



April 2021

Common Language Group e-alert

(news alerts issued to CLG circulation list by email in April 2021)

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

Policy and funding

Trade Bites podcast. The new post-Brexit settlement for fisheries. April 2021.

This covered what exactly has been agreed? Was it ever realistic to expect a better deal? And were we so preoccupied with establishing our rights to catch fish, that we forgot about the question of how we were going to sell them once they were landed?

Dates for the first English Fisheries and Seafood Scheme (FaSS) panel. 21 April 2021.

The Marine Management Organisation, who is administering the new £6.1 million FaSS on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), will hold the first 2021 panel in week commencing 21 June 2021. Any applications that are over £150,000 in total project cost must be considered by the FaSS panel

£6.1 million Fisheries and Seafood Scheme opens for applications. 6 April 2021.

The new Government scheme will provide £6.1 million over the next 12 months to support England's seafood sector, coastal communities and marine environment. Initially the fund will focus on projects that help businesses adapt to life outside the EU's Common Fisheries Policy and recover from the impacts of Covid-19.

Traceability

Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability (GDST) releases implementation metrics rubric. April 2021.

This rubric contains a set of roadmap and implementation indicators to help companies implement the GDST Standards and Guidelines for Interoperable Seafood Traceability Systems, Version 1.0, and assess their progress.

Seafood2030 Issue Brief. Designing the Future of Seafood. 29 April 2021.

This issue brief looks at what is changing in seafood and how companies can prepare and even design the future of seafood.

Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions aims for bigger impact. 20 April 2021.

The [Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions](#) has announced a series of changes to support the organisation's 10-year goal of achieving 75% of global seafood production rated as environmentally sustainable or making verifiable improvement, and making sure safeguards are in place to ensure social responsibility. This is supported by a new Alliance Global Hub of more than 80 entities headquartered in 14 countries working to establish environmental sustainability and social responsibility.

Global Seafood Alliance (GSA) formed by a merger of the Global Aquaculture Alliance and Global Seafood Assurances organizations. 14 April 2021.

The new name reflects the merger and the non-profit organization's growing involvement in wild fisheries through the addition of the Seafood Processing Plant Standard (SPS) Issue 5.0 and the Responsible Fishing Vessel Standard (RFVS). The GSA Board met for the first time on 14 April. To find

out more about the GSA and its assurance programmes they are hosting a [webinar](#) on 26 May 2021 from 4pm to 5.30pm BST

[New study reveals global footprint of support vessels involved in rendezvous at sea. 8 April 2021.](#)

The Global Fishing Watch has analysed thousands of at-sea encounters to determine the areas most at risk of illegal exploitation via transshipping in its latest report Revealing the Supply Chain at Sea: A Global Analysis of Transshipment and Bunker Vessels.

[Fisheries management and certification](#)

[Rapid growth in Marine Stewardship Council \(MSC\) certified tuna. 2 May 2021.](#)

New data published by the MSC shows, with a projected 38% rise in tuna products carrying the MSC ecolabel in 2020-21 alongside a growing number of tuna fisheries committing to be sustainable — almost 30% of the global tuna catch is now MSC certified, and the majority of commercial tuna stocks are at healthy levels of abundance (65%).

[Scientific paper. Global status of groundfish stocks. Ray Hilborn et al. 4 May 2021.](#)

This reviews the status of groundfish stocks using published scientific assessments for 349 individual stocks constituting 90% of global groundfish catch. Overall, average stock abundance is increasing and is currently above the level that would produce maximum sustainable yield (MSY).

[Norway cod and haddock Marine Stewardship Council \(MSC\) certification status. 3 May 2021.](#)

Planned changes to the MSC certification of the North East Arctic cod and haddock fisheries have seen haddock caught in Norway's inshore waters lose its certification, Inshore and offshore North East Arctic cod catch remains MSC certified until further notice and for a maximum six more months.

[UK fisheries negotiations with Norway concluded. 30 April 2021.](#)

Discussions concluded without the UK or Norway reaching an agreement, meaning for 2021 that UK vessels will have no access to fish in Norwegian waters, north or south of 62°N, while Norwegian vessels will not be permitted to fish in UK waters, causing the loss of significant fishing opportunities. For the rest of 2021, it will also mean that quota exchanges will not take place.

[Seafood industry angered by UK-Norway fisheries deal collapse. 3 May 2021.](#)

The bilateral fisheries agreement negotiations between Norway and the United Kingdom that ended with no deal between the two nations has sparked uproar in the regional seafood industry.

[Scientific paper. Evaluating alternative rebuilding plans for mixed stock fisheries. 16 April 2021.](#)

Shows how much catch was lost due to strict rebuilding timelines. Rebuilding plans are needed but the U.S. version gives up a great deal of potential catch and should not be copied by other countries.

[Launch of the new Good Fish Guide. April 2021.](#)

This includes a new, easy-to-use website, a new app and new ratings with 'local' ratings, to better highlight the sustainability of seafood caught and farmed in the UK. The aquaculture and wild capture ratings methodologies remain the same, as well as the traffic light rating system.

[Overfishing continues to pressure Oceans, new United Nations paper warns. 22 April 2021.](#)

The United Nations has issued The Second World Ocean Assessment. It includes grounds for optimism but highlights the many areas where urgent action is needed now to avoid losing marine biodiversity and productivity forever. According to the report, the world's estimated landings of marine capture fisheries increased by 3% to 80.6 million metric tons worth \$127bn from 2012 to 2017. Currently, about 66% of the world's fish stocks are either maximally sustainably fished or

underfished, and this proportion has been growing since 1990. At the same time, 33% of fish stocks, especially at higher trophic levels, are being fished at biologically unsustainable levels.

[Sea-Changers launches new innovation fund to support innovative marine conservation approaches and solutions.](#) May 2021. Closing date for applications is 18 June 2021.

Sea-Changers welcome applications from not-for-profit organisations and companies, who have an idea or a project they believe is a genuinely new and untested solution to the UK's marine conservation challenges. The Innovation fund will take the form of a single award of £2,000.

Seafish

[New appointments to the Seafish board.](#) May 2021.

Chair, Deputy Chair and five new members appointed to our board.

[Businesses and people supported by Seafish.](#) May 2021.

We have two new stories as part of our 'Supported by Seafish' campaign which lets the businesses tell their own story.

This is an amalgamation of the news alerts issued in April 2021.