

13 May 2013

Mr Graham Rees
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff

SENT BY E-MAIL

Dear Graham

Thank you for a very helpful meeting this morning. There are clearly a number of areas where we can achieve benefits for all of us through a closer working relationship. We will send you the details of the NRW leadership team to help to establish these closer links between our teams.

As discussed we would like to share our current thoughts on the approach to establishing a framework for inland fishery stakeholder engagement in Wales. Any framework needs to be flexible to accommodate and link with the future stakeholder engagement arrangements developed for Natural Resources Wales. We would welcome the opportunity to review the responses to the consultation with your team as this will provide valuable information to advise our thinking on future engagement approaches.

- We believe that the framework for stakeholder engagement should: Facilitate an ecosystem approach for natural resource management:

Natural Resources Wales will be adopting an ecosystem approach to delivering outcomes which provide social, economic and environmental benefits for people, communities and businesses in Wales. To achieve this we will need to engage with a much wider range of stakeholders at an appropriate scale, from catchment level to single focus task and finish groups to address site specific issues. Consideration of cross-border rivers will be essential to defining a stakeholder engagement framework.

- Enable responses to a wide range of related issues:

Natural Resources Wales will need an engagement framework to receive advice and information to inform our approach and actions where we take the lead on issues. This will need to be sufficiently flexible to respond to issues as they arise.

We are currently reviewing our approach for ensuring sustainable fisheries for the future through a programme of 'agenda for change' conversations with groups representing a wide range of interests that have an impact on or are impacted by inland fisheries.

We need to have the conversations with our partners and co-deliverers, on the areas for change and how we then take forward the actions to bring about the change. This will shape who and how we engage in the future.

While we are having the conversations to guide our future approach, we will continue to support and engage with our Local Fisheries Groups and our current contacts.

- Provide clear consistent advice:

We need to be clear on the role of any national group established by Welsh Government and that of Natural Resources Wales, for the provision of advice to Welsh Government on inland fisheries issues. We need to avoid duplication of roles or expenditure and conflicting or confusing advice.

We need to clearly define the purpose of the Welsh Government stakeholder engagement groups. Any groups should be truly advisory, rather than just representative bodies to receive information from and to lobby Welsh Government.

- Ensure effective communication:

There needs to be a two-way flow of information. National and Area groups need to receive advice and input from local groups. Members of any groups should reflect all the views of the organisations and sectors that they represent. We need to understand the most effective ways to facilitate such two-way communication to make it easier for people and to make them want to engage. This may be better achieved through increased use of electronic media providing real time information and advice and enabling fast, flexible responses to issues. It may also give access to wider and more representative advice and evidence.

Groups should operate in an environment of mutual respect and trust, working towards the common aim of securing the widest range of social, economic and environmental benefits that can be derived from sustainable fisheries.

We look forward to working with you over the coming months to develop an effective stakeholder engagement framework that will support delivery of all our outcomes.

Yours sincerely

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Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg

Correspondence welcomed in Welsh and English