

Defra Shellfish Policy

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Marine & Fisheries Programme

- Defra Ministers
- Marine & Fisheries Shellfish Management Context:
 - *Sustainable Access to Inshore Fisheries (SAIF)*
 - *MMO & IFCAs*
 - *Several & Regulating Orders*
 - *Common Fisheries Policy Reform*
 - *Food Security Agenda*
 - *Marine Protected Areas*
 - *Water Quality*
- Shellfish Policy

DEFRA Ministers



- Secretary of State: Caroline Spelman
- Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Natural Environment & Fisheries – **Richard Benyon**
- Jim Paice – Minister of State for Agriculture & Food
- Lord Henley – Parliamentary Under Secretary

Sustainable Access to Inshore Fisheries Project (SAIF)



- The vast majority of shellfish entitlements sit with the inshore fleet – just **over 50%** of England's under 10m vessels have a shellfish licence.
- Inshore fleet caught **31%** of the shellfish landed in England **in 2009**, compared to just **6% in 2000** - indicating a level of diversification away from quota stocks.
- Fleet facing significant challenges – e.g. tight catch limits, competition for sea areas
- Increased targeting of shellfish may impact on health of some species e.g. brown crab
- Action required to halt this decline before they, too, become pressure stocks.

Sustainable Access to Inshore Fisheries Project (SAIF)



- **SAIF** established to help move the English inshore fishing fleet towards a more **economically, socially & environmentally sustainable** future.
- Key issue: how we can extract maximum wealth, in both economic and social terms, from fish and shellfish within safe environmental limits and consideration of other marine users.
- SAIF Advisory Group currently working on final recommendations to Defra after discussion with wide range of interested parties.
- Number of research projects providing evidence to SAIF have now reported and policy team using findings to work on proposals and associated Impact Assessment.
- **Aim to consult on proposals, in response to final report by the Advisory Group, later in 2010 with a full strategy in 2011.**

Marine Management Organisation (MMO)



- A new executive non-departmental public body (NDPB) established in April 2010 using powers under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The Act brings together key marine decision-making powers and delivery mechanisms.
- The MMO has incorporated the work of the Marine and Fisheries Agency (MFA) and acquired several important new roles, principally marine-related powers and specific functions previously associated with the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Department for Transport (DfT).
- The MMO has a wide range of responsibilities, including:
 - *implementing a new marine planning system;*
 - *implementing a new marine licensing regime;*
 - *managing UK fishing fleet capacity and UK fisheries quotas*
 - *working with Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to create and manage a network of marine protected areas to preserve vulnerable habitats and species in UK marine waters.*

Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authorities (IFCAs)



- IFCAs will replace SFCs in April 2011, with Shadow IFCAs coming into being in October 2010.
- They will be responsible for inshore fisheries management (out to 6nm) – ensuring local involvement in fisheries management. They will build upon the work done by SFCs to ensure sustainable management of shellfisheries.
- IFCAs will have new duties to protect the marine environment.
- IFCAs will have a duty to cooperate with one another and other managers within the marine environment such as the MMO, EA and NE.
- IFCAs will be made up of a broader spread of people than previously – placing more emphasis on activities other than fishing and recognising their more holistic role.

Shellfish Orders - Overview



The Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967 allows the Secretary of State to create Shellfish Orders around the English coast. These provide for the establishment, improvement or management of commercial shellfisheries. There are three types:

Regulating Orders - designed to improve the management of natural, existent shellfishery. Gives the grantee (usually a Sea Fishery Committee), the power to introduce and enforce regulations and restrictions on how shellfish are fished within a designated area. This includes the power to restrict access to the fishery, set Total Allowable Catches and define the fishing method used.

The purpose of a **Several Order** is to encourage the establishment or improvement of a shellfishery and investment in shellfish cultivation. It grants exclusive rights to fish for shellfish (within a defined area) to the grantee; it also provides the shellfish within this area with legal protection from unauthorised disturbance or harm.

SFCs can also apply for a **Hybrid Order**. These are Regulating Orders that contain smaller Several Orders within their boundaries. These Orders are used to encourage the cultivation of shellfish within Regulating Orders.

The Shellfish Act was amended through the Marine and Coastal Access Act to improve the operation of orders for the benefit of the industry.

Shellfish Orders: The Future



- We are committed to an economically viable, long term future for Several and Regulating Orders
- Shellfish Orders could have a significant role to play in the development of shellfish aquaculture in England
- The Guidance that accompanies the amended Act is out for consultation with Grantees of Orders, and we would welcome any comments SAGB members have on these.
- We have had a number of enquires about applying for a new Shellfish Order and would encourage anybody that is thinking of applying to contact the Department as early as they can in this process.
- Finally, I would like to thank the SAGB for their constructive approach during the Marine Bill and in agreeing to the amendments we made to the Shellfish Act.

Common Fisheries Policy Reform



- Commission published a summary of responses to the Green Paper in April
- Expect more detail from Commission in June, and draft proposals early in 2011

UK positions & priorities:

- Clear Rights Based Management
- Integration with other marine policy areas
- Regionalisation & Long Term Management Planning
- External Dimension

SAGB have made active contributions to this work to date, and we value their continued input.

Food Security



- With the publication of **Food 2030** the previous Government set out a vision for an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable and secure food system in response to key challenges of climate change, global food security and diet related ill-health.
- Fish and seafood policy has an important part to play in planning for a sustainable and secure food system. It is healthy – low fat and high in essential nutrients- and low-carbon compared to other parts of the food sector. UK shellfish is a high quality, high value product.
- Consumers are becoming increasingly interested in sustainability e.g. growing interest in products with sustainability labels (such as MSC). Interested to see development of aquaculture standard to sit alongside those for wild capture.

Food Security - Going Forwards



- The industry is responding but wants support from Government as there is increasing recognition that market based approaches (such as certification) can work alongside regulatory reform to conserve stocks and offer opportunities to fishers.
- In addition to regulatory reform Government can influence the market through its own procurement policies and by working with industry, retailers and the food sector to provide clear integrated advice on sustainable seafood for consumers.
- We need to work together to ensure a successful, sustainable fish and seafood sector that meets our long term food security needs. We welcome your ideas for the things that the Government can do to make your sector more successful in the short term and long term.

UK Marine Protected Areas



Delivering an Ecologically Coherent Network by 2012

The Network will consist of :

- **Natura 2000 Sites (Habitats & Wild Birds Directives):**
 - Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
 - Special Protection Areas (SPA)
- **National Marine Sites:**
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ) – designated under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.
 - Network will also deliver our obligations under the Ospar Convention and under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC).

Timetable for new sites



European Marine Sites (EMS)

- Formal consultation completed on 10 SACs and 2 SPAs.
- Proposals to European Commission by October 2010.
- Additional offshore SACs planned and further SPAs considered by 2013.

Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)

- All Regional Projects underway - September 2009
- Independent Science Advisory panel appointed - November 2009
- Draft Guidance issued to Regional Projects - December 2010
- Ministerial Statement published - March 2010
- Regional Projects make MCZ recommendations - Summer 2011
- Formal Consultation - Early 2012
- MPA network established - Late 2012

Impacts on shell fisheries

European Marine Sites

- Socio-economic factors cannot be taken into account in designation.
- Management measures to be informed by Impact Assessments
- Fishing will only be regulated within EMS boundaries where it affects site features
- Looking for novel ways (such as low cost VMS) to allow vessels to operate within protected sites and fish sustainably.

Marine Conservation Zones

- Stakeholders in each Regional Project are being encouraged to get involved in the process – there are representatives in each project who will be asked to examine the draft proposals and advise the best option(s).
- The sites will be chosen based on a number of different data sets and on the best available evidence – environmental, geographical, scientific and socio-economic.
- Each final proposal will include an economic impact assessment to take account of the effects any proposed sites will have on local businesses.

Shellfish and Water Industry PR09 Improvements – 2010 to 2015



- Every five years Ofwat undertakes a **price review** of the amount of money that water companies can charge their customers for the supply of water and the treatment of sewage
- It also determines how much companies can invest in improving their services and the environment
- The current price review – PR09 has been finalised and will drive the investment in improvements to Shellfish Waters under the Shellfish Waters Directive from 2010 - 2015

Shellfish and Water Industry PR09 Improvements – 2010 to 2015



- This package includes 68 improvement schemes associated with 30 shellfish waters, including:
 - to install ultra violet disinfection at sewage treatment works;
 - to reduce spills from combined sewer overflows (CSOs).
 - 147 Event Duration Monitors to be installed on CSOs at 48 shellfish waters
- This package of measures costing at least £86 million represents a significant investment in improving Shellfish Waters
- These improvements are detailed and confirmed in the 2009 Pollution Reduction Plans and cross referenced into the relevant River Basin Management Plans

Control of Norovirus in the Environment – Current Legislation



- Environmental legislation uses standards
- Current standards assess bacterial contamination as indicative of levels of faecal pollution. This serves as a proxy for other agents such as viruses
- The Shellfish Waters Directive standard in the 124 Designated Shellfish Waters in England and Wales is < 300 faecal coliforms per 100 ml in Shellfish Flesh

Control of Norovirus in the Environment – Future Legislation - WFD



- From 2013 the Shellfish Waters Directive will be repealed and replaced by the Water Framework Directive
- The intention is to maintain the same level of Shellfish Protection – this will include a microbiological component
- Limited ability to measure viral loads in the environment and a lack of understanding of the dose response relationship in humans means that viral standards have yet to be established

Shellfish Policy



- Overall direction to be discussed with new Ministers.
- We welcome ongoing constructive engagement with the SAGB as policy areas are developed.
- Defra Shellfish Team:
 - Clare Mason (Head of Team)
 - Juliette Hatchman & Iain Mathieson (Crabs & Lobsters, Scallops)
 - Matt Whittles (Several & Regulating Orders)

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