

February 2022

Fisheries Management and Innovation Group news alert

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

Funding

£1.4m delivered to projects supporting sustainable fishing and fisheries science across the UK (18 February 2022)

Eight innovative new projects that will support the UK's fishing industry to be more productive and sustainable have been awarded a share of £1.4 million, the government has announced today. The funding is the first part of the £24 million earmarked from the £100 million UK Seafood Fund (UKSF) specifically for science and innovation projects.

MMO announces Inshore Vessel Monitoring (I-VMS) grants system now open for under-12m fishing vessels (15 February 2022. Grant to be claimed by 15 April 2022)

The first tranche of funding is now available for under-12 metre fishers (10m to 11.99m vessels) to apply for a grant of up to £650 to cover the costs of installing an I-VMS device on their vessels ahead of enforcement coming in. One previously approved device has been suspended from the MMO approved devices list.

Funding schemes for the UK seafood industry (January 2022)

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.

Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) opens scheme to help Ireland's inshore sector adjust to post-Brexit trading conditions (26 January 2022. Applications open until 31 March 2022)

BIM has opened applications for the new scheme designed to help Ireland's inshore sector adjust to post-Brexit trading conditions. Under the scheme, depending on the size of their boat, grant aid of between €2,700 and €4,000 is available for fishing vessel owners on completion of a tailored training programme.

£1 million made available to support Wales' fishing industry (17 January 2022. Closing date for applications is 25 March 2022)

Wales' fishing community is being invited to submit applications to a £1m fund to primarily help mitigate the ongoing impact Covid is having on the industry and adapt to the rapidly changing market conditions for seafood products.

UK SF Infrastructure Scheme (27 December 2021. Fund opens on 7 March 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 April 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.

[£1.9m Maritime and Fisheries Fund for Northern Ireland](#) (Deadline for applications is 11 February 2022)

Financial support is now available for fishing and aquaculture stakeholders in Northern Ireland, replacing the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. Minister Poots has encouraged stakeholders to apply promptly as the funding closes in March next year.

News

[Marine Environment News in Brief](#) - February 2022

[Two new protected sites in Orkney for vulnerable seabirds](#) (16 February 2022)

Scapa Flow and North Orkney, covering a total area of 529 square kilometres, have been designated to protect rare and vulnerable migratory wild birds, which include the great northern diver and slavonian grebe. These new designations largely complete the network of SPAs, with fourteen sites across Scotland's seas.

[Wales first in UK to require all commercial fishing boats have monitoring devices](#) (15 February 2022)

Wales has become the first nation in the UK to require all of its licensed commercial fishing boats are fitted with a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). Boats 12m or more in length were already required to have such a system in place, but this now applies to vessels under 12 metres in length as well (more than 350 boats).

[UK and Faroe Islands reach agreement on fishing opportunities for 2022](#) (10 February 2022)

The agreement will allow UK and Faroe vessels to fish in an area of each country's waters. This year, the UK fishing industry will benefit from 1,000 tonnes of cod and haddock, worth approximately £2.2 million, and 1,250 tonnes of Atlantic pollock, worth approximately £1.3 million, as well as around £2 million worth of Ling, Blue Ling, Redfish, Flatfish, and other species.

[Legal first: Court of Justice of the European Union \(CJEU\) must decide if ministers broke law with unsustainable fishing limits](#) (8 February 2022)

The CJEU has been called on to decide if EU ministers have illegally set unsustainable fishing limits. This follows a challenge by Friends of the Irish Environment (FIE), supported by ClientEarth, to end overfishing after the EU missed its binding 2020 deadline.

[Angry fishermen to fund proper scientific studies of North Sea stocks](#) (7 February 2022)

The Shetland Fishermen's Association (SFA) and the Scottish White Fish Producers' Association (SWFPA), which together account for over 80% of the UK's whitefish catches, will organise rigorous, transparent studies of key North Sea fish stocks as anger grows over the failure to tackle the issue of poor science.

Reports and resources

[Seafish Basic Fishing Methods Handbook updated](#) (February 2022)

A comprehensive guide to commercial fishing methods. This publication contains illustrations and descriptions of commonly used fishing methods, gears and rigs. For the latest information on fishing gear and selectivity visit the Seafish Gear Database <https://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/fishing-gear-database/>

['Fishy Falsehoods de-bunked': Fish stocks are declining](#) (February 2022)

The Shetland Fishermen's Association has launched the second in a series of papers aiming to debunk false claims made about the fishing sector. The second concerns the claim that the fish stocks in the waters around the UK are declining.

[Northern Ireland 'Small Ports' Report reveals need for better facilities](#) (15 February 2022)

The 2021 [Northern Ireland Small Port Infrastructure Survey](#) Investigation has highlighted a lack of flake ice machines, power washers and powered davit winches, along with a lack of safety facilities, refrigeration facilities and waste facilities affects commercial fishing in 'Small Ports'.

[Fully documented fisheries in action](#) (31 January 2022)

Dutch researchers and fishers are developing a digital tool to implement fully documented fisheries (FDF), with support from the EU.

[New report into wild capture shellfisheries and the development of English Fisheries Management Plans](#) (January 2022)

A new report by the New Economics Foundations considers the development of Fisheries Management Plans and the opportunities to support inshore fisheries. The report, commissioned by the Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (AIFCA), makes specific recommendations as to how future management should be designed and resourced.

[Innovative approaches](#)

[MMO Funds SafetyNet Technologies' New Underwater Camera](#) (1 February 2022)

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is funding SafetyNet Technologies' "Project Fisheye" to fast-forward development of SNT-Cam, a gear mounted underwater camera for commercial fishing.

[Fishing gear fuel efficiency](#) (24 January 2022)

Seafish has published the results of the Sumwing Beam trawl trials in partnership with the Western FPO. The trial was used to gather evidence of new gear design on fuel efficiency. The results showed a 42% saving in fuel. Our estimates show typical southwest beam trawlers could potentially save £190,000 a year in fuel costs by changing trawl gears.

[LED-illuminated fishing nets cut 95% of bycatch](#) (21 January 2022)

A new study highlights the benefits of LED-illuminated fishing nets. Their use can reduce the bycatch of sharks and skates whilst sustaining catch rates of target species, as well as protecting others. Lighted gillnets reduced total bycatch by 63%, including a 95% reduction in sharks, skates, and rays, with an additional 81% reduction in Humboldt squid, and a 48% reduction in unwanted finfish – all while maintaining catch rates and market value of target fish.

[Managing end of life fishing gear and aquaculture equipment](#)

Information on the Seafish website about managing end of live fishing gear and aquaculture equipment has recently been updated. The updated webpage has information on the challenges with marine litter and end of life gear recycling and examples of positive work underway in response. It also now includes information on the response from government and policy makers.

[Consultations](#)

[Marine plan monitoring survey](#) (Survey closes on 7 March 2022)

The Marine Management Organisation Marine Planning team are collecting data to strengthen the monitoring and reporting of England's marine plans. The north east, north west, east, south, south east and south west annual monitoring surveys have been launched and stakeholders are invited to provide data on the use of the marine plans in the decision-making process.

[UK Government and Devolved Governments seek views on the Joint Fisheries Statement \(JFS\) \(18 January 2022. Closing date to respond is 12 April 2022\)](#)

UK Government is seeking the views of all interested parties on the JFS and the related Fisheries Management Plans. The JFS sets out the legally binding policies the UK Government and Devolved Governments will follow, at a UK level and individually, as they work together to deliver world-class sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management.

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