

## **Relevant authority functions and responsibilities with respect to the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC and Terms of Reference for the relevant authorities group**

The regulation and management of sea areas within UK Territorial waters takes place under a complex system of legislation and policies that are operated by a number of statutory bodies and sometimes overlapping jurisdictions.

### **Ceredigion County Council**

The County Council is a multi-purpose authority with responsibilities covering the environment, transport, education, social services, housing and economic development. The following duties, responsibilities and activities are of particular relevance to the SAC:

- Town and Country Planning (Development Plan and Development Control)
- Coastal Defence
- Economic development and tourism
- Coastal management
- Local biodiversity action planning
- Beach management
- Harbour authority
- Emergency Planning
- Water quality monitoring
- Countryside access
- Foreshore lease holder

### **Countryside Council for Wales**

The Countryside Council for Wales is the Government's statutory advisor on sustaining natural beauty, wildlife and the opportunity for outdoor enjoyment in Wales and its inshore waters

CCW champions the environment and landscapes of Wales and its coastal waters as sources of natural and cultural riches, as a foundation for economic and social activity, and as a place for leisure and learning opportunities. We aim to make the environment a valued part of everyone's life in Wales.

CCW:

- Gives advice to Government, local authorities and others to help them make well informed decisions on matters which affect the environment;
- Helps maintain the natural beauty of the land and coast by encouraging appropriate efforts of landowners and land managers;
- Works to ensure and enhance the survival of species and their habitats, and protect earth science features, on National Nature Reserve, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Natura 2000 sites and other designated sites and, wherever possible, beyond such designated areas;
- Monitors change in habitats and species and in the landscape;
- Promotes access to the countryside for enjoyment whilst respecting the landscape, wildlife work patterns and rural traditions;
- Helps those who work in the countryside to strike a balance between sustaining country products, such as timber and food, with maintaining landscape character and wildlife;
- Strives to ensure that all forms of recreation in the countryside are in harmony with the needs of wildlife and appropriate land management;

- Works to increase people's understanding and appreciation of the countryside, its wildlife and habitats;
- Supports, through grants and other approaches, other organisations, groups and individuals to undertake work that supports CCW's aims;
- Seeks effective policies and other means of protecting the countryside, its habitats and wildlife;
- Provides information on all our work.

### **Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (*part of the Hyder group*)**

Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) is appointed by the Secretary of State for Wales to be the water and sewerage undertaker for Wales under the Water Industry Act 1991.

As such, the Company is entrusted with supplying its customers with clean, wholesome drinking water and disposing of their sewage waste, whilst furthering conservation in all of its activities.

Whilst the Company has no water supply interest within the boundaries of the SAC, it does have a number of sewage outfalls which dispose of effluent, directly or indirectly to the marine boundary of the site.

DCWW is committed to undertaking all its work in such a way as to protect the environment and with respect to sewage disposal is pledged to the eventual provision of full treatment and disinfection at all of its works which discharge to sea or estuary, including those to be found within the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC, seeks to employ cost effective solutions to achieve its agreed environmental objectives, whether of a statutory or a voluntary nature. Accordingly, secondary treatment and disinfection at works discharging to estuaries and the sea will only be provided where this will deliver a demonstrable, sustainable and cost effective environmental improvement.

### **Environment Agency Wales**

The Environment Agency covers the whole of England and Wales, comprising the Environment Agency Wales and seven Regions in England. It has a wide range of duties and powers relating to different aspects of environmental management, and is required and guided by Government to use these duties and powers in order to help achieve the objective of sustainable development.

Although it only has duties and powers to protect some environmental resources, it needs to contribute to other aspects of environmental managements, even if these are the responsibility of others. The Agency's vision for the environment and a sustainable future is "a healthy, rich and diverse environment in England and Wales, for present and future generations".

As the principal regulator of pollution and water management, the Agency has a key role to play in ensuring that operations it authorises, and activities it undertakes, do not have an adverse effect on Natura 2000 sites. The Agency has statutory duties under the Habitats Directive to review all existing permissions (including consents and authorisations) which might be affecting European sites. The Agency will be assessing the likely significance of any permissions that potentially affect the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau SAC.

### **Gwynedd Council**

Gwynedd Council is a multi-purpose authority with responsibilities covering the environment, transport, education, social services, housing and economic development. The following duties, responsibilities and activities are of particular relevance to the SAC:

- Town and Country Planning (Development Plan and Development Control)
- Coastal Defence
- Economic development and tourism
- Coastal management
- Local biodiversity action planning
- Beach management
- Harbour authority
- Emergency Planning
- Water quality monitoring
- Countryside access
- Foreshore lease holder

### **North Western & North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee**

The North Western & North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee (NW&NWSFC) is a statutory body constituted under the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act 1966 to regulate, protect and develop fisheries for shellfish and to regulate the fishing for or taking of seafish. Since 1992, Sea Fishery Committees (SFCs) have also been under a duty to have a regard for the conservation of the wider marine environment, in addition to more specific responsibilities recently introduced arising from the EU Habitats and Birds Directives.

The jurisdiction of the NW&NWSFC is currently between Cardigan in Ceredigion and Millom in Cumbria, and to the 6 nautical mile offshore fishery limit.

Full details of the byelaws in force and its remit can be found on the Committee's website at [www.nwnwsfc.org](http://www.nwnwsfc.org).

### **Powys County Council**

The County Council is a multi-purpose authority with responsibilities covering the environment, transport, education, social services, housing and economic development. The following duties, responsibilities and activities are of particular relevance to the SAC:

- Town and Country Planning (Development Plan and Development Control)
- Economic development and tourism
- Local biodiversity action planning
- Emergency Planning
- Waste Management
- Countryside access

### **Severn Trent Water**

Severn Trent Water covers an area stretching from mid Wales to the Humber and Severn estuaries. Its goal is to help create a sustainable environment for the communities it serves. In particular it protects public health by delivering safe drinking water and effective sanitation services and protects the environment by safely recycling waste water.

The company assesses the environmental impact of all its activities and by active risk management, good operation and investment, strives to ensure the prevention or reduction of adverse effects. In addition, wherever possible it enhances the biodiversity of its extensive land holdings and the aquatic ecosystems within its operating area. Through its own biodiversity action plan it takes action in four key areas: water management, management of its land, activity on land owned by others and education and partnerships.

Severn Trent Water are not responsible for any sewage discharges in the SAC, but manage water supply in part of the site.

### **Snowdonia National Park Authority**

Designated in 1951, the Snowdonia National Park Authority was established by the Environment Act 1995 as a single purpose Local Authority. It has the following purposes as defined by the Act:

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage
- To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the (National) Park by the public.

The National Park is required also “to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park”.

The Snowdonia National Park Authority is the Local Planning Authority for the whole of the Park and is responsible for the Unitary Development Plan and Local Development Plan, which sets out the policies that guide development in the National Park.

The objectives and policies for managing the National Park are covered in the Park Management Plan.

The National Park boundary extends to the high water mark on the coast and includes areas of the Dwyryd, Mawddach and Dyfi estuaries. Between the high and low water mark, Gwynedd Council is the planning authority.

### **Trinity House Lighthouse Service**

Trinity House Lighthouse Service is the General Lighthouse Authority for England, Wales, the Channel Islands and Gibraltar, and its core aim is to deliver a reliable, efficient and cost effective “Aids to Navigation Service” for the benefit and safety of all mariners. In order to achieve this, it is responsible for the superintendence and maintenance of lighthouses, light vessels, buoys, beacons and radio-navigation systems.

### **Terms of Reference for the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau Relevant Authorities Group**

1. The Relevant Authorities Management Group is established in accordance with the guidance<sup>1</sup> issued by the DoE and Welsh Office (1998)
2. The membership of the Group will comprise all the relevant authorities, as defined in the Habitats Regulations, for the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau European Marine Site.
3. The Group will establish a Management Scheme for the Pen Llŷn a'r Sarnau European Marine Site as provided for in Regulation 34 of the Habitats Regulations<sup>2</sup>. Further guidance on the development of management schemes is contained in the DoE/WO guidance.
4. No relevant authority will have precedence or powers over any of the others, but a chair and secretariat could be agreed by the relevant authorities to assist the activities of the Group.
5. The relevant authorities shall exercise their functions under the management scheme so as to secure compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive. The primary purpose of the management scheme is to achieve the conservation objectives for the site.
6. The creation and operation of the Group will not affect the statutory functions of the relevant authorities except in so far as the exercise of those functions in relation to the European Marine Site should be guided by the decisions taken by the Group.
7. The Group will ensure that there is wide participation in developing, and ownership of, the management scheme by:
  - consultation with competent authorities who are not also relevant authorities
  - consultation with the wide range of other interested parties as appropriate
  - publication of the management scheme and other information appropriate to its development and establishment.
8. The Group may choose to establish other groups that will provide a framework to secure wide participation in the preparation of the management scheme.

<sup>1</sup> DoE/Welsh Office. 1996. *European Marine Sites in England and Wales. A guide to the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 and to the preparation and application of management schemes.*

<sup>2</sup> *The conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994.* SI No.2716. HMSO, London.