



June 2022

Common Language Group e-alert

(news alerts issued to CLG circulation list by email in June 2022)

<https://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/seafood-issues-groups/the-common-language-group/>

Funding

Funding schemes for the UK seafood industry

This page on the Seafish website has information on key national grant and funding opportunities that are available to UK seafood and marine businesses.

BIM launches €25 million Brexit Blue Economy Scheme to benefit Ireland's Blue economy (3 June 2022)

Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), Ireland's Seafood Development Agency, has opened its Brexit Blue Economy Enterprise Development Scheme for applications for grant funding to enable coastal communities to restructure, reconfigure, retrain, and diversify post-Brexit. The Scheme will be delivered through the existing Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs).

Fisheries and Seafood Scheme: Panel Dates Announced by MMO (19 May 2022)

The Marine Management Organisation has confirmed the first panel dates for the re-launched Fisheries and Seafood Scheme and is inviting applications from the industry.

Second round of applications is open for Marine Scotland Fund (13 May 2022)

A new round of funding to support marine businesses in Scotland has been opened for applications. The Marine Fund Scotland has an overall budget of up to £14m to support fishing, aquaculture and wider marine organisations in coastal communities.

UK Seafood Fund (UK SF): Infrastructure Scheme fund open (Closing date for applications has been extended to 14 June 2022)

This is a first call to access the initial tranche of the total £65 million UKSF Infrastructure fund. The scheme will fund projects that build capacity across the UK fishing sector supply chain through investment in ports, processing and aquaculture infrastructure.

UK SF Skills and Training Scheme (bids open in summer 2022)

The Skills and Training Scheme will provide a one-off fund of up to £10 million to improve training in the seafood industry, including the catching, processing and aquaculture sectors.

Innovate UK Smart Grants (Closing date is 27 July 2022)

UK registered organisations can apply for a share of up to £25 million for game-changing and commercially viable R&D innovation that can significantly impact the UK economy. This funding is from Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation.

BBSRC Business and Academia Prosperity Partnership funding of £11 million (Closing date for applications is 8 September 2022)

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) is inviting applications for funding to support established research partnerships between business and academic institutions.

New reports

[UK food strategy document calls for more seafood industry investment and support](#) (13 June 2022)

A government-backed document aimed at combating rising food costs and establishing a more resilient, healthier, more sustainable, and more affordable food system in the United Kingdom contains suggestions that will likely impact the country's seafood industry. The whitepaper National Food Strategy: An Independent Review for Government contains an independent review of the food system by restaurateur Henry Dimbleby.

[New Report. Brexit: Voices of the UK Fishing Industry](#) (13 June 2022)

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Fisheries has published a new report highlighting the lived experiences of Brexit from members of the UK's fishing industry. As well as drawing attention to the impacts of Brexit on livelihoods, respondents also suggest ways that government can act to support the sector.

[2022 report: overfishing is on the decline, but fish populations aren't yet 100% sustainably managed](#) (June 2022)

Every year, upon the European Commission's request, the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) draws up a report on the health status of fish populations in Europe. The 2022 report confirms the trends observed in the Atlantic over the past 20 years: decreasing overfishing and increasing abundance. However, the situation differs from region to region.

[Defra report into crabs and lobsters mortalities on the north-east coast](#) (2 June 2022)

Defra has published the results of a joint agency investigation into Teesside and Yorkshire Coast crab and lobster mortalities. Between October and December 2021, dead and dying crabs and lobsters were washed ashore in unusually high numbers along parts of the north-east coast of England.

[Plastic Packaging Tax guidance](#) (June 2022)

From 1 April 2022, tax must be paid on any non-recycled plastic packaging manufactured in the UK or imported into the UK. Seafish has published guidance for seafood businesses. The guidance includes: Summary of the tax; who is affected; what to do; and what information to provide.

[Customs and Trade News](#) (June 2022)

This covers the latest progress of FTA negotiations with India and Mexico, joint economic and trade committee held with Vietnam and scrutiny on the Australia FTA.

Seafood is about more than just the food on our plates

Seafish has updated its website providing information on the [ecosystem services and the public goods and benefits from commercial seafood species](#). Also published is the Seafish / MarFishEco report '[UK shellfish industry's role in supporting shellfish ecosystem services and public goods and benefits](#)' which considers the role that fishing and aquaculture play in maintaining and enhancing shellfish ecosystem services, delivering public goods and benefits, and the relevance of this to future marine policy development.

[NFFO announces publication of report into alternative propulsion](#) (13 May 2022)

The National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation (NFFO) has launched a report Electrifying the Fleet – more sustainable propulsion options for the small-scale fishing fleet. The report by the University of Hull was prepared for the NFFO, the Future of Fisheries Alliance (RSPB, MCS, WWF) and the North Sea Wildlife Trusts

[Provisional Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistics 2021 \(11 May 2022\)](#)

This contains a summary of provisional data on fish landings by Scottish registered vessels, the size of the Scottish fishing fleet, numbers of fishers working in Scotland and UK quota uptake in 2021. In 2021, Scottish-registered vessels landed 437,000t of sea fish and shellfish with a value of £542m. This represents an increase of 38,000t (10%) and an increase of £54m (11%) in real terms from 2020. Compared to 2012, in 2021 the tonnage of fish landed was up 20%, and the real-terms value was down 2%. Overall in 2021, the pelagic sector saw increases in tonnage and value compared to 2020, driven by an 8% increase in landings of mackerel.

[Academic paper. 'Destructive fishing' - a ubiquitously used but vague term? Usage and impacts across academic research, media and policy \(25 April 2022\)](#)

This study, part of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative collaboration, provides evidence and recommendations to inform stakeholders in any future pursuit of a unified definition of 'destructive fishing' to support more meaningful implementation of global sustainability goals.

[New initiatives and briefings](#)**[Joint Analytical Cell opens data provision to fight against IUU fishing \(31 May 2022\)](#)**

A new collaboration by three data-driven campaign groups aims to give lower-income coastal states better access to fisheries intelligence, data analysis, and capacity-building assistance in the battle against illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

[How data and tech can help combat illegal fishing \(20 May 2022\)](#)

New technological approaches have unlocked data to 'observe' vessel activities at sea, enabling seafood companies to monitor their suppliers and identify risks of IUU fishing. Armed with this information, the seafood industry can act upon identified risks to eliminate IUU fishing.

[Mapping the world's plastic pollution \(May 2022\)](#)

Global Plastic Watch (GPW) is a digital platform that maps the world's plastic pollution in near real-time using a unique combination of satellite imagery and artificial intelligence.

[News and views](#)**[Open letter to politicians as major brands look for sustainable alternatives to overfished Northeast Atlantic mackerel \(9 June 2022\)](#)**

The North Atlantic Pelagic Advocacy Group (NAPA) has issued an open letter to politicians as major brands look to South America for sustainable alternatives to overfished Northeast Atlantic mackerel, following a lack of decisive action towards sustainable pelagic fisheries management.

[European wholesalers and retailers call for legal and fully-traceable seafood \(8 June 2022\)](#)

Eleven European wholesalers and retailers are speaking with one voice to call on EU Member States and the EU institutions to ensure sustainable fisheries management through their revision of the EU fisheries Control Regulation.

[Government seeks views on sustainable approach to offshore developments \(7 June 2022. Closes 30 August 2022\)](#)

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has launched a consultation to gather views on a sustainable approach to marine development that will help meet the UK's ambitious target to reach net zero. The consultation seeks views on the principles of marine net gain. This will inform policy and approaches to marine net gain implementation.

<https://fishingnews.co.uk/news/north-sea-cod-workshop-planned-this-year/>

ICES plans international workshop on North Sea cod (6 June 2022)

ICES has agreed to hold an international workshop later this year with industry representatives, to look in-depth at the stock situation and stock assessments of North Sea cod. The workshop will address the current situation of the North Sea cod, and work towards a realistic TAC for the stock next year.

[How Well is the Global Treaty to Ban Illegal Fishing Vessels Working?](#) (5 June 2022)

Six years after it came into force, this explores the role of the Port States Measures Agreement in the effort against illegal fishing.

[European Commission fisheries management review: less overfishing, but further efforts to protect marine resources needed](#) (1 June 2022)

The Commission has published its annual review of EU's fisheries management and has outlined its priorities for 2023.

[ClientEarth to sue over illegally lax EU-UK fishing limits](#) (23 May 2022)

ClientEarth lawyers have begun legal action over the unsustainable fishing limits that were agreed between the EU and the UK for 2022.

This is an amalgamation of the news alerts issued in June 2022.