Netting Review

Rationale

* Short term aim of the bass FMP to a review the bass fishery’s use of shallow inshore netting and shore-based netting. The review must be underway within 2 years of publication for this target to be met.
* The purpose of this task-and-finish group is to review the practices of shallow inshore netting and shore-based netting to determine whether additional protections are needed to prevent bycatch of migratory fish.

Objective

* Short term objective:
	+ Goal 8.1 “Minimise and, where possible, eliminate bycatch of sensitive species in bass fisheries”
* Medium – long term Objective:
	+ Goal 7 “Ongoing protection of juvenile and spawning bass stock”.

Considerations

* What are the environmental impacts of shore based netting and shallow inshore netting?
* What is the current evidence surrounding this fishery?
* What is the impact on industry if practices were to change?
* What further research needs to be carried out in this are?
* Are there any experts the group needs to talk to in order to gain more information?

Role of the BMG

The bass management group will be responsible for deciding the composition and size of the task-and-finish working group, ensuring all viewpoints are represented.

Possible representatives within the task-and-finish group:

* Defra
* Marine Management Organisation
* Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
* Commercial Fishers
* Environment Agency
* Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
* Natural England/Joint Nature Conservation Committee
* Welsh Government

Do you have any further suggestions for the membership of the group?

Next steps

The task-and-finish group should meet as and when required to review shore netting practices within bass fisheries and discuss potential changes. These meetings will be organised and chaired by a selected individual, either from within the bass management group or externally. These meetings should also focus on how the bass management group and the task-and-finish group can address the medium-and long-term bass FMP goals.