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RIVER DEE COCKLE FISHERY



Background and History

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3. 2004 Morecambe Bay tragedy.
4. 2007 Public Inquiry for Dee Regulating Order.
5. 2008 River Dee Estuary Cockle Regulating Order.

Present Day



Regulating Order and Management Plan Objectives

- **Develop a sustainable fishery providing a consistent, regular income for fishermen**
- **Minimise the impacts to the European site and local residents**
- **Improve fishery management, monitoring and enforcement**

Appropriate Assessment for Regulating Order

SAC + SPA + RAMSAR + SSSI

Impacted features:

- cockle bed sub feature**
- intertidal sand and mud**
- migratory wading birds (Internationally important)**

Demonstrate no adverse impact on site integrity

Reduction in effort but increase in duration.

Season now 01st July – 31st Dec

Process in General

- **Bed boundary surveys Feb – March**
- **Biomass surveys March – April**
- **Oystercatcher Bird Food Model May – June (sets TAC)**
- **Fishery Opens 01st July**
- **Mid season assessment surveys September**
- **Season Closes 31st Dec**

PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES

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1. **Managing a finite stock of cockles for birds, licencees and wider environment.**
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3. **Lack of flexibility within the management plan.**
4. **Ensuring we keep a favourable conservation status.**
5. **Better understanding of cockle recruitment into the fishery and factors affecting cockle settlement and mortality.**

CURRENT SITUATION

1. Opening on 01st July will make it the 7th consecutive season of opening. Something not seen in 22yrs
2. Favourable conservation status on oystercatcher and intertidal sand and mud features
3. In second year of Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) accreditation of being a sustainably run fishery
4. Encouraging signs of growth in cockle stocks for 2014





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

