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1	Extracts from Email chain between NRW and Welsh Government	25 October 2013
2	Extract from Email – NRW to Welsh Government + 2 attachments	12 February 2014
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5	Extracts from minutes between NRW and Welsh Government	16 July 2015
6	Extracts from draft minutes (not approved yet) between NRW and Welsh Government	29 September 2015
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Doc 1

From: NRW - Fisheries

Sent: 25 October 2013 15:17

To: WG - Agriculture, Fisheries & Rural Strategy

Subject: inland fisheries - stakeholder engagement

Apologies for delay in getting the 'stakeholder' information to you as we discussed last week

I understand that it is Natural Resources Wales' preference to move away from formal/statutory committees and engage with the right stakeholders to tackle specific issues via Task & Finish groups with clear terms of reference and end dates.

We also have the Natural Resources Wales' principles for stakeholder engagement (attached)

I've also attached the 'informal' response we sent to WG on the inland stakeholder

These will hopefully provide some ideas to build around the framework principles we discussed last week:

Small (5 – 8) focus group that is 'on-call' for us (WG/NRW) to run ideas past.

We need a relationship of trust with these people.

They do not have any formal role and there is no requirement to meet regularly (if at all) we need to be flexible in how we work with them.

I think this will give us greater flexibility to deliver any strategic action plan – calling on appropriate expert advice as required.

We will also be able to demonstrate clear outputs/outcomes from this 'relationship'.

We still need to encourage strong representative bodies and encourage them to participate in the other initiatives/consultations e.g. Water Framework Directive 'Choices and challenges', where fisheries issues can be raised and solutions developed. (Ecosystem approach etc etc....)

Regards

Fisheries, Recreation, Conservation and Navigation
Pysgodfeydd, Hamdden, Cadwraeth a Llywio
Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales

Doc 2

From: NRW - Fisheries

Sent: 12 February 2014 10:22

To: Welsh Government - Marine & Fisheries

Cc: WG – Marine & Fisheries; WG – Marine & Fisheries; WG – Marine & Fisheries); NRW

Subject: FW: inland fisheries - stakeholder engagement



200513 Graham
Rees WG Fisheries Cc



Agreed Stakeholder
Strategy.doc

<<Doc 2a>>

<<Doc2b>>

As requested, the information I sent to WG following the discussion the two of us had about how NRW can support WG in developing an inland fisheries stakeholder engagement framework.

May I suggest that we organise a meeting asap – WG and NRW officials and I would also suggest some input from our respective communications support with the aim of having a draft proposal on paper by the end of the meeting for you to discuss with Welsh Government Management and the Minister.

Fisheries, Recreation, Conservation and Navigation
Pysgodfeydd, Hamdden, Cadwraeth a Llywio
Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales

Doc 3

NRW/ WG Fisheries catch up meeting - Monday 18 May 2015

Tregaron Room, Welsh Government, Cathays Park

Agenda

- Stakeholder engagement
All

Present

WG: WG Manager (Chair), WG official x 3

NRW: NRW Official x 4

Stakeholder Engagement

16. NRW advised of the local fisheries groups set in place and of the recent work in North Wales to trial surgeries for stakeholders. There was also the potential to have LFG leads meet and this would require some reimbursement of expenses from NRW. Generally, it was considered that Stakeholder newsletters helped inform people but resources had stopped this. NRW considered talking with communications team to explore this further and see how well the surgery sessions are received.

Doc 4

From: fisheries officer in NRW

Sent: 15 July 2015 14:31

Subject: RE: South Wales & Severn draft Fisheries & Angling Action Plan

I have had some discussions with Glandwr Cymru(GC) recently re their action plan and request around stocking and fish movement permits. They may also have been in contact with our Areas SFP officers (project ideas) . I have tried to be as positive as I am able to be given funding issues but I certainly regard GC as a major fisheries stakeholder and we should look to strengthen links with them as far as we are able to .

Sent: 15 July 2015 10:37

Subject: FW: South Wales & Severn draft Fisheries & Angling Action Plan

Fisheries officer within Glandwr Cymru forwarded me this - and now GC have updated their action plan following a meeting on Friday that I was unable to make , as follows :-

Fishing activity

1 GC will continue to work with Natural Resources Wales and the Welsh Government in relation to promoting fishing activity, where possible, along the banks of its waterways. In addition it will continue to work with these bodies to manage existing barriers to fish and eel migration and develop further fish passes.

GC has match funding in 15 /16 and is in discussion with NRW and WG regarding implementation of its angling strategy with assistance from rod licence or other income.

I was just wondering if GC have been in contact yet ? - perhaps we can pick up briefly under A.O.B. tomorrow,

Doc 5

NRW/WG Fisheries catch up meeting

Thursday 16th July 2015

Dining Room 2, 3rd Floor, Welsh Government offices, Cathays Park (11:00 – 13:00)

Attending: WG: Official x3

NRW: official x2

Agenda

- Feedback from local fishery groups and other stakeholder engagement
(Welsh Salmon and Trout Angling Association / Angling Cymru situation) All

Feedback from local fishery groups and other stakeholder engagement

(Welsh Salmon and Trout Angling Association / Angling Cymru situation)

- NRW confirmed the Welsh Salmon and Trout Angling Association had withdrawn from Angling Cymru. NRW had recently met Mark Lloyd chair of Angling Trust. Tony Rees of Angling Cymru was relied on heavily by Angling Cymru and issues of replacing board members of Angling Cymru was noted.
- NRW expected discussions surrounding this issue would occur towards the end of 2015. NRW to keep WG informed about this situation. **[ACTION 4]**.

Doc 6

NRW/WG Fisheries catch up meeting

Tuesday 29 September 2015

Dining Room 2, 3rd Floor, Welsh Government offices, Cathays Park (11.00 to 13:30)

Attending

WG: Official x 3

NRW: Official x3

Agenda

- Stakeholder engagement WG

Actions and notes

- NRW considered future opportunities to join-up consultation exercises could be given further thought.
- NRW concluded that creating a Wales Fisheries Group along the lines of the English group would have resource implications. NRW run the secretariat for the Local Fisheries Group (not covering the Welsh Severn) with stakeholders

taking the decision to chair meetings. The Severn Rivers Trust (English focused) and NRW noted that a dialogue would be needed.

- Local Fisheries Groups are a key stakeholder engagement tool. However, did not cover all of Wales and varied in quality of representation. WG requested the notes of the LFGs be made available. NRW had arranged for next LFGs in mid November. North Wales meetings likely to occur in Dec/Jan.
- NRW noted the Fisheries Strategy group meeting would be held in 2-3 weeks time and he would feed into that group, which Welsh Government may wish to attend.

Action – NRW to share agenda with Welsh Government.

Doc 7

From: NRW fisheries officer

Sent: 20 November 2015 12:53

To: WG – Marine & Fisheries; NRW manager ; NRW fisheries officer

cc: NRW fisheries officer

Subject: RE: feedback from stakeholder meeting

The main question for you that you missed came up in discussion towards the end. It was asked quite forcibly what had happened to WG stakeholder engagement ? couldn't be funded like the inshore groups?

Very well attended 70+ all rivers attended with exception of Rheidol and Aeron who sent apologies and will be copied in on correspondence.

Nets from two, Tywi and Teifi have agreed to meet 2nd week in December with all net fishermen.

Generally good engaging meeting

General consensus that salmon measures should be across all rivers

Would like to kill something...one salmon a year

There was less consensus on sea trout, generally want voluntary measures and not mandatory .

consensus was generally for voluntary measures rather than mandatory, this was somewhat contradicted by the view that they all seemed to think that there should be tighter restrictions on sea trout (numbers and size and seasonal, ie protect fish early and late fin season), they all wanted some consistency within and between rivers. there is a frustration in the more conservation minded clubs that these measures aren't mandated by us, thus allowing other fisheries to act less conscientiously.

Concerns that bait bans will disproportionately hit some, young, old anglers, some rivers not conducive to fly and spin

There was support for size restrictions on sea trout

Also they like tagging schemes with a seasonal bag limit

Was also some support for extending spring salmon byelaws to similar for sea trout

Most clubs have sea trout rules ending kill at the end of August or September

Concerns expressed about hitting anglers and not tackling the issues

We need to evidence more what the benefits will be of C&R both in terms of increased fish/eggs and socio economics

The other issues we will need to address are (no surprises)

- illegal netting & bycatch issues from bass fisheries
- Birds
- LFGs want more engagement.
- Better education of C&R
- Concern of consultation process – cited that we didn't take account of the hatchery replies

Overall generally positive, will need strong evidence for justification, and the benefits
We promised them that I will send them the presentation and an opportunity to write in with their views.

Doc 8

From: NRW

Sent: 19 January 2016 16:24

To: WG - Marine & Fisheries

Cc: NRW

Subject: RE: Urgent correspondence re salmon and sea trout

Importance: High

Many thanks to [NRW] for dealing with the majority of this request.

I'm aware of 2 email requests from you [WG] – so just to ensure my head is around this and that nothing slips past unanswered, here is a structured response – referring to the stakeholder question asked.

Please note this is incomplete – but I will have the headline finance information tomorrow morning and will re-send this message then.

1. Q1. Are there LFGs covering the whole of Wales, and are they scheduled to meet regularly in 2016, and did they meet regularly in 2015 ?

There are 7 LFGs* covering all of Wales, with the exception of the Welsh Severn

- Taff, Usk, Wye, Gower, West Wales, Dee and Gwynedd
- We liaise with the Severn Rivers Trust to complete the geographic coverage of Wales.

All LFGs met regularly throughout 2015 including recently where workshops were held across Wales to discuss salmon and sea trout stocks and potential new byelaws

The SW LFGs not as frequent as others due to restructuring and resource issues.

The intention is to continue to meet regularly in 2016 as all parties view LFGs as valuable and well worth the effort despite the reducing resource..

Q2 Are they all attended by NRW officials, and are formal minutes taken and follow up actions noted ?

NRW officials from a range of functions attend all LFGs. NRW officers organise meetings and prepare agendas. In some cases NRW take and then distribute minutes, and on the others this is done by a LFG member... NRW chairs some – but not all – of the LFGs.

Minutes are reviewed and agreed at subsequent meetings, and actions are reported/discussed/chased.

Q3 Are there pages on your website, or publications where progress reports/good news stories re fish passes etc are reported on. A list of achievements by NRW in relation to Inland fisheries since its inception would be helpful.

We agree and we are currently considering how to make this information more easily accessible to all.

We are imminently reporting on the outcomes of our Salmon for Tomorrow programme and this will appear on our website.

1. Q4 What is the progress with the “Agenda for Change “ relaunch - and please can I have a paragraph or 2 on how this document came into being and what the timescale is for its refresh and implementation

The fisheries Agenda for Change was prepared towards the end of the EA Wales, in preparation for the new challenges that would arise within NRW. It is still relevant today, however we are aware that it needs to be developed further into a meaningful implementation plan. This will be developed at the earliest opportunity once resources are available.

From: NRW

Sent: 19 January 2016 10:24

To: WG – Marine & Fisheries; NRW

Subject: RE: Urgent correspondence re salmon and sea trout

Re LFGs

There are 7 LFGs* covering all of Wales – Taff, Usk, Wye, Gower, West Wales, Dee and Gwynedd with Upper Severn* covered by the Severn Rivers Trust.

All LFGs met regularly throughout 2015 including recently where workshops were held across Wales to discuss salmon and sea trout stocks and potential new byelaws (although the SW LFGs not as regularly as others due to restructuring and resource issues). The intention is to continue to meet regularly in 2016 as all parties view LFGs as valuable and well worth the effort despite the reducing resource..

NRW officials from a range of functions attend all LFGs. NRW officers organise meetings, agendas and minutes and indeed Chair several LFGs.

[NRW] can reply re AFC (copy attached) – we have discussed implementation plan but no progress to date understandably as we are so short of resource at present. Hopefully all that will change soon and we can pick up again with yourselves when we next meet.

{NRW} can also comment re the business plan as I haven't even seen the latest.

I will forward press releases and prosecutions later today or early tomorrow.

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales

From: WG – Marine & Fisheries

Sent: 18 January 2016 12:33

To: NRW

Cc: NRW

Subject: Urgent correspondence re salmon and sea trout

We have received a piece of correspondence from a stakeholder raising the following points

1. What action has WG taken since its responses document to the consultation in 2013 with the commitment to "Welsh Government officials will liaise with NRW to define an appropriate structure for stakeholder engagement in the coming months. In the interim, Welsh Government officials are informed by NRW that existing LFGs will be encouraged to remain active, in order to permit continued engagement during the development of any new stakeholder framework."

2. Also “Whilst LFGs meet occasionally, NRW engagement with fisheries interests is minimal compared with the former EAW arrangements... Welsh salmon and sea trout fisheries are in crisis...”

I want to provide a robust response to this and would be grateful for the following facts please

1. Are there LFGs covering the whole of Wales, and are they scheduled to meet regularly in 2016, and did they meet regularly in 2015 ?
2. Are they all attended by NRW officials, and are formal minutes taken and follow up actions noted ? Are there pages on your website, or publications where progress reports/good news stories re fish passes etc are reported on. A list of achievements by NRW in relation to Inland fisheries since its inception would be helpful.
3. What is the progress with the “Agenda for Change “ relaunch - and please can I have a paragraph or 2 on how this document came into being and what the timescale is for its refresh and implementation
4. How NRW are prioritising Inland Fisheries for the business Year 2016/17, and the resources that were put into it for 2015/16 and that proposed for 16/17.

I'd be really grateful if I can have a reply by cop on Wed this week

Thanks