

## Seafish Marine Environmental Legislation Expert Group

### Update January 2012

#### **Updates**

#### **English Marine Conservation Zone Project**

Following the announcement of the six month delay to the timetable feedback from stakeholders is now being sought in three stages. Stage 2 begins in late January, with Stage 3 to follow in February / March. A formal consultation is planned to follow with all stakeholders invited to make further comment. Impact on fisheries is being assessed using both quantitative and qualitative data. Information including links to regional projects and current timetable can be found here;

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6007> and

[http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/MCZ-ia-factsheet\\_tcm6-28508.pdf](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/MCZ-ia-factsheet_tcm6-28508.pdf)

The latest MCZ project newsletter can be found here;

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6056>

Meanwhile, the fisheries coalition MPAC has had meetings with various government bodies. It has presented an alternative to the current process which it says will ensure a better outcome for nature conservation and stakeholders. It is waiting for a response from government. Further details can be found in an article in Fish Update here;

[http://www.fishupdate.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/16948/New\\_approach\\_to\\_marine\\_conservation\\_zones\\_lined\\_up.html](http://www.fishupdate.com/news/fullstory.php/aid/16948/New_approach_to_marine_conservation_zones_lined_up.html)

#### **Welsh Marine Conservation Zone Project**

This is to establish a small number of highly protected areas, (i.e. where any damaging or disturbing activity is banned) for the purpose of supporting ecosystem recovery, enhancing resilience and improving understanding of the marine environment. They expect to designate 3 to 4 sites. We expect the first consultation on the potential sites shortly.

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/marinfisheries/conservation/protected/conservationzones/project/siteselection/?lang=en&ts=4>

### **Scottish Marine Protected Areas**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Scottish MPA workshop will take place in early 2012 to further consider the 31 MPA search locations in Scottish Waters that were recommended from the 3<sup>rd</sup> stakeholder workshop. The 2012 workshop will also consider 3<sup>rd</sup> Party MPA proposals.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/marine-environment/mpanetwork>

For information on the Anglo-Scottish fisheries coalition MPAC see the English heading

### **Marine Planning England**

Informal consultation on the draft evidence and emerging issues report has now finished and the workshops have been held. In February, MMO will begin discussion and consultation on the draft plan objectives and vision for the East Inshore and East Offshore marine plan areas. The next fisheries evidence workshop will be held in March. They will also be holding a series of drop-in sessions for members of the public from Monday 13 February to Thursday 23 February. The aim of these sessions is to inform people about marine planning and gain an understanding of what the public's issues are in relation to the marine area.

Details including a summary of the initial workshops can be found here;

<http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/marineplanning/you.htm>

And the latest newsletter here;

<http://www.marinemanagement.org.uk/marineplanning/newsletters/newsletter6.htm>

### **Marine Planning Scotland**

Consultation on the Draft National Marine Plan (12 weeks) and consultation on the SA and SEA(12 weeks) are expected spring 2012, details can be found here;

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/seamanagement/national>

### **Marine Strategy Framework Directive**

Public consultation on the indicators is expected to be launched in February 2012.

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To access the Food Legislation Expert Group Update click here;  
<http://www.seafish.org/fishermen/legislation/monthly-newsletter>

## **Fishing focus the Defra and MMO fisheries newsletter**

Latest edition can be accessed here;

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/fisheries/documents/fisheries/fishfocus24.pdf>

## **Meetings / Conferences**

### **Aquainnova – The future of Shellfish Aquaculture**

Bordeaux 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February

## **Current Consultations**

### **Aquaculture and Fisheries Bill Scotland**

This consultation concerns aquaculture and freshwater fisheries. The aim is to provide effective management for both sectors and their interaction. For shellfish waters it follows on from the recent shellfish waters consultation. It closes 2.3.2012 and can be found here;

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/12/06081229/0>

### **Review of Shellfish Waters Designations in Wales**

This consultation contains plans to update the current designations for shellfish growing waters in Wales. It closes 2.3.2012 and can be found here;

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentandcountryside/shellfishwatersreview/?lang=en>

### **Wales – review of exceptions to regulations regarding the maximum length of fishing boats in the 0-6 mile zone.**

This consultation seeks to remove the transitional provisions which granted exceptions for some larger vessels. It closes 2.2.2012 and can be found here;

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentandcountryside/111110-120202accesinshorefisheries/?lang=en>

## **Scottish consultation on scallop management measures**

This consultation seeks views on the following proposed measures.

Restrict the number of scallop dredges that can be towed within 12 nautical miles of the Scottish coast to 8 per side. Remove the current limit on the number of scallop dredges that can be towed beyond 12 nautical miles of the coast. Exempt from regulation, attachments to dredges whose use is to increase the safety and speed of handling/tipping the dredge, and have a phased increase to the minimum landing size for scallops over two years to 110mm. It can be accessed here;

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/01/7927>

and closes 16.4.2012

## **Sustaining a Living Wales**

This consultation is about establishing a policy to make the best use of Wales' natural resources whilst conserving them for the future. It closes 31.5.2012 and can be found here;

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentandcountryside/sustainingwales/?lang=en>

## **Planning for sustainable growth in the English Aquaculture Industry**

This consultation is seeking views on potential areas for growth, identifying areas where the industry can work together to improve marketing, knowledge, skills and research, and considers barriers to growth in the English aquaculture industry. It closes 8.3.12, and can be found here;

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2012/01/12/aquaculture-1201/>