

WMFAG progress report

WMFAG – (1/10/2018) - Item 5

Status Key: Red / Amber / Green (RAG)	Grey: Completed	Green: On track	Amber: Delayed	Red: Substantial delay or high risk
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Please note: The top 3 priorities have now changed to reflect the urgent requirement to complete Brexit ‘day 1 readiness’ work.

Active Policy Development	State of Play	Progress since last WMFAG meeting (16/05/2018)	Actions before next WMFAG meeting	Anticipated End Date	RAG Status
<p>*Priority 1 - Export Certificates Following EU withdrawal all UK exports to Europe will require Export Certificates. Create an online system for generating export certificates to ensure continued ability to export fisheries products to the EU, continued trade with Europe is critical for future sustainability of Welsh industry. Lead: James Watkins James.Watkins@gov.wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical: Assuming UK becomes 3rd country when it leaves Europe. System must be in place on day one to ensure exports to Europe can continue. • WG currently working with MMO and Marine Scotland to develop an electronic export certificate system for day 1 readiness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG currently working with MMO and Marine Scotland to develop an electronic export certificate system for day 1 readiness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please see section 12 of Operations report 	End of March 2019	<p style="text-align: center;">AMBER</p> <p>Project on track but given the importance of this work to facilitate trade and the finite timescales involved it will be challenging.</p>
<p>*Priority 2 - Under 10m catch reporting – Improve the data collection from the u10m fleet in Wales to improve fisheries management capability and fishing opportunities. Export certificates will be reliant on electronic submission of catch data. Accurate up to date catch reporting stats will assist with maximising the benefit of fishing opportunities in Wales. IVMs also with U10 catch reporting will assist in the delivery of good</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical – Export certificates will rely on accurate and timely catch information. • Urgency to commence spending of EMFF control and enforcement funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Full OJEU procurement exercise is underway to deliver the technology required by the project • Legislative work to introduce Statutory instruments to implement proposals underway • Cab Sec approval to proceed with the proposals • Stakeholder engagement workshops organised for mid October. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender for procurement will be live. • Informal stakeholder workshops completed • Formal consultation will be live 	Project expected to be fully delivered by end of 2019	<p style="text-align: center;">GREEN</p> <p>Project on track</p>

<p>environmental status of fisheries stocks in Wales under MSFD Lead: Tim Croucher Tim.croucher@gov.wales</p>					
<p>*Priority 3 – Inshore VMS Improve understanding of how fleet operates in Wales and develop robust dataset to show areas of fishing activity. Ensure recognition and appropriate consideration of fishing activity areas within Welsh Waters in accordance with Welsh National Marine plan. IVMs along with u10m catch reporting will assist in the delivery of good environmental status of fisheries stocks in Wales under MSFD Lead: Tim Croucher Tim.croucher@gov.wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urgency to commence spending of EMFF control and enforcement funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Full OJEU procurement exercise is underway to deliver the technology required by the project • Legislative work to introduce Statutory instruments to implement proposals underway • Cab Sec approval to proceed with the proposals • Stakeholder engagement workshops organised for mid October. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender for procurement will be live. • Informal stakeholder workshops completed • Formal consultation will be live 	<p>Project expected to be fully delivery to fleet by end of 2019</p>	<p>GREEN Project on track</p>

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<p>Priority 4 - Whelks - To develop and implement new measures to manage more effectively and sustainably Wales' whelk fisheries</p> <p>Lead: Leanne Llewellyn Leanne.Llewellyn@gov.wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officials are continuing to work with lawyers to draft the statutory instrument (SI) adopting a phased approach which focuses on core measures; those requiring flexible permitting will be included in a second phase. This work is being progressed as quickly as possible to protect the stock. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement contract awarded to establish boundaries for a smaller Minimum Conservation Reference Size in Swansea Bay Justice Impact assessment completed and awaiting legal sign off. Finalised management policies established. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing to Cabinet Secretary for Energy Planning and Rural Affairs (CSEPRA) outlining options for Whelk SI as a phased approach and seeking permission for lawyers to proceed to drafting. 	Autumn 2018	<p>RED</p> <p>Pressure of EU exit related work has delayed the drafting of SI; flexible permitting measures will now be delivered after EU exit.</p>
<p>Scallops - Develop and implement new measures to manage the Cardigan Bay scallop fishery more sustainably.</p> <p>Lead: Colin Charman On secondment from NRW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Result of 1st consultation on scallop dredging in an additional area of Cardigan Bay Special Area of Conservation announced by the CSEPRA in October 2016. Scallop task & finish group set up to develop flexible permitting to ensure careful control of fishery. Group last met on 12.09.2017. We are working to establish the most appropriate legislative vehicle to deliver the flexible permitting measures identified by the group to manage the fishery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are awaiting comprehensive advice on the best legislative vehicle to deliver the flexible permitting tools needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree the most appropriate legislative vehicle to deliver flexible management measures. Secure the resources to implement the flexible management measures needed at the earliest opportunity. Subject to the above we will develop a delivery plan and arrange a further meeting of T&F group to progress this work stream. 	We will provide an end date when the delivery plan is agreed.	<p>RED</p> <p>Pressure of EU exit related work on policy and internal support services has substantially delayed this work stream.</p>

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<p>Cockle Management Plan - Improve cockle management in Wales.</p> <p>Lead: Mark Tilling Mark.Tilling@gov.wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awaiting result of specialist legal advice relating to the prioritised proposals forming part of phase 1 delivery (New application process, eligibility, previous convictions sifts, training, fit and proper persons checks. A final consultation is required on the above prior to delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document seeking specialist legal advice complete- awaiting outcome Data Sharing Agreements in place with local authorities to allow sharing of permit data for food health purposes. This will also support the combined application approach of the new cockle management Draft report on Ecosystem Threshold Model received- out for comment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final consultation underway Subject to specialist legal advice Final document for ecosystem threshold model received and approved-way forward agreed Meetings with processors complete Meeting of revised project team and board undertaken 	<p>Quarter 1 - 2019</p>	<p>AMBER</p> <p>This work stream was delayed when the project manager had to assist in the opening of the Three Rivers Cockle Fishery.</p>
<p>European Maritime & Fisheries Fund -To fully open EMFF and to offer policy input into delivering projects to ensure that EMFF is fully allocated in Wales to support a vibrant and sustainable fishing industry in readiness for EU Exit.</p> <p>Lead – Bethan Jones Bethan.jones6@gov.wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) fully opened in January 2017. Core budget excluding the statutory budget allocated to Data Collection and Control and Enforcement is £9.9m As at 01/09/18 48 full applications have been received with a total grant request of approx. £15,120,860.. 20 (of which 8 are FLAG applications) applications have been approved with a grant value of £5,027,008 Based on consultation with industry, which shaped the EMFF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There had been delays in the appraisal process resulting in a backlog, this has now been addressed additional resource being assigned who will be concentrate their efforts on undertaking and completing the appraisals. Work is underway to scope the viability of a simplified costs scheme for UP1. If it is found to be a viable option the intention is for it to be made available to applicants in January 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification to be provided on the eligibility of adaptations to pots rather than pot replacements where this is the preference of the applicant. COMPLETED. Ongoing promotion of the schemes to business and stakeholders as resources allow, in an attempt to increase uptake of grant. ONGOING. Conversion rate from project outline stage to full application is low at this stage despite availability of FBDA 	<p>N/A</p>	<p>RED</p> <p>As at 01/09/18 48 full applications have been received with a total grant request of approx. £15,120,860. 20 (of which 8 are FLAG applications) applications have been approved with a grant value of £5,027,008</p>

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	programme coupled with the low uptake of the equivalent 2000-2007 European Fisheries Fund Measure, the EMFF engine replacement Measure hasn't been activated in Wales.		support. Need to establish what the barriers are to full application and identify what additional support (if any) is needed.		
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively encourage industry to respond quickly to any queries raised during appraisal stage by SMU to speed up delivery. 		
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<p>Fixed Administrative Penalties (FAPs) – To develop and update the current system.</p> <p>Lead – Colin Charman NRW secondment to WG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> offer non court alternative for minor offences enable penalties to be applied more rapidly reduce cost and uncertainty for fishermen provide a consistent approach Wales already has powers to issue FAPs as an alternative to court for CFP offences. We intend to extend this to domestic offences and increase the maximum fine allowed for multiple offences. Consultation documents, (Regulatory Impact Assessment) RIA, and payment systems / options in development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work delayed because the original project lead has left the division; replaced by Colin Charman. Draft consultation document, RIA (regulatory impact assessment) and payment systems awaiting approval. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review current position with lawyers, economists and finance before agreeing timelines and progressing consultation at the earliest opportunity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Originally planned to come into force in Winter 2018/19; we will still aim for this end date. 	<p>AMBER</p> <p>This work has been delayed because the project lead left the division; a ew project lead has been appointed.</p>

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<p>Assessing Welsh Fisheries</p> <p>Lead – Michelle Billing Michelle.billing@gov.wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRW working on 64 marine mammal assessments; aim to complete by end November 2018 and share with WG and x-border agencies for comment before publication. Final QA of assessments before publishing all 64 assessments on WG and NRW websites in December 2018. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work slowed due to staff changes in NRW (sector specialists). Two new staff expected to be in post by the end of autumn 2018, with one taking up post mid-September. MA seeking permission to progress the work streams to address the purple (high risk) assessments was cleared in June 2018. A management proposal exploring options for additional management measures is being drafted – final version October 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 64 mammal assessments will be published on both WG and NRW websites in December 2018 rather than April 2018. All other assessments will be progressed over the next 2 years as part of the ongoing project. The next batch of assessments will be potting. Final version of management proposal drafted – October 2018. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End December 2018 for publication of 64 mammal assessments. 	<p>AMBER</p> <p>Project Manager has begun a review of options for policy implementation of identified management needs for the purple assessed activities.</p>

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The Group will maintain a watching brief on the following:

Emerging Fisheries	State of Play	Progress since last WMFAG meeting (16/05/2018)	Actions before next WMFAG meeting	Anticipated End Date
WRASSE Lead – Phil Marshall Phil.Marshall@gov.wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently assessing wild capture activity and potential demand from aquaculture sector. In 2017 no live wrasse were purchased from Wales to supply salmon farming industry in Scotland with 'cleaner fish'. Very unlikely any wild wrasse will be taken this year (2018). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions with aquaculture industry continue; provisional meeting date rearranged before November 2018. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depending on the level of activity and the business plans of the salmon farming industry consider development of a Code of Practice. 	2020
Razor Clam Fishery Lead – Greta Hughes Greta.Hughes@gov.wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently no restrictions apart from closure in North Wales (Llanfairfechan and Penmaenmawr beaches). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have received a report assessing potential methodologies for assessing the razor clam stock across Wales and to inform any subsequent management plan - see item 9(iii). Pilot intertidal survey completed at Llanfairfechan. Targeted salting trialled as means of obtaining razor clams. 3 razor clam species identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider findings of report to develop a pilot survey plan for Llanfairfechan. Complete pilot intertidal survey report. Consider appropriateness of current single razor clam MLS for the 3 species identified. Consider appropriate sublittoral survey techniques. 	Winter 2018 Early Summer 2019

Potential Future Policy Development Areas

The items listed below have been raised as issues by group members and added to by policy officials for future policy development. Once the current policy priorities have been completed members views will be sought about which of these items will be progressed. Please note since the last meeting catch certificates, u10m reporting, iVMS (priorities 1-3 above) and berried lobsters (CFP) are all active work streams.

Issue/ Species	Objective	How would this work meet our sustainable management objectives?	Timescales and priority (How important is the work?)	WG comments
1. Recreational Fishing / Angling	Species caught and landed are reported and counted consistent with SMNR and proposed Amendments to Buyers & Sellers' regulations:	With the exception of permitting for potting there is no control or effective means to accurately monitor the species caught and landed or method of capture. The Buyers & Sellers legislation is derived from the CFP and is consequently restricted to fishing vessels by extending the powers of Welsh Ministers to include all fisheries in Wales Under the Buyers & Sellers Legislation. Fisheries managers would have the data necessary to inform the SMNR.	Not clear	Further information required before developing policy
2. Dee Estuary Fisheries management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review current Dee estuary byelaws. Identify main fisheries taking place within estuary including methods. Understand geographical spread, quantity and scale of fishing operations within the estuary. Consider interactions between different fishing operations and interaction between Welsh/English boundary. 	Current byelaws are dated. Review is necessary to ensure fishing operations that are currently taking place are at a sustainable level. This will ensure the long term sustainability of fisheries in the area in line with the requirements of the WBFGA. Byelaws on English side of the estuary are also being considered for review. This will need to be factored in to ensure compatibility and so that Welsh industry is not disadvantaged.	Initial review of current state of fishery will identify what level of priority this piece of work is given.	WG officials are in discussion over future management of this area with other organisations with remit in area. (MMO NWIFCA, EA, NRW).