



Aquaculture Update

LEE COCKER, AQUACULTURE MANAGER
ACIG, 18TH SEPTEMBER 2019

The logo for Seafish, featuring the word "seafish" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Above the letter "i" in "fish" is a stylized graphic of a fish's dorsal fin, composed of several blue diamond shapes arranged in a row.

seafish

Seafish Corporate Plan 2018-21



In collaboration with the UK seafood sector we have identified the following five key challenges



Currently mid-point in our 2nd Annual Plan 2019/20



KA1 Aquaculture Activity Highlights



Devolved Aquaculture Leadership Groups



England

- On-going support to Seafood 2040 and the English Aquaculture Leadership Group (ALG)

Scotland

- On-going discussion with Marine Scotland re. it's 'UK Aquaculture Forum' and in relation to a possible new pan-UK group to bring all four 'national' groups together

Northern Ireland

- Talking with the Aquaculture Representative Group (ARG) on how Seafish could support its formalisation

Wales

- In collaboration with Fishmongers' Company we facilitated a 2nd meeting of Welsh aquaculture businesses (late July), at which:
 - Majority of the attending industry reps. decided to create 'Aquaculture Industry Wales' (AIW)
 - Welsh industry stakeholders are currently exploring appropriate structures to enable AIWs formal realisation



'Size of the Prize' – Growth Potential of UK Aquaculture

- There is a strong perception that UK domestic aquaculture production has significant growth potential
- However, the extent of this potential has yet to be formally quantified
- Propose “*Analysis of the Growth Potential of the UK Aquaculture Sector*”
 - Phase 1: Bivalve shellfish (mussels and oysters)
 - Phase 2: Finfish; other crustacea / marine gastropod molluscs (e.g. Abalone); macro-algae / seaweed
- Expression of Interest released (late Aug.) - appropriate candidates to be invited to Tender
- Aim to commission the project early Oct. 2019



Aquaculture Profiles



- Aquaculture Profiles - Web Tool
- Four new Profiles added in June
 - **Atlantic halibut**
 - **Rainbow trout**
 - **Tilapia**
 - **Turbot**
- 13 Profiles now available
- 'Key Info' offers general, high-level content
- Continuing to improve this resource and its usability

Aquaculture Profiles

Atlantic halibut
Hippoglossus hippoglossus
Profile

Atlantic Salmon
Salmo salar
Profile

European Sea Bass
Dicentrarchus labrax
Profile

Gilthead Sea Bream
Sparus aurata
Profile

Mussels
Mytilus Edulis
Profile

Oysters
Profile

Pangasius
Pseudiscoliodon hypophthalmus
Profile

Rainbow Trout
Oncorhynchus mykiss
Profile

Scallops
Profile

Tiger Prawn
Penaeus monodon
Profile

Tilapia
Oreochromis / Sarotherodon / Tilapia spp.
Profile

Turbot
Psetta maxima
Profile

White Leg Prawn
Litopenaeus vannamei
Profile

Key Information

Aquaculture is the fastest growing food supply sector in the world, and as a global industry it provides half of all seafood for human consumption. There is a strong emphasis within the industry to continue reducing its impacts on the environment and secure itself as a sustainable source of seafood for generations to come.

What is Aquaculture? Why is it Important?	+
What Does Responsible Aquaculture Entail?	+
Production Scales	+
Glossary	+



- One of the most significant challenges to increasing shellfish production is water quality which can compromise market potential and impact on classification status
- Report – ***‘Intermittent Microbial Water Quality Barriers to Bivalve Shellfish Production: Improvement and Management Options for Change’***
- Seafish has received comments from Defra and regulators on the latest version, with a view to the final report being available later in the year
- The report has been an important resource for the ***‘Developing An Assurance Scheme for Shellfish and Human Health’*** (DASSHH) project



Aquaculture Across our Challenges and Teams 

Developing an Assurance Scheme for Shellfish and Human Health (DASSHH) Project



- Improve understanding of the sources of microbial contamination and how uptake by shellfish varies with a range of potentially predictive environmental factors
- Assessing risk implications associated with microbial contamination and determining if there are post-harvest measures to remedy or mitigate consumer risk
- Develop a risk-based management system that:
 - Compliments the classification system
 - Enables regulators and industry to cooperate in more flexible regulatory framework
 - Provide shellfish industry real-time harvest management ability
- DASSHH pan-UK project facilitated by Seafish on behalf of the Shellfish Stakeholder Working Group (SSWG) - provide project governance / consistency between country projects



DASSHH – Recent Updates



E.G. Statistical, hydrodynamic and catchment modelling, as well as collection of fine scale field data (will be used to refine the modelling) has begun in the Camel Estuary

E.G. Projects are being developed for the 3 locations - will follow similar approaches to the work being undertaken in England

E.G. NI already has significant amount of data - gap analysis is underway to identify where additional work might be required

Additional DASSHH Activity:

- A Review of the Application of Official Control Regulations for Shellfish
 - Draft report is expected for next SSWG meeting (Dec.)
 - To be externally peer reviewed thereafter

For more information email: eunice.pinn@seafish.co.uk



Safety and Training



- 2019/2020 Annual Plan commitment - “*Develop a training and guidance programme to support good occupational health and safety practices for UK aquaculture businesses*”
- Before embarking on any development need to establish what training is already available and what is needed by operators
- Commissioned NAFC Marine Centre to undertake research
- Final report will identify gaps in training provisions and help us prioritise subsequent development work
 - Welcome input from stakeholders to do this

For more information email: simon.potten@seafish.co.uk



Onshore Training



- Review of the four Seafood Training Networks is nearing completion:
 - Identifying good practices and room for improvement
 - Potential increase in Seafish support and/or expansion of network to include London and SE England
- Currently planning (subject to demand) delivery of 1st 'Bivalve Purification Operation's course in NI:
 - Course will be open to southern Irish FBOs – promoted via BIM
- New version of the 'Bivalve Purification Inspections Course'
 - Now incorporates Official Control Verification (OCV) methodology
 - Currently an 'EHO-centric' course, but exploring possibility of making it pertinent to FBO managers

For more information email: onshore@seafish.co.uk



Horizon Scanning



Climate Change

- Sept. 2018 ACIG held Climate Change and Aquaculture workshop:
 - Identify both CC impacts on industry and sector adaptation responses
 - Aim to understand how CC may affect UK farmed seafood supplies
- Ever since Seafish and project partners (Stirling and Cefas):
 - Continued to hold extensive discussions with industry stakeholders
 - Re-edited and honed the impact and adaptation response matrices
 - Aiming to release report Spring 2020

Ecosystem Services

- Collating information on seafood ecosystem services - imminent release of Phase 1 report
- Further aim to generate more evidence specifically focused on the ES role of shellfish from both aquaculture and capture fisheries:
 - Through continued desk review / research
 - Convening a workshop – TBC (probably early 2020)

For more information email: angus.garrett@seafish.co.uk



Devolved Authority Aquaculture Updates



Defra - Freshwater Fisheries & Aquaculture Policy Team Update



- EU Exit Events (in partnership with MMO and Seafish)
 - Defra events to help the UK seafood sector prepare for Brexit - the new systems and processes that traders will need to following a 'no-deal' (e.g. Export Health Certificates (EHCs); customs procedures; etc.)
 - Upcoming events in Fleetwood (26 Sept.) and London (4th Oct.)
- **Export of live bivalve molluscs for depuration**
 - Defra acknowledge this is a key issue
 - Working to ensure the most suitable EHC is in place to allow exports of live bivalve molluscs to the EU continue smoothly on day 1 of exit
 - Extra resource has been identified to assist in the delivery of certification
 - Defra working closely with the SAGB to convey this message to their EU counterparts and stakeholders
- **The Fisheries Bill**
 - The Bill wasn't carried over at the end of the Parliamentary session; will look to reintroduce in the next. Details in the Queen's Speech
- For more information email: FishEUexit@defra.gov.uk



DAERA NI - Marine and Fisheries Division Update



Brexit Activities

- Upcoming DAERA Stakeholder Events (in partnership with FSA)
 - Primarily focus on the use of DECOL - new online application system to standardise/streamline the process for providing EHC services in NI
 - Also provide a 'clinic' for industry to engage 1-2-1 with their local EHO or DAERA rep.
 - 1st event is for the aquaculture industry (7th Oct.); 2nd for the wild caught sector (8th Oct.)
- DAERA continues to issue all email updates received from GOV.UK to relevant stakeholder groups
- Officials are also phoning/visiting individual seafood businesses to discuss preparedness and make sure that they are ready
- For more information email: Colette.Connor@daera-ni.gov.uk



Scottish Government (SG) - Marine Scotland (MS) Update



- Aquaculture is, and will remain, a key contributor to Scotland's rural economy, with sustainable growth detailed in the 2030 Vision
- During the Parliamentary Inquiries with regard to salmon farming, SG agreed the 'status quo' was not an option and is delivering on commitments, including:
 - Farmed Fish Health Framework
 - Interactions Working Group (sea lice)
 - Technical Working Group (Spatial planning framework)
 - Launch of new SEPA aquaculture framework
- Marine Scotland has a dedicated Brexit team working across SG Brexit teams and with other DAs
- MS continues to support the Scottish Aquaculture Industry Leadership Group (AILG) as it seeks to deliver the 2030 Strategy
 - A small Shellfish Working Group is soon to be established in support of the AILG and to ensure shellfish specific issues are progressed

For more information email: jill.barber@gov.scot



Welsh Government (WG) - Marine and Fisheries Division Update



- WG aims to re-invigorate its interaction with industry through a new aquaculture forum
- 'Brexit and Our Seas' Consultation - WG's aquaculture priorities focuses on three core areas:
 - Developing new and existing shellfish activities
 - Supporting new and existing operations to increase finfish production
 - Promoting diversification of commercially viable species in marine and inland areas
 - Consultation closed in August. WG currently analysing responses
- Wales Marine Planning Portal - search for different business activities taking place in the marine environment, inc. aquaculture
- EMFF: Five EMFF Projects have been approved so far this year with a total value of ~£1.9m (i.e. committed funding)

For more information email: MarineAndFisheries@gov.wales



Thank you

Seafish Home: <http://seafish.org/>

Seafish Aquaculture: <http://www.seafish.org/industry-support/aquaculture>

Contact: lee.cocker@seafish.co.uk - Aquaculture Manager