**King scallop stock assessment project – update report for English Channel scallop PUKFI**

**Industry Scallop Sampling Scheme:**

* Beginning to pick up pace
* 11 processors signed up to date, although 3 performing the majority of sampling and measuring
* Samples either obtained following a request made to the processor by Cefas who review VMS + AIS (if available) data, or as a result of processors / skippers reviewing Cefas’ map of samples needed in each rectangle and proactively requesting / collecting samples
* Lower rate of uptake of effort in Area 7 so far this year resulting in lower numbers of samples achieved. However, effort during Q4 expected to be higher with re-opening of Area VIId fishery which should lead to more samples
* Scallop processing, aging and data entry underway
* Results and deliverables milestoned for 31/12/17 (feeds into stock assessment)

**Underwater TV Surveys (unfished areas):**

* Offshore TV Survey carried out in early May
* Data entry, QA and analysis underway
* Results and deliverables milestoned for 31/12/17 (feeds into stock assessment)
* Inshore TV survey scoping work with Cefas / Devon & Severn IFCA and Cornwall IFCA / SWFPO planned for October

**Western Channel Dredge Survey (fished areas):**

* Dredge survey carried out late May using a fishing vessel charter
* All scallop samples measured and processed; aging complete; QC to be undertaken
* Results and deliverables milestoned for 31/12/17 (feeds into stock assessment)

**Eastern Channel Dredge Survey (fished areas):**

* Dredge survey carried out late September using a fishing vessel charter
* Results and deliverables milestoned for 31/12/17 (feeds into stock assessment)

**Expected outputs by end of March 2018 (when current funding runs out):**

* Stock assessment units identified
* Assessment protocol developed from surveys and industry sampling to determine stock size and rate of removals
* Estimated biomass and mortality rates as a proxy for MSY harvest rate - formal advice on fishing rate to achieve MSY will not be provided at this stage
* Consideration of use of LPUE data in future assessments (PhD proposal submitted by Bangor University with Cefas/Marine Scotland/Macduff to consider statistical issues surrounding use of LPUE)
* Future and longer-term funding of routine stock assessments - PSB currently exploring different funding options, issues and possibilities
* Consideration of assessments extended to Celtic Sea and North Sea, and possible separate project to cover the Irish Sea (given of interest to all 4 Fisheries Administrations)