



**Cyfoeth
Naturiol**
Cymru
**Natural
Resources**
Wales

Natural Resources Wales Wales Fisheries Forum

Terms of Reference

INTRODUCTION

We want to see thriving fish stocks and fisheries in Wales which are protected, supported and enhanced by the natural environment on which they depend.

Sustainable Inland Fisheries in Wales means: -

- Fish are valued as an important natural resource for Wales and are managed within sustainable limits;
- Fisheries of Wales are iconic and highly valued;
- The status of Welsh fisheries is an indicator of the health and resilience of the natural resources of Wales;
- Fisheries contribute to viable, vibrant communities in Wales.

We will achieve sustainable fisheries by protecting fish stocks and their environment through the application of best practice environmental management.

We will:

- a) Manage stocks and fisheries according to current statutory requirements and best-practice science, taking account of their importance to society and local economies;
- b) Protect and restore the designated status of our fish and fisheries;
- c) Develop with stakeholders a shared vision for a new fisheries strategy for Wales.

PURPOSE OF THE FORUM

The purpose of the Forum is:

1. To represent the range of stakeholders with an interest in the freshwater and diadromous fisheries resources of Wales and the work of Natural Resources Wales and others to maintain, improve and develop migratory and freshwater fisheries in Wales.

In particular, the Forum will: -

- represent: rod and net licence holders; angling clubs; fishery and riparian owners; fisheries conservation organisations; rivers trusts; volunteers and other fish and fisheries-related businesses and professionals;
 - seek to integrate our work to protect and restore fisheries within the larger business operations of NRW;
 - act as a communication link with fisheries interests and fishing bodies and individuals on fisheries management and related issues;
 - provide a forum for the exchange of fisheries management information.
2. To provide strategic advice to NRW, that reflects the views of fisheries interests on:
 - a. How NRW fulfils its fisheries duties, in line with legal duties and statutory guidance;
 - b. Developing and implementing plans and projects;
 - c. Evidence and research needs;
 - d. Promotion of fishing;
 - e. Licence duties and charges;
 - f. Cost-effectiveness of services;
 - g. Regulatory developments;
 - h. Working with the private, charitable and voluntary sectors.
 3. To inform NRW advice to Welsh Government, including development of fisheries-related policy and strategy;
 4. To review the performance of NRW's fisheries and associated work to ensure that anglers and fisheries interests have clarity that rod licence income and other funding is used to best effect to support delivery of NRW's statutory fisheries duty;
 5. To consider the ecological, biological and economic impact of emerging and new issues affecting our fisheries;
 6. To help disseminate information from NRW and elsewhere to angling and fisheries interests;
 7. To provide clear feedback from angling and fisheries interests to NRW and to facilitate information provision to those interests;
 8. To identify opportunities for partnership working and new funding;
 9. To support horizon scanning for anticipated new developments, opportunities, and risks, and to raise awareness of wider issues relating to freshwater and migratory fisheries management, for example marine fisheries.

HOW THE GROUP WILL WORK

The Group will aim to meet on no less than 2 occasions each year.

Meetings will generally be arranged by NRW at venues around Wales to facilitate attendance.

Meetings will be arranged via Teams/audio conference where it is thought to be an effective means of ensuring progress, however the preference will be to meet on a face-to-face basis to maximise the opportunities for collaborative working.

The agenda and minutes will be made publicly available on the NRW website (unless otherwise stated).

MEMBERSHIP

The Group shall comprise representatives from Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Government, non-governmental fisheries organisations and other representatives. Membership shall be reviewed and agreed by members of the Forum.

NRW will be represented by:

- An NRW Board Member representing fisheries and angling interests (Group chair);
- Executive Director of Evidence Policy and Permitting (on occasion)/ Head of Natural Resource Management Policy or their nominee;
- Principal Fisheries Advisor;
- Technical and support staff, as required.

The non-governmental organisations shall comprise:

Afonydd Cymru

Angling Cymru

Angling Trust

Atlantic Salmon Trust

Campaign for the Protection of Welsh Fisheries

Countryside Alliance Wales

Institute of Fisheries Management – Welsh Branch

The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust

Welsh Salmon and Trout Angling Association

Welsh Water Dŵr Cymru

Wild Fish

Wild Trout Trust

Local fisheries interests will be represented by a single nomination from the Local Fisheries Groups (LFGs)

Members may nominate deputies to attend on their behalf.

Others who may attend:

Welsh Government;

Other groups e.g. netmen organisations and individual rivers and wildlife trusts/organisations, may be invited to join to present or discuss relevant items;

DEFRA and the Environment Agency will have open invitations to attend (the Forum is for Wales only, however DEFRA and EA attendance will maintain awareness of developments in England relevant to fisheries issues, notably on our shared cross-border catchments).

If there are issues arising from the Group that are of a technical nature, or require a more detailed discussion, then specific Task & Finish groups may be set up as needed. The T&F groups will be made up of members of the Forum and any other persons identified to deal with the matter in question and they will then report back direct to the full Forum on progress and outcomes.

Communications

Draft notes of the meetings will be produced by NRW and circulated to named Forum members. We will aim to complete and circulate the draft meeting notes within 14 working days by e-mail.

Once appropriate corrections have been made, the minutes will be re-submitted to Forum members for prompt approval, and the minutes will be made publicly available on NRW web pages and can then be forwarded to others.

A communique will be prepared for circulation to all Local Fisheries Group members.

Views expressed at the meeting and included in the notes will not be attributed to individuals or organisations without their clear agreement.

If additional information is requested by the Forum, it will be included as an appendix to the notes or clearly differentiated within the notes as being added afterwards and not during the meeting.

Informal communication: members are expected to discuss the issues to be raised at the meetings with others and bring their views to the meetings. This is part of their responsibility as representatives of other people in the community.

Email addresses can be shared amongst the Forum if individuals provide their consent. If shared, email addresses must only be used by Forum participants for purposes in regard to the Forum and must not be shared with anyone outside of the Forum. Participants can opt out of sharing at any point.