



September 2021

#### **Common Language Group e-alert**

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

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

#### **Funding**

**[£1.9M Maritime and Fisheries Fund Launches for Northern Ireland](#) (7 October 2021. Deadline for applications is 31 March 2022)**

Financial support is now available for fishing and aquaculture stakeholders in Northern Ireland, replacing the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. Minister Poots has encouraged stakeholders to apply promptly as the funding closes in March next year.

**[The Seafood Innovation Fund \(SIF\) call three opened](#) (6 October 2021. Closing date for applications is 7 January 2022)**

The UK government's Seafood Innovation Fund (SIF) is a research and development (R&D) fund that launched in July 2019. It is now part of the UK Seafood Fund under the Science and Innovation pillar. Call 3 is now open and the programme is looking to fund feasibility studies that can test new ideas or approaches to benefit the UK seafood sector.

**[£24 million for cutting-edge science and fisheries](#) (11 September 2021)**

The UK government announced the first investment from the £100 million UK Seafood Fund to boost science and innovation in the fishing industry. Fishing businesses across the UK will now have access to £24 million of investment to develop technology, trial new gear and support world-class research to improve the productivity and long-term sustainability of the industry.

- The [Fisheries Industry Science Partnerships](#) (FISP) scheme and the existing Seafood Innovation Fund will share the funding allocated to the science and innovation part of the UK Seafood Fund. FISP will collect data to improve and share knowledge of fisheries and aquaculture to support sustainable fisheries management. This will be done through collaboration between the fishing and seafood industry and research institutes. The FISP scheme will open on 20 October 2021.

**[Marine Stewardship Council \(MSC\) Ocean Stewardship Fund 2022 is now open for applications](#) (17 September. Application deadlines vary)**

The Fund offers over £1 million in grants dedicated to support sustainable fishing worldwide. Fisheries, scientists, NGOs, and postgraduate students are invited to apply for grants of up to £50,000 each, available across four different strands of funding.

#### **Climate change**

**[Climate change and the seafood industry](#) (14 October 2021)**

We're highlighting the importance of both mitigation, reducing our contributions to climate change; and adaptation, preparing for and responding to the impacts of a changing climate. We've created resources to highlight the challenges and opportunities that these factors bring for seafood businesses. This includes a [short film](#) to give an overview of how climate change impacts seafood and case studies which show how the industry is already responding to climate change.

**[New handbook to help manage fisheries in a changing climate](#) (21 September 2021)**

The 'Adaptation of fisheries management to climate change handbook' is designed to help fisheries managers and operators identify effective responses to climate change by working through an evidence-based process. It has been developed by CSIRO, Australia's national science agency, with the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA).

**[BRC webinar. Climate Action Roadmap](#). Wednesday 27 October. 2.00pm to 2.45pm.**

As part of British Retail Consortium (BRC) Climate Action Week (25-29 October) they are hosting a series of events to showcase initiatives and good practice being undertaken by UK retailers on the journey towards Net Zero. They are launching a Climate Action Roadmap to help influence/shift consumer choices.

**[Blue carbon briefing note](#) (6 September 2021)**

The Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST) has published a policy briefing note on blue carbon which is stored in marine ecosystems, and is impacted by the management of those ecosystems. This note summarises the marine ecosystems in the UK that contribute to these processes, their current and potential future extent, and pressures on them.

**[Fisheries management](#)**

**[Northeast Atlantic pelagic stocks](#)**

**[Marine Stewardship Council \(MSC\) calls for urgent government action to protect vital fish stocks in the Northeast Atlantic](#) (1 October 2021)**

MSC analysis of the data shows that in the last six years alone, total combined catches of mackerel, Atlanto-Scandian herring and blue whiting have exceeded sustainable levels by 34%: this is more than 4.8 million tonnes of fish which, if the scientific advice had been followed, should have been left in the sea (2).

**[Politicians have failed Northeast Atlantic pelagic stocks](#) (1 October 2021)**

In this commentary by Tom Pickerell from NAPA asks if €244 billion will change their minds? Some of the world's largest seafood companies are calling for fisheries ministers to do one simple thing: agree.

**[ICES advice shows need to bring pelagics under sustainable management](#) (30 September 2021)**

- ICES hikes North Sea herring catch advice 45% for 2022 - the advised catches of 530,000 metric tons would be up 49% on the agreed 2021 total allowable catch.
- The advised 2022 catch for Northeast Atlantic mackerel is no more than 794,920 tonnes; a 6.7% reduction from the 2021 catch advice.
- For Atlanto-Scandian herring the advised catch is no more than 598,588 tonnes; an 8% reduction from the 2021 catch advice.
- The advised 2022 catch for blue whiting is no more than 752,736 tonnes; a 19% reduction from the 2021 catch advice.

**[Seafood industry wants Northeast Atlantic coastal states to compromise on pelagic fishery catches](#) (27 September 2021)**

In an open letter to coastal states ministers and their delegations, the North Atlantic Pelagic Advocacy Group (NAPA) – as a major purchaser of pelagic fish – has warned that setting catch levels for North East Atlantic pelagic stocks above the established scientific advice year-on-year is an unacceptable threat to shared-stock fisheries. They want to coastal states taking a leadership position and commit to science-based management of Northeast Atlantic mackerel, Atlanto-

Scandian herring, and Northeast Atlantic blue whiting. NAPA represents more than 40 retailers, foodservice companies, and suppliers from inside and outside the European Union.

### **General**

#### **[ClientEarth reveals culprits behind unsustainable fishing limits in the EU \(27 September 2021\)](#)**

A dossier of files compiled by ClientEarth show that some countries like Ireland, France and Spain have consistently pushed for unsustainable fishing limits in the Northeast Atlantic.

#### **[State of emergency in the English Channel and southern North Sea \(13 September 2021\)](#)**

In a joint statement English fishermen, together with local fishing businesses, Greenpeace UK, Angling Trust and New Economics Foundation are calling on the UK government to take immediate and urgent action to protect coastal livelihoods and the health of our oceans. Declaring a “fishing emergency” they are asking for permanent bans on supertrawlers, bottom-trawlers, and fly-shooters in all marine protected areas more than 12 nautical miles from the coast in the English Channel; in addition to a ban on pelagic trawlers over 55 meters and fly-shooters in the English Channel and Southern North Sea.

#### **[Government sets out pragmatic new timetable for introducing border controls \(14 September 2021\)](#)**

The government has set out a pragmatic new timetable for introducing full import controls for animal-based goods, including seafood products, being imported from the European Union to the United Kingdom. Full customs declarations and controls will be introduced on 1 January 2022 as previously announced, although safety and security declarations will now not be required until 1 July 2022.

### **Initiatives and reports**

#### **[Updated Good Fish Guide \(11 October 2021\)](#)**

The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) has released its biannual update to the Good Fish Guide.

#### **[Sustainable seafood sales reached an all-time high as shoppers cooked at home in 2020-21 \(5 October 2021\)](#)**

New figures released by the MSC show that the volume of independently certified sustainable seafood sold with the MSC label increased nearly 6% between April 2020 and March 2021. In total 1,267,000 tonnes of MSC labelled seafood were sold globally, compared with 1,197,000 tonnes the year before.

#### **[Marine Management Organisation UK fishing industry in 2020 statistics now published \(30 September 2021\)](#)**

The publication is a summary of the UK fishing fleet and its activity at sea; how much fish has been caught and landed; how long they spend at sea; and how the fish is traded. This shows that while the catch volume was slightly higher than in 2019, the catch value fell 16%.

#### **[Revised programme for Seafood 2040 Strategic Framework \(Seafood 2040\) \(September 2021\)](#)**

After a year-long review process the [SF2040 programme](#) has revised the original 25 recommendations that support a thriving and sustainable English seafood industry. As a result the 25 are now 19 and continue to support the entire English seafood supply chain with concise, meaningful actions.

**[Seafood Scotland publishes vision for Scottish Seafood post-Brexit](#) (25 September 2021)**

The aim of this project was to outline the current state of play and the hurdles which the industry is facing and will need to overcome in the coming months and years.

**[Love Seafood encourages consumers to Bring on Better Living](#) (22 September 2021)**

From October onwards, Love Seafood will encourage consumers across the UK to 'Bring on Better Living', showcasing how eating seafood can fuel the nation to live better. Marketing activity will focus on reaching target audiences when they're planning or buying their next meal and highlight why seafood is a great choice.

**[Scottish Nephrops Industry report](#) (20 September 2021)**

This report by the Scottish Nephrops Working Group includes recommendations for delivering a profitable, sustainable and fair supply chain for the langoustine (nephrops) industry with proposals to help recover and develop new markets; to improve efficiency, environmental sustainability and product quality; to encourage investment and innovation; and to increase the information available across the supply chain.

**[2021 Snapshot of Large-Scale Tropical Tuna Purse Seine Fishing Fleets](#) (16 September 2021)**

The International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) has updated its Large-Scale Tuna Purse Seine Fishing Fleets report. The total number of purse seine vessels, calculated based on data from the five tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), has increased from 1,721 in 2020 to 1,855 now.

**[Blue Food Assessment](#) (15 September 2021)**

The Blue Food Assessment (BFA) has published five papers which provide a uniquely detailed assessment of the various environmental pressures of aquatic food production, highlights aquatic food diversity and its nutritional contributions. Four further papers are due. The BFA is an international joint initiative that brings together over 100 scientists from more than 25 institutions. The Stockholm Resilience Centre at Stockholm University and Stanford University are lead science partners and EAT is the lead impact partner.

**[Eurobarometer: EU consumers stay loyal to fish and seafood despite COVID-19 crisis](#) (9 September 2021)**

Nearly two thirds of Europeans have fish on their menu several times per month, according to the latest Eurobarometer on EU consumer habits regarding fishery and aquaculture products. The COVID-19 crisis does not seem to have affected significantly the consumption of seafood within the EU, although a slight decrease (-6 percentage points) is observed since 2018, especially for the biggest consumers. Quality and price remain the most important purchasing factors, while demand for more consumer information has increased.

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