



# Marine Management Organisation

**Date:** 14/01/2026

**Subject:** Celtic Sea and Western Channel Demersal FMP Working Group Meeting 6

**Chair:** Mark Qureshi

**Minutes:** Catriona New

**Attendees:**

Name	Affiliation
Daniel Bush	MMO Head of FMP Team
Isobel Johnston	MMO Head of Sustainable Fisheries
Mark Qureshi	MMO FMP Lead Celtic Sea Western Channel demersal
Megan Walker	MMO FMP Evidence Specialist
Catriona New	MMO Fisheries Manager
Edward Moseley	Defra, Head of FMP Development, Strategy and Implementation Policy
Helen Stevens	Defra, Policy lead
Mike Dowell	Defra, Deputy Director - Marine and Fisheries
Robbie Fisher	Defra, Head of UK-EU International Fisheries Negotiations
Colin Charman	Natural Resources Wales
Alexander Scorey	Natural Resources Wales
Matthew Sayer	Natural Resources Wales
Adam Ferguson	Anglo Scottish Fish Producers Organisation
Chris Ranford	Cornish Fish Producers Organisation
Jim Evans	Welsh Fishermen's Association-Cymdeithas Pysgotwyr Cymru
John Balls	North Devon Fisherman's Association
Judith Farrell	Humberside Fish Producers' Organisation
Juliette Hatchman	South West Fish Producers' Organisation
Mat Mander	Devon and Severn IFCA
Nicholas West	Mevagissey Fisherman's Association
Paul Dolder	Cefas Principal Scientist and Advisor for mixed fisheries

Hannah Rudd	Angling Trust
Harry Owen	Western Fish Producer Organisation

## **Agenda:**

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

MMO welcomed working group (WG) members. Explained the draft FMP has been submitted to Defra and is being prepared for consultation. Please see the presentation slide pack for more detail on the content covered in the following sections [CSWCD FMP WG 6 14012026 slides final pdf.pdf](#)

### **2. Recap**

### **3. Walkthrough of changes to policy goals**

- MMO emphasised that the slide pack is a summarised version of the current FMP policy goals, including selected key actions. Full detail will be included in the consultation document.
- WG member asked if the group could have sight of the FMP draft that was submitted to Defra.
  - Defra responded that the FMP is still undergoing internal clearances. We anticipate the FMP will be available in the coming weeks for consultation for stakeholder review and comment.

### **Policy Goal 1-6:**

No direct questions.

### **Policy Goal 7:**

- WG member asked whether 'inshore fishery' can be defined in the wording of the FMP. Concerned that current wording may exclude certain fishers.
  - MMO responded that definitions can be investigated, noting that the action is currently directed towards those fishing in 0-12 nm area. Discussed the action being created to specifically address concerns raised by stakeholders around protecting fishing activity in this area. MMO and Defra have been working on a separate inshore project that will likely run ahead of the FMP and will include further collaboration with industry, details of which will be shared in due course. FMP wording is deliberately broad to ensure the project details can be appropriately defined considering future discussions and industry input.
- WG member was pleased that this measure has been included. Encouraged the use of more explicit wording.

- Defra and MMO noted that comments via the public consultation around how to improve wording are welcome.
- WG member discussed the need to work on this from 0-6nm limit as this is the start of the inshore fishery.
  - MMO noted that they will be engaging with IFCA's.
- WG member queried whether exploring management measures for inshore fisheries will include the Welsh area?
  - MMO responded to confirm that Welsh Government will be engaged with for any measures being taken forward within the FMP. MMO agreed to contact Welsh Government as co-producer of the FMP and inshore fisheries manager in Wales for their considerations on this policy goal.
- Defra thanked WG members for raising these points, emphasised the importance of stakeholders feeding these comments into the formal consultation.

#### **Policy Goal 8 - 10:**

No direct questions.

#### **Wider WG questions:**

- WG member highlighted that management measures can be established for both commercial and recreational fishers. Commercial landings are well documented, queried how recreational catch is documented and by who.
  - MMO explained that the recreational sector is engaged with throughout the FMP process. In addition, Sea Angling Diary survey data collated by Cefas' recreational team is used alongside Fisheries in Science Partnership work and other data channels to better understand recreational landings. Acknowledged that there is effort being made to improve recreational data and its reach.
  - WG member noted that ICES have published a roadmap for marine recreational fisheries - [ICES Roadmap for Marine Recreational Fisheries \(MRF\)](#). The Angling Trust are also working with Cefas to increase awareness and engagement under the FMP programmes as an ambition to improve recreational data.
- WG member asked how the volume of fish removed by seals is considered in stock calculations.
  - MMO discussed that the ICES advice provided for many of the stocks included within the FMP includes calculations for natural mortality which can include factors such as predation.

- WG asked whether high level wording can be included at the start of the FMPs to explain how FMPs should sit within/influence the EU-UK negotiations process. Highlighted that this could help to safeguard the intent of the FMP, ensuring the FMP process is respected. Noted that FMPs are key to maintaining regulatory autonomy.
  - Defra acknowledged the valid concerns, asked for WG member to ensure these concerns are fed into the formal consultation documentation. Highlighted that the same policy teams are involved in the annual negotiation process as work on the FMP. Although there is join up, this is currently not explicit in the FMP.
- WG member was concerned that EU negotiations can impact management decisions and that actions outside of the 12nm limit could undermine inshore management. There are concerns that EU negotiations undermine the value of FMPs. Work on FMPs should shape negotiations as FMPs are the flagship to improve future management. Would like the consultation process to clarify that FMPs won't be undermined by other processes.
  - Defra acknowledged these concerns and reiterated the importance of stakeholders providing their views during consultation. Noted that published FMPs become Government policy with considerable weight. They can be used as a tool to strengthen the UK's position in future negotiations. There is opportunity to influence stock management beyond our waters, driving better management and outcomes for stocks.

#### **4. Next steps**

Please see slide pack for more details.

MMO thanked WG members for their engagement and collaboration throughout the FMP process and looks forward to their feedback during the public consultation.