

Sustainable use of fisheries resources in Welsh waters



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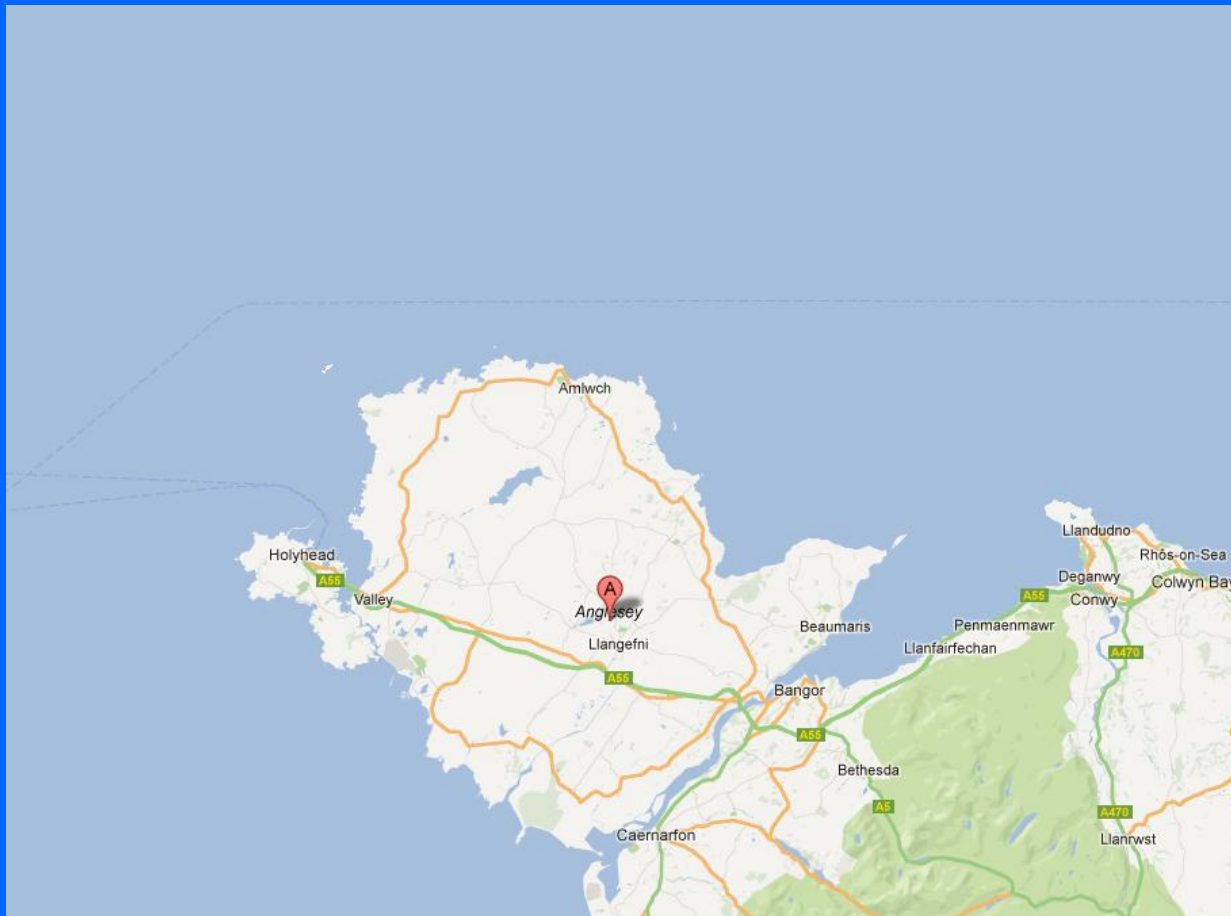


Welsh fisheries are mainly targeting shellfish with 90% of the fleet working in the inshore sector (up to 6 nautical miles)

Species	Fishery landings (£)	Fishery landings (t)	UK retail mkt (t)	Total fishermen in Wales (estimate)
Mussels	7,500,000	10,168	2,869	20
Scallops	3,462,905	1983.8	670	75
Whelks	2,536,863	4131.7	0	100
Lobster	1,482,797	149.1	195	500
Brown crab	341,779	316.9	668	500
Prawns	293,662	17.3	37,852	100
Spider crab	272,589	240.7	0	200
Sea bass	267,177	42.75	1,434	300
Other fish, ray, mackerel, gurnards, sprat etc.				



Fisheries around Anglesey



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Environmental aspect of the Welsh fisheries

The bulk of welsh fishers use low impact fishing gear such as pots and static nets.

Scallop dredging however is known to have environmental impacts.



How to manage fishing activities in Wales to ensure sustainability?

Are they already operating sustainably?

Problems:

- Limited data on stock status
- Limited data on activities (fleet mainly under 10m) e.g. spatial extent
- Habitat data incomplete
- Little active management (some bylaws and environmental regulation)

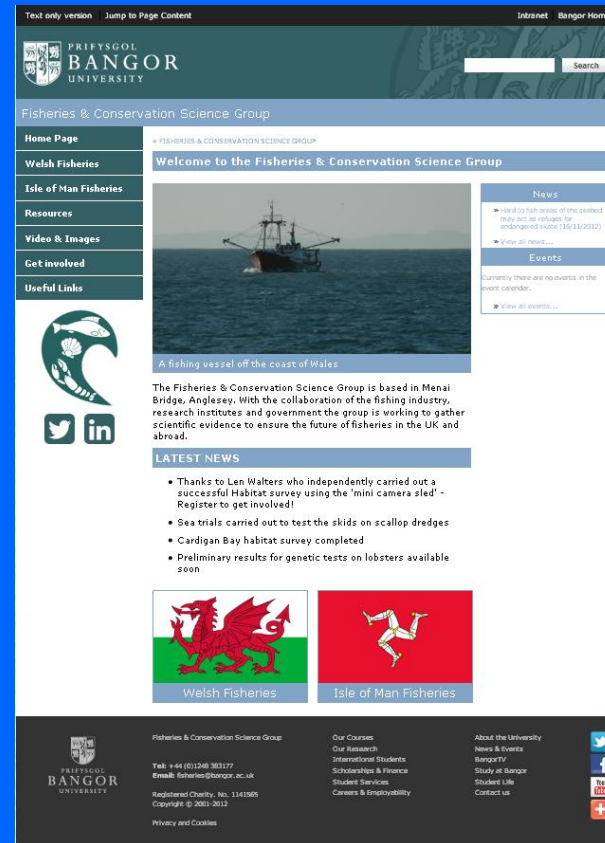
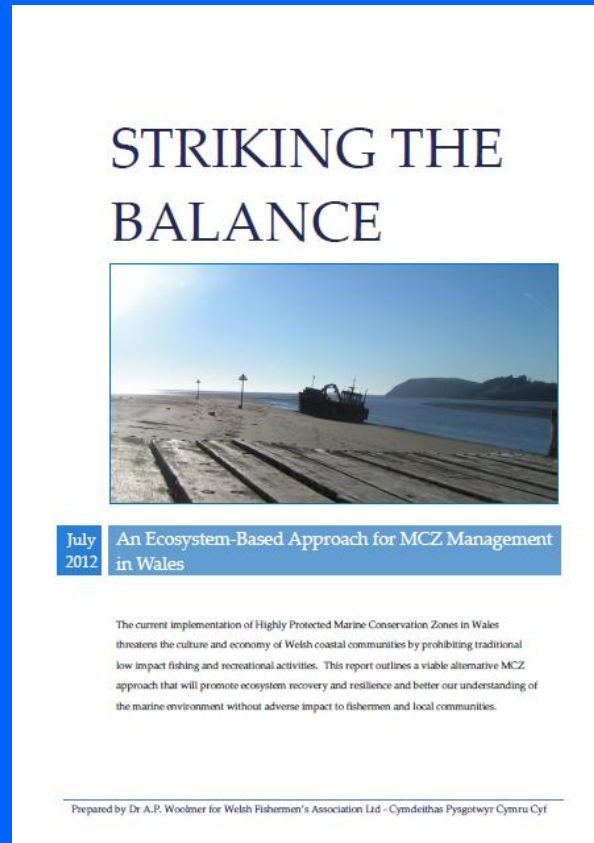
A need for action has been identified by the fishing industry and WG



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Successful sustainable management approaches in fisheries have generally been stakeholder lead or had substantial stakeholder support.



<http://fisheries-conservation.bangor.ac.uk>



Welsh fishers are favouring the implementation on Ecosystem Approaches to Fisheries Management (EA)

Traditional single stock management often failed.

No fish is an island in the marine environment things are highly interconnected. Failing to recognize these connections has contributed to the failure of fisheries and negative environmental impacts.

Need for a better understanding of processes that link different components.

Impacts on these components need to be understood and integrated into the management.



How to ensure environmental sustainability of fisheries?

This will require three main pillars of understanding:

- Understanding of **the spatial extend** of the fisheries
- Understanding the spatial distribution of **sensitive habitats and species**
- Understanding **the impact** of different gear types on the ecosystem



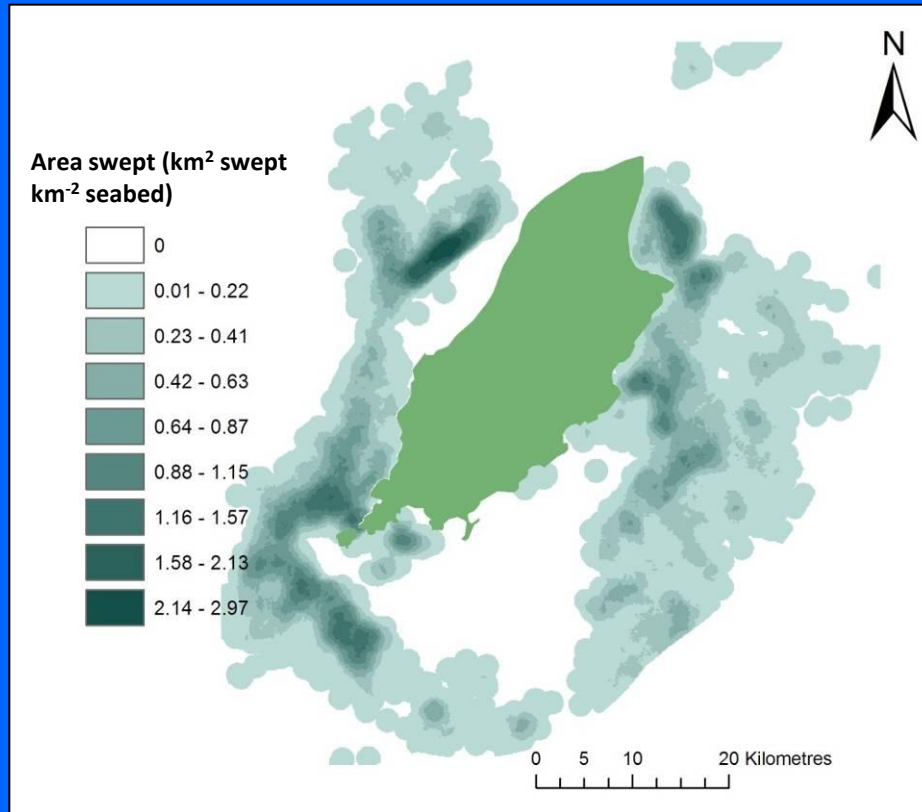
Mitigating impacts on habitats through spatial management and operational adjustments of fishing operations



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Monitoring fishing activities



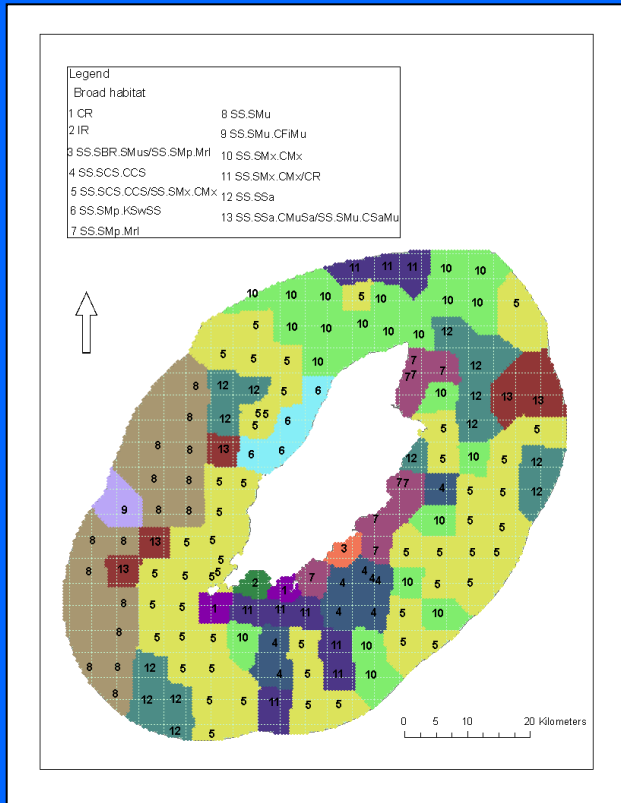
Distribution of fishing effort for king scallops in the waters around the Isle of Man.



Monitoring fishing activities and understanding their spatial distribution is critical for the implementation of an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management.



Mapping sensitive habitats



Habitat biotope classification of the seabed of Isle of Man waters.



Knowing the spatial distribution of sensitive habitats provides the basis for conservation management.



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Fishers getting involved in mapping habitats in Cardigan Bay



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Understanding impacts of fishing activities



Scallop fishing gear being towed over the seabed.



Understanding the impacts of different fishing gears on the wider environment is essential to set sustainable levels of fishing activity.



The effect of bottom towed fishing gear is well documented by sound science



Photographs copyright Robert Blyth-Skyrme



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Gear improvements to limit impact of scallop dredges



Modification reduces contact area of belly:

Potentially:

- Better sorting (i.e. lower bycatch)
- Lower fuel consumption
- Lower impact on benthos





Without skids...



With skids...



The challenge to implement an the Ecosystem Approach (EA) in Welsh waters

- Many unknowns and a multitude of factors need to be taken into account
- A lot of data is needed to understand the spatial extend of species and habitats
- Precise gear environment interactions have to be known, potentially at local scale
- Legislation and policing have to be in place (i.e. to monitor fishing effort and the environment)
- Stakeholder and public support



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Society and marine resources



You're invited to the launch of our new fish range, which is all from responsible sources.

At The Co-operative, we care about where our fish comes from, and more importantly, how it is sourced.

That's why you'll find only fish from responsible sources in all our own-brand products. From frozen fish fingers and ready-to-eat smoked mackerel to canned tuna and delicious ready meals - even the juicy prawns tucked under the layers of creamy mash in our Truly Irresistible Fish Pie.

And we're so delighted with our new fish range, we'd like you to come along to our launch event

at West India Docks, Canary Wharf and sample it for yourself in our award-winning Good with Food roadshow trailer.

Our chef Simon Woodhouse, who is passionate about fish, will be showing off his cooking expertise by whipping up a few tasty treats using fish from our new range. You'll get the chance to step aboard Bangor University's research vessel, The Prince Madog, to discover more about our responsible fish sourcing policy. For the full itinerary, please see overleaf.

We hope you can make it!



Working with industry partners and stakeholder groups is essential to ensure the sustainable use of marine resources and safeguard these for future generations.



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