

Aquaculture Oct/Nov 2017 news alert (sent by email 4 December 2017)

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

Aquaculture Common Issues Group meeting

DIARY DATE: The next Aquaculture Common Issues Group meeting will be at Friends House on Wednesday 18 April 2018. If you have any agenda ideas E: [Karen Green](#).

Aquaculture Common Issues Group meeting. 26 September 2017.

Thank you to all those who attended the Aquaculture Common Issues Group meeting at Friends House on Tuesday 26 September. The presentations are on the [website](#) and the draft minutes are attached. Could you please let me have any comments on these by Monday 18 December 2017.

Seafish news and reports

Industry plans for future of the English seafood sector. 29 November 2017.

The seafood supply chain in England is working to create a sustainable and thriving future through an ambitious plan. [Seafood 2040 - A Strategic Framework for England \(SF2040\)](#) sets out a vision for the seafood supply chain. It identifies actions for how the industry can grow to the recommended consumption level of two servings of fish per person per week, while ensuring continued sustainability of supply in both the wild caught and aquaculture sectors. The framework has been created by an expert panel with members from across the seafood value chain including catching, aquaculture, processing, international trade, retail, foodservice and science. It is the first time a full supply chain perspective has been used to develop a plan for the long-term future.

Updated Seafish 'Who's Who in UK Aquaculture' guide. August 2017.

Seafish [UK Domestic Aquaculture - Reports](#) page

Seafish [Guides and information](#) page

[Seafish Market Insight](#) Seafish provides market data on retail, foodservice and supply (imports, exports, landings) to help seafood businesses keep up to date with the latest market information. See [here](#)

Consultations/reviews/funding opportunities/policy guidelines/surveys

UK research bodies launch funding call for aquaculture projects. 1 December 2017. Workshop: 6 December 2017. Application deadline: 23 January 2018.

The UK's Natural Environment Research Council and Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council have launched a funding call for interdisciplinary research and innovation challenges in the aquaculture sector. The two UK research organizations will hold the joint funding call at an event on 6 December in London, with grants of £200,000 to £1.2 million available. An aim of this call is for academics and industry to work together to develop projects that address some of the industry's practical research and development challenges, according to a press release.

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Environment Agency Strategic Review of Charges – your opportunity to find out how it affects you and your members. Nov/Dec 2017.

The Environment Agency is undertaking a review of its regulatory work and associated charging scheme for 2018-23 so that it is financially sustainable and works better for business and the environment. You may already know this through other engagement you have had with us. A formal consultation will be launched on GOV.UK. The EA will be writing to all current charge payers to make them aware of the consultation and how to access more information and provide feedback. The consultation page on GOV.UK will include links to a series of web based audio recordings covering all the different activities authorised under the Environment Permitting Regulations (EPR), e.g. waste, water discharge, groundwater, mining waste, etc. To find out more about the proposals for EPR water discharge and groundwater activities through a series of live and interactive webinars have been arranged on the following dates: 6 December at 11am and 14 December at 2pm. These sessions will last approximately one hour. Please **E Gill Dent** regarding these webinar appointments.

Welsh Government consultation on support for marketing and processing. 1 November 2017.

Welsh Government is currently considering potential options for the future direction of Measure IV.4: Article 69 – Processing of fishery and aquaculture products. To help to do this, they would like to gain a better understanding of the potential levels of interest in this measure. As well as find out about potential projects which might be eligible under this Measure by filling in a short Processing Idea Form, available [here](#) and returning it **E: SMU by Friday 15 December.**

Defra invites feedback on fisheries and/or aquaculture and EU Exit.

Defra are committed to listening to industries concerns regarding matters relating to fisheries and/or aquaculture and EU Exit. If you have any comments **E: FishEUexit**

Certification

ASC and MSC release joint Seaweed Standard. 22 November 2017.

The ASC-MSC Seaweed (Algae) joint standard marks a first for the two certification programs, bringing together expertise in sustainable fishing and responsible aquaculture. The ASC-MSC Seaweed (Algae) Standard applies globally to all locations and scales of seaweed operations, including both harvesting of wild population and cultured seaweed production on farms. The Seaweed Standard will be effective from 1 March 2018. Seaweed production units that wish to enter assessment against the Standard can apply from 1 March 2018, or earlier subject to approval by the ASC-MSC. The Seaweed Standard and associated documentation can be found [online](#).

Number of BAP-Certified Facilities Tops 1,700. 17 October 2017.

Best Aquaculture Practices (BAP) added 273 new facilities to the third-party certification program through the first three-quarters of 2017, bringing the total number of BAP-certified aquaculture farms, processing plants, hatcheries and feed mills to 1,737 worldwide. Of those 273 new facilities, 53 are processing plants, 172 are farms, 24 are hatcheries and 24 are feed mills. Shrimp farms (93) and salmon farms (53) represented the majority of the 172 farms added to the BAP program in the first nine months of 2017. That brings the total number of BAP-certified facilities to 392 processing plants, 1,072 farms, 173 hatcheries and 95 feed mills through the end of September.

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Reports/brochures/web sites/presentations

[Globefish: Low farmed shrimp output for 2017](#). 4 December 2017.

[Globefish: Global production expected to expand by 2.3% in 2017](#). 29 November 2017.

[Globefish: International demand for tilapia steady](#). 29 November 2017.

[Aquaculture Europe 2017 Summary Report](#). 1 December 2017.

Organisers of Aquaculture Europe 2017 have released a summary report of the event. The report contains a wrap-up of the conference, parallel session summaries, and poster awards. The theme of the event was “Cooperation for Growth” and this was addressed by three plenary sessions that paved the way for the parallel sessions of oral and poster presentations derived from a record submission of 752 abstracts.

[Scientific Opinion on Food from the Oceans](#). 29 November 2017.

This Scientific Opinion was delivered by the High Level Group of Scientific Advisors (SAM HLG) to the European Commission. The European Commission requested scientific advice from SAM HLG on extracting more food and biomass from the oceans, in order to inform preparations for the successor of the present European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and on-going development of the overall marine policy portfolio. There are five recommendations. The second points to mariculture (marine aquaculture) as having the biggest potential to increase food from the ocean. As far as Europe's part in this is concerned, this would require raising the strategic priority of mariculture and bringing all available means to bear on facilitating its development – notably marine spatial planning and other such integrated planning and assessment tools.

ARCH UK research priority reports

The ARCH-UK reports have been used as advisory material by BBSRC/NERC to formulate aquaculture research calls, specifically the upcoming 'BBSRC/NERC Joint Call in Aquaculture: Collaborative Research and Innovation'. The eight individual working group reports were formed through meetings/consultations with academia, industry and policy members from across the UK between June-October 2017.

[The eight individual ARCH UK working group reports](#)

[The final ARCH UK aquaculture research priorities report](#)

[Common practices during transport and at slaughter](#). 20 November 2017.

The aim of this study was to gather information on current animal welfare practices in European aquaculture as regards the transport and slaughter of farmed fish, and to analyse the extent that fish welfare issues remain unresolved. The costs of adhering to good welfare practices, the economic situation, effects on competitiveness and other factors were taken into account. The reference period was 2009-2013. The study focused on the five main farmed fish species to provide a general presentation of the current situation in European aquaculture: Atlantic salmon (cold-water marine); common carp and rainbow trout (freshwater), and; European sea bass and gilthead sea bream (Mediterranean marine). The international standards of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on animal welfare during transport and stunning and killing of farmed fish for human consumption were used as a benchmark for assessment of welfare practices. EFSA recommendations on slaughter were also taken into account.

[Salmon exports rise to £483M for first nine months of 2017](#). 13 November 2017.

Salmon exports rise to £483M for first nine months of 2017 – up by 56% compared to same period last year. In the past three months 21,000 tonnes of fresh salmon were

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exported worth £136M, up 29% in value and 25% in volume over the same period last year.

[New FAO Yearbook of fisheries and aquaculture statistics published.](#) 10

November 2017.

The FAO Yearbook of fisheries and aquaculture statistics 2015 has been just officially released. This edition contains the most recent global statistics on capture fishery production, aquaculture production, commodities production and trade, apparent fish consumption derived from food balance sheets as well as statistics on fleets and employment of major producing countries. It is structured into a booklet (containing summary tables, relevant general notes, concepts and classifications, a pull-out map of FAO major fishing areas as well as a brief overview of major trends and issues relating to the individual statistical sets) and a CD-ROM presenting the full yearbook package with all the key information and the complete set of statistical tables.

[SSPO: Report shows 'strong business confidence' in Scottish salmon.](#) 6

November 2017.

A new report shows strong business confidence in the Scottish salmon farming industry, according to the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO). The report's findings included such details as: employment is up by 13%, capital investment remains steady at £63 million for the second year running, and over £390m was spent last year in the Scottish supply chain. The economic impact is particularly evident in the Highlands and Islands, where £164m was spent directly with local businesses. In total, wages increased by 5% to a total of almost £75m.

[State of Sustainability Initiatives Review: Standards and the Blue Economy](#)

This report examines market and performance trends of the nine most prevalent seafood certification schemes, including the Marine Stewardship Council, GLOBAL G.A.P. and Friend of the Sea. The report finds that in 2015 demand from big retailers and restaurant chains pushed suppliers to certify a catch valued at \$11.5 billion USD. Sustainable seafood now accounts for 14 per cent of global production, a dramatic rise from just 0.5 per cent in 2005. The SSI Review is a collaborative effort by the International Institute for Sustainable Development, the International Institute for Environment and Development and the Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade.

General news

[A novel new aquaculture idea, home aquaponics kits, backed by FAO.](#) 1 December 2017.

A novel new idea to give people the ability to grow fish in their own homes using aquaponics kits is picking up momentum, under an FAO initiative to increase global food security. To promote the uptake of this sustainable form of food production, the FAO launched the project **[Advancing Aquaponics: An efficient use of limited resources: Towards a Caribbean Blue Revolution](#)**, in Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Saint Kitts and Nevis.

[Promising feed trials for GM canola.](#) 30 November 2017.

Trials and analyses of feeds including omega-3-rich oil from genetically-modified (GM) canola indicate that it promotes good growth rates in salmon and contains no GM DNA. The omega-3 canola oil, which is extracted from rape plants that have been genetically modified to produce the key fatty acid DHA, is produced by Nuseed in Australia. Analysis by NIFES found no DNA traces of genetically-modified rapeseed, giving hope that it

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might not be classed as a GM product. Nofima is currently undertaking the trials on salmon in both freshwater and seawater facilities on land, in which increasing amounts of the canola oil were added to the feed. A parallel trial has been carried out on fry in warmer water in Australia, to test the omega-3 sources at different growth rates, to detect any effects that occur with rapid growth in early life.

[Salmon and trout producers unite against key barrier to sector growth.](#) 23 November 2017.

Scotland's leading salmon and trout producers have united in a bid to extend the usage and efficacy of the two most environmentally-friendly sea lice treatments. Currently, two possible ways of treating farmed Atlantic salmon against sea lice – a key barrier to sector growth – are to bathe the fish either in freshwater or hydrogen peroxide which quickly breaks down into water and oxygen. Now, in a project being co-funded by the Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre (SAIC), Marine Harvest Scotland and Dawnfresh Seafoods have teamed up with Solvay Interox, Aqua Pharma and academics at the University of Stirling's Institute of Aquaculture to determine what happens when freshwater and hydrogen peroxide-based treatment Paramove® are combined.

[High hopes for growing shellfish in tidal lagoons.](#) 15 November 2017.

Aquaculture within tidal power lagoons present a major opportunity, according to Dr Andy Woolmer, who co-authored a report on the potential that the proposed £1.3 billion Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon project could have for aquaculture, which was supported by Seafish and is on the [Seafish website](#). The proposed development is due to consist of 16, 23-foot diameter hydro turbines, spread along a 6-mile u-shaped breakwater, as well as generate enough electricity for 155,000 homes, with a lifespan of 120 years. If it goes ahead it would be the first time that offshore marine renewable energy generation has been combined with aquaculture.

[Mussel row 'a threat' to Welsh protected status seafood.](#) 14 November 2017.

Mussel gatherers in a Welsh town have claimed red-tape is threatening to wipe out their cottage industry. Conwy mussels' status is protected but the town's "mussel men" have been told they must now use licensed boats to go out to harvest the shellfish. Conwy Council's cabinet agreed to intervene and see if it could take over regulating the business from the Welsh Government. It followed a plea from the town's mussel men to help protect their trade.

[Shellfish sector must increase mussel mass.](#) 14 November 2017.

A new study suggesting ways in which Scottish mussel growers can step up their production levels has been published today. The study was commissioned by the Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers (ASSG) and Crown Estate Scotland in a bid to identify if collaborative investment, for example in vessels, harvesting equipment and infrastructure, might contribute to the growth of shellfish operations in Scotland. While Shetland's mussel industry, which accounts for 74% of Scottish mussel production, may be continuing to grow, farmers consulted as part of the study also suggested that the factors that have contributed to the growth of Shetland's mussel sector – namely good growing conditions and supporting infrastructure plus council & community support – are absent or weaker in Scottish mainland sites. The [Shellfish Critical Mass Modelling study](#) provides useful guidance for planners and other authorities on what might be needed to support the growth of shellfish farming in Scotland

[New UK aquaculture research center to play pivotal part in “Green Brexit” plans. 1 November 2017.](#)

How seafood can be safely and sustainably produced is the focus of research that will be undertaken by the newly-formed Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture Futures in Devon, United Kingdom. Aquaculture research projects in Thailand and India are among the priority research projects that will be taken forward by SAF, a joint project between the Centre for Environment, Aquaculture and Fisheries Science (Cefas), and the University of Exeter. SAF, which will bring together top scientists from around the world, will focus on research in aquatic animal health, food safety and protection of the aquatic environment. Among the current projects that SAF will spearhead include: Newton-funded programs in Thailand, focused on new models for controlling disease in aquaculture; joint aquaculture health projects funded by Newton/BBSRC in India, Bangladesh and Malawi; and 10 joint PhD studentships in aquatic animal health and food safety, funded between 2015 and 2020.

[First spat from Scottish pilot mussel hatchery goes to sea. 27 October 2017.](#)

The first mussel spat reared at the Scottish Shellfish Hatchery Stepping Stone project in Shetland will be transferred to on-growing sites at sea. The positive milestone was announced at the Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers (ASSG) annual conference in Oban. There, industry members were given an update on the £1.7m 30-month collaboration which also involves Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre (SAIC) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. The mussel industry is now estimated to be worth over £10 million a year in Scotland alone. A commercial-scale hatchery would see this value increase further, resulting in higher and more reliable yields, new jobs and greater export potential.

Events in 2017

[Seafish/REHIS accredited Bivalve Purification Operations Training Course on 18 January 2018.](#)

The Southern Shellfish Training Centre, a Seafish Approved Training Provider, will be delivering the Seafish/REHIS accredited Bivalve Purification Operations Training Course in Devon on Thursday 18th January 2018. This course is 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 practice of bivalve purification. No prior knowledge or experience is required. E-mail: training@aquafishsolutions.com

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

Seafood Ethics Common Language Group (Seafood Ethics CLG)

Seafish has set up a seafood ethics 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

See:

- **Seafish aquaculture web page:** <http://www.seafish.org/industry-support/aquaculture>

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- **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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