



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

25/07/17

Dear ,

ATISN 11375 Fisheries Groups

Thank you for your request which I received on 28 June about Marine and Fisheries stakeholder groups. The information you requested is enclosed.

The **Inshore Fishery Groups** (IFGs) North, Mid and South Wales comprise of representatives from fisheries associations, recreational fishermen, environmental interest groups, marine scientists, Seafish and Natural Resources Wales. Their purpose is to provide proposals to the Welsh Marine Fisheries Advisory Group relating to fisheries management within the groups region of Wales. They assist them engage with those with interests in fisheries and the marine environment within the their region. They also feedback to wider stakeholders within the region on local policy implications. Following a review in 2016, IFGs have been temporarily suspended. The position will be reviewed again in the autumn. Minutes of meetings are available to the public and can be found at <http://gov.wales/about/foi/responses/2017/Jan17/atisn10990/?lang=en>

The **Marine Planning Stakeholder Reference Group** informs and advises on early drafts of relevant chapters of the Welsh National Marine Plan, and the plan in its entirety. This includes associated work packages/products of the marine planning process including Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Scoping Exercises. The terms of reference for the group are published on the Welsh Government website. Individuals of the group are not specified, however, all organisations involved are shown.

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Marine and Fisheries
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/marineandfisheries/stakeholder-engagement/marine-planning-stakeholder-reference-group/?lang=en>

The **Wales Marine Advisory and Action Group** brings together a broad range of strategic interest groups to ensure effective and meaningful engagement in relation to the delivery of the Marine Transition Programme and wider marine and fisheries work, through collaborative working and co-production. Individuals of the group are not specified, however, all organisations involved are shown. The Group is currently chaired independently and the terms of reference are published on the Welsh Government website <http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/marineandfisheries/stakeholder-engagement/wales-marine-strategic-advisory-group/?lang=en>

The **Wales Marine Fisheries Advisory Group** has played a key role in helping to shape Welsh Government policy on fisheries management matters. The Group has a crucial role to play in helping to ensure that the views of industry and other stakeholders are fully reflected in Welsh Government policy development and implementation. Approved minutes of meetings are in the public domain and as such will be available when requested. Membership of the group comprises of one representative from each of the Fishing Associations in Wales, WFA, NRW, Wales Environment Link, WLGA, Aquaculture and WFSA. A deputy may also be nominated to attend should the nominated representative be unable to do so. The Chair of WMFAG is a Public Appointee. The group meets quarterly at predetermined dates. Individual members are not specified but organisations involved are listed. Minutes are available to the public, and can be found at <http://gov.wales/about/foi/responses/2017/Jan17/atn10990/?lang=en>

The **Welsh Sea Bass Task and Finish Group** was created to build a forum between Government and those with a direct interest in the future of the industry. It included representatives from the commercial and recreational sector, fish buyers and angling charter boat operators. There was no statutory basis for the group but a remit and terms of reference were agreed. The membership of the group was based on the main stakeholders identified from three regional areas, mid, north and south Wales. Other than a note of each meeting no official minutes were kept. However, these could be made publicly available. The group's work was halted in 2016 because of management measures on the sea bass fishery introduced by the European Commission. These European measures rendered many of the groups draft proposals impractical and impossible to take forward. Therefore the future of the recommendations of the Group is currently on hold.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office,

Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely