



Aquaculture – March 2021 news alert (sent by email 1 April 2021)

This Seafish aquaculture industry news e-alert covers news items, legislation and reports.

Aquaculture Common Issues Group meetings

The minutes and presentations from all the meetings are on the [website](#).

Funding and policy

Scottish Seafood Producers Resilience Fund. 4 March 2021. Closing date for an aquaculture business is 23 April 2021.

The £6.45m fund will provide support to eligible shellfish catchers and eligible shellfish and trout aquaculture undertakings. These businesses have lost access to domestic and international food markets as a result of COVID-19, and the difficult trading conditions that have resulted from the end of the transition period following the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

Marine Scotland new Live Bivalve Molluscs and scallop impact survey launches. 24 March 2021. Closing date 16 April 2021.

A survey has been launched by the Scottish Government, to understand the impact of the barrier to trade in exporting Live Bivalve Molluscs (LBM's) (including scallops) to the European Union and/or Northern Ireland.

Horizon Europe structure and first calls. March 2021.

The UK can participate in Horizon Europe and €70m funding will be allocated to aquaculture. Organic production and alternative proteins are among the key areas of interest for the first call. Building on the lessons learned from previous European projects will be important and later calls will include opportunities to develop Artificial Intelligence (AI), data and robotics solutions for aquaculture.

News articles and reports

Seaspiracy documentary (Netflix). Broadcast 24 March 2021.

Covers fish farming. The focus is: farmed fish are fed wild-caught fish – 'simply wild fishing in disguise; farmed salmon would actually be grey if it wasn't fed a chemical in its food that gives it its famous pink colour; lice infestations, contaminants and fish welfare.

- **Aquaculture Stewardship Council response: Why we believe responsible aquaculture is more important than ever. 25 March 2021.**
- **GAA article. Seaspiracy film assails fishing and aquaculture sectors that seem ready for a good fight as industry either shrugs or slugs it out (26 March 2021).**

University of Stirling explores aquaculture's progress over the past two decades. 24 March 2021.

The study explored the progress of the aquaculture industry over the last 20 years - highlighting an important move towards sustainable growth and pointing to even more opportunity for development.

[Assessing the environmental impacts of aquaculture.](#) March 2021.

Every food production system generates impacts and a step-by-step approach can help understand where strategic thinking is needed to improve current processes in relation to water aeration, pumping, etc) or feed combinations.

[New guide encourages coastal communities in Scotland to engage with seaweed aquaculture.](#) 22 March 2021.

The guide, commissioned by the Sustainable Inshore Fisheries Trust (SIFT), looks at the potential benefits and disadvantages of seaweed cultivation, and explains the policy and legal framework which applies.

News

[Native oyster beds to help clean Britain's coastal waters.](#) 24 March 2021.

A project to return native oysters to the UK in a bid to improve the health of coastal waters will start growing thousands of the shellfish beneath harbour pontoons. Around 4000 mature oysters will be installed in six harbours across Scotland, the North East of England and Wales as part of the Wild Oyster project.

[Measuring & Accelerating Performance of global seafood supply \(Seafood MAP\).](#) 30 March 2021.

Seafood MAP is a digital platform to promote sustainability practices within the seafood sector by allowing every seafood industry actor to share their sustainability goals or journeys.

[The European Union backs growth of organic aquaculture.](#) 26 March 2021.

A new Action Plan for the development of organic production aims to boost the production and consumption of organic products in Europe and aims to “significantly” increase organic aquaculture output in the union.

Consultations and deadlines

[Aquaculture Stewardship Council \(ASC\) launches major consultation on proposed aligned Farm Standard.](#) Closing date for responses is 7 May 2021.

The current consultation is looking at the [environmental indicators](#) which will cover all certified species bringing efficiencies and improvements without compromising on quality.

[Aquaculture Stewardship Council \(ASC\) consultation on major project to expand supply chain assurances.](#) Closing date for responses is 7 May 2021.

The [consultation](#) covers the development of the ASC Chain of Custody Module, which introduces important requirements specifically for farmed fish.

Seafish further information

- **Monthly fishmeal news alert.** There is also a monthly Seafish fishmeal industry news e-alert covering news items, legislation and reports. To be added to the mailing list email E: [Karen Green](#).
- [Seafish aquaculture web page](#)
- [Fishmeal news](#)

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