



Y Bachyn—The Hook

A partial victory on Bass ?



Following comments by amongst others, individual members, the WFFA -the Welsh Federation for Fishermen's Associations and indeed our own Association - the Welsh Assembly Government, in the form of the Minister Carwyn Jones A.M. recently announced the result of the Bass consultation. Reflecting the Assembly's apparent desire to claim further ownership of the Welsh Fishery and in an effort to have more of a level playing field - the Assembly has published it's intent to allow in Wales the landing of Bass subject to a minimum size of **37.5 cm**.

As you may be aware, Fisheries Minister Mr Ben Bradshaw's recent announcement that in England the landing of

Bass beneath a minimum size of 40 cm. was prohibited -but this **only applied to UK vessels**.

The end result of this unilateral decision was of course that as a result -other European countries e.g. Belgium , France , Spain etc could continue to legally land Bass that measures 36cm !

Until such time that an increase in size can be agreed **pan- Europe**, one will have the madness of the 36cm 37.5 and 40cm landing sizes in the UK.

Europe will have to come round to a more uniform way of thinking here, particularly where conservation and the future of commercial bass fishing is in question.



Swyddfa - Office, 43 High Street - (Old Jewsons)

Pan yn Pwllheli —galwch I fewn yn y swyddfa am baned a sgwrs. Y ddau yn rhad ac am ddim !

Mae'n holl bwysig fod yr aelodau ym defnyddio'r adnodd pwysig hwn ynglyn ac unrhyw bryderon neu ofynion sydd gennych fel aelodau o'r

Gymdeithas.

Lleoliad y swyddfa—

43 Stryd Fawr —dau ddrws I lawr oddiwrth y Crown tuag at Kingshead Street. Dowch trwy'r drysau mawr aliwminiwm, I fyny'r grisiau i'r ail lawr. Cwbl wedi ei arwyddo.

When in town call in at the office for a chat and a cup of tea—both free!! It's important that members use this valuable resource regarding any problems or issues that are of concern. Two doors down from the Crown—towards Kingshead Street. In through the double aluminium doors—up the spiral staircase to the second floor !



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Y Bachyn – The Hook



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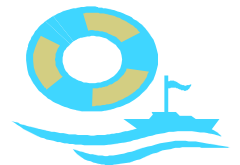
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*Gofal heb garlam
At sea – you only need to get safety wrong
once!*

HYFFORDDIANT / TRAINING



Safety Training For those of you that requested it, some safety training took place during November/early December. This consisted of a number of aspects which included stability and watch-keeping - and was provided by the Welsh Seafish Industry Training Association (WSFITA) via Len Jensen and Gavin Phillips. This facility is heavily subsidised via Objective 1, so being free -is of course is very good value ! If there is anyone that has been unable to attend these courses, but still wants to look at training courses in the future, please get in touch with the office or Jim Williamson WSFITA 015588 24099. It is intended to have further courses during January / Feb —In particular refresher courses for First Aid, Fire Fighting, Sea Survival, and basic Health and Safety plus a repeat of the Stability and Watch-keeping courses. These courses will be free. You are reminded that some refresher courses are now **mandatory every 3/5 years**. All courses count towards a Skipper's ticket ! Over 15 people took part in the courses held at the end of November / Dec and as mentioned, further courses will take place early in the New Year. In particular we are looking to organise **Risk Assessments** for the various Fishing Vessels. These on average should take about 1-2 hrs each. Anyone wishing to book an appointment for this service please let me know. **You are reminded that these inspections are mandatory. This has to be done if you want to carry on Fishing.**



NEWSFLASH !

Free Risk assessments - **start on the 8th of February 2007**

TO BOOK YOUR SLOT—PHONE THE OFFICE ! FIRST COME ,FIRST SERVED

Membership & EGM

An Extraordinary General Meeting was held on Monday 2nd October 2006 at the Nanhoron Arms, Nefyn. In what we feel was a constructive meeting., several issues were discussed, **some of which are detailed below.**

Of particular interest was a talk given by Mr Jeremy Percy the Chief Executive of the Welsh Federation of Fishermen's Associations (WFFA). He stressed that the importance of the input of the individual fishermen had never been greater, as the number of consultations regarding the industry is growing, and decisions regarding their livelihood are being made at the highest levels. Jerry impressed upon the fishermen the importance of communicating their views to the Development Officer, in order that a true representation can be made to the Welsh Assembly via the WFFA.

Membership fees, and the proposition that they should rise in 2007 in line

with other Associations, who all pay a considerable amount more—**Anglesey £50, Cardigan £50 and South Wales £130!** - was also a matter of discussion.

One of the issues under consideration at the EGM was the need to take a Association stance of policy regarding the issue of the Lobster Consultation. DEFRA needed to know which of the proposals we favoured. On a vote it was decided **to favour** the increase in the minimum landing size **to 90mm in one step.**

A motion passed at the EGM, was for the creation of a Sub-Committee with a member to represent each port. This group could then meet regularly with the Development Officer and give feedback. It was unanimously felt that a group like this would be useful in keeping open the lines of communication. We shortly hope to organise the first meeting of this group when all the names are in. As evidenced by the

forthcoming Brown Crab consultation , more and reports are being published at an increasing rate, very often as a result of concerns from the 'green sector' - highlighting the perceived ever depleting fish stocks in today's oceans. We as an Association must be forward thinking in terms of considering environmental issues such as sustainable fishing and gear limits etc - in order that the industry and your way of life continues to survive.

The **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Monday February 5th 2007**, at the Nanhoron Arms Nefyn at 7.30- for 8.00 start. Amongst the issues under consideration will be the trading arm /storage facilities/ marketing /new European Funding priorities. etc etc

I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO ATTEND, TO VOICE YOUR OPINIONS AND INDEED RAISE ANYTHING THAT IS OF CONCERN. It is **your** Association, please make sure you contribute.

Gwyl Bwyd Mor Llyn Seafood



Another successful Festival was held again this year with increased growth in terms of stallage and attendance. Space allocated to stalls was up 33% and visitor numbers were up 20% to **over 3000**.

Cooking demonstrations using local seafood and celebrity appearances both provided a certain flair to what has fast become a firm favourite in the diary of food producers and visitors alike.

Preparations are already well underway for the 2007 Festival which will be held on Fri / Sat 6th and 7th July - with a further increase in stallholders and attendance envisaged. We aim to build on the success of previous years and increase the number of educational activities and further develop the schools involvement.

It has been quite enlightening to find out how little and how much local children know about the seafood caught off our coastline and what prominence if any it plays in their diets for instance.

We remind you that the festival provides a shop window for the industry, highlighting the fresh local produce available right on our doorstep, and encourages people to support the local industry.

As the Association has its own stand at the show, we encourage you to get involved. If you have any suggestions on what should be included in the Festival please tell us and of course —

ATTEND ON THE DAY!

Fri/Sat 6&7 July 2007



NWNWSFC - does it have a future ?

Whilst touched upon at our recent EGM where some passionate and excitable comments were made by one or two individuals, the fate of the two Sea Fisheries Committees in Wales is, I would suggest, fairly inevitable.

Following statements by Minister — where he declared and signalled the **clear intent** of the present Welsh Assembly Government regarding Sea Fisheries in Wales. — it is fairly plain that we are moving towards probably a single body that will oversee the regulation and management of inshore fisheries in Wales.

What form that such a body will take and who will run it is presently unclear, but what is important is that we do have our rightful place at the table and that the approach of such a body is seen to be

even handed, consistent and equitable throughout Wales.

Having attended numerous Sea Fishery Committee meetings, one of the most disappointing elements to me is that CCW do not attend the meetings to explain or are available to be questioned, regarding the advice that they provide to the Committee. This often leaves the Committee with no choice in their decision making as they do not have the opportunity to scrutinise the advice given. Furthermore, very often, no consideration seems to be given to socio-economic considerations or the practical advice offered by our very capable fishing representatives at the table.

I am particularly grateful to those of our members who have actually attended some of these meetings — to see for themselves how matters are considered at meet-

ings. I would encourage all members to attend at least one Committee meeting, **so that they can draw their own conclusions on this matter.**

Everyone needs to realise that change is coming, it cannot be avoided, we need to engage, adapt and most important of all we need to contribute responsibly to manage those changes. Whilst the industry is not perfect—the inshore industry has been around a lot longer than everybody else around the table, we have a lot to offer— and that should be acknowledged and taken into consideration. Europe, hobby groups, consultations, legislation, ignorance, pressure groups, weather and miserable prices are just a few of the things that we are having to address on a daily basis. The big question to me is, as an industry — do **we** have a future ?

Safle We / Web Development

We are currently in the process of designing the Association's new website. It is hoped that the website will prove to be a useful tool for all fishermen. We are planning to include news and information pages to keep you right up to date with what's going on in the industry both on a local and national level. Here we will also post all the current consultations and we encourage you, as always, to get involved—these are the issues that will eventually directly affect your livelihood.

The website will also have a **contact us**

section, which we hope will open another line of communication between you the fishermen, and the Association office. We will encourage you to use this, to contact us if you have any queries, any comments about local issues or issues of a wider nature, or indeed if there is anything we as an Association can do to help you. A recent and good example of what can be done, was the Office's intervention regarding access rights problems, experienced by members at Porth Colmon.

In addition the website will also have a

link to the Llyn Seafood Festival - providing that vital source of information to the public and yourselves on the development of the 2007 Festival.

Remember, the website is still in the planning stages and **if you have any suggestions as to what you would like to see there - please contact us at the office. We are here to serve you the membership. Finally if you do have a Web address— please let us have your e-mail ! OR if you want an email address—we can provide you with one !**

Brown Crabs? What of the future? What next?



A consultation is imminent in the New Year concerning the exploitation of Brown Crabs.

The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) wish to consult on ideas for limiting fishing for brown crabs in order that *“a profitable, sustainable crab fishery can be maintained around our coasts.”*

A discussion document has been released ahead of the Consultation, due in the New Year and DEFRA would particularly like to hear **the industry’s views**—and use them to develop and present a package to the Minister, with a view of putting forward a formal consultation early next year. This is an opportunity for us as an industry to have an input **before** it goes out to consultation and an opportunity we should, I think, without doubt take.

Some reports have suggested that the stocks of Brown Crab are presently fully exploited—what do you think?

Will this pave the way for a similar consultation on lobster and other forms of fishing? I personally think it will.

Whatever the reality—it is important that we contribute to the debate.

DEFRA are keen to find out how you think some of these proposals would impact on your day to day activities.

Amongst the ideas being floated are:

- To introduce a restriction on vessel sizes—only 7 metres within 3 miles.
- To set a limit on the number of pots to be fished by any vessel.
- Different pot limits to be set for vessels of different licence type or size or even the number of crew.
- Increase the EU minimum landing size by 10mm or more in a series of changes over a number of years to a level at which all females are mature enough to have had chance to lay eggs.

- Extend the current closed areas
- Introduce closed seasons to protect certain stages of the life cycle.

DEFRA would like to know how the issues contained in the discussion document will affect YOU the fishermen, I strongly urge you to contact the office with your comments or if you don’t already have a copy of the document, contact us and we shall send you a copy.

We can then feed your comments back before the consultation document is published.

HAVE YOUR SAY NOW !



WFFA - Welsh Federation and the other Associations

The **WFFA**— the Welsh Federation of Fishermen’s Associations is the Welsh industry’s voice at a national and international level.

The first time such an organisation has been set up in Wales, membership consists of the four Fishermen’s Associations that geographically cover the entire Welsh coastline — from the Dee to the Bristol Channel.

Along with the other Associations we partly contribute towards the running of the Federation. Above all members need to realise and appreciate that the

threats to the future of the Fishing industry are many, well organised and well funded! So it is fortunate that the industry in Wales has acquired it’s own voice and organisation, at this critical moment in time.

Fortunately the Federation has developed a good working relationship with the Welsh Assembly Government. We along with the other three Associations, that cover Wales, now at last have a cohesive and audible voice that is being heard. The Federation **is recognised** nationally and internationally—and has

representatives within various bodies at all these levels. Again a first for Wales.

All those who attended our recent EGM would have had the opportunity to meet the WFFA Chief Exec Jerry Percy who is himself an ex—fisherman.

WFFA’s AGM should take place early in the New Year, so anyone wishing to attend — please get in touch with the office. **It is important that as an Association we have ordinary members attending this important meeting !**

The Federation needs to have the views of the grass roots. !

-----This and that-----

Marketing/Storage

Marketing to achieve a higher profile for fishing in the Llyn Peninsula and ultimately a better price for your produce is an on-going exercise by the Association. We are currently working on obtaining a storage facility for members to open up a continuous supply of produce, which inevitably will open the door to markets stretching throughout the UK and possibly beyond. Added value is vital. We are also looking into including bait storage within this facility. Any members wanting to partake and find out how this will work please contact the office.

Rope grown mussels Anyone with an interest in perhaps taking part in some trials with this project, please get in touch

with the office for further details. It is intended to trial this across Wales in suitable locations.

Biodegradable pot hooks

In the New Year we hope to have some of these available for trials with you the members. These hooks are being developed to address the concerns of various lobby groups—regarding the perceived problem of “Ghost Fishing” by pots that have been lost for various reasons.

Matters Green

Without a doubt the biggest challenge to the industry for the future are green issues. Of course we need to engage, discuss, debate and compromise on matters of concern to the various lobby groups and

indeed Government. We specifically need to educate people about the industry. People need to appreciate that the inshore fisherman who has farmed his patch for centuries is equally concerned about his environment and that of his catch. There are elements who of course who are of the opinion that fishing should be stopped completely and the sea turned into a museum. This is a world where people come second. However, it is an issue which we have to deal with. In reality, global warming is having more effect on the sea than any fisherman in Wales, - where incidentally the level of fishing activities in all sectors, is amongst the lowest in the UK. So let us be under no illusions—green matters are mattering more and we have to get on with it !