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The following slides were presented to the Celtic Sea and Western Channel demersal Fisheries Management Plan Working Group on the 1st October 2024.

The information on initial scoping findings within these slides is not government policy.

The proposed dates for engagement are subject to change based on further engagement planning discussions

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Celtic Sea and Western Channel Demersal FMP Working Group: Meeting 1

1st October 2024

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Welcome and intros	15 mins (14:00-14:15)
Working Group Terms of Reference	15 mins (14:15-14:30)
Overview of the CSWCD FMP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Species and area covered - Complexities - Development process - What has been done to date - Plan for engaging with stakeholders 	20 mins (14:30- 14:50)
Issues / Opportunities discussion	30 mins (14:50-15:20)
Next steps	5 mins (15:20-15:25)
AOB	5 mins (15:25-15:30)

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Working Group Terms of Reference

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Celtic Sea and Western Channel Demersal FMP Overview

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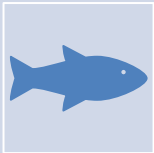
What are Fisheries Management Plans?



Fisheries Management Plans are set out in the Fisheries Act 2020 and are at the centre of UK fisheries management post-Brexit.

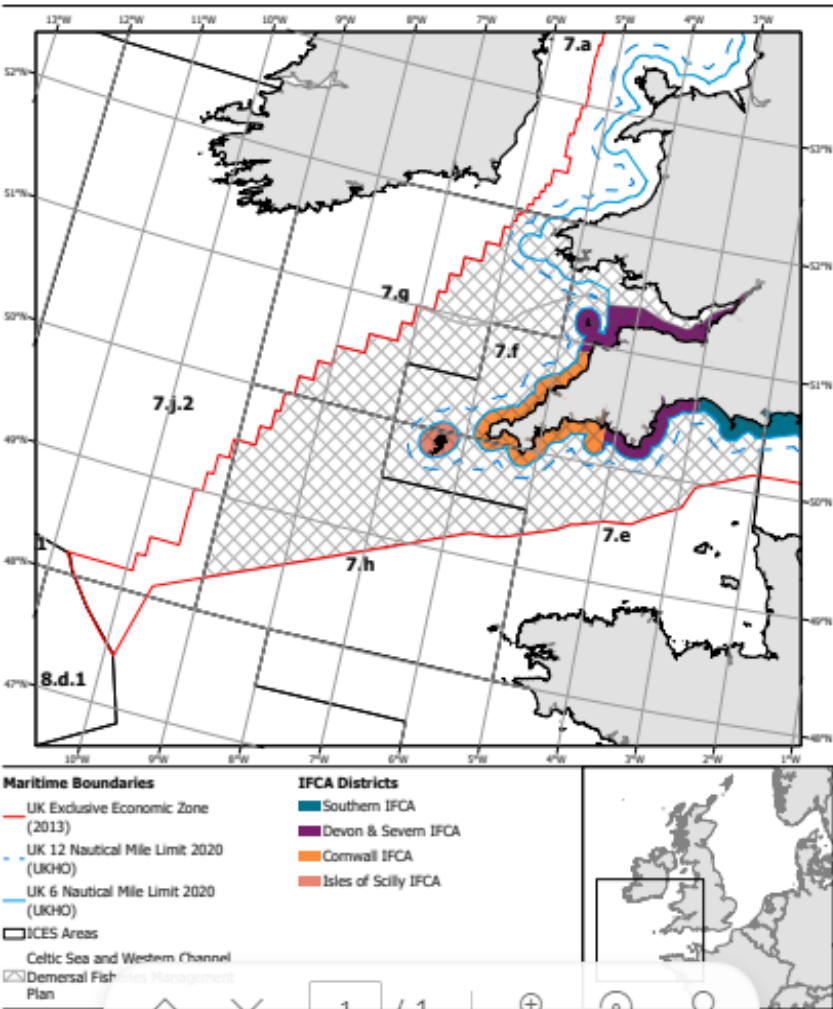


Plan-led approach to fisheries management. They set out the policies needed to maintain or restore stocks to sustainable levels.



FMPs are a different way of working and they are being developed collaboratively with stakeholders.

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Joint plan between Defra and Welsh Government covering English and Welsh waters of ICES areas 7e, 7f, 7g, 7h

Covers demersal species:

Lophiformes

- monkfish/anglerfish

Gadiformes

- blue ling
- cod
- haddock
- pollack
- round nose grenadier
- saithe
- whiting

Spariformes

- red seabream

Elasmobranchs

- deep water sharks
- thornback ray, small eyed ray, shagreen ray, blonde ray, sandy ray, spotted ray, cuckoo ray
- skates and rays (nei*)

Pleuronectiformes

- plaice
- sole
- megrim
- four spotted megrim

Nephrops

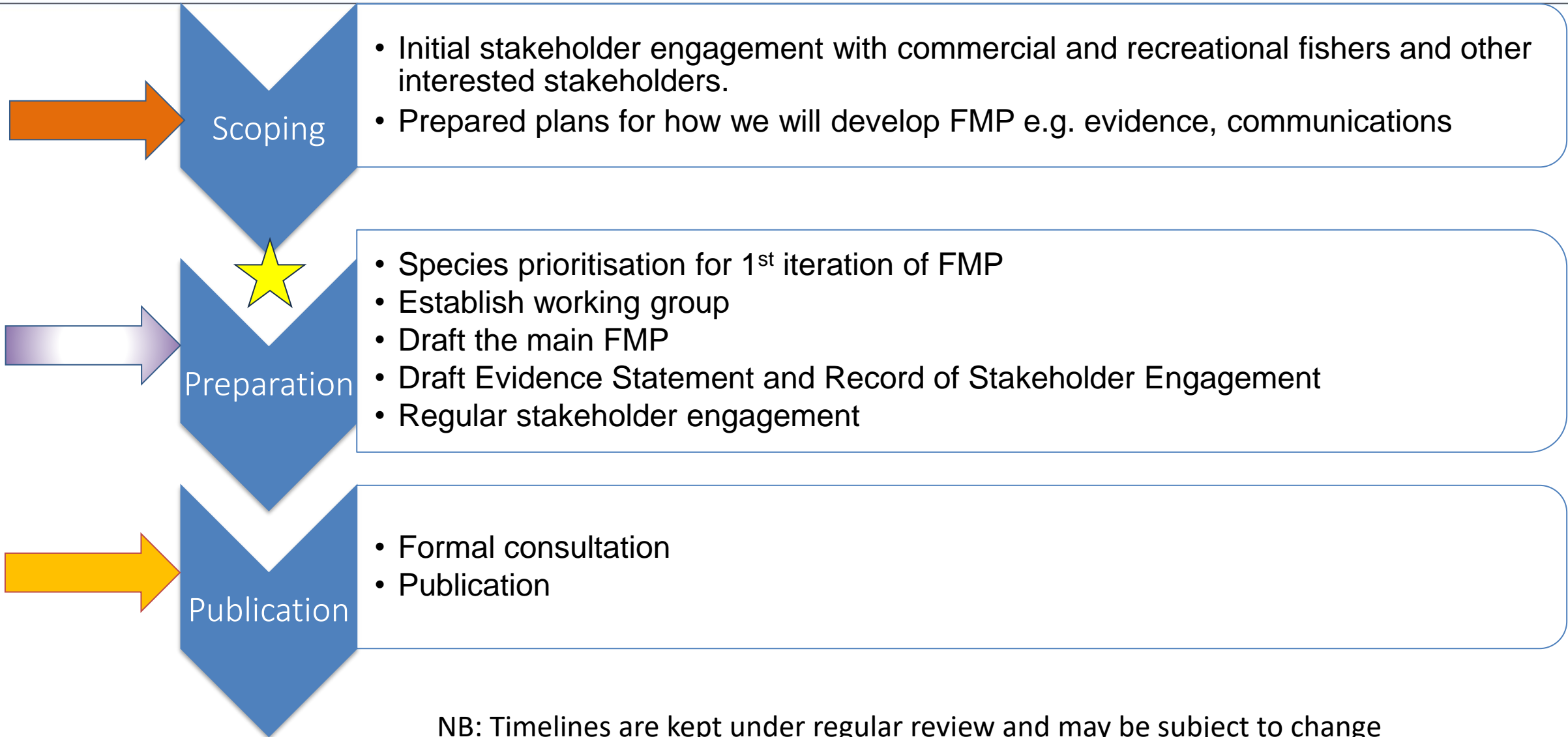
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Complexities facing the CSWC Demersal FMP

- **Complex FMP covering a mix of species and gears - ecosystem and mixed fishery approach to FMP development**
- **Key stocks are not in a favourable condition**
- **Overlapping existing management already in place – complicated regulatory space**
- **Includes Welsh waters, so FMP needs to reflect Welsh legislation and Welsh stakeholder views**
- **Important for EU fisheries**
- **Additional pressures from spatial squeeze – MPAs / Offshore Wind**

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Development process – Demersal CSWC FMP



NB: Timelines are kept under regular review and may be subject to change

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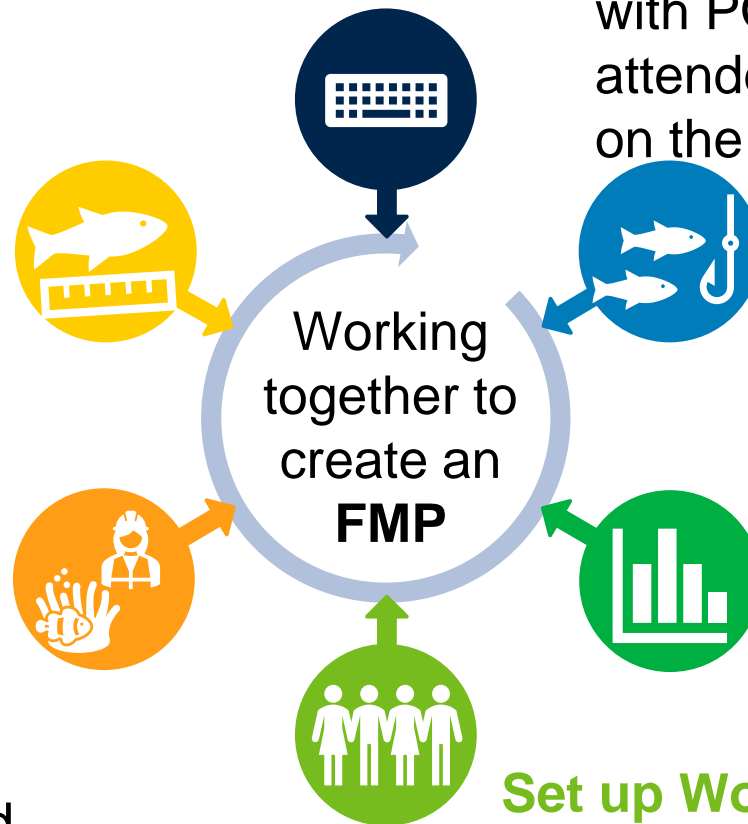
What have we done so far?

Policy Days with Defra

- Discussions with Defra Policy teams such as REM, Discards, Monitoring Control and Surveillance
- To understand policy direction and how this aligns with the FMP

Legislation review

- Review of current legislation relating to FMP species, gears, areas
- Need to understand what is and is not working



FMP scoping discussions

- Held initial conversations pre-election with POs, coastal MMO teams and attended RFGs to gather initial feedback on the FMP

Planned engagement

- Coastal visits
- Online sessions/surveys
- Regional Fisheries Groups (RFGs)

Received Must Have Evidence

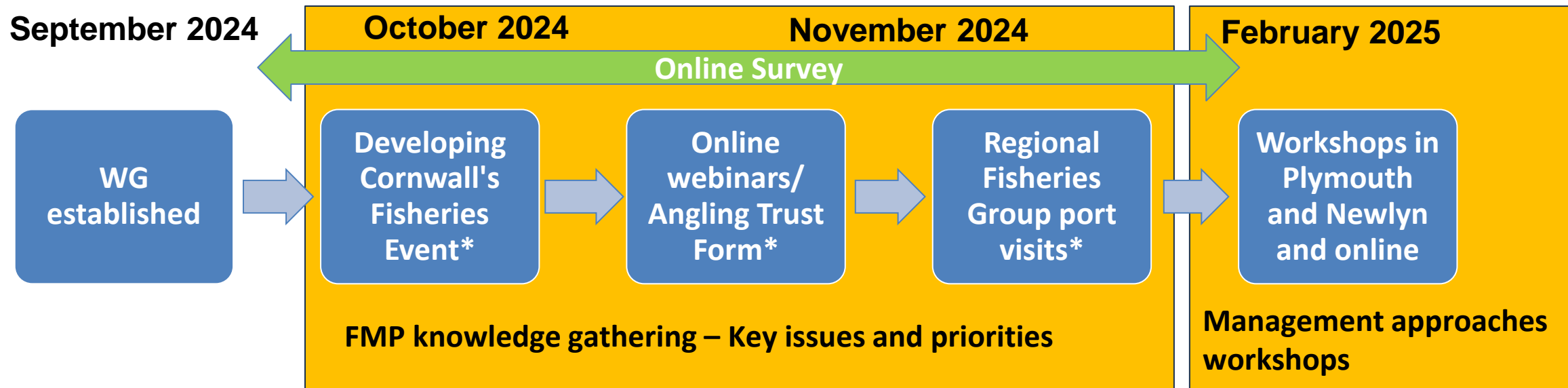
MMO, Seafish and Cefas, SNCB

Set up Working Group

- Update on FMP progress
- Gain views and feedback

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Plan for engaging with stakeholders



* Joint engagement with the Celtic Sea and Western Channel Pelagic team

- It would be good to know how this engagement timeline overlaps with the work that you are doing
- Opportunities for join up with other events happening in the calendar

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Pause for Questions / Discussion

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Discussion: Issues and Opportunities for the FMP

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Species prioritisation and thinking for the FMP

- The list of FMP species is complex, covering a range of different species and fisheries with many species being subject to TACs and existing management.
- Needed to prioritise several species for the first iteration of the FMP focusing on where there are most concerns and fishing interests. Therefore, the focus will be on the gadiformes (cod/haddock/saithe/pollock/whiting), lophiformes (monk/anglerfish), pleuronectiformes (flatfish-sole/megrim) and nephrops.
- As skates and rays have been covered by the T3 Skate and Ray FMP, we will look to mirror (where appropriate) the measures set out within that FMP (subject to the outcomes of the consultation). Deep water shark species are prohibited and therefore we will not be focused on. Any additional requirements for these species will come out of monitoring.
- Need to understand if other species should be included e.g. Channel NQS species (lemon sole, turbot, brill) or if gadoids should not be prioritised due to climate change and limited recovery predictions
- Will look to produce an appropriate management strategy based on the species that require the most attention but contribute to sustainable fisheries and sustainable stocks. To do this we will be using stakeholder feedback and the best available evidence.

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Discussion on Issues and Opportunities for the FMP

What is it that we want the FMP to address in the first iteration? Some discussion points below...

- Changes in population, size or distribution of FMP species
- Data or information on current populations
- Changes in environmental conditions that may impact FMP species
- Social and/or economic concerns
- Current effectiveness of management, both positive and negative
- Bycatch of sensitive species

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Next Steps

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Thank you for attending the first Working Group meeting

- WG to circulate the CSWCD FMP online survey to any contacts they have
- FMP team to circulate minutes and presentation for WG to sign-off before being published online
- FMP team to send out doodle poll to get availability for next WG meeting
- Developing Cornwall's Fisheries engagement pilot on 17th October to discuss the Celtic Sea FMP with Cornwall fishers – we will feedback to the group on this and also a snap shot of survey responses at the next meeting

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