



friends of the earth pembrokehire cyfeillion y ddaear sir benfro

Welsh Government Proposal to extend scallop dredging in the Cardigan Bay SAC

The WG has launched a consultation process which closes on **17th February**.

PLEASE take a few minutes to respond. You can do so by going to the online form at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/scallop-consultation>

And by emailing fisheriesmailbox@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

It only takes a second to answer **NO** to **question 2** which is the important question. If you have more time, please add your comments to the form and email as well.

It is important to use your own words. Here are some of the important points to raise.

- There is **NO** place for scallop dredging in protected marine areas like the Cardigan Bay SAC. The whole area should be protected.
- Scallop dredging completely destroys the seabed having an impact not only on the seabed itself but many other species, including the bottle-nosed dolphins the SAC was set up to protect¹.
- Seabed recovery takes decades and will never happen unless it is completely protected from dredging, regardless of any permit conditions.
- The WG claims it wants to protect local fishing but the vast majority of the dredgers come from Scotland and the Isle of Man, they sell the scallops to lucrative markets in Spain and Europe. The local economy gains little.
- The consultation ignores the important economic benefits to tourism of the wildlife and environment of the Bay, a much more important source of revenue for the local economy.

¹ Evans, P.G.H. and Hintner, K. (2012) *A Review of the Direct & Indirect Impacts of Fishing Activities on Marine Mammals in Welsh waters*. CCW Policy Research Report No. 104: 1-204. Report available [here](#).

Feingold D. and Evans P.G.H 2014 *Bottlenose Dolphin and Harbour Porpoise Monitoring in Cardigan Bay and Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau Special Areas of Conservation 2011 - 2013*. NRW Evidence Report Series Report No: 4, 120pp, Natural Resources Wales, Bangor. Report available [here](#).

- The consultation document relies heavily on work done by Bangor University. Note the very close association of Bangor University's Fisheries and Conservation Science group and the Welsh Fishermen's Association; see [here](#). The document claims that there is a high density of scallops in the protected areas but the scallop densities in these areas reported in Bangor University Fisheries and Conservation Science group's report 41² are substantially lower than those from other scallop surveys in protected areas such as Skomer MCZ³ and around the Isle of Man⁴.
- The failure of the WG to manage fishing in the open areas so they are now seriously depleted is not a reason to open closed areas. There are many instances of illegal dredging and it is likely that regardless of permit conditions the closed areas will suffer the same fate once open. The document does not adequately outline how the permits are to be policed, or how this policing is to be funded.

² Lambert, G.I., Murray L.G., Hinz H., Kaiser M.J., 2014. *Status of scallop populations in Welsh waters*. Bangor University, Fisheries and Conservation Report No. 41. pp 61. Report available [here](#).

³ Lock, K, Burton, M, Newman, P, Jones, J, 2012. *Skomer Marine Nature Reserve Pecten maximus, King scallop Survey 2012*. CCW Regional Report CCW/WW/13/2. Report available [here](#).

⁴ Beukers-Stewart, Bryce D., Belinda J. Vause, Matthew WJ Mosley, Helen L. Rossetti, and Andrew R. Brand. *Benefits of closed area protection for a population of scallops*. Marine Ecology Progress Series 298, no. 15 (2005): 189-204. Report available [here](#)