



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

CYHOEDDIAD, DOGFENNU

# Cyfarfod Grŵp Cyngkori Draenogiaid y Môr: 23 Ionawr 2024

Nodiadau'r cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd 23 Ionawr, 2024.

Cyhoeddwyd gyntaf: 10 Ebrill 2024

Diweddarwyd ddiwethaf: 10 Ebrill 2024

Cafodd y ddogfen hon ei lawrlwytho o LLYW.CYMRU, efallai nad dyma'r fersiwn mwyaf diweddar.

Ewch i <https://www.llyw.cymru/cyfarfod-grwp-cyngkori-draenogiaid-y-mor-23-ionawr-2024-html> i weld y fersiwn ddiweddaraf.

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# Cynnwys

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# Attendees

Emma Boyd (EB) - NQS team at Defra  
Colin Charman (CC) - Natural Resources Wales (NRW)  
David Curtis (DC) - Bass Angling Conservation  
Kevin Denman (KD) - South Wales and West Fishing Communities  
Andy Davies (AD) - Bass Anglers' Sportfishing Society  
Jim Evans (JE) - Welsh Fisherman's Association  
Simon Frobisher (SF) - recreational angler  
Rich Harrison (RH) - British Spearfishing Association – South West Wales  
Holly Kaiser (HK) - Seafish  
John O'Connor (JOC) - Angling Cymru Sea Anglers  
Hannah Rudd (HR) - Angling Trust  
Richard Strudwick (RS) - recreational angler  
Sion Williams (SW) - Llyn Pot Fisherman's Association

## **Welsh Government (WG) attendees:**

Julian Bray (JB) (Chair) - Head of Domestic Fisheries Policy & Management  
Michelle Billing (MB) - Fisheries Policy Manager  
Alun Mortimer (AM) - Fisheries Policy Manager  
Bekah Cioffi (BC) - Head of Fisheries & Aquaculture Science  
Tim Croucher (TC) - Head of Shore-based Fisheries Operations

## **Apologies**

Ian McCarthy (IM) - Bangor University  
Brett Garner (BG) - Llyn Fishermen's Association  
Mark Bolton (MBn) - fisher

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# Notes

## 1. Welcome and introductions

JB welcomed everyone to the group, set out the purpose of the group and today's meeting and explained the ground rules for virtual meeting communications.

Each member introduced themselves.

JB highlighted the six-year delivery timeframe for the Sea bass Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) sounds like a long time but there is a lot to do, there will be challenges ahead and resources are tight.

In response to a question about the level of divergence possible between the Welsh Government and Defra, JB emphasised that the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd is the decision maker for Wales and any legislation will be made by the Senedd. The UK Government and Welsh Government are implementing the same Sea bass FMP so there will be similarities and collaboration. There is room for divergence of delivery but the greater the difference the more carefully it will need to be considered.

## 2. Overview of Bass FMP

MB presented an overview of the bass FMP and lead a discussion on the direction, short-term objectives and priorities for Wales.

There was broad agreement that the overview statement is a good start. Several amendments were suggested.

**ACTION 1: In 'Priorities for Wales' section, remove "to anglers" from the second priority by next meeting.**

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Questions on several topics were raised, including: shore netting, introducing a catch reporting system and reviewing existing regulations.

JB confirmed these topics and others will be subjects for discussion at future meetings but noted that it highlights the need to review the evidence and legislation regarding all removals of sea bass from Welsh seas and this is something the group membership can help with.

JB advised that there may occasionally be information which it is not appropriate to share with the group but officials will work as transparently, closely and collaboratively with the group as possible.

**ACTION 2: Circulate draft version of the Overview with tracked changes for agreement with the group.**

### **3. Terms of reference**

MB led the group through the draft terms of reference and asked for questions by section.

Several points were raised about section 3.1. It was agreed that officials would consider redrafting this section to remove numbers in group composition and to name members and specify their organisation.

**ACTION 3: Change section 3.1 in ToR to specify membership of group by next meeting.**

**The following points were also addressed:**

- Meetings will not be open to the public. Members of the group will represent their sector.
- Stakeholders or government officials to represent the perspective of economic impact of tourism may be invited where appropriate but not as permanent members of this fisheries management advisory group.

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- Meeting notes will be made available as soon as possible after meetings following all mandatory internal procedures.

## 4. Discussion on next steps – including next meeting date

JB set out some high-level next steps which it is anticipated will include addressing evidence needs and reviewing existing regulations in future meetings.

MB proposed Tuesday 20 February and Tuesday 19 March were proposed as dates for the next two WSBAG meetings.

Members requested the option to nominate a deputy if they are not able to attend a particular meeting. It was agreed named deputies could be nominated and attend.

The issue of resources was raised. JB confirmed that there are well known budgetary pressures at the moment. Efficiencies will need to be considered to minimise costs. Cooperation from stakeholders to gather evidence of removals across the sector would certainly help with this. Whatever the advice from the group, decisions on committing resources will need to be authorised.

## 5. AOB and close

Enforcement of any new rules introduced was raised. JB explained that while enforcement is an important consideration in making new rules that are easier to enforce, it is not in of itself the focus of this group.

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# Actions

## Actions and owners

- 1 In Priorities for Wales section, remove “to anglers” from the second priority by next meeting - MB.
- 2 Circulate draft version of the Overview with tracked changes for agreement with the group - MB.
- 3 Change section 3.1 in ToR to specify membership of group by next meeting - MB.
- 4 Circulate draft version of the ToR with tracked changes for agreement with the group - MB.

### **Efallai na fydd y ddogfen hon yn hollol hygyrch.**

Drllenwch ein [datganiad hygyrchedd](#) i gael rhagor o wybodaeth.

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