



# Marine Management Organisation

**Date:** 18/11/24 @ 14:00 – 15:30

**Location:** MS Teams

**Subject:** Celtic Sea & Western Channel Demersal FMP – Working Group Meeting 2

**Chair:** Rachel Thirlwall (MMO)

**Secretariat:** Mark Qureshi (MMO)

## Attendance

Rachel Thirlwall	MMO Principal Fisheries Manager
Nicholas French	MMO Principal Fisheries Manager
Mark Qureshi	MMO Fisheries Manager
Megan Walker	MMO Fisheries Manager
Emily Theobald	MMO South West Principal Marine Officer
Ewen Bell	Cefas Senior Fisheries Advisor
Andrew Collin	Anglo Scottish Fish Producers' Organisation
Chris Ranford	Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation
Phil Green	Defra Celtic Sea Policy Division and EU negotiations
Mat Mander	Devon and Severn IFCA
David Stevens	Fishing into the Future
Nick West	Mevagissey Fisherman's Association
Harry Owen	Western Fish Producer Organisation (WFPO)
Edward Baker	Plymouth Fishing and Seafood Association, CEO
Juliette Hatchman	South West Fish Producers' Organisation
Jim Evans	Welsh Fishermen's Association
Lydia Tivenan	Natural England
Nadine Atchison-Balmond	(Deputy) Welsh Government Specialist Advisor: Marine Fisheries

Colin Charman	Welsh Government Lead Specialist Advisor: Marine Fisheries
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## **Agenda Topics:**

### **1. Actions from previous meeting**

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>update</b>
2 Working Group ToR	MMO to update ToR to give further clarity on species prioritisation role of the WG	MMO	Clarity provided – closed.
2 Working Group ToR	Correct Latin name of red sea bream	MMO	Actioned – closed.
2 Working Group ToR	Correct Latin name of sailray	MMO	Actioned – closed.
2 Working Group ToR	Correct name of Anna Maclennan	MMO	Actioned – closed.
2 Working Group ToR	Correct Agency of Colin Charman	MMO	Actioned – closed.
3 Overview of the FMP	MMO to discuss with WG member possibility of additional in person workshops		Ongoing – unable to arrange Brixham workshop. Will consider for New Year workshops.
3 Overview of the FMP	MMO to check with Welsh Government if NRW have been commissioned to provide SNCB advice	MMO	Actioned – advice due in New year.
4 Issues/ Opportunities Discussion	MMO to contact WG member to discuss engagement with ROI / EU	MMO	Actioned – RT arranged discussion with Adam Holland, NIFFO

### **2. Overview of feedback from Cornwall Pilot Event**

MMO provided feedback from the Cornwall Pilot event to the Working Group (WG).

High priority ratings for:

- Lophius (monkfish/anglerfish) high economic and social importance, high market demand.
- Flatfish (sole, megrim, plaice) economic, megrim regionally important “*Cornish sole*”
- Gadoids (pollack, cod, haddock) high importance, pollack - charter fleet.

Stakeholder concerns and solutions are set out in accompanying presentation.

### **3 Overview of online survey responses.**

MMO provided a snapshot of the online survey responses to date.

- There have been 37 responses received so far. Around 70% of these are from individuals and around 30% from organisations.
- Sector breakdown is around 55% commercial (2:1 inshore/offshore ratio), 14% recreational and 31% other (including around 6% producers).
- Survey will run until the end of January 2025.

### **4. Must Have Evidence overview.**

MMO provided an overview of the “Must Have” evidence received to date. Please see the published slides here for further detail.

#### **Defra-commissioned evidence:**

- **SNCB advice** - Provides information on the risks arising from the FMP fisheries to designated features of MPAs in English waters and UK Marine Strategy descriptors. Gears of relevance were scoped into this advice including demersal trawls, static nets and drift nets.
- **Seafish evidence pack** - Includes information on economics of the fleet e.g. employment, economic dependency and trade data.
- **MMO Landings data** - Used to understand the proportion of landings from each gear type. Data is for period 2016-2021 – looking to get updated data.

**Cefas evidence pack** - Includes biological information, ICES advice, ongoing data collection, recreational information. **Working group comments on “Must Have” evidence:**

MMO landing data:

- WG member asked if there is an analysis of % change in Total Allowable Catch (TAC) based on annual negotiations for these species over the last decade? **AP 1 MMO FMP Team to consider relationship of % change in TAC on scoped in species over last 10 years.**
- WG member states that you would also need to add relative quota shares to the tables as it presents UK only. For example, for common sole in 7e, the UK has a higher TAC % than the EU hence higher landings, however most other species are between 10 to 20% UK/EU TAC. **AP 2 MMO FMP Team to consider incorporating % UK:EU quota share into the data.**

#### Sea angling diary data:

- WG member asked regarding the angling data if the value element includes the amount anglers pay the charter vessels to go to sea as they can keep what they catch. Should this be considered commercial landings as it is a profit for charter vessels via access to capture. **AP 3 – MMO to note charter vessel charges when expressing commercial figures.**

#### Seafish data

- WG member stated in response to the data showing a decline in fishing vessels within the FMP fisheries that a lot of under 8m vessels were part time fisherman and it is harder to earn a living in that size vessel for many reasons, so a lot have left the fleet. WG member also highlighted that the loss over many years due to northerly drift of mackerel has had the greatest impact on that fleet sector (note: mackerel not covered in this FMP evidence package).
- WG member states that the under 8m vessels will catch a range of demersal and pelagic stocks and their priority stocks shift. Important to note that just because they may now only show 20% reliance on demersal doesn't mean they are not essential to them. Need to look into what else they are catching if it is a multi-purpose vessel. **AP 4 MMO FMP team to consider dual pelagic/demersal fishing by certain vessels.**

- WG member highlighted how helpful it was to see the data presented to them and wanted to provide further feedback and insight. **AP 5 MMO FMP team to share evidence data slides with selected WG members for their added insight.**
- WG member highlighted the need to look at previous 10 years of data and not just the most recent. **AP 6 MMO FMP Team to consider obtaining older data, to provide longer term trends.**
- WG members wanted MMO to look into the relationship between quota shares and landings. **AP 7 MMO FMP team to assess quota/landings relationship.**

#### SNCB Advice

- WG member asked who provided the evidence that towed gear creates seafloor degradation? **AP 8 MMO FMP team to confirm evidence source for seafloor degradation.**
- WG member asked regarding Good Environmental Status (GES) descriptors, when the FMP is being implemented will it be subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)? If so, will the FMP evidence gaps point to evidence requirements for the HRA? MMO responds that the FMP does not specifically outline evidence requirements for a HRA.
- WG member asked what is the Evidence Plan? If the FMP has identified some evidence gaps, then when the plan is published, it is on a statutory timetable to answer those questions. If the evidence is not available to answer those questions, the precautionary principle must be applied. Also, how will addressing evidence gaps be funded? MMO responded that the Defra FMP programme team are currently looking, and evidence needs and how they can be funded and filled. **AP 9: MMO FMP team to seek confirmation from Defra on prioritisation of evidence gaps. In particular, funding for existing projects, can CSWCD FMP evidence needs utilise existing evidence projects.**

#### Additional evidence requests from stakeholders: 80mm vs 100mm mesh size

- WG member highlighted the need to consider if the level of discards has reduced rather than monetary value.

- WG member noted that mesh size also matters per metier. For example, 80mm beamers vs 100mm trawlers. So, it comes down to sizes of species retained of sole.
- WG member asked that if it is a challenge getting data post 2021, can MMO get a subset to show a handful of boats to make comparisons? Highlighting that economic performance is also useful to review.
- WG member highlighted the need to look at grading – moving up from 80 to 100mm for towed gear and that markets can provide that data. **AP 10 MMO FMP Team when assessing 80mm vs 100mm mesh data effectiveness, to also consider: 1) discards vs monetary value, and 2) Market grading data.**

## 5. Additional evidence requests.

MMO asked the WG if there was any additional evidence they would like to see collected for the FMP.

### WG comments:

- WG member: Mixed fishery advice is not used for negotiation process – something to consider. The negotiation process won't change to mixed fishery advice.
- WG member: FMP team need to link up with Defra negotiations team. **AP 11 MMO FMP Team to link up with Defra negotiations team, early next year, to aid longer term planning process.**
- WG member asked if MMO have enough information to make a Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) stock assessment? MMO advised that of the quota managed stocks, most of them are assessed at MSY, except thornback, blonde, and other elasmobranch species, e.g. deep-water sharks.

## 6. Next steps

- RT going on Maternity leave, MAQ to cover in her absence.
- Work will now focus on finishing planned engagement consolidating feedback received and evidence collated.
- Stocktake of EU-UK negotiations outcomes.
- Next planned WG meeting will be in the New Year and focus on discussing potential management options that can be taken to workshops in Spring 2025.
- WG may be contacted before to review elements of the FMP via email.

## 7 AOB

WG members highlighted how interesting it was to see the evidence on the slides and would like to share with those they represent for further comment. If the slide pack can be shared, they can seek feedback in the form of a narrative to add to the graphs. **AP 12 MMO FMP Team to consider how to best share the evidence.**

Meeting closed.

### New Actions

Action ref	Action	Owner
1/18/11/2024	To consider relationship of % change in TAC on species over last 10 years.	MMO
2/18/11/2024	To consider incorporating % UK:EU quota share into the data.	MMO
3/18/11/2024	To note charter vessel charges when expressing commercial figures.	MMO
4/18/11/2024	To consider dual pelagic/demersal fishing by certain vessels.	MMO
5/18/11/2024	To share evidence data slides with selected WG members for their added insight.	MMO
6/18/11/2024	To consider obtaining older data, to provide longer term trends.	MMO
7/18/11/2024	To assess quota/landings relationship.	MMO
8/18/11/2024	To confirm evidence source for seafloor degradation.	MMO
9/18/11/2024	To seek confirmation from Defra on prioritisation of evidence gaps. In particular, funding for existing projects, can CSWCD FMP evidence needs piggy-back onto existing evidence projects.	MMO
10/18/11/2024	Regarding 80mm vs 100mm mesh data effectiveness, to also	MMO

	consider: 1) discards vs monetary value, and 2) Market grading data.	
11/18/11/2024	To liaise with Defra negotiations team, early next year, to aid longer term planning process.	MMO
12/18/11/2024	To consider how to best share the evidence (presented at this WG meeting) with WG for their further narrative insight.	MMO

**NOTICE - Please see the following link to access the associated meeting PowerPoint presentation slides: [CSWCD WG Meeting 2 Pres.pdf](#)**