



Our ref: MA-LG-3970-21

Paul Davies MS
Chair - Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

Paul.Davies@senedd.wales

9 December 2021

Dear Paul,

On 7 December I signed the Whelk Fishing Permit (Wales) Order 2021. The purpose of the Order is to conserve whelk in the Welsh zone and ensure the sustainability of the fishery through adaptive management.

The Order applies to all UK and foreign licensed fishing vessels who wish to fish for whelk in the Welsh zone and bring the following into statute:

Permits - anyone fishing for whelk using pots in the Welsh zone now require an annual permit with conditions. From 2023 onwards there will be a fee for this permit.

Permit Period - the annual permitted fishing season will run from 00:00 on 1 March each year to 23:59 on the last day of February the following year.

Annual Catch Limit (ACL) - An Annual Catch Limit (ACL) of 5298 tonnes for the permitted fleet for the first permit period will be in place. Annual whelk surveys will begin to build up data to set the annual catch limit based on actual stock levels.

Flexible Monthly Catch Limit (MCL) – All permit holders will be issued the same MCL in any given month.

Monthly Catch Returns – All permit holders will be required to submit an accurate catch return.

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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.

Further details about the Order will be available on gov.wales from 14 December 2021.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd