



April/May 2022

Fisheries Management and Innovation Group news alert

<https://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/seafood-issues-groups/the-fisheries-management-and-innovation-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.

Fisheries and Seafood Scheme: Panel Dates Announced by MMO (19 May 2022)

The Marine Management Organisation has confirmed the first panel dates for the re-launched Fisheries and Seafood Scheme and is inviting applications from the industry.

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](#).

MPs to look at fund for fishing and seafood sector (12 April 2022)

The House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Committee has sought evidence on a government scheme to promote the long-term future and sustainability of the fisheries and seafood sector, known as the UK Seafood Fund UK SF. This closed on 10 May 2022.

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)

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.

Next round of support funding for fishing businesses and coastal communities announced (5 April 2022)

The latest round of awards from the first year of the Marine Fund Scotland (MFS) has provided fishing businesses and marine organisations in coastal communities with £7.4 million in funding

Consultations and surveys

Scotland opens consultations on mandatory REM in fisheries (Closes 7 June 2022)

The consultation seeks views on the rollout of REM to the scallop and pelagic fleet segments, and initial views on REM applied across other sections of the fleet.

[Scotland's Future Catching Policy consultation](#) (Closes 7 June 2022)

This consultation seeks the views of stakeholders on Scotland's Future Catching Policy (FCP). This will establish a new approach to managing sea fishing activities within Scottish waters and will ensure that the right management measures are in place to support reasonable and pragmatic decision making.

[DAERA consultation on requirement for VMS for under 12-metre fishing vessels](#) (Closes 3 June 2022)

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs has announced the launch on a consultation on proposals for vessels monitoring systems to be required on under 12-metre fishing vessels in the Northern Ireland fleet and for other 12-metre vessels operating in Northern Ireland waters.

[Fuel and propulsion](#)

[NFFO announces publication of report into alternative propulsion](#) (13 May 2022)

The National Federation of Fishermen's Organisation (NFFO) has launched a report Electrifying the Fleet – more sustainable propulsion options for the small-scale fishing fleet. The report by the University of Hull was prepared for the NFFO, the Future of Fisheries Alliance (RSPB, MCS, WWF) and the North Sea Wildlife Trusts

[Modelling impacts of the rising price of fuel](#) (8 April 2022)

Arina Motova, Chief Economist at Seafish explains how we've modelled the impacts of increasing fuel prices on the seafood supply chain and shares tips on fuel efficiency. A [presentation](#) on economic modelling analysis on the impact of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict on UK seafood sector, covers an impact assessment of the fuel price on the fishing fleets and potential impacts on the processing sector.

[APPG event recording and Q&A. The future of fuel for fishing.](#)

This All Party Parliamentary Fisheries Group (APPG) webinar provided an overview of the current crisis from a number of perspectives, including how support from the government or other bodies could help the sector, and how changes to technology and regulations could influence vessels to transition to other fuels or energy sources.

[Marine management initiatives](#)

[Scallop potting with lights: A novel, low impact method for catching European king scallop \(Pecten maximus\)](#) (August 2022)

This paper describes, for the first time, that scallops can be attracted into static fishing gear using LED lights. This novel finding presents an opportunity for the development of a new, low impact fishing method for scallops.

[Outer Hebrides fisheries management pilot reports successful first year](#) (11 May 2022)

A locally-led shellfish management pilot in the Outer Hebrides has yielded positive impacts for fishing businesses and the environment in its first year.

[Marine Protected Areas \(Bottom Trawling\) Bill](#) (6 May 2022)

This Bill to regulate and limit the practice of bottom trawling in marine protected areas, and for connected purposes, had its second reading in the House of Commons on 6 May 2022.

[Scottish fishing technology adopted as new global standard](#) (29 April 2022)

In collaboration with Marine Scotland, ICES has adopted Scottish-designed technology to obtain more accurate data on North Sea demersal fish populations.

[MPs examine protecting whales and other marine mammals](#) (29 April 2022)

The House of Commons EFRA Committee is running an inquiry into issues affecting marine mammals such as whales, dolphins and porpoises. The investigation will cover marine mammals in UK waters and worldwide. The aim is better to understand the role that the UK can play in protecting these creatures.

[Dolphin bycatch from fishing practices unsustainable](#) (28 April 2022)

An international team of researchers, led by scientists at the University of Bristol, have developed a method to assess sustainable levels of human-caused wildlife mortality, which when applied to a trawl fishery shows that dolphin capture is not sustainable.

[Updated ICES Roadmap for bycatch advice on protected, endangered and threatened species \(PETS\)](#) (26 April 2022)

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) has updated and republished this roadmap which provides a guide for ICES to strengthen its advice on incidental bycatch. It now includes species lists of PETS seabirds, fish, and marine mammals of bycatch relevance for each ICES ecoregion.

[New MMO byelaws to restrict fishing in four Marine Protected Areas \(MPAs\)](#) (13 April 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-uses-brexit-freedoms-to-protect-our-seas>

After extensive consultations, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has used new powers under the Fisheries Act 2020 to introduce byelaws banning bottom towed fishing gear - and static gear in some instances - in four MPAs, including Dogger Bank. The measures will come into force on 13 June 2022.

[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'.

[New Global Industry Alliance launched to tackle sea-based marine plastic litter](#) (1 April 2022)

A Global Industry Alliance (GIA), led by the UN Global Compact, has been launched to tackle sea-based marine plastic litter through the GloLitter Partnerships Project.

[Project Fisheye successfully accelerates development of new underwater camera](#) (31 March 2022)

Project Fisheye, led by SafetyNet Technologies and part funded by The Marine Management Organisation, has come to an end after three intense months. The project has successfully accelerated the development of a new underwater camera for commercial fishing.

[International agreement that fish stock surveys need to improve](#) (29 March 2022)

Skippers and industry representatives from the main North Sea fishing nations have agreed to work together to improve the scientific surveys that inform international cod quotas.

[Launch of European Bottom Fishing Alliance in the European Parliament](#) (24 March 2022)

The fishing organisations from 14 EU countries, representing over 20,000 fishers and 7,000 vessels, have launched the European Bottom Fishing Alliance (EBFA). At the launch event representatives of the alliance presented the reality of these fisheries across Europe, and defended the use of active bottom gears as a sustainable activity.

Animal welfare

[Animal Welfare \(Sentience\) Bill Passes in Parliament \(8 April 2022\)](#)

The Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill has completed its passage through Parliament. It recognises all vertebrate animals, as well as crabs, lobsters, and octopuses, as sentient beings and will lead to the setup of the Animal Sentience Committee to report on the effects of policy decisions on animal welfare.

Climate change

[Accelerated offshore wind increases the spatial squeeze of fishing \(7 April 2022\)](#)

The NFFO and the SFF, with support from the Fishmongers Company, have commissioned an analysis of the cumulative impacts of the spatial squeeze. The report will be published shortly and will inform our representations to government on why food production areas for fishing must now be integrated into all future policy decisions.

[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.

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