



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## THREE RIVERS COCKLE FISHERY 2022

### PUBLIC NOTICE

issued pursuant to

**Byelaw 24 (Temporary Closure of Shellfish Fisheries) of the former South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee**

### **SUSPENSION OF TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF THE ~~LLANYBRI~~, LLANSTEFFAN, ST ISHMAELS AND TANYLAN COCKLE BEDS**

**THE WELSH MINISTERS GIVE NOTICE THAT**, pursuant to Byelaw 24 (Temporary Closure of Shellfish Fisheries) of the former South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee (SWSFC)<sup>1</sup>, the closure of the cockle (*Cerastoderma edule*) beds at:

Llansteffan defined below (“Llansteffan cockle beds”) is suspended to enable cockle gathering on a **Single Tide** on **Wednesday, Thursday & Weekends only** (from 00:01 on each Wednesday morning to 23:59 on each Thursday night and from 00:01 on each Saturday morning to 23:59 each Sunday night) with effect from **00:01 on the 11 July 2022 until 23:59 on the 31 December 2022**.

St Ishmael and Tanylan defined below (“St Ishmael and Tanylan cockle beds”) is suspended to enable cockle gathering on a **Single Tide** on **Wednesday & Thursday only** (from 00:01 on each Wednesday morning to 23:59 on each Thursday night) with effect from **00:01 on the 11 July 2022 until 23:59 on the 31 December 2022**.

Gwendraeth defined below (“Gwendraeth cockle beds”) is suspended to enable cockle gathering on a **Single Tide** on **Weekends only** (from 00:01 on each Saturday morning to 23:59 on each Sunday night) with effect from **00:01 on the 11 July 2022 until 23:59 on the 31 December 2022**.

**PLEASE NOTE:** All other cockle beds in the Three Rivers Estuary area defined below (“the Area”) remain **closed** to cockle gathering, with effect from **00:01 on the 1 May 2022 until 23:59 on the 30 April 2023**, pursuant to the Byelaw 24 Closure Notice dated 30 April 2022.

No person may, without the prior written authority of the Welsh Ministers, fish for, remove, take or disturb any cockles from any fishery closed pursuant to Byelaw 24 of the former SWSFC.

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<sup>1</sup> Byelaws 21, 24, 47a & 48 of the former South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee now have effect, to the extent that they could have been made by the Welsh Ministers in a Statutory Instrument pursuant to Article 13(1) of and Schedule 3 to the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (Commencement No. 1, Consequential, Transitional and Savings Provisions) (England and Wales) Order 2010 (S.I. 2010/630 (c.42)).

### **Llansteffan cockle beds**

The Llansteffan cockle beds **opened** by this notice are within the estuary of the River Tywi enclosed by:

- i. A line drawn between Ginst Point (NG Ref. SN 332079) and Wharley Point (NG Ref. SN 340092) and then in a north east direction along the estuary to the south-easternmost corner of Llansteffan Castle.
- ii. A line drawn to mid-channel across the River Tywi, due east from the south-easternmost corner of Llansteffan Castle towards the opposite shore at Ferryside.
- iii. A line drawn to mid channel of the River Tywi, in a south east direction from Ginst Point (NG Ref. SN 332079) towards the opposite shore at Pen Tywyn Point (NG Ref. SN 357064).
- iv. A line drawn along the channel between the two mid way points.

### **St Ishmael and Tanylan cockle beds**

The St Ishmael and Tanylan cockle beds **opened** by this notice are within the estuaries of the River Tywi and Gwendraeth enclosed by:

- i. A line drawn from Carmarthen Bay Holiday Park (NG Ref. SN 367073) in a south west direction along Pastoun Scar to Pen Tywyn Point (NG Ref. SN 357064) and then in a north west direction to mid channel of the River Tywi.
- ii. A line drawn from St Isfael Parish Church (NG Ref. SN 362084) west to a point mid channel opposite Wharley Point (NG Ref. SN 340092).
- iii. A line drawn along the channel between the two mid way points.

### **Gwendraeth cockle beds**

The Gwendraeth cockle beds **opened** by this notice are within the estuary of the River Gwendraeth enclosed by:

- i. A line drawn from Carmarthen Bay Holiday Park (NG Ref. SN 367073) in a south west direction along Pastoun Scar to Pen Tywyn Point (NG Ref. SN 357064) and
- ii. A line drawn across every river or stream flowing into the Gwendraeth estuary, along the seaward side of the bridges carrying the railway between Carmarthen Bay Holiday Park and RAF Pembrey Sands.

### **The Area**

The area known as Three Rivers Estuary, which consists of all tidal waters within the District of the former SWSFC which are enclosed by a line drawn from Ginst Point (NG Ref. SN 332079) to Pen Tywyn Point (NG Ref. SN 357064). Tidal waters are those limits as defined by the former SWSFC:

- i. A line drawn across the River Taf, between Laugharne Castle and Black Scar.

- ii. A line drawn across the River Tywi, true east from the south-easternmost corner of Llansteffan Castle to the opposite shore.
- iii. A line drawn across every river or stream flowing into the Gwendraeth estuary, along the seaward side of the bridges carrying the railway between Carmarthen Bay Holiday Park and RAF Pembrey Sands.

**This Notice is given under authority of the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd, one of the Welsh Ministers.**

**Date of notice: 4 July 2022**

**Notes:**

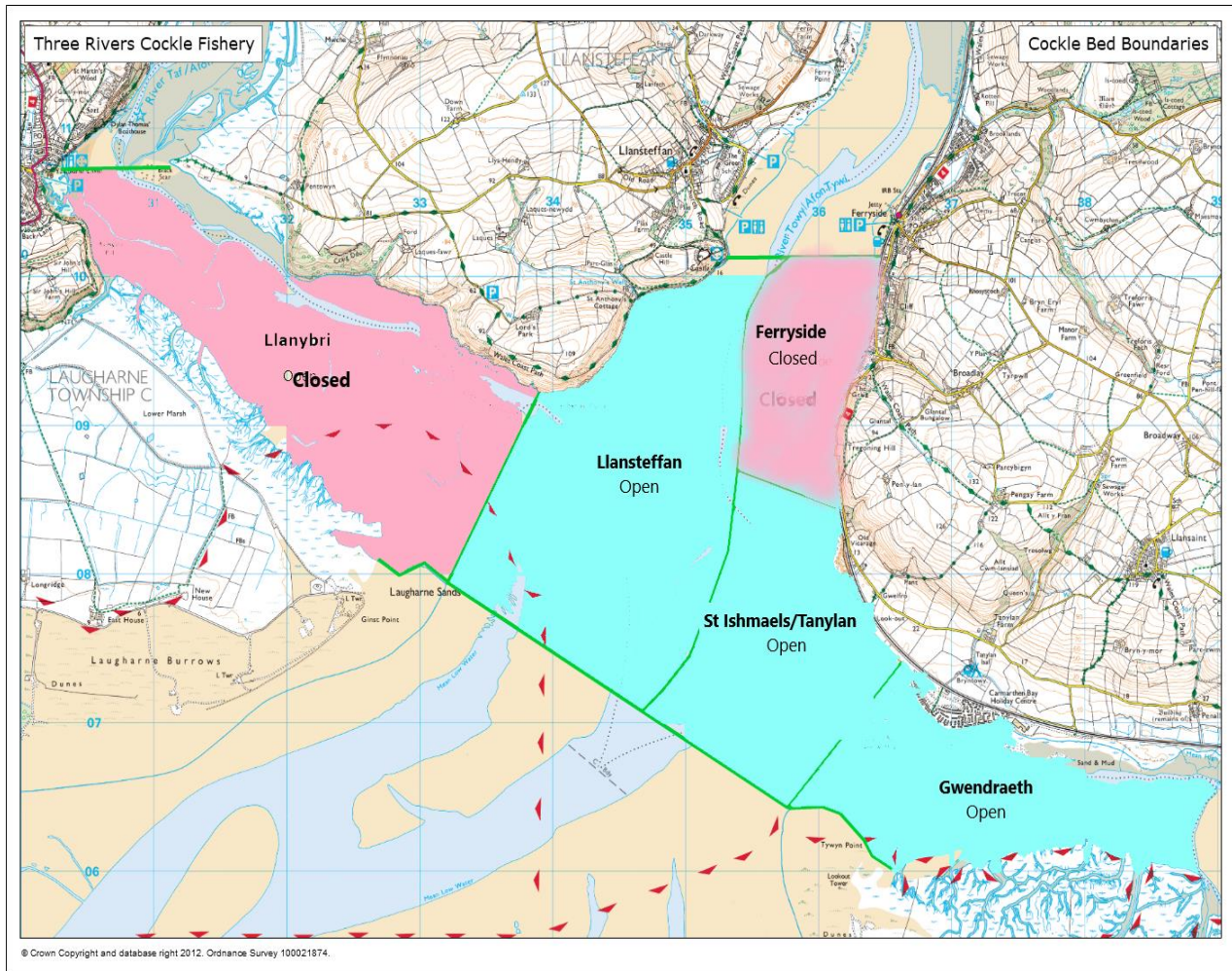
1. **Other legislation.** At Llansteffan, St Ishmael/Tanylan and Gwendraeth cockle beds, any person who fishes for, removes, takes (or attempts to fish or take) or disturb cockles in reliance upon this Notice must also comply with all other applicable legislation relevant to that activity in this location.
2. **Three Rivers Estuary otherwise remains closed.** All cockle beds in the Three Rivers Estuary area, other than the suspension of the temporary closure at Llansteffan, St Ishmael/Tanylan and Gwendraeth Cockle beds described in this notice, remain **closed** to cockle gathering (until **23:59 on the 30 April 2023** pursuant to the Byelaw 24 Closure Notice dated 30 April 2022). The beds have been temporarily closed for the purpose of protecting and assisting with the development of mainly immature or undersized cockles.
3. **Permits.** Without prejudice to the generality of Note 1, anyone wishing to fish for, take or remove cockles from the Llansteffan, St Ishmael/Tanylan and Gwendraeth cockle beds must hold a permit issued pursuant to SWSFC Byelaw 47 (Permit to Take Cockles within the Three Rivers Estuary) and that activity must be undertaken in accordance with any conditions attached to that permit.
4. **Daylight hours.** Also without prejudice to the generality of Note 1, Byelaw 21 (Prohibition of Night Gathering of Cockles) of the former SWSFC provides that no person shall fish for or take cockles in this area between half an hour after sunset on any day and half an hour before sunrise on the following day.
5. **Single Tide.** Only the Low Water nearest to Midday (Local Time) should be fished. If doubt exist as to which Low Water is appropriate then the first Low Water of the day should be selected to minimise the risk to gatherers associated with vessels returning from the cockle beds under the hours of darkness.
6. **Total Allowable Catch.** There is currently an overall (i.e. collective) total allowable catch (TAC) of **2377 tonnes** of cockles available on the **Llansteffan** cockle beds, **2183 tonnes** of cockles available at the **St Ishmael & Tanylan** cockle beds, and **446 tonnes** of cockles available on the **Gwendraeth** cockle bed during the suspension of the temporary closure provided for in this Notice.

Once that TAC has been reached, the fishery will be closed. This is necessary in order to comply with the Welsh Minister's environmental obligations.

7. **Weekend gathering only.** Due to the proximity of live firing ranges the suspension of temporary closure at **Gwendraeth** cockle beds (set out in this Notice) will only be applicable on Weekends (when live firing activity is least likely) during the period of this notice.
8. **No vehicles of any sort to be used.** Without prejudice to the generality of Note 1, Byelaw 48 (Vehicle Usage within the Three Rivers Estuary) of the former SWSFC provides that no person may cause or permit any mechanically propelled vehicle to stand on or pass over any part of the Three Rivers Estuary (for our purposes) without the prior written authority of the Welsh Ministers.
9. **Boat only removal of taken cockle.** The area of water covering the Three Rivers Estuary is defined as "at sea". A vessel involved in any manner with regard to the transportation of personnel, equipment or cargo for cockling in the area will be operating commercially. Any vessel operating for commercial purposes, must comply with relevant United Kingdom Merchant Shipping Legislation. Further information on this legislation can be sought from the MCA website,

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency>

10. The areas of suspension of temporary closure and continued temporary closure are shown below for information purposes only.



## FURTHER INFORMATION

Further notifications and additional information relating to this suspension of temporary closure can be obtained by contacting:

Marine and Fisheries Division  
 Welsh Government  
 Suite 3, Cedar Court  
 Havens Head Business Park  
 Milford Haven  
 Pembs SA73 3LS

Tel: 0300 025 3500

Email: [marineandfisheries@gov.wales](mailto:marineandfisheries@gov.wales)