



## **Aquaculture news alert (sent by email 4 June 2016)**

**This Seafish aquaculture industry news e-alert covers news items, legislation and reports.**

### **Seafish meetings**

#### **ACIG meetings**

Thank you to all those who attended the Aquaculture Common Issues Group meeting at Friends House, London on Thursday 14 April. All the presentations are on the [website](#) and the draft minutes are attached. Could you please let me have any comments on these draft minutes by Friday 17 June. They will then be added to the website.

The next meeting is on 14 September 2016 at [Friends House](#), London. If you have any agenda ideas please get in touch.

#### **Oysters on the agenda for Common Language Group meeting. 29 June 2016 at Friends House.**

We have an agenda item at the CLG meeting which may be of interest called 'Future-proofing oysters: American Shellfish Farmers team up with Scientists and Policymakers'. Ryan Ono, from the Ocean Conservancy will describe the partnerships formed between shellfish farmers, scientists and policymakers in response to ocean acidification and how they helped safeguard a whole industry. Also in attendance will be four American shellfish farmers from the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. The item is scheduled for 1.15 (immediately after the lunch break). If you are interested in attending please email [Karen Green](#).

#### **Seafish 'Social License to Operate' (SLO) workshop - Tuesday 28 June 2016. The [workshop](#) will run from 10.30 to 3.30 at [Friends House](#), 173-177 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ.**

Seafish is hosting a workshop for levy payers and seafood industry stakeholders to ensure that the UK seafood industry are aware of the 'Social Licence to Operate' concept. This may seem like an abstract concept and you may wonder 'how does this concern me?' but it affects us all. The industry needs to understand the concept and how to gain and maintain public support. The workshop will explain the concept, how it works, why we need to be aware of this as a means of engagement and the reasons for attaining and building high quality stakeholder relationships in this way. If you would like to attend please email [Karen Green](#) and clearly state this is for the SLO event. There is no charge to attend this workshop but numbers are restricted and reserved for levy-payers/industry stakeholders.

### **Seafish resources**

#### **[New Seafish aquaculture webpage - Aquaculture Regulatory Toolbox for England](#)**

The Seafish Domestic Aquaculture Strategy Programme identifies viable, sustainable and effective opportunities for Seafish to support domestic aquaculture across the UK.

England's aquaculture industry is currently made up of diverse enterprises producing a range of aquatic species in marine, intertidal and freshwater environments. The Seafish 'Aquaculture Regulatory Toolbox for England' offers a single portal which brings together Cefas guidance on regulatory requirements for new aquaculture businesses in England covering both existing sectors and those that are just emerging. The 13 individual aquaculture sector PDFs give summary information with links and contacts on the type of licences, authorisations and permissions required to set up and run that specific type of aquaculture business. [Cefas has developed this tool](#).

### [Seafish Annual Plan for 2016/2017](#)

The [2015-2018 Corporate Plan](#) promises to focus on getting more people eating more fish more often, developing projects which support the reputation of the industry, and providing the data and information industry needs for effective decision-making. This year's Annual Plan aims to build on the successes of the first year of the Corporate Plan and sets out what we hope to achieve in year two. The programme of work has been developed in partnership with our three Sector Panels which represent the domestic and exporter, importer and processing, and consumer and supply chain sectors of the seafood industry. There is a suite of [supporting materials](#), including an animated film explaining Seafish's work.

### **Consultations/reviews/funding opportunities**

#### **€4.3 Million EMFF Grants Available to Seafood Processing and Aquaculture Sectors in Ireland. 2 June 2016.**

€4.3 million in grants has been awarded to 51 seafood enterprises under 5 Schemes launched earlier this year under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) Operational Programme for the seafood sector. The grants are co-funded by the Exchequer and EMFF and subject to terms and conditions. [For the aquaculture sector](#), €199,000 was awarded to 4 enterprises under the Knowledge gateway Scheme towards total investment of €305,000, while €382,000 was awarded to 8 enterprises under the Sustainable Aquaculture Scheme towards total investment of in excess of €1 million.

#### **The way forward for European aquaculture: high-level seminar in Brussels. 24 May 2016.**

In a high-level joint event with the Dutch Presidency of the Council EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella presented progress made and obstacles that need to be addressed in further developing a sustainable aquaculture sector in the EU. The Commissioner launched [EU Aquaculture online](#), a one-stop-shop information source for businesses on EU rules and Member State's strategic priorities to encourage investment in the sector. In order to improve business certainty, the Commission also adopted [guidelines on sustainable aquaculture](#).

### **NEF: Blue New Deal workshops**

- [June 8 \(London\) click to register](#): workshop with LA's, LEPs, coastal teams, coastal partnerships, harbour masters and others working at a local/regional level
- [July 8 \(Swansea\) click to register](#): workshop for Welsh stakeholders
- [July 26 \(Aberdeen\) click to register](#): workshop for Scottish stakeholders

#### **EU eco-label scheme for fishery and aquaculture products. 18 May 2016.**

In line with article 36 of the Regulation 1379/2013 on the common market organisation (CMO), the Commission has prepared a feasibility report on options for an eco-label scheme for fisheries and aquaculture products. The report analyses three options for

action by the EU: reinforcing the use of existing tools; minimum requirements set by the EU; or establishing an EU-wide ecolabel scheme. This report will now be debated by the European Parliament and the Council. To read more information about the study, please follow this [LINK](#)

### **Certification**

#### **[ASC invites stakeholders to comment on Group Certification methodology.](#) 24 May 2016.**

The ASC has published the latest draft of the Group Certification methodology and is currently seeking public comment on the new approach. Public consultation period: 20 May – 20 June 2016. The Group Certification methodology is comprised of two parts, the first details requirements for the Group Management Body (Group) and the second applies to the Conformity Assessment Body (CAB).

#### **[BAP Mollusk Farm Standards Released.](#) 10 May 2016.**

The Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA), the leading standards-setting organization for farmed seafood, has expanded the Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) third-party certification program with the completion of the new [BAP mollusk farm standards](#). The standards encompass all major farmed mollusk species, including mussels, scallops, oysters, clams and abalone, and replace the existing BAP mussel farm standards. The BAP program, the world's most comprehensive third-party aquaculture certification program, now encompasses virtually all aquaculture production systems for finfish, crustaceans and mollusks.

#### **[Friend of the Sea Launches New Standard for Sustainable Seaweed.](#) 10 May 2016.**

Friend of the Sea has recently introduced a new standard for the certification of seaweed from sustainable harvesting and farming. This standard aims to protect from overfishing wild seaweeds, which serve not only as a crop but also as a habitat for hundreds of other ocean species. The core criteria of the Friend of the Sea sustainable seaweed certification are: No impact on critical habitat, water monitoring, chemicals and hazardous substances, energy management, social accountability and traceability.

#### **[ASC Terms of Reference \(ToR\) for new marine finfish standards.](#) May 2016.**

The Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) has released Terms of Reference (ToR) for the development of new marine finfish standards. The ToR advocates the development of standards for new marine finfish species based on the soon to be released standard for seriola/cobia. ASC invites all stakeholders to [share their comments](#) on this ToR from 26 April until 31 May 2016 now extended until 30 June 2016).

#### **[Marine Harvest First to Feature New ASC Marketing Toolkit at Seafood Expo Global.](#) 26 April 2016.**

The ASC Marketing Toolkit is now available to all ASC partners, and will help marketing departments, visual design teams, and content creators efficiently develop consistent materials regarding their ASC certified product. The toolkit incorporates elements most requested by ASC partners, and provides a variety of useful assets including original artwork, icons, approved copy, examples of posters and pamphlet designs to be used in-store, as well as essential advice on logo usage, and will be updated and revised at regular intervals in order to meet partner needs.

**[Aquaculture with GGN - GLOBALG.A.P. Introduces the Consumer Label at Seafood Expo Global 2016. 26 April 2016.](#)**

GLOBALG.A.P. has entered a new era with respect to consumer-side aquaculture certification: The launch of a consumer label for fish and seafood from certified aquaculture. The **GGN** Certified Aquaculture label combined with the online portal [www.ggn.org](http://www.ggn.org) connects consumers to farms and their stories. In addition to a GGN farm search, the online portal provides detailed information on the processes involved in aquaculture production.

**[Reports/brochures/web sites/presentations/events](#)**

**[Scottish Shellfish Farm Production Survey 2015. 26 May 2016.](#)**

Included in the publication are statistics on the employment, production and value of shellfish from Scottish shellfish farms, following industry trends within the mussel, Pacific oyster, native oyster, queen scallop and scallop species sectors. Key figures are:

- In 2015 7,720 tonnes of mussels were produced for the table market in Scotland. This is the second highest level of mussel production recorded in Scotland.
- Mussel and Pacific oysters remain the main species produced in terms of value and tonnage although production decreased by 5% and 21% respectively during 2015;
- During 2015, over 5 million Pacific oyster shells were produced for on-growing showing that markets both home and abroad are well established;
- There has been an 83% increase in queen scallop production and a 38% decrease in scallop production since 2014;
- Native oyster production dropped from 242,000 to 200,000 shells in 2015. The sector continues to target a strong niche market;
- Employment levels showed a decrease of 0.3% from the previous year, with 344 full, part-time and casual staff being employed during 2015.
- The Scottish shellfish farming industry is estimated to be worth £10.1 million at first sale value.

**[Is Sustainable Aquaculture Possible? 24 May 2016](#)**

Fish and shellfish farming are facing a new era of expansion in Europe. What are the environmental implications of this, and how can the sector expand sustainably? Watch the video produced by Science for Environment Policy about how aquaculture could develop in greater harmony with environmental goals.

**Globefish. May 2016. [Bivalves](#).** EU market imports less bivalves.

**Globefish. May 2016. [Seabass and seabream](#).** Continuing high prices expected as supply set to tighten further in 2016.

**Globefish. May 2016. [Tilapia](#).** 2015 closes with markets flooded with low-value tilapia.

**Globefish. May 2016. [Panagsius](#).** Problems for Vietnamese producers.

**[The Global Salmon Initiative \(GSI\) publishes second annual Sustainability Report at Seafood Expo Global 2016. 28 April 2016.](#)**

This year's Sustainability Report is the second published by the Global Salmon Initiative (GSI) leadership group, which now features 3 years' worth of data for 2013, 2014 and 2015, from all 12 GSI salmon farming member companies. The report covers 14 key environmental and social sustainability indicators, including three new indicators added this year.

**[White Paper published on insect protein for feed](#). 27 April 2016.**

[PROtelNSECT](#) project's key publication recommends review of insect protein legislation and funding to help address European protein deficit. Fish feeding trials demonstrated insect meal can replace up to 50% of feed without affecting animal performance; pig feeding trials revealed improved gut health in piglets; and poultry feeding trials showed that chickens fed on insect-containing diets performed as well as those fed on commercial diets. Following three years of international research into the potential of insect protein in animal feed, the EC-funded [PROtelNSECT project](#) has published a White Paper setting out recommendations for future use of this additional protein source in Europe.

**[Report: Rise in Aquaculture and Fisheries Production as Prices Fall](#) 12 April 2016**

Global production of aquaculture and fisheries products is rising, but the value of world trade is falling because of a drop in prices. According to a new [report](#) from the French market analysts France AgriMer, global production of all fisheries products last year rose by 2.6% to reach 168.6 million tonnes. In the previous year, actual production from catch fisheries rose only slightly by 0.7% to reach 90.6 million tonnes. However, world aquaculture production rose by 4% to 78 million tonnes. Trade in aquatic products was steady in 2015 at a live weight equivalent of 59.8 million tonnes with the value falling back by 9.6% to \$128.8 billion. According to France AgriMer, the rise in production last year was spurred on by a rising consumption, which increased by 2% to 147.5 million tonnes or more than 20.1 kg per person per year, with aquaculture products accounting for more than half of consumption at 10.6 kg per person.

**[Mussel Power](#)**

Mussel Power explores shellfish farming's potential to fight climate change as a meat alternative, pollution absorber and carbon store. There are two films – one a short film about pioneering offshore shellfish aquaculture off the English South coast; and the second 'The Musselmen of Menai' featuring James, Kim and Trevor at Bangor. Justyn Jones has been pitching mussel film proposals to the BBC, Channel 4, Good Pitch Europe and many other outlets.

**[Editorial](#)**

**[Aquaculture Exchange: Dawn Purchase, part 1](#).**

Marine Conservation Society's aquaculture program manager says consumers need straightforward education about fish farming. In a wide-ranging interview with the Advocate, Purchase applauds innovation (she will be a panelist on a discussion on innovation at the upcoming GOAL conference this fall in Guangzhou, China), decries food waste and gives us a look inside the Global Aquaculture Alliance's Standards Oversight Committee. She also touches upon land-based fish farming, aquafeed production and retailers' massive responsibilities in terms of sourcing environmentally and socially responsible goods.

**[Aquaculture Exchange: Melanie Siggs, part 2](#)**

Independent advisor discusses consumer perceptions of aquaculture and making sense of certification schemes. I think we can demonstrate the true value of aquaculture in terms of livelihoods, incomes, in subsistence protein as well as traded protein, and efficiencies of growing proteins. It's not difficult to create a business case for good aquaculture to governments. The question perhaps is who can do that?

### **General news**

#### **Rothamsted Research given the green light to carry out 'omega-3 GM field trial'.**

**26 April 2016.**

Rothamsted Research has been granted permission by Defra to carry out a GM field trial looking into growing omega-3 on the Rothamsted Farm in 2016 and 2017. The trial will test whether GM *Camelina sativa* plants are able to make significant quantities of omega-3 fatty acids in the seed of the plant under field conditions. The trial is part of the ongoing strategic programme of research at Rothamsted.

#### **Scientists to Identify Climate Change Consequences for Europe's Aquaculture, Fisheries.** 31 May 2016.

Scientists around the world are now pooling their knowledge and capacity in order for the European fisheries and aquaculture industry to tackle climate change in the best possible manner. Twenty-one research institutions from Europe, Vietnam, Chile and Canada met recently in Tromsø, Norway, to work with the EU-funded research project ClimeFish. In four years' time, more specifically in March 2020, the project will be completed. ClimeFish is being led by the University of Tromsø – The Arctic University of Norway, with the food research institute Nofima and The Institute of Marine Research in Norway playing key roles. The aim of this research is to identify the consequences of climate change for fisheries and aquaculture – both saltwater and freshwater.

#### **BioMar launches fish feed with fatty acids obtained from omega-3 rich microalgae.**

**26 May 2016.**

Denmark-based feed company BioMar will start producing fish feed with omega-3 fatty acids obtained from microalgae, in what it says will reduce the stress on marine resources to provide sustainable feed. The product has been developed by in a joint venture with TerraVia Holdings and Bunge and will be produced at their renewable oils manufacturing plant in Brazil. BioMar owns 11 fish feed factories worldwide to supply the aquaculture industry. The company, owned by Denmark's Schouw & Co., supplies to feed for one out of five farmed fish produced in Europe and South and Central America.

#### **Seajoy's ablation-free shrimp answers emerging welfare concern.** May 2016.

In collaboration with Lyons Seafood, GAA and the University of Stirling finds success without removing the eyestalk, considered by some as cruelty. Removing the eyestalk of broodstock female shrimp helped fuel the explosive growth of commercial-scale aquaculture over the past quarter-century. A collaboration led by a Central American shrimp farmer has shown that producing shrimp at great volume, without ablation, is possible without the feared drop in production and increase in cost. Moving away from the practice should also ease growing animal welfare worries. The surgical removal of a crustacean's eyestalk, known as ablation, is standard practice in shrimp hatcheries worldwide. The eyestalk of a shrimp contains a complex of glands that influence molting, sexual maturation and spawning processes. Cutting it was one of the most important developments in the commercialization of shrimp farming in the 1970s and 1980s: Broodstock females with ablated eyestalks matured faster and released 10 to 20 times more eggs.

#### **Offshore mussels thrive with bespoke floats.** 16 May 2016.

A new mussel farm flotation system for use in exposed sea sites is now in successful operation and already helping to produce high quality, fast growing mussels. Jointly developed by Offshore Shellfish (OSL) and Fusion Marine, the system has been put to use at OSL's farm in Lyme Bay. It is the first company in Europe to install a large scale,

rope grown mussel farm in fully offshore conditions. Situated between three to six miles off the coast of South Devon, one of the key challenges for the farm was to develop a flotation system that could cope with the rigours of severe winter storms.

**[ICES advises on possible effects of salmonid aquaculture.](#) 9 May 2016**

ICES has released advice to NASCO on the possible effects of salmonid aquaculture on wild Atlantic salmon populations. ICES has been asked by [NASCO](#) (the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization) to advise on the possible effects of salmonid aquaculture on wild Atlantic salmon populations, focusing on the effects of sea lice, genetic interactions and the impact on wild salmon production. This advice will help inform a one-day, special theme session on this topic due to take place during the NASCO annual meeting in June. To develop the advice, ICES convened a workshop – [Workshop on possible effects of salmonid aquaculture on wild Atlantic salmon populations in the North Atlantic](#) (WKCULEF) - to review the latest available scientific evidence. The workshop brought together experts in aquaculture, parasites and diseases, genetics and wild Atlantic salmon to ensure appropriate representation. See [ICES advice](#) (question 1.4, section 10.1.8, page 25).

**[Scottish Aquaculture Could Double Production by 2030.](#) 29 April 2016.**

A Scottish aquaculture group plans to draft a strategy to double the sector's contribution to the national economy by 2030. The group, which includes representatives of several major producers, will craft a strategy document, called the Scottish Aquaculture 2030 Vision for Growth, later this year. The strategy will cover the entire supply chain, including farming, equipment supply, infrastructure, processing, research and innovation, the role of the public sector and marketing. The report will feed into Scotland Food and Drink's overall industry strategy for 2017-2030.

**[European aquaculture leaders of the future to benefit from Scottish collaboration.](#) 25 April 2016.**

Scotland's largest salmon producer is teaming up with one of the country's leading marine science research institutions to help Scottish aquaculture thrive in a competitive global industry. Marine Harvest Scotland (Ltd) has pledged two scholarships to the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Aquaculture, Environment and Society (EMJMD ACES) run by the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS UHI) and in collaboration with the universities of Crete and Nantes. The course is part of the European Union's prestigious Erasmus Mundus programme and gives students the unique opportunity to travel throughout Europe as they learn about sustainable aquaculture. The two-year sponsorship, open to graduates from EU member states, will fund one student per year and includes participation fees and an opportunity to work with Marine Harvest for a period of six months in order to complete their dissertations.

**[Norway targets offshore fish farm innovation.](#) 5 April 2016.**

The Norwegian Ministry of Trade and Fisheries has approved Norway's first development concession enabling Ocean Farming AS, supported by Kongsberg Maritime AS, to build the world's first automated, exposed aquaculture facility. Situated outside of Trondheim, facility has been designed to overcome the challenges of more traditional inshore fish farming facilities by being located in deeper waters, further from the coast. The submerged, anchored fixed structure will float steady in the exposed ocean and is suitable for water depths of 100 to 300 meters (300 to 1,000 feet,) where the aqua biological conditions are more ideal for aquaculture on the fish's terms.

## **Events**

### **Two Bivalve Purification courses**

The Southern Shellfish Training Centre, a Seafish Approved Training Provider, will be delivering the Seafish/REHIS accredited Bivalve Purification Operations Training Course in Porlock (Somerset) on Wednesday 8th June 2016 and Whitstable (Kent) on Monday 13th June 2016. Course details are attached. Please note, we would anticipate that these will be the last industry courses in the south or south east for this year as the final training courses for 2016 are likely to be based in the north west of the country. These courses are suitable for all members of staff working in bivalve purification/depuration and despatch centres (BVPDC) and for new industry entrants. This course is also open to other industry and food professionals who wish to undertake training on the theory and practise of bivalve purification. No prior knowledge or experience is required. This course has been developed in order to provide industry with access to accredited training for all staff involved in the purification and despatch of bivalve molluscs. For more information [email](#)

**Registration now open for GOAL 2016. 16-19 September 2016.**

[Registration Programme](#)

**[3rd International Conference on Aquaculture & Fisheries](#). 29 September 29 – 1 October 2016, London. Call for abstracts. Closing date: 30 June 2016.**

### **Monthly fishmeal news alert**

There is also a monthly Seafish fishmeal industry news e-alert covering news items, legislation and reports. To be added to the mailing list email E: [k\\_green@seafish.co.uk](mailto:k_green@seafish.co.uk)

### **Seafood Ethics Common Language Group (Seafood Ethics CLG)**

Seafish has set up a seafood ethics working group to keep track of ethical issues affecting the seafood supply chain and to encourage dialogue and collaborative action across the UK supply chain. The main outputs will be communicated but if you would like to be added to this mailing list for news updates E: [k\\_green@seafish.co.uk](mailto:k_green@seafish.co.uk)

### **See:**

- **Seafish aquaculture web page:** <http://www.seafish.org/industry-support/aquaculture>
- **For guides and information see:** <http://www.seafish.org/industry-support/aquaculture/aquaculture-support/guides-and-information>
- **For the Aquaculture Common Issues Group minutes and presentations see:** <http://www.seafish.org/industry-support/aquaculture/aquaculture-groups/aquaculture-common-issues-group>
- **Fishmeal news:** <http://www.seafish.org/industry-support/aquaculture/aquaculture-support/fishmeal-and-fishoil>

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