

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS  
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros  
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig  
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate  
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Paul Davies, MS  
Chair  
Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee  
Welsh Parliament

Our Ref: MA/HIDCC/10210/24

7 October 2024

Dear Paul

The Welsh Government has been working with the other fisheries policy authorities (FPAs) across the UK to develop a consultation draft setting out proposed amendments to Annex A of the Joint Fisheries Statement (JFS). The JFS was published on 23 November 2022, following a 12-week public consultation period and scrutiny by the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee.

The JFS sets out the policies of the FPAs for achieving, or contributing to the achievement of, the fisheries objectives in the Fisheries Act 2020 (the Act). It includes how the FPAs propose to make use of Fisheries Management Plans (listed in Annex A to the JFS) to achieve, or contribute to the achievement of, those fisheries objectives.

The FPAs have agreed to amend Annex A of the JFS. The proposed amendments do not impact on the fisheries policies in the original JFS. Instead, they include extensions for the publication dates for many FMPs and changes to the scope and coverage of some of the FMPs. These amendments will enable the FPAs to produce high-quality, comprehensive and robust FMPs that will achieve the long-term aim of sustainably managed fisheries, in line with the fisheries objectives.

Of particular relevance to Wales are the proposals to extend the Welsh Whelk FMP by one year, and to remove Welsh Ministers as an authority responsible for preparing and publishing a number of the joint UK plans, which are being co-ordinated by the Scottish Ministers.

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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.

Paragraph 3 of Schedule 1 to the Act requires each of the FPAs to lay a consultation draft before the appropriate legislature and to specify a period of scrutiny. Please be advised of my intention to lay the consultation draft before the Senedd with a scrutiny period of 10 October - 21 November 2024. Whilst we recognise this falls over recess dates for all UK legislatures, there will be a minimum of 4 weeks for all. The proposals will also be the subject of a public consultation within the same dates.

The purpose of this correspondence is to give the Committee advance notice of the scrutiny period and the public consultation on the consultation draft JFS amendments.

The FPAs are working to a timeline to publish the amended Annex A before the end of this year.

My officials will write to your committee clerk once I have laid the consultation draft, providing a link to the public consultation document. I would be grateful for any response/recommendations from the Committee to be provided by 29 November 2024.

I hope this information is helpful for you in managing your work programme.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Huw Irranca-Davies', written in a cursive style.

**Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS**

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