



Fisheries & Conservation Science

European Fisheries Fund Project

Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources in Welsh Waters

Science User Advisory Group Meeting - 7th September 2012



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



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Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources in Welsh Waters

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Parc Lodge, Aberystwyth

Apologies: Nick Thomas CCW, Stuart Evans WG, Sion Williams Llyn Pot Fishermen's Association, Richard Dyer North Wales Fishermen's Cooperative, Marion Warlow South Wales and West Fishing Community, Steve de Waine West Wales Shell Fishermen's Association

Attendees:

Bangor University: Mike Kaiser, Hilmar Hinz, Gwladys Lambert, Lee Murray
Seafish: Mark Gray, Holly Whiteley
Aberystwyth University: Paul Shaw
WFA: Jim Evans
Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers: Roger Cook
Welsh Inshore Scallop Association: Gareth Willington
Llyn Fishermen's Association: Brett Garner
Welsh Inshore Scallop Association: Len Walters
Llyn Fishermen's Association: Mark Roberts
Cardigan Bay Fishermen's Association: Hugh Evans

Minutes taken by Mike Kaiser

Points of note	Actions arising
<p>Mike Kaiser welcomed the group and introductions were made.</p> <p>Some members noted that it was unfortunate that neither CCW nor WG were able to attend the first meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed by the group that Jim Evans would act as the chair of the group.</p> <p>Mike Kaiser reiterated the role of the SUAG as a monitoring and advisory group that ensures that the science team delivers practical and useful outputs. He asked if there were any gaps in the membership. Mark Gray suggested including someone from Environment Link Wales.</p> <p>Mike Kaiser updated the group on the recruitment process and listed and described the appointees. Dr Giulia Gambie (finfish), Dr Jodie Haig (pot metiers), Julia Pantin and Harriet Salmonsén (science officers). The administrative/finance officer recruitment process was underway. The science team will be in place by the</p>	<p>Jim Evans to act as the chair of the group going forward</p> <p>Ensure engagement with eNGOs through the Inshore Fishery Groups</p>

<p>end of October.</p> <p>Dr Hilmar Hinz gave an overview of the main elements of the project and an update on the draft report of the results from the first survey. The project report will be distributed within the next week after the meeting.</p> <p>A discussion ensued about the importance of using evidence to inform stock assessment, the fact that the data produced should be of a higher resolution than in other surveys elsewhere in the UK provided the industry are fully involved. In addition there should be greater buy-in from industry if they are involved in the data collection. The SUAG was encouraged to prioritise areas for habitat survey work where the greatest conflict between industry and other interests may occur.</p> <p>Prof Paul Shaw (Aberystwyth University) gave a presentation on his interests and the possible application of his research to the EFF project.</p> <p>A discussion of the industry based questionnaire survey ensued. It was agreed that this was an important first step in the project and would provide a product that would be of great importance in provision of evidence for the industry to use.</p> <p>It was agreed that the members of the WFA would identify five individuals from their membership that would be receptive to doing the questionnaire that would be followed by a presentation to each association when possible to engage more widely. The project aims to complete at least 100 questionnaires. It was agreed that the use of websites would work well for recreational anglers and that this could be facilitated through the WSF website run by Mike Thistle. It was emphasised that the data generated from the questionnaire would be the property of the fishing industry or recreational angling sectors keeping the data from the two sectors separate. The IP agreement will be based on that used for FishMap Mon, but Mike Kaiser will check with the FOI department at Bangor University to ensure that the wording protects the commercial and personal IP of each individual from aggressive FOI requests.</p> <p>Roger Cook noted that it would be useful to collect information about the type of fish used for bait in pot fisheries, it was agreed that this was useful data in</p>	<p>Bangor U to develop short questionnaire for members of SUAG and its membership</p> <p>Mike Kaiser to discuss with Paul Shaw how his team's skills can be drawn into the EFF project</p> <p>Pilot questionnaire with SUAG members. WFA to provide list of individuals for initial questionnaires prior to workshops – names and contact details of five 'friendly' members from each association required</p> <p>Undertake presentations to associations after pilot. Bangor U to produce a flier to inform fishermen about the purpose of the questionnaire</p> <p>Set up on-line questionnaire for anglers.</p> <p>Circulate IP agreement (MJK)</p>
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relation to the aspiration to achieve MSC accreditation in some point in the future.

It was considered that the sea angling clubs would hold a valuable source of data particularly in relation to angling matches although the type of data collected had changed in recent years.

A discussion was initiated around the best date for the industry workshop with an aim of getting 60 fishermen to participate. February was identified as the best time and spring tides would engage most fishermen. This would also give time for the EFF team to become more widely known across Wales and would foster better engagement in the workshop.

Date for the next SUAG sometime in January to prepare for the fishermen's workshop.

Develop a database that maintains commercial sector data separate from recreational sector data

Ensure questionnaire includes questions about types of bait used in pots and that used by anglers

Roger Cook to provide Mike Kaiser with list and contact details of club secretaries.

It was considered that regional workshops would work best (North and South) with one night away only and over spring tides in February.