



May 2022

Common Language Group e-alert

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

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

Funding

Funding schemes for the UK seafood industry

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

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.

Export package launched to promote world-class UK seafood overseas (7 May 2022)

UK Government has launched a Seafood Exports package to promote UK seafood in new and existing markets overseas. This is the final part of the £100m [UK Seafood Fund](#).

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)

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-seafood-fund-skills-and-training-scheme>

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.

UK SF Infrastructure Scheme – Call for Assessors (please register your interest by 27 May 2022)

The UK SF Infrastructure Scheme is looking for economists, social scientists, environmental scientists, and industry experts, available in July, to assist in the evaluation of Scheme applications being submitted to the Scheme. Assessors will be remunerated and will only carry out assessments in their areas of expertise.

Innovate UK Smart Grants (25 April 2022. 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 (3 May 2022. 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.

[Commission approves €45 million Irish support measure for fishery-processing sector in the context of Brexit \(10 May 2022\)](#)

The European Commission has approved a €45 million Irish scheme to support the fish-processing sector affected by the effects of the withdrawal of the UK from the EU. The scheme will run until 31 December 2023. The beneficiaries are small and medium-sized enterprises active in the processing and preserving of fish, crustaceans and molluscs

Fisheries management

[US fish stocks continue era of rebuilding and recovery \(13 May 2022\)](#)

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 2021 Annual Report of 460 US fish stocks showed more than 90% of stocks were not subject to overfishing, and 80% had population sizes sufficient to be considered not overfished. The number of stocks on the overfishing list stayed at 26, and the number of overfished stocks slightly increased to 51, up from 49.

[NAPA criticises Faroe Islands for unilaterally setting pelagic quotas \(10 May 2022\)](#)

The Status Quo is unsustainable', says the [North Atlantic Pelagic Advocacy](#) global supply chain collective, as the Faroes adds to the list of Coastal States setting pelagic quotas before sharing agreement is reached.

[Northeast Atlantic Pelagics briefing sheet \(April 2022\)](#)

A new facts sheet from the Marine Stewardship Council accuses Northeast Atlantic coastal states of continued overexploitation of pelagic stocks, and losing sight of the urgent need for a quota sharing agreement for North East Atlantic pelagic fish stocks.

[New data reveals a record-breaking year for sustainable tuna \(2 May 2022\)](#)

According to the MSC 39% of the world's commercial tuna catch is now certified as sustainable to the MSC Standard.

[ISSF focusing on advancing sustainability of tuna fisheries \(13 May 2022\)](#)

The International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) has released its 2021 annual report, which this year it titled 'Transparent Accountability Across Tuna Fisheries.'

Advice, initiatives and briefings

[Tesco and WWF launch accelerator programme to make food supply chain more sustainable \(22 May 2022\)](#)

Tesco and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) have developed a new funding accelerator programme aimed at start-ups to help reduce the environmental impact of the retailer's food supply chain. The winning start-ups will be awarded £150,000 to scale their projects with their partner suppliers.

[New app focusing on traceability in commodity supply chains \(12 May 2022\)](#)

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has released a new free, cloud-based smartphone app and desktop web portal app (transparencyC), in collaboration with Republic Systems, focusing on traceability in commodity supply chains.

[FAO and FishSource collaborate to create universal IDs for world's major fisheries \(5 May 2022\)](#)

The Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are working together to adopt the standards used in FishSource to establish unique, standardized IDs for the world's major fisheries. These universal IDs will streamline seafood supply chains, increase transparency, and improve government data collection.

[Key challenges and emerging issues from the UK Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership \(MCCIP\) community 2022](#)

MCCIP has published a suite of outputs on 'responding to key challenges in UK marine climate change', building on the evidence presented in the latest MCCIP report card. They provide a snapshot of the key issues facing the UK marine climate change community and guidance on how to address them.

[On The Hook campaign](#) (April 2022. Closing date 5 July 2022)

The On The Hook campaign group has launched a consultation to gather views from all stakeholders on the strengths and weaknesses of the MSC program, and on constructive suggestions for its improvement.

- [MSC response to the On the Hook external review](#) (13 April 2022)

[Environmental NGOs form new partnership to combat bycatch](#) (18 April 2022)

The Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP), Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC), and Birdlife International have formed a new partnership to protect marine wildlife from bycatch.

The new partnership intends to work directly with major retailers, brands, and foodservice companies to conduct bycatch audits. The results of this data will be made available, not only to companies, but to the public, via the transparency platform Ocean Disclosure Project.

[Capacity Development Portal Application tool to tackle IUU fishing](#) (April 2022)

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations tool aims to bring together information on capacity development projects to support States in combatting IUU fishing that are planned or implemented around the world. The portal will store information on each project to share best practice and prevent duplication of effort.

News and reports

[World seafood map - Seafood trade keeps growing](#) (May 2022)

New data from Rabobank shows global seafood demand has rebounded strongly post-Covid-19, adding USD 13bn of trade in 2021. This is driven by growing demand for high-value seafood in the US, EU, and China. This soaring demand for fishery and aquaculture products has positioned seafood as the most traded animal protein.

[Millions of tonnes of dead animals: the growing scandal of fish waste](#) (9 May 2022)

This article in the Guardian refers to the global catch being dumped at sea, lost on land or left to rot in shops and fridges, and is being wasted like never before – hurting not only the oceans but the nutrition of billions of people. Two scientists are quoted who encourage more people to opt for frozen fish, which could reduce demand for fresh fish in grocery stores, and limit the amount that is lost in retail and people's homes.

[Public consultation on sustainable EU food system](#) (28 April 2022. Closes 21 July 2022)

This initiative aims to make the EU food system sustainable and to integrate sustainability into all food-related policies. It will lay down general principles and objectives, together with the requirements and responsibilities of all actors in the EU food system.

[92% of fish discarded in EU fisheries linked to trawling - WWF study](#) (11 April 2022)

New WWF research reveals that 92% of recorded fisheries discards in the EU come from 'bottom trawl fisheries'.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing

[Revealing global risks of labor abuse and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing \(5 April 2022\)](#)

A new study conducted by Academics from Stanford University, Lancaster University and Stockholm University's Stockholm Resilience Centre with partners, has provided insights into the extent of labour abuse and illegal fishing risks among fishing fleets around the world. Of more than 750 ports assessed around the world, nearly half are associated with some risk of one or both practices. Two main underlying risk factors emerged: a vessel's flag state, and the type of gear it carries onboard could be pointers to its illegal activities at sea.

[2012 Cape Town Agreement to enhance fishing safety \(April 2022\)](#)

The International Maritime Organization is raising awareness of the 2012 Cape Town Agreement to help bring it into force. In 2019, more than 50 States committed to ratify the 2012 Cape Town Agreement by 11 October 2022.

[EU regulation prevents abusive reflagging, but profits from illegal fishing can still enter EU \(5 May 2022\)](#)

A new assessment by the EU IUU Fishing Coalition has found the EU has addressed loopholes that previously allowed its fishing vessels to rapidly and frequently change flags to evade fisheries laws, a new assessment by the EU IUU Fishing Coalition has found. However, seafood products caught by vessels fishing in countries that fail to tackle IUU fishing may still make their way to the EU market, or the proceeds of these activities end up in the pockets of EU companies.

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