



Aquaculture – February 2021 news alert (sent by email 9 March 2021)

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

Aquaculture Common Issues Group meetings

The minutes and presentations from all the meetings are on the [website](#).

Funding and policy

Irish Government announces €1.8m EMFF grants supporting €4.5m investment in 28 aquaculture enterprises. 5 March 2021.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine announced the award of €1,811,461 in grants to 28 aquaculture companies under their European Maritime and Fisheries Fund Programme. The grant awards will support total investment of €4.5 million in oyster, mussels, trout and seaweed farming. The grants are co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union.

Scottish Seafood Producers Resilience Fund. 4 March 2021. Closing date for an aquaculture business is 23 April 2021.

The £6.45m fund will provide support to eligible shellfish catchers and eligible shellfish and trout aquaculture undertakings. These businesses have lost access to domestic and international food markets as a result of COVID-19, and the difficult trading conditions that have resulted from the end of the transition period following the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

The EU bivalve trade ban is killing business for Britain's shellfish farmers. 22 February 2021.

Nicki and John Holmyard, founders of the UK's largest mussel farming company, Offshore Shellfish, explain why post-Brexit regulations are posing a grave risk to their business.

For information. Increased Government support for fishing and shellfish businesses. 21 February 2021. The scheme closed on 28 February 2021.

Defra has expanded the eligibility criteria for its Seafood Disruption Support Scheme to target catching and shellfish aquaculture businesses which have been affected by a reduction in demand from the hospitality sector in the UK and abroad, as well as disruption of exports to the EU.

UK raises concerns with EU over shellfish exports. 8 February 2021.

Environment Secretary George Eustice has written to the EU Commission regarding the EU's change in position on the export of live bivalve molluscs (oysters, mussels, clams, cockles and scallops). The UK considers that the export of live bivalve molluscs from class B waters can be made in line with the regulations set out by the European Commission and had previously been provided with a draft Export Health Certificate by the commission to enable this trade to resume completely from April 2021.

[UK shellfish sector hit with EU ban. 5 February 2021.](#)

The EU has told British fishermen they are indefinitely banned from selling live mussels, oysters, clams, cockles and scallops to its member states. The UK is not allowed to transport the animals to the EU unless they have already been treated in purification plants. Only shellfish landed in 'class A' waters can currently be transported from the UK to the EU without the need for purification beforehand. But most UK waters are not in that category.

[Reports and resources](#)

[IndexBox new report: 'EU - Molluscs \(Scallops, Mussels, Cuttle Fish, Squid, and Octopus\). 2 March 2021.](#)

See a summary of its analysis on market, forecast, size, trends, and insights.

[Globefish reports. 1 March 2021.](#)

- **[Tight supply saves bass and bream from the worst effects of the pandemic.](#)**
- **[World bivalve market heavily impacted by COVID-19.](#)** The logistic problems created by COVID-19 and resulting border controls and restrictions have resulted in far less products entering international trade.
- **[Shrimp demand may be dampened by recurrence of COVID-19.](#)** Despite lower demand from the hotel, restaurant and catering (HORECA) sector, shrimp imports increased in many markets during the first three quarters in 2020 due to record low prices. Retail demand for fresh and frozen shrimp increased worldwide.
- **[Salmon farmer margins squeezed by COVID-19 impact but 2021 looks brighter.](#)**

[The Grower. January 2021,](#)

[Microplastics warning sounded for aquafeeds. 1 March 2021.](#)

Researchers have found plastics-contaminated samples in fishmeal. Samples from 26 different fishmeal products, from 11 countries on four continents and Antarctica were collected. A wide range of plastics content was found, ranging from 0 to 526.7 n kg⁻¹.

[Quantifying greenhouse gas emissions \(GHG\) from global aquaculture. 22 February 2021.](#)

A new study has quantified the GHG emissions arising from the culture of the main aquatic animals reared for human consumption, i.e., bivalves, shrimps/prawns and finfish (catfish, cyprinids, Indian major carps, salmonids and tilapias). It has shown modest low emission intensity of aquaculture relative to terrestrial livestock.

[Interactive Map and Report to support Dorset and Devon Aquaculture. 26 February 2021.](#)

The Dorset and East Devon Coast has been [mapped](#) as part of a project aiming to help develop sustainable aquaculture across the region while recognising existing marine activity such as military exercise areas and under water hazards such as shipwrecks.

Consultations and deadlines

[Aquaculture Stewardship Council \(ASC\) launches major consultation on proposed aligned Farm Standard. 8 March 2021. Closing date for responses is 7 May 2021.](#)

The aligned Farm Standard will include new Requirements on antimicrobials, social accountability and wildlife protection. It will be split into three principles - legal compliance, environmental impacts and social impacts. The current consultation is looking at the [environmental indicators](#) which will cover all certified species bringing efficiencies and improvements without compromising on quality.

[Aquaculture Stewardship Council \(ASC\) consultation on major project to expand supply chain assurances. 8 March 2021. Closing date for responses is 7 May 2021.](#)

The [consultation](#) covers the development of the ASC Chain of Custody Module, which introduces important requirements specifically for farmed fish. Since 2012, ASC has used MSC's CoC certification to cover ASC certified product supply chains.

[Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre \(SAIC\) PhD funding call. 3 February 2021. Closing date for applications is 25 March 2021.](#)

Up to two PhDs will be funded in this call, covering Scotland's green recovery, the blue economy, fish health and welfare, and environmental modelling. the closing date for applications is 25 March 2021.

News

[Scotland's salmon farmers count the cost of Brexit. 26 February 2021.](#)

The Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO) has published figures showing Scotland's salmon farmers have incurred losses of at least £11 million as a direct result of the extra paperwork, the new layers of bureaucracy, the delays and the confusion caused by the end of the Brexit transition phase.

[Demand for insect protein could hit 500,000 tons by 2030. 24 February 2021.](#)

The demand for insect protein, mainly as an ingredient in feed and pet food, could reach half a million metric tons by 2030, up from today's market of around 10,000 metric tons, predict the authors of a new RaboResearch report.

[FAO declaration supports sustainable aquatic food systems. 22 February 2021.](#)

Over 190 countries have endorsed the first-ever Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, setting a global vision to boost aquatic food systems' contribution to ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition while supporting livelihoods. This was signed at the end of the week-long FAO Committee on Fisheries.

[Steel cage concept set for UK aquaculture debut. 17 February 2021.](#)

A design of aquaculture pen which is billed as "the world's most advanced aquaculture steel cage system" is set to be deployed in Scotland for the first time. The Trident hybrid steel cage was developed to cope with high energy conditions off the coast of British Columbia. The new design has been ordered by salmon producer Loch Duart.

[Providing scope for aquaculture ventures to expand. 8 February 2021.](#)

More than £4.5m is to be invested in expanding the marine enterprise cluster in Argyll, in a move that paves the way for expansion of Scotland's aquaculture sector, and will create more than 30 well-paid jobs.

Seafish further information

- **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: [Karen Green](mailto:Karen.Green@seafish.org.uk).
- [Seafish aquaculture web page](#)
- [Fishmeal news](#)

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