Background

• SAC Officer, marine site – Pen Llŷn a’r Sarnau SAC
• Co-ordinate management
• My role includes:
  – Development and management of projects that tackle specific issues
    • e.g. litter, non natives, cetacean disturbance, access issues
  – Stakeholder engagement
  – Raising Awareness
  – Management scheme and run a number of groups that input into management
  – Monitoring
Porthdinllaen
- National Trust
- Small Village
- Golf Course
- Important location
- Inner / outer harbour
- 90 moorings
- Fishing vessels
- Recreation vessels
- RNLI
Impacts
Mapping

- To validate the extent of seagrass within Porthdinllaen based on aerial images.
- To undertake a initial study of the density of seagrass within the outer moorings.
- To establish what effect the moorings were having on seagrass.
Conclusions

• Seagrass Beds were much larger than expected
• Beds were highly fragmented (or patchy) amongst moorings
• Presence of “Wire Weed” (*Sargassum muticum*)
• Possibly the densest bed on mainland UK (and the largest in Wales)!
• Early results indicative of significant impact
Ecological Surveys

- Seagrass health assessments – sample analysis
- Seasonal fish sampling using large seine nets and fyke nets
- Baited video systems to examine subtidal seagrass
- Fish sampling to understand impacts of fragmentation (small seine nets)
Conclusions

- 33 species of fish recorded to date
- 10 commercially important fish use Porthdinllaen seagrass as a nursery
- Less seagrass damage the higher the fish diversity
- The seagrass at Porthdinllaen is not in a healthy condition
Aim of the Porthdinllaen Seagrass Project

To improve the condition of the seagrass without impinging on how people use the area
Stakeholder Engagement

- Stakeholder engagement is key to the success of this project
- Steering group – marine managers, site users, local organisations
- The steering group work together to discuss the issues and possible solutions
- Open days, workshops, beach sessions, general raising awareness
Inner harbour

- Excess mooring have been removed
- Trott moorings have been replaced with concrete block anchors
- Moorings have been placed in neat rows with assigned numbers
- Helix anchors purchased and 3 will be installed in the spring
Outer harbour

- Report on adapting the outer moorings has been produced (includes modelling)
- Recommendation is to adapt the existing moorings
- We considered
  - Use fisherman's anchors
  - Floatation devices on riser
  - 3 point anchor system
  - Wrapping the chain
- Issue – only single point anchors systems have been tested
Vehicle impact

➢ A study has been conducted on the effects of vehicles on the seagrass

➢ Working with fishermen and the National Trust on recommendations
  • Use of more than one mooring
  • Dedicated tractor route
Next steps

- Trial helical anchors in the inner harbour
- Trail adapted mooring in the outer harbour
- Ensure vehicle impact recommendations are implemented
- Monitoring
- Continue to work with stakeholders
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