



Shellfish  
Association of Great Britain



## Marine Environmental Legislation Newsletter

Delivered on behalf of Seafish by SAGB

Update January 2018

### **Consultations**

#### **Wales – National Marine Plan**

Earlier this month Wales launched a consultation on its draft marine plan. This plan covers all Welsh marine waters inshore and offshore and has been developed following extensive stakeholder consultation. It sets out the vision for Welsh national waters and contains specific policies on various sectors interests as well as environmental aims. It is available for comment until 29<sup>th</sup> March and can be accessed here;

<https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/draft-welsh-national-marine-plan>

#### **Scotland – Pilots on Inshore Fisheries Management**

The Scottish Government has launched a public consultation on areas for a pilot scheme in inshore fisheries management. Following suggestions from the industry the public is now being invited to comment. There are 2 pilots in the consultation, one where the inshore fishery will be managed according to local priorities with the aim of providing more benefit to the local community, and one which will separate the different methods of fishing in order to look at their impacts.

The consultation closes on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February and can be accessed here;

<https://consult.gov.scot/marine-scotland/inshore-fisheries-pilots-2017/>

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## **EU – Strategy on Plastics Waste**

This consultation is open until 12<sup>th</sup> February and can be found here;

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A8-2017-0381&format=XML&language=EN>

The strategy, which was adopted in January, aims to make all plastics recyclable by 2030, ban micro-beads and reduce the prevalence of single use plastics. The new Directive on port reception facilities will now go to the Council and Parliament for adoption.

## **EU – Consultation on the Climate Change Strategy**

The EU has launched a consultation on its strategy for climate change. Of particular interest is section 6 which addresses the implementation and integration of the CAP and CFP. It is open until 1<sup>st</sup> March, and it can be found here;

[https://ec.europa.eu/clima/consultations/evaluation-eus-strategy-adaptation-climate-change\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/consultations/evaluation-eus-strategy-adaptation-climate-change_en)

## **EU – Consultation on the Environment and Pesticides**

This consultation has been launched as part of the better regulation agenda and looks at the effect of pesticides and pesticide residues on human and animal health and the environment. These chemicals have implications for the aquatic environment.

The consultation is open for public comment via an online questionnaire and closes on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

## **EU – Consultation on Pharmaceuticals in the Environment**

The EU has launched a consultation which runs until 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018. This consultation is to inform the EU's strategic approach on the effect of pharmaceuticals on the environment, including the water environment. It can be found here;

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-pharmaceuticals-environment\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-pharmaceuticals-environment_en)

## **England and Wales – Invasive Species**

The EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation came into force in 2014. It contains a list of species to which it currently applies and there are 49 species on it. This list is subject to periodic review. This consultation details new proposals for the enforcement of the

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legislation which includes bans on keeping and selling these species. It can be found here;

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/natural-environment-policy/invasive-non-native-species-enforcement/>

## **News**

### **UK – 25 Year Environment Plan**

This month the government launched its 25 year environment plan. This is a framework plan which, at this stage, lacks the detail that would give people a better idea of what the impacts will actually be. However the broad policies are there and the commitment to provide at least the same level of protection for the environment after Brexit as exists now. Some of the headline policies were on plastics and a pledge to make new developments improve the environmental quality. The plan and its annexes can be found here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

### **EU – Report on Technical Measures**

The EU has produced a report on the fisheries technical measures designed to protect marine species and conserve the environment. It can be accessed here;

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A8-2017-0381&format=XML&language=EN>

The report was discussed on the 16<sup>th</sup> January and after many proposed amendments the report was adopted. There was an amendment passed which called for a total ban on electro-pulse fishing. The report will now move to debate in the Council and Parliament.

### **Scotland – Ban on Plastic Cotton Buds**

Under proposals announced this month, Scotland will become the first UK country to ban the plastic stems which are used in the production of cotton buds. Scotland claims that by doing this they will reduce marine plastic litter by 50%. News article on this can be found here;

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jan/11/scotland-to-become-first-uk-ban-plastic-cotton-buds>

### **England – Marine Planning**

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Four of the marine plan areas, North East, North West, South East and South West will be progressing to holding public meetings on their second iteration of plans in February and March. The dates and locations for these, along with information on all the areas can be found here;

<http://mis.marinemanagement.org.uk>

### **England – Water Abstraction**

Following consultation with the industry, DEFRA has now published its plans on water abstraction. The documents set out what the government is doing to reform the management of water abstraction. It can be found here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-abstraction-plan-2017?t=1&cn=ZmxleGlibGVfcmVjc18y&refsrc=email&iid=0d290ff45cc44c4ba699d3a3c81fde90&uid=397961139&nid=244+272699400>

### **England – Ofwat Price Review**

Ofwat has recently published its Price Review 2019 (PR19) which provides information to water companies on how it will conduct the review of their plans to provide water in the next period. Ofwat say that consumers of water expect a quality product but at an affordable price. It is important to our industry and the environment that more effort is made to treat waste water and thus prevent pollution from entering rivers and coastal areas. More information can be found here;

<https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/regulated-companies/price-review/2019-price-review-final-methodology/>

### **EU – Ocean Governance**

Following on from the UN debate on ocean governance and the environment the EU Parliament has this month adopted texts on International Ocean Governance, which it says is an agenda to discuss the future of the EU oceans and move towards the 2030 sustainable development goals. The texts can be found here;

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2018-0004+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

### **EU – Guidance on WFD Article 4 (7)**

Guidance has now been finalised and published to Article 4(7) of the Water Framework Directive. It concerns new modifications to the physical characteristics of surface water

bodies, alterations to the level of groundwater, or new sustainable human development activities and can be seen here;

[https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/e0352ec3-9f3b-4d91-bdbb-939185be3e89/CIS\\_Guidance\\_Article\\_4\\_7\\_FINAL.PDF](https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/e0352ec3-9f3b-4d91-bdbb-939185be3e89/CIS_Guidance_Article_4_7_FINAL.PDF)