



Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/HIDCC/25418/24

Rt Hon Elin Jones MS  
Llywydd  
Senedd Cymru

[Llywydd@senedd.wales](mailto:Llywydd@senedd.wales)

26 June 2024

Dear Elin

## **The Cockle Fishing Management and Permitting (Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024**

In accordance with section 11A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1946, I am notifying you this Statutory Instrument will come into force on 10 July 2024, less than 21 days after it has been laid. A copy of the instrument and Explanatory Memorandum for this Order are attached for your information. An Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment has been prepared and this has been laid, together with the 2024 Order, in the Table Office.

### **Background**

Public cockle fisheries in Wales have been managed by the Welsh Government since the dissolution of the former Sea Fisheries Committees in 2010. The first sale value of these fisheries is estimated to be between £3M and £10M per annum. They support approximately 350 commercial hand gatherers and 50 workers in processing plants.

The Cockle Fishing Management and Permitting (Specified Area) (Wales) Order 2024 will introduce the following measures to conserve cockle stocks and ensure the sustainability of the fishery:

- a) An all-Wales cockle permit to gather on any cockle bed within a specified area.
- b) Carrying out uniform eligibility checks for cockle permit applications
- c) Charging an annual fee for cockle permits
- d) Attaching a number of universal permit conditions to all cockle permits

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Huw.Irranca-Davies@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Huw.Irranca-Davies@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Huw.Irranca-Davies@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Huw.Irranca-Davies@gov.wales)

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.

- e) Making provision to allow for additional local conditions specific to individual named fisheries for the purposes of adaptive cockle fishery management. Any additional conditions will also be attached to all permits.
- f) Standardising the daily personal recreational allowance within the specified areas.

Finalisation of the Order took longer than anticipated to ensure the Order delivered the changes required to establish the new permitting system.

Contravention of the convention is thought necessary and justifiable to avoid delaying the opening of the Three Rivers Fishery to ensure cockle gatherers do not lose out on valuable income. Any delay in opening the fishery on 17 July would penalise those cockle gatherers who rely on this income alone and could lead to cockle 'die off' as summer temperatures increase.

I am copying this letter to the Trefnydd and Chief Whip, Mike Hedges MS, Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, Siwan Davies, Director of Senedd Business, Bethan Davies, Head of Chamber and Committee Services and Julian Luke, Head of Policy and Legislation Committee Service.

Yours sincerely,



**Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change & Rural Affairs