February 2015

Common Language Group e-alert
(amalgamation of adhoc news alerts issued to CLG circulation list by email in February 2015)

Common Language Group
http://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/discussion-forums/the-common-language-group

Fish stocks
Finding common ground on best practices for trawling. Workshop. 18 and 19 March, Boston.
Following on from the mention is the last news alert Ray Hilborn is holding a workshop on 18 and 19 March 2015 at the New England Aquarium in Boston, MA (immediately after the Boston Seafood Show) to complete the research question prioritisation exercise in relation to trawl impacts; look at the summary of findings to date on the ‘Trawling: finding common ground on best practices for trawling’ project and examine new advances in gear technology to mitigate impacts. Due to the capacity at the NEAq space are limited to 30 attendees (so only one person per organisation). Applications will be reviewed. The aim is an even balance between different sectors to build a broad geographic spread of representation. If you would like a registration form please email Mike Kaiser E: michel.kaiser@bangor.ac.uk as soon as possible (before 12 February 2015).

EU hearing on Maximum Sustainable Yield in Fisheries management.
On Monday 23 February 2015, the Fisheries Committee will hold a hearing on the Maximum sustainable yield in fisheries management. During this hearing both scientific and practical aspects of the implementation of the MSY principle in fisheries management will be discussed with various experts in the field.

EDF launches tool to make fisheries assessments swifter, easier. 28 January 2015.
The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) has launched a new tool to overcome a major hurdle in making fisheries more sustainable: a lack of data. Called the Framework for Integrated Stock and Habitat Evaluation (FISHE), it equips fishermen, marine scientists and other stakeholders with what the EDF calls "a swift, low-cost and highly effective method with which to assess and manage fisheries that lack sufficient fishing data."

IUU
EU ban on Sri Lanka fish exports suspended. 5 February 2015.
According to the Sri Lanka government, the EU ban on local fish exports has been suspended for six months. According to State Minister for Fisheries Dilip Wedaarachchi Wedaarachchi, the EU has given Sri Lanka six months to prevent fishermen in the country from engaging in illegal fishing. In October 2014, the EU proposed to ban Sri Lanka seafood exports, due to the government's failure to demonstrate that it sufficiently addressed illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The ban went into effect from 14 January 2015.
http://www.colombopage.com/archive_15A/Feb04_1423035397CH.php
Trace Register response to the Trace Register Response to the Presidential Task Force consultation on combating IUU Fishing and Seafood Fraud. January 2015.
This covers: What the seafood industry can learn from others about fighting illegal and counterfeit items (such as the diamond, electronics, aerospace and pharmaceutical industries); the critical importance of maintaining data confidentiality as well as a road map for how to do so; examples of digital certificates that can be used to ensure data sharing and confidentiality.
http://www.traceregister.com/PDFs/Trace%20Register%20Response%20to%20the%20Presidential%20Task%20Force.pdf

Pew Unveils Pioneering Technology to Help End Illegal Fishing. 21 January 2015.
The Pew Charitable Trusts launched groundbreaking technology today that will help authorities monitor, detect, and respond to illicit fishing activity across the world’s oceans. The development of Project Eyes on the Seas, as the system is known, furthers a long-term effort by Pew to dramatically reduce illegal or “pirate” fishing. The system is being developed in partnership with Satellite Applications Catapult, a British company established through a U.K. government initiative.

Labelling
Labelfish publication: Traceability and Labelling of Seafood in Atlantic Area Regions. (Portugal, Spain, France, United Kingdom and Ireland). January 2015.
This is an overview of the current situation of seafood traceability and fish labelling including the national and European legislation regulating the seafood chain, fish species identification methods in national legislation, identification of the stakeholders involved, traceability schemes used, transference of information and data elements between stakeholders and finally evaluation of bottlenecks for improved traceability.
http://www.ipma.pt/export/sites/ipma/bin/docs/publicacoes/ipma/Reln3-IPMA.pdf

Consultations
Defra has published a consultation on the second tranche of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). Defra is proposing 23 new Marine Conservation Zones in English inshore and offshore waters and to add new features for conservation in 10 of the first tranche MCZs.
https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine/tranche2mczs?cm_mid=4338437&cm_crmid=2e959938-c8b8-e311-853e-00155d00023d&cm_medium=email

Defra and the Devolved Administrations have published a consultation on proposed measures for implementing the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) to maintain or achieve Good Environmental Status in our seas by 2020.
https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine/msfd-programme-of-measures?cm_mid=4338437&cm_crmid=2e959938-c8b8-e311-853e-00155d00023d&cm_medium=email

Events and initiatives
Seaweb Seafood Summit: Preventing Human Rights Abuses in the Seafood Supply Chain. 30 January 2015.
Libby Woodhatch, Head of Advocacy at Seafish, will be one of the invited panellists on the Preventing Human Rights Abuses in the Seafood Supply Chain, which is one of the key issues to be
discussed at this year’s Summit. Seafish has recently revised the Responsible Fishing Scheme to include Safety, Health and Welfare as one of the core principles and for the first time, RFS will be put forward to attain ISO 17065 accreditation status, making it a globally recognised standard. Seafish will also host a reception for delegates at the Summit to showcase RFS and its new responsible sourcing tool Risk Assessment for Sourcing Seafood (RASS).


Fishing into the Future launched. 29 January 2015.

UK initiative ‘Fishing into the Future’ has been officially launched as a charity, and will serve to showcase what fisheries and fishermen can achieve when shared ambition and a pioneering spirit deliver benefits across the whole of society. One of the first projects will be the piloting of a flagship training programme that seeks to provide fishers with the knowledge to engage in the debate and practical development of sustainable fisheries, and finding ways whereby the fishing industry can contribute to fisheries data collection and enhance understanding of the seas, leveraging the critical insights of those who spend their every day on the water.

http://www.worldfishing.net/news101/industry-news/fishing-into-the-future-launched?utm_source=Seafish+Staff+List&utm_campaign=053a81c82b-Seafish_Media_Review_Friday_30_January_20151&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_ad4c3044f1-053a81c82b-179273041#sthash.KHPJ04Ah.dpuf

Twitter chat: A look at seafood traceability and origin labeling

After a successful first Twitter chat focusing on genetically modified salmon, SeafoodSource will be planning its second Twitter chat on Thursday, 19 February at 2 EST on seafood traceability and origin labeling. SeafoodSource will pose four questions: 1. Do you think seafood origin should be posted wherever seafood is sold? 2. What are the minimum requirements a traceability program should include? 3. Do you think promoting seafood origin would improve or hurt seafood sales? 4. What impact could seafood origin labeling have on seafood fraud, if any?


Standards


Following public consultation the IFFO RS Certification Programme has launched a new version of its IFFO RS standard for marine ingredient producers. This new version (Version 1.6) will cover - in addition to all the previous parts of responsible sourcing and responsible production - basic social and environmental aspects at the factory level. This new version can be downloaded from our website http://www.iffo.net/iffo-rs-standard and will be enforced to all producers and certificate holders from 1 May 2015. In addition:

- The IFFO RS Certification Programme has now become a separate legal entity in its own right, with its own multidisciplinary Governing Board.
- In order to increase the transparency of the standard and to facilitate more robust traceability, a list of MSC fisheries has been added to the raw material section of the RS website, which were provided by some of the IFFO RS certificate holders during the application process.
- The IFFO website also now includes a list of approved IFFO RS by-products from aquaculture sources.
- The new parts of this new IFFO RS Standard V1.6 were open for public consultation for a period of 30 days.

http://www.iffo.net/node/729
Globefish: Developments in Seafood certification

There are a number of ongoing initiatives related to voluntary seafood certification that have the potential to impact international seafood trade, market access and prices through improved transparency and reduced duplication, which is costly to the industry and consumers.

- The Global Seafood Sustainability Initiative (GSSI), a multi-stakeholder consortium of industry, civil society, and intergovernmental agencies, is developing a global benchmarking tool to provide information about certification schemes which come forward for voluntary benchmarking against the GSSI criteria. The structure of the tool was agreed unanimously at the last GSSI steering board meeting on 10-11 December 2014 and will be communicated to the expert working groups in order to finalize the tool. Pilot testing is expected to begin early next year.

- A second initiative follows on a proposal submitted to the ISO Technical Committee on Fish and Aquaculture (ISO/TC234) to develop an ISO sustainability standard for seafood from marine capture fisheries. The ISO/TC234 members accepted the proposal and the first working party met in Trondheim, 17-18 November 2014. The timeline for development of the new ISO sustainability standard is three years. Like the GSSI, the ISO/TC234 sustainability standard is tentatively grounded in the FAO CCRF and related FAO Guidelines.

- A third related activity is a research project to produce a comprehensive Marine Review of seafood voluntary certification, which is the work of a multi-stakeholder non-profit organization, State of Sustainability Initiatives (SSI). This Marine Review includes FAO and GLOBEFISH data, as well as inputs from the seafood certification schemes. It is expected to be launched in mid-2015.


This is an information service provided by Seafish for industry and key stakeholders. The views expressed are not necessarily the views of Seafish.

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