

June 2021

Common Language Group e-alert

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

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

Fisheries management

Norwegians increase mackerel quota again after quota exchanges (1 July 2021)

Norway has increased their mackerel quota for 2021 after a series of quota exchanges with other countries bringing the total TAC to 304,648 tonnes. This comes on back of the ministry's decision on 27 May to set an increased Norwegian mackerel quota for 2021 at 298,299 tonnes. After exchanges with other countries, the Norwegian quota for 2021 is now 304,648 tonnes.

New advice on fishing opportunities for pelagic and demersal stocks in 2022 (30 June 2021)

The new advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) advice covers fishing opportunities, catch and effort for the Irish, Celtic and North Sea, the West of Scotland and English Channel. ICES is recommending reductions in the North Sea cod TAC of 10.3% and North Sea and West Coast saithe of 24%. At the same time, it is advocating increases for North Sea and West Coast haddock of 154%, and North Sea whiting of 236%. There are also reductions for hake and plaice.

How management scenarios to reduce mobile bottom fishing disturbance on seafloor habitats affect fisheries landing and value (24 June 2021)

Advice by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) shows some levels of bottom trawl fishing can be compatible with achieving seabed conservation objectives, as long as these are ecologically meaningful limits beyond which continued bottom trawl fishing will have adverse effects.

North Atlantic supply chain group launches 'policy FIP' to drive political will for long-term management of pelagic stocks (10 June 2021)

The North Atlantic Pelagic Advocacy Group (NAPA) has launched an innovative 'policy FIP' (less of a Fishery Improvement Programme and more like a business plan) to drive the political will for cooperative decision-making and sustainable management for Northeast Atlantic mackerel and Atlanto-Scandian herring, two stocks which recently lost Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification due to ongoing disagreements between Coastal States actors which has led to unilateral quota-setting.

European Commission launches consultation on fishing opportunities for 2022 (9 June 2021. Consultation closes 31 August 2021)

Member States, Advisory Councils, the fishing industry, non-governmental organisations and interested citizens are invited to take part in a public [consultation on fishing opportunities for 2022](#). The [accompanying communication](#) reports on the progress made towards sustainable fishing in the EU and reviews the balance between fishing capacity and fishing opportunities, the sector's socio-economic performance and the landing obligation implementation. It states that in the Northeast Atlantic fishing pressure decreased and fish stocks grew in 2003-2019. Biomass in EU waters has generally increased since 2007 and in 2019 was on average around 35% higher than in 2003-2013.

Traceability and eco-labels

EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices (5 July 2021)

This is the first deliverable of the EU Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system. It sets out the actions that the actors ‘between the farm and the fork’, such as food processors, food service operators and retailers, can voluntarily commit to undertake to tangibly improve and communicate their sustainability performance. 65 signatories (24 associations and 41 companies) have signed the Code.

Food sustainability: new eco label planned (28 June 2021)

A pilot scheme to assess the environmental impact of food is planned. It aims to help consumers compare food products for sustainability. Product scores are based on factors such as carbon emissions and water usage during production.

Article. Transparency in seafood – what, why and how? (June 2021)

This article by Tania Woodcock at the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership talks about the Ocean Disclosure Project (ODP) and how it provides a reporting framework for seafood companies to voluntarily disclose their wild-caught and farmed seafood sourcing.

Hook to plate: how blockchain tech could turn the tide for sustainable fishing (9 June 2021)

In recent weeks, a new \$50m (£35m) hybrid vessel set sail from Mauritius and headed out into the Southern Ocean where the crew will spend three months longline fishing for the Patagonian toothfish. By the time the fish are brought back, processed and sent to customers, consumers will know where and when that specific fish was caught, which boat landed it, who processed it and which certifications have been met. The technology enabling this is blockchain.

Campaigns and reports

Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill - vote in the House of Lords (7 July 2021)

Shellfish campaigners gathered outside the House of Lords on 7 July as Peers put forward amendments to the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill to recognise that crabs and lobsters can feel pain. The Bill was introduced on 11 May as part of a raft of animal welfare reforms. It is a potentially sweeping piece of legislation that could require all arms of government (not just the agriculture ministry) to consider animal sentience when forming policy and writing regulations. The move could see these animals given new legal protections.

On the Hook campaign relaunches (1 July 2021)

The ‘On the Hook’ campaign has relaunched, shifting its focus back towards the pursuit of a “full, external, independent, and forensic review” of the Marine Stewardship Council’s standards and operation.

Marine Scotland launches climate campaign (2 June 2021)

The Let’s do Net Zero campaign highlights the benefits a net zero society will bring for our economy, health and environment.

Seafish survey shows profit and turnover down for UK fishing fleet in 2020 (22 June 2021)

The total operating profit of the UK fishing fleet fell by almost a fifth in 2020 as the sector dealt with the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Operating profit fell by 19% from £264 million in 2019 to £214 million in 2020. Turnover, which had been above the £1 billion mark for the previous three years, fell to £843 million. This is a 17% reduction.

[Sustain argues for funding to boost UK fish on menus \(June 2021\)](#)

A new report [Net Worth](#) from Sustain, the food and farming alliance, argues the government should invest £400m a year in managing fisheries more fairly and sustainably, which in turn could increase the amount of UK-caught fish on restaurant and catering menus.

Consultations and surveys

[New MSC consultation on endangered, threatened and protected \(ETP\) species \(29 June 2021. Closing dates for responses is 29 July 2021\)](#)

This will determine whether improvements can be made to streamline the designation, improve the assessment (scoring) and ensure requirements adequately reflect widely accepted and adopted science and management best practices.

[Love Seafood marketing support for seafood businesses \(9 June 2021\)](#)

Read our blog to find out how Love Seafood has offered marketing support for seafood businesses in its first year. You can also read about the results of our [Spring 2021 Love Seafood campaign](#) featuring UK species.

[RiseUP survey. The seafood industry resilience to COVID-19. \(Deadline for responses is 15 July 2021\)](#)

The survey asks businesses about the impact of COVID-19, specific aspects of their resilience response, but also the ability to anticipate changes and their effects, including preparing and coping with simultaneous disruptions (such as BREXIT and COVID-19 waves). RiseUP brings together the expertise of the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), the University of Manchester and Seafish.

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