To: Directors of Public Protection in Wales (DPPW)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title: Inspection of Fishery Vessels</th>
<th>Date: 21/10/2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summary:</td>
<td>Category:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is requesting local authorities (LAs) to identify fishery vessels requiring registration and inspection for food hygiene purposes and to set out a programme of inspections.</td>
<td>Food Hygiene Food Standards Feed Food Crime Shellfish Marketing &amp; Campaigns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key words: Inspection, Vessels, Fishery, EU Exit</td>
<td>URN: PAL0310E9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution to: Level 1 - All users who have subscribed to the categories above</td>
<td>Notification type: Digest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dear Director,

The inspection of fishery vessels is important to verify that food operations are carried out safely and hygienically onboard and for providing the necessary assurances for those vessels involved in supplying products to other countries.

The United Kingdom (UK) was subject to an audit between 18 April 2016 to 28 April 2016 by the Directorate-General (DG) (Sante) (DG Health and Food Safety). A recommendation of the audit was that the Competent Authority should ensure that all fishing vessels are inspected as required under Annex III, Chapter I, part 1(b) of Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 and that requirements of Chapter I, Section VIII of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 are met. Following the audit, an action plan was developed, which included plans to address this recommendation. The agreed audit report and action plan is available here for information.

Local authorities (LAs) are reminded of their responsibilities for inspecting fishery vessels and of the advice and guidance available to assist in undertaking inspections.

All vessels in the UK are licensed by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and lists of licensed vessels are maintained and updated monthly. These vessels are separated into two categories i.e. 10 metres and under in overall length and 10 metres and over in overall length.

According to latest records, there are approximately 400 licensed fishery vessels with administrative and home ports in Wales. Many of these vessels will require a food hygiene
inspection. In prioritising these vessels for inspection, LAs should have regard to the relative risks by considering the nature of the operations, size of the vessel and information available from other agencies responsible for inspecting ships e.g. the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

LAs are requested to identify vessels that they consider pose the greatest risk and to set out a programme of inspections. The Food Law Code of Practice (the Code) (Wales) provides guidance on the inspection of ships (vessels) for the purposes of assessing compliance with food hygiene. Advice is also contained on action LAs may take where non-compliance with the Hygiene Regulations is identified. The Food Law Practice Guidance provides a checklist to assist LAs with inspections.

The FSA is hoping to make funding available to LAs to undertake inspections of fishing vessels to the 31 March 2020. The details of any available funding and conditions for use will be communicated to LAs shortly.

If you have any queries on this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the Local Authority Partnerships team on 029 2067 8966 or by email at: lasupportwales@food.gov.uk

Yours faithfully,

Daniel Morelli  
Head of Local Authority Delivery  
Food Standards Agency in Wales  
11th Floor, Southgate House,  
Wood Street, Cardiff CF10 1EW

Tel: 029 2067 8902  
Fax: 029 2067 8918