



# Aquaculture Update

LEE COCKER, AQUACULTURE MANAGER  
ACIG, 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019



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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Profile
Atlantic halibut <i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>
Atlantic Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>
European Sea Bass <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>
Gilthead Sea Bream <i>Sparus aurata</i>
Mussels <i>Mytilus Edulis</i>
Oysters
Pangasius <i>Pseudoscophthalmus hypophthalmus</i>
Rainbow Trout <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>
Scallops
Tiger Prawn <i>Penaeus monodon</i>
Tilapia <i>Oreochromis / Sarotherodon / Tilapia spp.</i>
Turbot <i>Psetta maxima</i>
White Leg Prawn <i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i>

### 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



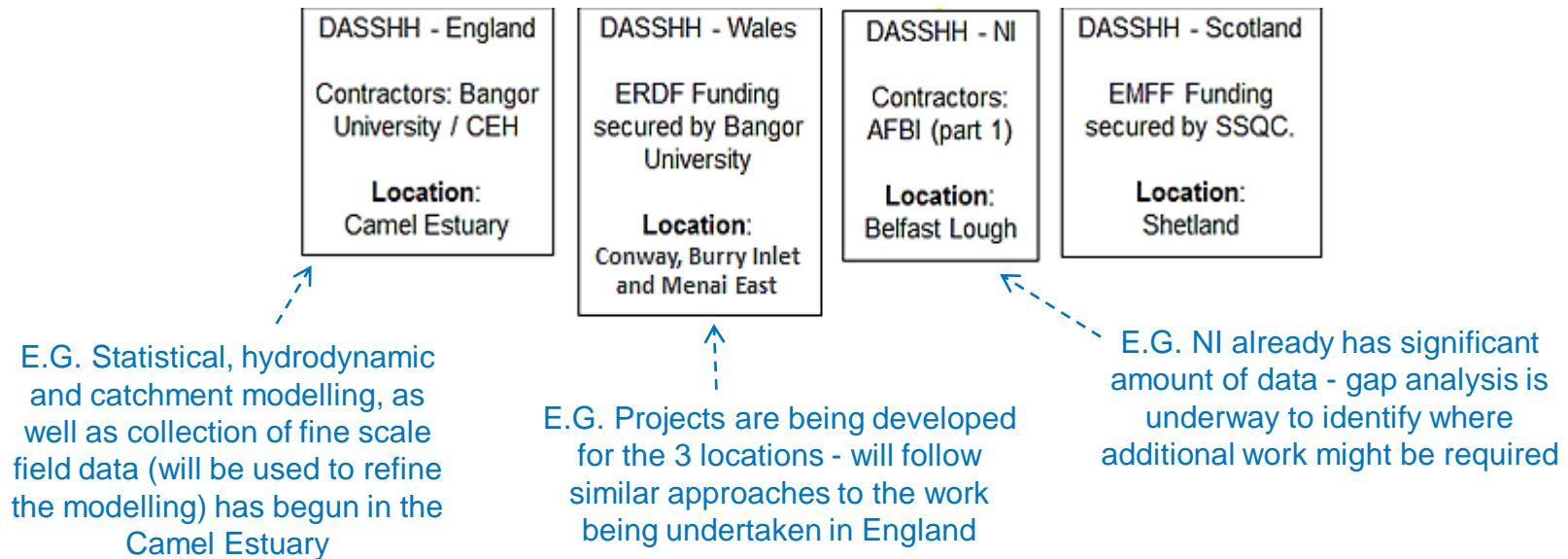
# Developing an Assurance Scheme for Shellfish and Human Health (DASSHH) Project



- 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



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> '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](mailto:onshore@seafish.co.uk)



## *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](mailto: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 (4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> event is for the aquaculture industry (7<sup>th</sup> Oct.); 2<sup>nd</sup> for the wild caught sector (8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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
- 'Brexite 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](mailto: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](mailto:lee.cocker@seafish.co.uk) - Aquaculture Manager