**The Health of Welsh Seas Where We Are Now**

- Almost 50% of Welsh inshore Marine Protected Areas are in unfavourable conservation status.
- None of Wales’s Marine Protected Areas are fully protected from damaging activities.
- Wales has yet to fulfil its legal requirement for a network of well managed marine reserves in Welsh territorial waters.

**What Ambitious Leadership Can Do**

1. We need at least 30% of UK Marine Protected Areas within high protection including 10% fully protected by 2030.
2. Complete the network of marine protection in Wales, using Marine Conservation Zones to protect nationally important species and habitats.
3. Ban damaging activities from all Marine Protected Areas and commit to increase the budget for Marine Protected Area management and actions.

**Fishing Where We Are Now**

- Small scale (under 10m vessels) dominates the fishing fleet in Wales with a very high dependency on shellfish (90% of catch).
- Delivery of fisheries and wider marine management actions have been significantly delayed in Wales, with capacity (including legal capacity), within Welsh Government, a significant constraint.
- Two of the three fisheries identified as being of great importance for the Welsh industry have recently been subject to severe stress (due to mass natural mortality and/or overfishing).

**What Ambitious Leadership Can Do**

4. Focus should be placed on long-term viability of all species and habitats affected by the fishing effort, including wider biodiversity, not simply by managing the target species.
5. Fish stocks must be restored and maintained above biomass levels to deliver MSY (Maximum Sustainable Yield) and quota allocated via transparent social, economic and environmental criteria, incentivising sustainable fishing practices.
6. Fisheries must be fully documented to inform effective management. REM with cameras is needed for all over 10m vessels and selected smaller vessels, and iVMS on smaller vessels must be rolled out ASAP.

**Marine Plastics Where We Are Now**

- MCS volunteers found an average of 162 pieces of plastic per 100m when cleaning Welsh beaches as part of our Great British Beach Clean (GBBC) in 2019.
- MCS GBBC data shows an average 70 ‘on the go’ items were found per 100m of Welsh beaches in 2019, mostly linked to the food industry, such as crisp packets and sweet wrappers, food containers and cutlery.
- A recent Welsh Government survey highlighted that three quarters of adult survey participants supported the idea of a Deposit Return System for single use items.

**What Ambitious Leadership Can Do**

7. Introduce an all-inclusive deposit return scheme for drinks containers and a “latte levy” on single use beverage cups.
8. Introduce extended producer responsibility so that manufacturers are responsible for the full lifecycle costs incurred from the sourcing to end-of-life of a product.
9. Ban single use items, for which there are environmentally friendly alternatives readily available, by 2021, in addition to those withinin line with the EU Single Use Plastic Directive.