



# 2009 and beyond— what future for the industry ?



## GENERAL COMMENTS

With wholesale changes on the horizon for the industry in general and especially for the inshore sector in Wales - the future is presently as unclear as it has been at any time in the past.

**What is clear is that the next 12-18 months will see a great deal of change in one form or another.**

Whilst it is necessary for the industry to adopt a more positive stance as regards environmental issues—the same cannot be said for some of the environmental lobby. I have highlighted in this issue some of the proposals that are typical of what is being put forward in pursuit of their goals by the more enthusiastic elements of the green lobby.

Whilst fishing in Wales is generally on a small and not very intense scale—we still do not get any credit for this from the green lobby. The Welsh fleet whilst having an important contribution to make, can hardly be compared as a major force when compared to say the vastly commercial Spanish and Scottish fleets ! Big is not always best !

## SFC'S

As predicted, in previous issues, and rightly or wrongly, the demise of the Sea Fisheries Committee the NWNWSFC is fairly imminent.

The duties will in due course be undertaken in-house by the Welsh Assembly Government—though the detail concerning this is still to be decided. What is and should be vital is that the contribution of fishermen is allowed to take its rightful place and in the proper proportion. Rather than possibly miss the chance, we take this opportunity to thank the NWNWSFC staff for their contribution to the industry whilst fully recognising that the service in the past was not the best resourced. Let us hope that the Assembly fund the new organisation whatever its final form with sufficient funding.

## **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 fynd i'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*



MANYLION CYSWLLT  
CONTACT DETAILS

CYMDEITHAS PYSGOTWYR  
LLYN FISHERMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION

43 High Street  
Pwllheli  
Gwynedd

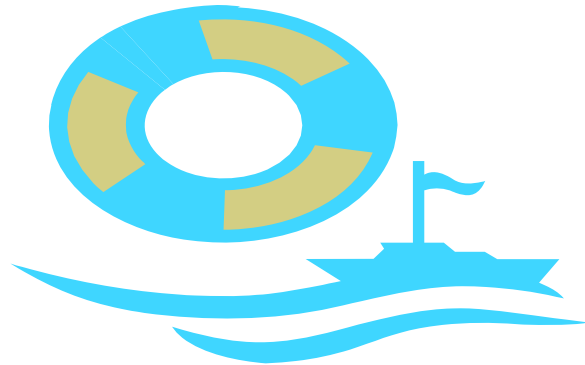
Phone: 01758 701 795  
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Email: ll.f.a@btinternet.com

[www.llfa.org.uk](http://www.llfa.org.uk)

**Safety Training** For those of you that requested it, another round of safety training took place in 2008. Many are working their way for the Skippers ticket and we envisage another round of training sessions in the near future .

So if you have an interest or requirement for any course– please register your interest with the office so that should courses become available you will then be at the top of the list....

## HYFFORDDIANT / TRAINING



## Membership & AGM

Sadly last year, following an accident, we lost member Maldwyn Jones from Nefyn. Maldwyn had not that long ago, after his travels, retired to Nefyn to pursue his passion for fishing.

We also, due to illness lost member Richard Owain Williams from Criccieth , who had been a member of the Association for a number of years.

Finally , last month after a short illness we lost our President Dr Eric Edwards. A huge loss to the industry nationally and to us as an Association Eric will be greatly missed. A stern defender and stalwart of the shellfish industry one could write pages about his contribution to our industry.

A modest, witty, highly educated, mild mannered man (never without his camera !) - Eric truly epitomised the saying “a gentleman and a scholar”

MEMBERSHIP is £10.00

The next AGM  
will be held as  
usual on  
**Monday 9th  
February 2009**  
-at the  
**Nanhoron  
Arms, Nefyn  
at 19:30.**

**YOUR FUTURE !**

**WE STRONGLY  
URGE**

**YOU TO ATTEND!**



# **Gwyl Bwyd Tir a Mor Llyn Land and Seafood Festival Festival 2009 Bank Holiday— May 23**



The Festival continues to grow in popularity with yet another great show being held in June 2009.

Due to the continual conflict with the mobile dates of the Wakestock event—it was decided to move the event once and for all into May Bank Holiday.

Again a big thanks is extended to the Welsh Assembly Government for their enlightened, continued and vital support. A particular vote of thanks to our local Assembly Member Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas for once more attending and taking part. His place for this year's event has been booked already !

Once again 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 you know, the Association has it's own stand at the show—any suggestions or ideas you have to input on this please tell us, and of course...

**ATTEND ON THE DAY!!**

**THIS YEAR'S DATES:**

**May 23rd & 24th 2009, please note that the Festival days are Bank Holiday Saturday and Sunday.**



## **FOR CURRENT CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS - refer to our website links.**

### **Storage Facility + Equipment**

EFF European Fisheries Fund monies has now been allocated to the devolved administrations – England Scotland Wales etc and the process of allocating the monies within those administrations is now taking place. We share the same pot for instance as the aquaculture industry - so effectively we are in a bidding process with our schemes for Wales which is being approached on a national strategic point of view.

### **GREEN ISSUES**

As has been repeated many times before, probably the biggest threat to all types of fishing in Wales and beyond— is from the over zealous element of the green lobby.

Whilst as an industry we should have no problem with sustainability issues - the issues of spatial planning, networks of highly protected marine areas, no take zones, wind farms, etc should concern us all - because these all potentially affect where you can fish in the future.

There is a proposal to have a network of Highly Protected Marine Reserves across the SAC's in Wales. They will be coming to a locality near you ! These may, potentially, seriously limit or even totally stop any kind of activity !!!.

### **Member of Staff**

We also take this opportunity to thank **Yesely Bacigalupo** who left us recently for her sterling work with the Association. She was an asset to the Association, of great help to me personally - particularly with the Seafood Festival. We wish her and Samuel- (the new addition to her family) all the best well for the future.



## **Website—when did you last have a look ?**

The Association's website is live, visit it at [www.llfa.org.uk](http://www.llfa.org.uk)—we hope that an increasing number of you will use it as a valuable resource of information.

The News pages keep you up to date with what's going on in the industry, at a local and a national level, with all the latest news, meeting dates and all the current consultations.

There is also a contact us section—

opening up another line of communication between you the fishermen - and the Association office. Please use it should you have any queries, any comments about local issues or issues of a wider nature.

There is also a link to the Festival website and sites like the MCA Defra etc so that you can keep right up to date with developments.

**If you have any suggestions as to what you would like to see on the Association website - 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 !**

## OTHER ISSUES...

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### CLASSIFIED ADVERTS SECTION: WANTED AND ITEMS FOR SALE

If you have any adverts to submit for Items for Sale or Wanted then please send them to the office for inclusion in the next issue and also on our web-site.

Please include a full description of the item including condition, contact details and the price sought. Should you have a picture of the item we can easily include this if you send us a copy via e-mail or on a cd.

### SAFETY EQUIPMENT

If successful with EFF—one of the top priorities will have to be the MOB system !



### **MOB - Man Over Board system**

One of the priorities for the forthcoming round of European funding.

As the majority of our Association members are single handed, it is imperative that acquisition of this system for our members remains high on our list of priorities. Tragically the loss of one of our members last year, graphically demonstrates the need for this system and what potential benefits this system would give. Earlier problems with the systems now seem to have been ironed out and whilst not perfect, would ensure a far greater degree of safety, than is presently available. A must and a priority for the future - and has to be considered as an investment, not a cost.

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## Pwllheli Harbour developments

One continues to have concerns about the lack of investment and indeed maintenance by Gwynedd Council in Pwllheli Harbour. A very sad state of affairs, where there has been a gradual decline over the last 13 years in depths, widths and facilities. Rest assured that representations are made most forcefully on behalf of the industry in this matter. This matter also affects other harbour users - which in turn causes navigational, traffic and safety problems for our members. The root cause of the lack of investment in proper and substantial dredging, in our view, causes these potential hazards. All have all been pointed out to the Council. In our view ,an accident waiting to happen.



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### **Mussels project**

The mussels project, for which I asked for volunteers to subscribe to last year, is proceeding satisfactorily. There has been some loss of gear, buoys etc and varying degrees of success as regards deposits of spat or otherwise that have been attained, depending on geographical location, tides etc The longer term aspiration is to identify possible sites for potential rope grown mussels cultivation. The opportunities that offer themselves in this field include direct selling and selling of seed to the mussel industry for re- laying elsewhere.

### **Crab development**

The old European programme FIFG provided funds for the Association to develop products, marketing and added value. Following work with the Coleg Menai Food Technology Centre in Llangefni – we have developed products using Crabmeat in particular - that can enable the Association and its members to profit from a product that is tasty, attractive and quite unique. We consider that this product has a lot of potential and indeed other possibilities. We have in place a brand name, logo, trademark etc - all of which be on display at the AGM.

### **Does Green mean mean ?**

Not necessarily - but some rather disappointing sensationalism on behalf of certain elements recently, has been rather disappointing. As an industry we need to greet, meet, educate and put the other side of the coin to the decision makers and politicians, otherwise the industry is doomed. By the industry I mean the whole of the industry. I do not see complete no take zones differentiating between different types of fishing. Fishermen have been custodians of the seas for centuries— and unfortunately the new people on the block tend to forget that !!

