



January 2021

Common Language Group e-alert

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

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

UK exit from the EU

EU-UK Trade support updates

We're regularly updating our guidance to help businesses understand the new rules for trading with the EU. Our latest update includes a recording of last week's Rules of Origin webinar.

£23 million in financial support for the UK's fishing businesses that export to the EU. 19 January 2021. The scheme opened on 9 February. Deadline for applicants is 28 February

The fund will be targeted at fishing export businesses who can evidence a genuine loss in exporting fish and shellfish to the EU. The scheme will be targeted at small and medium enterprises and the maximum claim available to individual operators will be £100,000. [Seafood Disruption Support Scheme](#)

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.

EU shellfish import ban indefinite, UK fishing industry told. 2 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.

New funding package announced for Scottish seafood businesses. 3 February 2021.

A new £7.75 million funding package will offer support to fishermen, seafood businesses and ports, and harbours threatened by the ongoing effects of coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU Exit. It includes £6.45 million for the Seafood Producers Resilience Fund which will provide support to eligible shellfish catchers and producers, in addition to trout farmers who have faced issues exporting to the EU and have lost access to domestic food markets as a result of COVID-19.

Statutory guidance. How to export wild caught marine fishery products to the EU. January 2021.

Defra has signposted the resources available to help exporters comply with the EU's customs system, correctly fill in Catch Certificates and Export Health Certificates, and other administrative aspects.

[Fisheries Transition - Stakeholder Engagement Presentations in Northern Ireland](#). 19 January 2021.

The presentations shown at fisheries Brexit transition stakeholder engagement events run jointly by the Food Standards Agency (FSA), the Port Health Authorities (PHAs) and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

[Risks to North Sea fish stocks and wildlife if post-Brexit fishery negotiations fail to reach agreement on quotas and access to UK waters: Extended Technical Report](#). January 2021.

Unless a negotiated agreement can be reached to resolve these different views on quota allocation there is a risk that unilateral actions will result in the combined catches by all states exceeding the levels required for long-term maximum sustainable yields. [Summary report](#)

[Brexit and bringing back Scotland's fish – The Long Read](#). 28 January 2021.

Fairly wide ranging NGO article on Brexit, fisheries management and underlying environmental issues

[Climate change](#)

[Research paper. Let more big fish sink: Fisheries prevent blue carbon sequestration—half in unprofitable areas](#).

Globally, 43.5% of the blue carbon extracted by fisheries in the high seas comes from areas that would be economically unprofitable without subsidies. Limiting blue carbon extraction by fisheries, particularly on unprofitable areas, would reduce CO2 emissions by burning less fuel and reactivating a natural carbon pump through the rebuilding of fish stocks and the increase of carcasses deadfall.

[United Nations Climate Change Conference, Glasgow](#). November 2021. The Expression of Interest process closes at 17:00 GMT on Friday 5 March 2021.

UK businesses and organisations keen to showcase their ambitious net zero commitments are invited to consider applying to get involved in the UK Government's managed spaces at the November 2021 Summit in Glasgow.

[European Parliament takes a strong stance to protect the welfare of wild-caught fish](#). 25 January 2021.

The European Parliament has adopted the own-initiative report "More fish in the seas?" by French MEP Caroline Roose. In this report, the European Parliament calls for strong measures to protect not only the oceans but also the welfare of wild-caught fish.

[Fisheries management](#)

[Fishing Daily podcast – North Atlantic Pelagic Advocacy Group \(NAPA\)](#). 7 February 2020.

Oliver McBride speaks to Tom Pickerell, Project Lead with NAPA on how this is progressing.

[Europeche calls for 'changed narrative' around Europe's fishing sector](#). 5 February 2020.

The industry body wants to recognise the sector as part of the solution to global environmental threats - it's good for your health and it's good for our planet with CO2 emissions from fishing already down by 40%.

[FAO to develop at-sea transshipment guidelines](#). February 2021.

FAO's Committee on Fisheries has agreed to formally develop international transshipment guidelines.

Consultations

[Marine Management Organisation launches consultation on four of England's Marine Protected Areas including banning bottom-trawling in protected zones. 1 February 2021. Consultation closes 28 March 2021.](#)

Areas include: Dogger Bank Special Area of Conservation; Inner Dowsing, Race Bank and North Ridge Special Area of Conservation; South Dorset Marine Conservation Zone; and the Canyons Marine Conservation Zone.

[Northern Ireland consultation on fisheries management in Marine Protected Areas \(MPAs\). Closing date 22 February 2021.](#)

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland (DAERA) consultation covers the development of fisheries management measures for MPAs and the establishment of scallop enhancement sites in the Northern Ireland inshore region.

[See the latest news on the Love Seafood campaign on the Seafish website.](#)

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