



European Fisheries Fund Project

Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources in Welsh Waters

Progress report 17.09.2012



Y Gronfa Pysgodfeydd Ewropeaidd:
Buddsoddi mewn Pysgodfeydd Cynaliadwy
European Fisheries Fund:
Investing in Sustainable Fisheries



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



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Background:

The sustainable use of fisheries resources in Welsh waters project funded by the European Fisheries Fund officially started on the 1st of May 2012. The aim of the project is to provide the fishing industry and Welsh Government with scientific data and advice for the management of marine resources in Welsh waters. The project is divided into previously agreed work packages but also contains a more flexible component that is responsive to the fishing industry needs for specific data or to answer specific scientific questions.

The working progress and the direction of the project is overseen by the Science User Advisory Group (SUAG) consisting of members of the fishing industry (Welsh Fishermen's Association), the Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers, the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and Welsh Government. The SUAG met formally for the first time on the 07 September 2012 and was informed about the progress of the project and the research goals over the next months. Minutes of the meeting were recorded and will be up-loaded on the website once it is up and running. The minutes of the meeting form an appendix to this document.

May 2012

- Dr Himar Hinz, Dr Gwladys Lambert and Dr Natalie Hold were appointed to three of the science officer positions.
- The remaining posts were put out to advert.

June 2012

- Dr Himar Hinz, Dr Gwladys Lambert and Dr Natalie Hold started their employment contracts.
- Organisation and execution of the first scallop and habitat survey funded under the project comprised a 10 day research cruise onboard the Prince Madog (31st May – 9th of June). On this cruise population parameters for both king scallops *Pecten maximus* and queen scallops *Aequipecten opercularis* were assessed. Scallop samples were collected for maturation state determination and genetics. Furthermore sediment and infaunal samples around the *Modiolus* reef off the Llyn Peninsula were collected by CCW. Underwater video equipment was deployed at several locations and thereby contributed further to the understanding of habitat identification in Welsh waters.
- The survey addressed the stock assessment aspect and habitat mapping aspects of the project (WP2 and WP3). Please see attached report for details of the survey and results.
- Processing of scallop samples determining maturation state and collection of genetic samples (WP3).
- Data entry and analysis of scallop survey data (WP3).
- Setting up of office space for newly recruited fisheries team.
- Selection of candidates for the remaining positions.

July

- Processing of scallop samples determining maturation state and collection of genetic samples. (WP3 and WP4)
- Data entry and analysis of survey data (WP3).
- Preparing survey report (WP3).

August

- Interview process for open positions and selection of new employees, through presentation and interview with Welsh Fishing Industry representative involved in the interview process (James Wilson).
- Data entry and analysis of survey data (WP3).
- Preparing scallop survey report (WP3).
- Designing new underwater survey sled to be used by the fishing industry.
- Planning collaborative genetic science with Prof. Paul Shaw, Aberystwyth University (WP4).
- Logistics and planning of scallop skid trials off Anglesey and Cardigan.
- Planning of the fishermen's questionnaire survey (WP1)
- Planning of industry crab and lobster surveys (WP3).
- Inviting participants to joined the Science User Advisory Group (SUAG).

Planned work over the next months

- Monitor fishing impacts of scallop fleet in Cardigan Bay to establish recovery rates (WP 2 and 3).
- Establish pilot study to monitor catch compositions for crab and lobster fisheries (WP2).
- Establish pilot study on lobster genetics (WP4).
- Pilot questionnaire survey (WP1).
- Work with industry to establish habitat mapping strategies within Cardigan Bay using the new underwater camera system (WP3).
- Conduct scallop dredge skid trials in Cardigan Bay and Liverpool Bay (WP2 and 3).
- Conduct first questionnaire surveys with fishers (WP1).
- Organise fishermen's workshops in North and South as advised by SUAG for February 2013 during a Spring tide period.

Meetings and workshops attended

| Start Date | End Date | Location | Personal involved | Person and organisation visited | Reason |
|------------|------------|-------------|---|--|---|
| 27.06.2012 | 28.06.2012 | Grimsby | Hilmar Hinz | Seafish | Workshop of fishing impacts and fishing gear improvements |
| 4.07.2012 | 4.07.2012 | Bangor | Hilmar Hinz, Gwladys Lambert | Fish Map Mon, CCW | Present the rational of the project and agree on collaboration |
| 27.07.2012 | 27.07.2012 | Aberystwyth | Hilmar Hinz, Gwladys Lambert, Mike Kaiser | Scallop fishing working group (WFA) | Present survey report and discuss future science goals |
| 8.07.2012 | 13.07.2012 | Copenhagen | Gwladys Lambert | ICES | ICES stock assessment course |
| 15.08.2012 | 15.08.2012 | Swansea | Hilmar Hinz, Natalie Hold | Emma Wotton (Swansea University), Jim Evans (WFA), Andy Woolmer (Salacia Marine) | Discuss potential collaboration with respect to lobster science |
| 27.08.2012 | 27.08.2012 | Aberystwyth | Natalie Hold | Prof. Paul Shaw (Aberystwyth University) | Discuss potential collaboration with respect to genetic science |
| 7.09.2012 | 7.09.2012 | Aberystwyth | All EFF personal | SUAG (Science user Advisory meeting) | First SUAG meeting to present progress of the |