



October/November 2021

**Common Language Group e-alert**

(news alerts issued to CLG circulation list by email in Oct/Nov 2021)

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

**Climate change**

**Scotland's fisheries and climate change survey: Building a resilient and pro-active sector (closing date is 30 November 2021)**

The new Scottish Government survey is to assess the readiness of the Scottish fishing sector for climate action.

**Seafood and climate change – Seafish resources**

- September saw the release of our [climate change adaptation in aquaculture report](#)
- In October we launched our new campaign to raise awareness on [how climate change impacts the seafood industry](#)
- The [Seafood Emissions Profiling Tool](#) has been re-developed to include seafood from aquaculture supply chain.

**Fishing for Solutions – the Climate Catastrophe: The Time for Action is Now (28 October 2021)**

This documentary by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) explores the stark reality of the impact of climate change on the fishing industry, and the previously under-recognized role of sustainable seafood in climate policy.

**Industry commitments**

**Videos: Stakeholders in Global Fishing Industry Call for Acceleration of Harvest Strategies (8 November 2021)**

In a series of videos Pew Trusts speaks to a range of market stakeholders (including processors, retailers and scientists) about why they support calls for greater uptake and implementation of harvest strategies by regional fisheries management organizations.

**WWF'S retailers' commitment for nature (6 November 2021)**

WWF announced that Co-op, M&S, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Waitrose pledged to slash their impact across climate, deforestation and nature by 2030 in '[Retailers Commitment for Nature](#)'.

The five retailers have come together with WWF-UK to commit to taking action across seven areas where food has a disproportionate impact on climate and nature. This commitment is underpinned by the WWF Basket metric. There are a number of commitments for marine sourcing, under its [Blueprint for Action](#). This includes the minimum expectation that all sources are covered by relevant certification schemes (MSC, ASC, BAP, GGAP (for ecological aspects), RFVS (for human rights), RSPCA (for animal welfare) and/or GSSI recognised as appropriate) or by a third party verified equivalent.

**[112 retailers, tuna suppliers urge WCPFC to adopt tuna harvest strategies](#) (4 November 2021)**

112 top supply chain companies, including 17 of the top 20 largest global retailers, have written to the Heads of Delegations of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), urging them to accelerate action to develop comprehensive, harvest strategies across all tuna stocks and prevent the loss of Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Certification.

**[IATTC agrees on new tuna conservation measures for next three years](#) (2 November 2021)**

The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) has adopted new conservation measure for the years 2022 to 2024 for tropical tunas. This includes a 72-day closure of the purse seine fishery with increasing closures to vessels that exceed the annual catch limits, as well as adopting a Port State Measure, by the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC).

**[World's largest seafood companies ramp up commitment to sustainable seafood movement](#) (27 October 2021)**

SeaBOS companies, which represent over 10% of the world's seafood production, have reaffirmed commitments to leading the way on improving the sustainability of seafood throughout the supply chain. As part of the commitment, the CEOs agreed to work toward eliminating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and forced labour, protecting endangered species, phasing out the use of antibiotics, reducing plastic pollution, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

**[MSC suspends certification on ten fish stocks due to state of cod](#) (26 October 2021)**

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) has suspended certification for ten fish stocks due to the state of cod in the North Sea, the Skagerrak and the Kattegat. This includes fishing with Danish-Seine and longline in the North Sea, beam trawling in the Skagerrak and Danish-Seine and net in the Kattegat. The second MSC criterion is that the fishery must not cause irreparable damage to the marine environment, which includes by-catches and bottom impact.

**[Seafood Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs](#) (13 October 2021)**

The 2021 Seafood Stewardship Index (SSI) measures and assesses the performance of 30 of the world's largest seafood companies in four key areas: governance and strategy, traceability, social responsibility and ecosystems. The SSI ranked Thai Union No. 1 overall in 2021, as it did in 2019.

**[Sustainable Fisheries Partnership \(SFP\) expands its Seafood Metrics system to all companies](#) (5 October 2021)**

The SFP Seafood Metrics system is a global system that tracks and monitors seafood sourcing and evaluates a company's sourcing performance. The system is now available as an open-access subscription service to retailers, foodservice operators, and supply-chain companies. It was previously only available to SFP partners.

**Funding**

**[Call for ideas for funded research projects](#) (1 November 2021)**

Three fishing charities have joined forces to support the development of industry-driven scientific research, with funding available to take successful ideas forward. Fishing into the Future, Fishing Animateurs and The Fishmongers' Company want to help connect industry members with scientists so they can access from the Fisheries Industry Science Partnership (FISP) scheme.

**UK Seafood Innovation Fund (SIF) are looking for assessors.**

Cefas are continuing to add to the team of assessors reviewing innovative project ideas from across the UK seafood sector. Assessors remain anonymous and are paid for each application completed. If you are interested in this role, please email [SIF-Assessors@cefass.co.uk](mailto:SIF-Assessors@cefass.co.uk) to apply.

## **Reports and initiatives**

### **Lobsters, octopus and crabs recognised as sentient beings (19 November 2021)**

The scope of the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill has been extended to recognise lobsters, octopus and crabs, and all other decapod crustaceans and cephalopod molluscs, as sentient beings. The move follows the findings of a government-commissioned independent review by the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). The announcement will not affect any existing legislation or industry practices such as fishing. There will be no direct impact on the shellfish catching or restaurant industry. Instead, it is designed to ensure animal welfare is well considered in future decision-making.

- **Seafish statement in response** Seafish is working in collaboration with the Shellfish Association of Great Britain (SAGB) and the [Crab Management Group](#) to explore what guidance is needed. Work on this has started and we will shortly release a review of current industry practices around the handling and despatch of crustacea across the seafood supply chain. This will inform future guidance.”

### **Seafish Kingfisher launches fishing restrictions mapping website (22 November 2021)**

A new online service has been launched by Kingfisher to help fishers navigate commercial fishing gear restrictions in UK waters. This free service allows fishers to view all UK fishing gear restrictions in one place, with complete coverage of all regulatory authorities.

### **2021 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet (18 November 2021)**

The 2021 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet confirms that in 2019, the fleet maintained overall profitability. The report projects similar profitability levels for 2020, despite the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the fleet and fish markets.

### **Tuna companies achieve full compliance with 30 conservation measures (18 November 2021)**

The International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) has announced all tuna companies participating in its sixth annual conservation measures and commitments compliance report are fully compliant with all 30 measures audited.

### **Global Fishing Index release findings (15 November 2021)**

The Global Fishing Index is a comprehensive report on the governance and sustainability of 1,465 fisheries in 142 coastal states. The Index uncovers critical gaps leading to overfishing and calls on governments and businesses to declare their intent and demonstrate action to reverse fisheries decline. Key headlines are that half of the fish stocks are overfished (depleted to less than 40% of their pre-fishing population) and one in 10 have been driven to collapse.

- **Reflection on the Minderoo Foundation’s Global Fishing Index from Ray Hilborn**  
Making blanket statements about the state of global fisheries is not helpful. Overfishing is not a global problem as the report argues, but rather a problem confined to parts of the world where fisheries management is weak.

### **Seafood Processing Survey 2021 (9 November 2021)**

The latest Seafish report highlights how the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and EU exit affected the UK processing sector in 2020 and 2021.

### **Sea A Bright Future recruitment campaign for Scottish seafood Industry (1 November 2021)**

Seafish and the Scottish Seafood Association have launched a new campaign to attract recruitment into the vibrant seafood processing sector by highlighting the amazing job opportunities in Scotland for those looking to start or progress their career. This campaign has a particular focus on encouraging young people leaving school or those looking for a mid-career move.

**[Love Seafood results from spring and summer 2021](#)**

It includes highlights from campaigns on scampi, fish and chips and seafood in foodservice and introduces our campaign focus from Autumn 2021 onwards – encouraging consumers to ‘Bring on better living’.

***This is an amalgamation of the news alerts issued in Oct/Nov 2021.***