps in pots**. Consideration will also be given to possibly introducing some form of effort management regime. These further measures require more evidence and work before they can be consulted on. To inform the development of these proposals, comments are invited from the industry on these other measures during the first phase of consultation.

The deadline for responses is 20 April 2014. All those involved in the Welsh inshore crustacean fishery are encouraged to respond. To view all consultation documents and to submit your response go to; <http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentandcountryside/crustaceans-legislation-review-phase-1/?lang=en>

Industry science update

- **Scallop fishing intensity trial – Invitation to tender.** The Fisheries and Conservation Science Group of Bangor University needs to engage approximately six fishing vessels to assist in an experimental investigation to determine the effects of different levels of scallop fishing intensity on seabed organisms and habitat in the Cardigan Bay Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Ultimately we seek to be able to advise the Welsh Government and the fishing industry on potential sustainable levels of scallop fishing activity that might be permitted in this area.

The experiment will be undertaken in pre-defined areas of Cardigan Bay and the amount of fishing undertaken by each vessel will be directed by the Fisheries and Conservation Group. The experimental fishing is planned to take place 1 - 30 April 2014. The proposed location of the experiment is a scallop ground that has been closed to fishing activities for almost five years.

Tenders must be submitted by noon, Tuesday 25 February 2014. The tender specification and instructions regarding how to submit tenders can be found on the Fisheries and Conservation Science Group's website homepage; <http://fisheries-conservation.bangor.ac.uk> OR can be requested by emailing anwen.williams@bangor.ac.uk with 'Scallop fishing tender' in the subject text.

Seafood promotion and business development update

- Seafish are developing a '**Fish is the Dish**' **education resource pack**, specifically for schools in Wales. The pack is aimed at children aged 5 - 7 years and is designed to encourage them to learn more about the benefits of seafood as part of a healthy, balanced diet, in a fun and engaging way. In particular, the education pack aims to increase awareness of the health benefits derived from eating seafood, and is based around species common to Wales, such as mussels, crab and sea bass. The education pack is expected to be launched in Spring this year when packs will be sent out directly to primary schools in Wales. If you would like to find out more please contact holly.whiteley@seafish.co.uk.

- **The best of Welsh Seafood will be represented at the world's largest Seafood trade event.** Following last year's successful exhibition of Welsh seafood products at [Seafood Expo Global](#), the largest seafood trade event in the world which takes place in Brussels, Welsh Government has confirmed sponsorship of the Welsh stand at the fair's 22nd edition, which is scheduled for 6 to 8 May 2014.

This three-day event attracts more than 25,000 buyers and suppliers of fresh, frozen, packaged and value-added seafood products, equipment and services. Attendees travel from 145 countries to do business at the Brussels Expo, <http://www.seafoodexpo.com/global/>.

If you are a buyer, producer, or service provider to the seafood industry and have a presence in Wales, you might be able to apply for **financial support** to showcase your products/ services at this exhibition and increase your sales in the global seafood market.

To find out more about this event and how to apply for a place in the Welsh stand, please contact José Constantino on: 02920 826 207, or at: jose.constantino@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

- In addition to Export Support schemes, the Welsh Government Food Division offers several other funded or partially-funded support schemes and services to seafood businesses. These include; **Total Food Marketing**, a tailored practical sales and marketing resource that offers specific mentoring and training, and **Going for Growth**, a programme designed to support food and drink companies in Wales who are looking to grow their businesses through major retail trade customers. For more information about the support available please contact the Welsh Government Food Division directly at ra-mdu@wales.gsi.gov.uk.
- [Cywain Fisheries](#) has funding available to support the fisheries sector to add value through developing new products and markets. The service is available to **fishermen, fishmongers and aquaculture businesses in Wales**. For further information please call Caroline Dawson (north Wales) on 01745 770272 or Jon Parker (south Wales) on 07841 869893.
- **FREE advertising for your seafood business.** It is currently FREE to register your business with 'Local Catch', and it only takes five minutes! The Local Catch [app](#) and [website](#) are useful tools to help anyone locate seafood locally, whether this is from a local fisherman, fishmonger, seafood restaurant or fish and chip shop! [Cywain Fisheries](#) and Seafish will be promoting the Local Catch app and website amongst consumers in Wales this year. For more information or if you would like any assistance in adding your business, please feel free to contact Caroline Dawson at Cywain Fisheries on 01745 770272/ 07577 934106 or caroline.dawson@menterabusnes.co.uk.

National Fish & Chip Awards

- Congratulations to Hennighan's Top Shop in Machynlleth for winning the Welsh regional title in the Independent Takeaway Fish and Chip Shop of the Year Award category as part of the 2014 National Fish & Chip Awards, organised by Seafish. At the January awards ceremony in London, hosted by celebrity chef Jean-Christophe Novelli, Hennighan's Top Shop also won first place in the Community Contribution Award, in recognition for their extensive charity and fundraising work with their local community. The 2014 National Fish & Chip Awards saw a record number of entries from Wales, so well done Hennighan's! The 2015 awards will open for entry this Spring. Entering the National Fish & Chips Awards offers excellent PR and marketing opportunities, and previous winning businesses have seen their turnovers increase by as much as 100% on the back of their awards success. For more information on the benefits to be gained from participation and how to enter, please see <http://www.fishandchipawards.com/why-enter-the-awards/> and/or e-mail awardentry@seafish.co.uk. You can also follow news of the awards on Twitter @FishnChipAwards.

UK Young Seafood Chef of the Year Competition 2014

- Calling all Student Chefs! The UK Young Seafood Chef of the Year Competition 2014 is open for entry. Colleges can enter as many teams as they wish, with each team consisting of two student chefs. Regional heats will take place across the UK on 28 March 2014 at Motherwell College in Scotland, 25 April 2014 at City College in

Norwich, **2 May 2014 at Coleg Llandrillo in North Wales**, and 15 May 2014 at South Devon College, with the Grand Final taking place on 13 June 2014 at the Grimsby Institute, Lincolnshire. For more information about the competition on how to enter go to <http://www.ukseafood.co.uk/index.php> or call 0800 012 6656. **Closing date for entries is 7 March 2014.**

Fish and shellfish skills training update

- **Funding for fish and shellfish skills training in Wales.** Discussions last week between the National Skills Academy for Food and Drink and the Seafood Training Academy have brought us one step closer to accessing funding for training in Wales. Sector Priorities funding should become available later in February for a range of Academy and Seafish training programmes, including advanced quality assessment, smoking, fish frying and fishmongering. For more information please visit the [Wales Topic Page](#) on the Seafood Academy website.
- **Advanced Fish Quality Assessment Course announced.** The next five-day advanced fish quality assessment course will be held in Grimsby, starting on the 31 March 2014. There are limited places available. Some applicants are likely to qualify for Sector Priorities funding towards the cost of the course. For more details please visit <http://www.seafoodacademy.org/zzSeafoodQualityAssessmentadvancedMarch2014.htm>

Offshore training update

- Upcoming offshore training courses in February and March include:

Aberystwyth

Safety Awareness — 18 Feb

Safety Awareness — 25 Feb

Milford Haven

One-day Stability Awareness course — 12 Feb

Sea Survival — 21 Feb

One-day Stability Awareness course — 26 Feb

Five-Day Navigation course — 22, 23, 27, 28 Feb and 1 March

Pwllheli

First Aid — 13 Feb

Fire Fighting — 14 Feb

Sea Survival — 15 Feb

Safety Awareness — 16 Feb

For more information or to book a place on any of these courses please contact the Welsh Seafish Industry Training Association Ltd at welsh.sfi@tiscali.co.uk or on 01558 824099.

- **Free refresher safety training** is available to experienced fishermen who completed their safety training over three years ago. For more information see <http://www.seafish.org/training/seagoing-training/safety-training/refresher-training> or call the Welsh Seafish Industry Training Association Ltd on 01558 824099.
- The two fully-funded **Introduction to Commercial Fishing courses** offered by the Marine Centre at Coleg Llandrillo were over-subscribed, and are currently being successfully delivered. This three week course is designed to encourage new entrants into the fishing industry, and provides all the essential basic skills to begin working at sea. Seafish aims to access further funding this year so that similar courses can be delivered in future.

European funding update

- Axes 1 to 3 of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) in Wales are now closed for grant applications. Axis 4, however, will remain open for new project proposals until mid-2015.

- Axis 4 of EFF provides support for the **sustainable development of fisheries areas**. In particular, it aims to promote economic diversification and an improved quality of life in fishing communities. Axis 4 is delivered by Fisheries Local Action Groups. There are four approved Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) in Wales, covering **Anglesey and Gwynedd, Swansea Bay, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire**. The purpose of the FLAGs is to ensure that local needs are met through the delivery of projects that have a direct impact on the sustainability of fishing communities that are either in decline or facing other difficulties. Over the next 15 months the four FLAGs in Wales will aim to deliver projects that are focused on the objectives set out within their individual Local Development Strategies.

There are over 300 FLAGs operating throughout the European Union, each with the aim of promoting the sustainable development of their local fisheries sector through private/public partnerships. If you are interested in finding out more about FLAGs or looking for FLAG project ideas, check out the FARNET website for more information; <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/cms/farnet/>

To contact your local FLAG group, see relevant contact details below:

- **Gwynedd and Anglesey FLAG** — *Jane Davies* — 01248 725704 or jane@mentermon.com
- **Cardigan Bay FLAG** — *Alison Kinsey* — 01545 574162/07583 847206 or alison.kinsey@ceredigion.gov.uk
- **Pembrokeshire FLAG** — *Jon Parker* — 07841 869893 or camnesa@gmail.com
- **Swansea Bay FLAG** — *Paul Relf* — 01792 636858 or paul.relf@swansea.gov.uk

Upcoming meetings and events

- Inshore Fisheries Group (IFG) North — Menai Bridge — 6 Feb
- IFG South — Carmarthen — 11 Feb
- IFG Mid — Aberystwyth — 12 Feb
- Wales Marine Fisheries Advisory Group meeting — 24 March

If you have any questions or would like any further information about any of the above, please don't hesitate to contact me at holly.whiteley@seafish.co.uk or on 07984 561 918. If you do not want to receive this newsletter please let me know and I will take your name off the mailing list.

The next Seafish Wales e-newsletter will be released w/c 31 March 2014.

Prepared by Holly Whiteley, Seafish Wales

M: +44 (0) 7984 561918 | E: holly.whiteley@seafish.co.uk | W: www.seafish.org

Follow Seafish on Twitter at www.twitter.com/seafishuk

Follow me on Twitter at www.twitter.com/SeafishHolly