

INVITATION TO TENDER

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Fisheries and Conservation Science Group of Bangor University is proposing to undertake 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 Welsh Government and the fishing industry on potential sustainable levels of scallop fishing activity that might be permitted in this area.

To answer this question, we intend to set up a gradient of fishing intensities that will be generated by scallop fishing vessels in pre-determined, restricted areas of the seabed (Figure 1). The effects of dredging on the benthic ecosystem will be assessed by sampling the seabed before and directly after scallop dredging with the RV Prince Madog. At least one more scientific survey will be conducted after a few months to monitor recovery of the fished areas relative to the control areas.

The experimental fishing is planned to take place between the 1st of April and the 30th of April 2014. The proposed location of the experiment is a previously exploited scallop bed that has been closed to fishing activities for almost 5 years in the Cardigan Bay SAC (since the 1st of June 2009) (Figure 1). Our current research suggests that Cardigan Bay is a dynamic environment that has the potential to resist limited amounts of scallop fishing activity. Understanding what level of fishing is sustainable in terms of the fishery and the seabed ecosystem are the primary objectives of this study.

WORK PLAN

In the experimental box, shown in red on the map below (Figure 1), we propose to fish 14 sites at various fishing intensity levels and will keep 3 sites as unfished control sites. Each site is comprised of 3 zones, 2 zones in which the vessels would manoeuvre (haul, shoot and turn) that are situated at either end of a third zone, a lane, which would be impacted a predetermined number of times. The fishing intensity gradient to be applied to the fishing lanes is based on real observations from VMS data and varies from the lane being fished 0.25 times (i.e. only one quarter of the seabed is impacted by fishing) to 8 times (the entire seabed is impacted by fishing 8 times). The reason that

we need to generate this gradient of fishing intensity is so that we can understand how the system responds to different intensities of fishing. The results will therefore enable us to advise the Welsh Government and industry on what would constitute the 'best practice' in terms of maximising catch while minimising environmental effects.

See Appendix A for further details and example instructions for a vessel taking part in the experiment

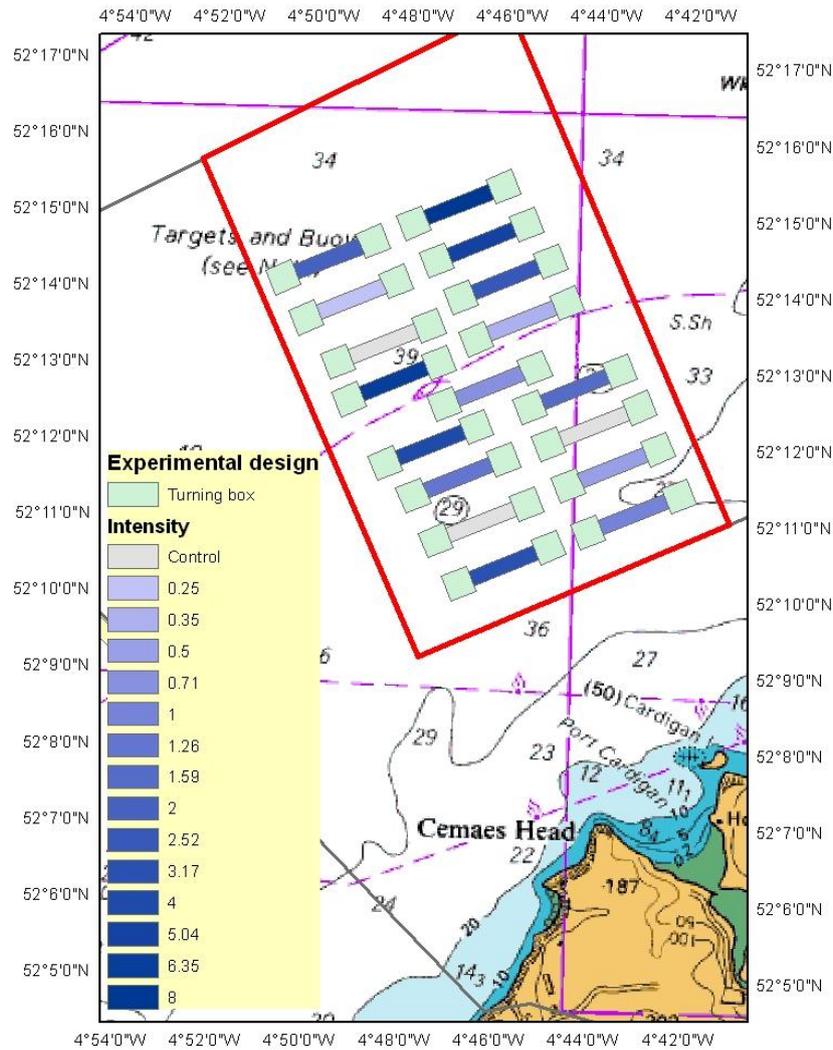


Figure 1. Experimental area and proposed design.

REQUIREMENTS

All vessels selected to participate in the experiment have to comply with the Welsh waters legislation for scallop dredging (Scallop Fishing (Wales) (No.2) Order 2010) (see Appendix B for relevant details of the legislation). Further requirements for the experiment include:

- the skipper of each selected vessel must have an extensive track record of scallop landings.
- a current and valid fishing licence must be held and evidence that the vessel fished commercially in Welsh waters in 2012 must be provided (Welsh waters are defined as the area between the coast out to 12 nm offshore). The provision of appropriate Succorfish data or Vessel Monitoring System records would constitute suitable evidence.
- the vessel must have all legally required safety certification up to date and have sufficient safety equipment to enable it to carry 1 or 2 scientist(s) as observer(s) in addition to the normal crew.
- the vessel must be rigged for scallop dredging and able to tow a minimum of 3 dredges aside and must supply its own dredges, tow bars and all related equipment.
- all fishing equipment and associated fishing activities occur at the owner's own risk and the vessel must have adequate insurance for the purpose thereof. A copy of all relevant insurance policies relating to the vessel must be provided at the time of tender.
- the vessel must be fitted with a Succorfish tracking device and access to Succorfish data must be given to scientists for the duration of the experiment.
- the vessel owner must maintain accurate records of the position at which fishing gear is shot and hauled to an accuracy of three decimal places or should obtain and use the Succorfish gear in-gear out technology that should be installed on confirmation of contract award.
- the vessel must have adequate accommodation and provide food for 1 scientific member of staff for the duration of the experiment or in the case of vessels fishing a 24 hour work pattern must have adequate facilities to accommodate 2 scientific members of staff. Considering that the scientific staff member could be either male or female, the tender document should specify the proposed accommodation arrangements to enable us to plan appropriate staff deployment.
- the vessel must have clean messing and accommodation areas with space for 1 or 2 additional persons.
- there must be sufficient clear deck space to enable sorting and measuring of catch by the scientist.

- the skipper and crew must cooperate with the science team to ensure effective delivery of the experimental aims and objectives.
- evidence of previous experience in collaborative scientific work is desirable.
- the vessel skipper must attend in person a pre-experiment briefing to be held in March 2014 on confirmation of contract award. Crew members are also welcome to attend this meeting but are not required to do so.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- The tender return must include a photocopy or scanned copy of the vessel's current UK Fishing Vessel Certificate issued under the Fishing Vessels (Safety Provisions) Act 1970 and a Seafish fishing vessel safety folder or equivalent.
- Skipper and crew must hold the relevant certificates of competency applying to fishing vessel operations as laid down and accredited by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency including:
 - Basic Sea Survival Techniques
 - Basic Fire Fighting and Prevention
 - Basic First Aid
 - Fishing Vessel Safety Awareness

Furthermore, all the crew must have a good working knowledge of the English language to enable them to communicate with scientific staff placed on board as observers.

- In addition to the skipper, there should be a minimum of 2 competent crew members capable of carrying out watch keeping duties as laid out in MCA Marine Guidance Note MGN 313(F). All watch keepers must have experience of the vessel's handling and sea keeping capabilities.
- All vessels must comply with the applicable code on safety equipment such as: lifejackets, distress rockets and flares, radio equipment and first aid consumables.
- The skipper will be expected to carry out an additional risk assessment to cover the scientific work on deck (assistance can be given with this).

- The tenderer must have and supply a copy of insurance cover for the size of the vessel and all onboard personnel , crew and scientists.

- The tender must confirm that there is prohibition on the carriage of illegal drugs and alcohol aboard the vessel.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS AND DECLARATION

Bangor University reserves the right to choose those individuals that they consider to be fit and proper persons for participation in the fishing experiment. They require tenderers to provide any information that they consider relevant to their decision.

The Bangor University Standard Conditions of Contract will apply to this contract. These can be found here:

<http://www.bangor.ac.uk/finance/pl/pl211.php.en> (English)

<http://www.bangor.ac.uk/finance/pl/pl211.php.cy> (Cymraeg)

In addition, Bangor University is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). Bangor University's approach to its FOIA responsibilities is set out here:

<http://www.bangor.ac.uk/ar/ro/recordsmanagement/freedomofinformation/index.php.en?catid=&subid=3423>

To assist in our selection process, tenderers are asked to sign and return with their tender the declaration below:

Please confirm that the following statements are true and apply to you, if no response is given the tender will be disqualified.

- I declare that I have no outstanding County Court judgements current or pending.
- I declare that there are no criminal investigations underway in relation to the use of non-EU persons working as crew aboard my vessel or vessels or those of any business in which I have an interest.
- I declare that I have not been declared bankrupt in the past 12 months.
- I declare that I have complied with fisheries legislation in the past 12 months and have no pending or current proceedings for infringements of UK and EU fisheries legislation.
- I declare that I and my crew have all necessary certification, qualifications and insurance to be able to participate in this exercise.
- I declare that I have read, understood and will comply with the payment rules specified in the tender document and that in the event of a shortfall of funds generated from the fishery I am prepared to accept a pro-rata reduction in my day rate at my own risk with no recourse to Bangor University.

Signed..... Date.....

Print name.....

PRICE

In the tender, the tenderer must provide a single all-inclusive fixed hourly price for the provision of the activities described above and the appendices. The price must be based on the provision that the vessel will be awarded between 10 and 20 days of fishing activity. The price must include a breakdown of VAT.

The funds to pay tenderers will be generated from the proceeds of sale of the scallops caught during the experiment.

Each vessel will arrange to sell the scallops they catch to a processor of their choice. The proceeds of sale from the catches will be paid by the processor to a solicitor nominated by Bangor University who will hold the income in a stakeholder account.

Once all funds have been received, each vessel owner will be paid by the solicitor according to the number of hours fished.

For each vessel, the hours fished will be ascertained from records kept by the skipper and from vessel tracks recorded in log sheets (or from the Succorfish system) and from a separate GPS logger that will be placed aboard the vessel. For this reason, it is important that quotes allow for the costs incurred steaming to and from port.

As the funds to pay for the fishing will be generated from the proceeds of sale, tenderers need to appreciate that it is possible that insufficient funds may be generated to pay the full amount of the hourly rate quoted. By submitting a tender, tenderers acknowledge that they understand that this is the case and will not pursue Bangor University in relation to any shortfall. In the event of a shortfall of funds generated due to a lack of scallops, the loss incurred in relation to the day rate quoted will be calculated on a pro-rata basis. Thus, for example, if the total funds were 10% less than the total needed to pay all fees due, the hourly rate of each vessel would be lowered by 10% such that the risk is shared equitably by all vessels in the fishery.

In the event that an excess of funds are generated from the experimental fishery, these will be held in the client account and used to fund further science in relation to the Cardigan Bay scallop fishery as directed by the Welsh Fishermen's Association.

HOW TO APPLY

Appendix C provides a template, which can be used to tender for the above work. It is not obligatory to use this template but all above requirements must be proven in the tender submission. We strongly recommend that you use the tender template to facilitate evaluation of your tender. You should also return a signed copy of the declaration form above.

Two copies of the tender must be sent to:

Professor Michel Kaiser
EFF project
School of Ocean Sciences
Bangor University
Menai Bridge LL59 5AB

The project reference "Scallop dredging intensity experiment 2014" must be visible on the envelope. All tenders must be received by 12.00h GMT on **Tuesday 25th February 2014**.

Successful bidders will be notified by **Friday 28th February 2014**. YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED BY THE EMAIL ADDRESS GIVEN IN THE SUBMITTED TENDER DOCUMENTS. Bangor University reserves the right to cancel the experiment or change the dates of the experiment at any time and tenderers accept this risk as part of the bidding process with no expectation of compensation from the University. The experiment is subject to the relevant permissions being granted by the Welsh Government and Natural Resources Wales. Vessel skipper's must be available to attend in person a meeting with the science team in either Aberystwyth or Bangor (to be decided) on 5th March 2014 commencing at 12 noon.

EVALUATION OF THE TENDER

Tenders will be evaluated on the basis of the extent to which they address the criteria and in terms of value for money. Vessels of different length categories will be evaluated separately from each other. These categories are: <10 m LOA, <12 m LOA, <15 m LOA, >15m LOA.

APPENDIX A – INSTRUCTIONS TO SKIPPER – EXAMPLE

If the contract was awarded to a 4 dredge a-side vessel and this vessel was instructed to fish in a site called site 2, where a fishing intensity of 3.17 had to be applied then the skipper would receive the following instructions:

- You will fish exclusively in the lane of site 2 (coordinates attached)
- You will always fish with 4 dredges a-side
- Site 2 has a target intensity of 3.17. This corresponds to 1556 single dredge-passes. With your 4 a-side vessel, this corresponds to 195 tows across the lane. You will therefore have to go along the lane 195times (which, as an indication, should take around 7 days of 12h of gear contact with the seabed at a fishing speed of 2.2kn).
- You will always shoot and haul in the 2 “turning zones” at either end of the fishing lane. Those 2 boxes are not for fishing but exclusively for shooting, hauling, turning and positioning the vessel.
- The fishing tows must be spread equally across the width of the lane. The lane is 370m wide. We divided it into 4 fishing corridors of 90m wide. Aim at conducting about 49 tows within each fishing corridor to add up to 195 tows as shown in figure 2 (coordinates of the corridors within the lane will be provided upon request) (see the diagram below).
- During the first day, you will always haul to check the content of the dredges after a single tow in one direction through the lane.
- If the dredges are less than half full each time you haul them up, then you can contact the scientist in charge to ask for authorisation to haul less often (i.e. after going back and forth once or more).
- Keep records of the coordinates of each tow by filling in the logbook provided (start and end time, latitude and longitude) and by mapping out your tracks on your plotter and share them with the scientist in charge at the end of the experiment.
- Record the catch and bycatch per tow in the logbook provided (i.e. number of baskets of scallops for landing, number of baskets of scallops discarded and number of baskets of bycatches)
- Catches must be landed in either Holyhead, Pwllheli, Fishguard, Cardigan, Newquay, Aberystwyth or Milford Haven. Prior to landing you must give Welsh Government fisheries enforcement sufficient notice to enable them to meet your vessel and to validate the number of bags of scallops landed. It is your responsibility to arrange the sale, and collection

of the scallops by a processor. All processors must be nominated two weeks prior to the beginning of the experiment to enable us to explain to them the mechanism of payment for the catches as these payments will be made to a solicitor.

- All bags of scallops will need to be labelled so that they are traceable to the vessel and the experimental fishery.

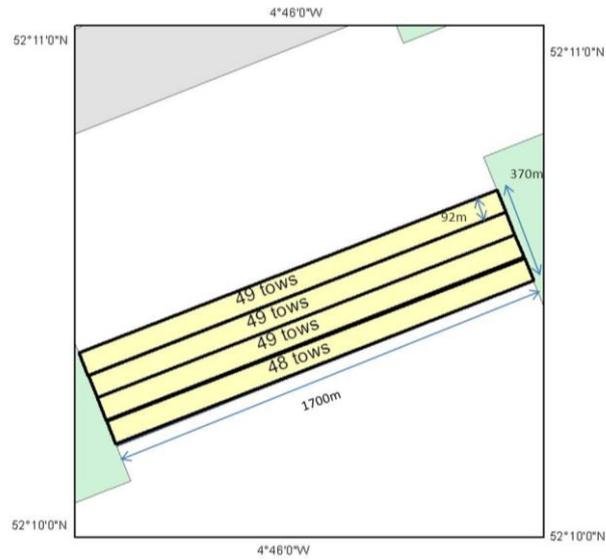


Figure 2. Objective effort allocation in site 2. Each corridor is approximately 92m wide. The number represents the number of passes a vessel fishing with 4 dredges a-side should aim for.

APPENDIX B – SCALLOP FISHING (WALES) (No. 2) ORDER 2010 – GEAR AND VESSEL SPECIFICATIONS

The specifications of the vessels entering the experiment will have to comply with the Welsh waters legislation for scallop dredging (Scallop Fishing (Wales) (No.2) Order 2010). The experiment is planned for the open season between the 1st and 30th of April 2014 and will take place between 3nm and 12nm. Therefore the following regulations on the vessels and gear specifications apply to the participating fishing vessels:

3. No British fishing boat is permitted, at any time, to fish for, take or kill scallops using a scallop dredge in Welsh waters, unless that boat's engine has a power output not exceeding 221 kilowatts.

6. No British fishing boat is permitted, at any time, to fish for, take or kill scallops using a scallop dredge—

(b)in any part of Welsh waters which lies beyond 3 nautical miles and within 6 nautical miles of baselines, unless that boat is towing no more than 8 scallop dredges in total; and

(c)in any part of Welsh waters which lies beyond 6 nautical miles and within 12 nautical miles of baselines, unless that boat is towing no more than 14 scallop dredges in total.

8. (2) No British fishing boat is permitted, at any time, in any part of Welsh waters which lies beyond 3 nautical miles and within 6 nautical miles of baselines, to use a tow bar in connection with fishing for, taking or killing scallops, unless that tow bar—

(a)does not exceed 4 metres in length; and

(b)is not constructed in a way which enables more than 4 scallop dredges to be attached to it at the same time.

8. (3) No British fishing boat is permitted, at any time, in any part of Welsh waters which lies beyond 6 nautical miles and within 12 nautical miles of baselines, to use a tow bar in connection with fishing for, taking or killing scallops, unless that tow bar—

(a)does not exceed 6.8 metres in length; and

(b)is not constructed in a way which enables more than 7 scallop dredges to be attached to it at the same time.

9. No British fishing boat is permitted at any time, in any part of Welsh waters to use any tow bar in connection with fishing for, taking or killing scallops, which exceeds 185 millimetres in external diameter.

10. (1) Subject to the provisions of this article, no British fishing boat is permitted to tow any scallop dredge within Welsh waters unless in relation to such a dredge—

(a)no part of its frame is greater than 85 centimetres wide;

- (b) it includes a functioning, operational and moveable spring loaded tooth bar;
- (c) it does not contain any attachments to the rear, top or inside of the dredge;
- (d) it does not contain a diving plate or any other similar device;
- (e) the total weight of the dredge including all fittings does not exceed 150 kilograms;
- (f) the number of belly rings in each row suspended from the belly bar does not exceed 7;
- (g) the number of teeth on the tooth bar does not exceed 8; and
- (h) each tooth on the tooth bar measures no more than 22 millimetres in diameter and 110 millimetres in length.

(see definitions in the Scallop Order)

11. (1) For the purposes of section 1(3) of the Act, the minimum size of scallop that may be carried by a British fishing boat in Welsh waters is 110 millimetres.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1), the size of a scallop is to be measured in accordance with paragraph 6 of Annex XIII to Council Regulation (EC) No 850/98 for the conservation of fishery resources through technical measures for the protection of juvenile marine organisms⁽¹⁾ as amended from time to time.

APPENDIX C – TEMPLATE FOR APPLICATION

SUBMISSION OF TENDER

Expand each section as necessary to provide the necessary information.

TITLE OF TENDER: Cardigan Bay Experimental Fishery 2014

NAME OF TENDERER

AUTHORITY TO SUBMIT TENDER (e.g. owner, skipper)

ADDRESS AND CONTACT DETAILS

Address

Phone number(s)

Email

VESSEL NAME AND SKIPPER

Vessel name

Vessel Registration Number

Vessel length (LOA m)

Skipper

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

AWARD CRITERIA

Vessel specifications

Fishing Gear

Availability of the vessel

EXPERIENCE OF SKIPPER AND CREW

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

SAFETY

PRE-CRUISE PLANNING AVAILABILITY

PRICE (quote an hourly rate)

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

I HAVE INCLUDED THE SIGNED DECLARATION: YES/NO

SIGNATURE/DATE