



December 2020

Common Language Group e-alert

(news alerts issued to CLG circulation list by email in December 2020)

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

UK exit from the EU

Seafish Brexit hub

The UK and EU announced a Trade and Cooperation Agreement on 24 December 2020 which sets out our future relationship with the EU from 1 January 2021. Whether you import, export, process and distribute, catch or farm seafood, find guidance for your business on our Brexit support hub page. Our Regulation team is also here to help you resolve any specific issues.

Start of trilateral and bilateral talks is start of new era says NFFO. 11 January 2021.

Trilateral and bilateral negotiations have now opened between the UK and adjacent coastal states including the EU, Norway and the Faroe Islands. Discussions are underway remotely to establish an agreement on total allowable catches for shared stocks and other fishery management measures for 2021 with the UK participating for the first time as an independent coastal state.

ABPmer. EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement: Thoughts on fisheries from a UK perspective. January 2021.

Access of EU fishing vessels to the UK waters as of 1 January 2021. 31 December 2020.

The United Kingdom and the European Union have agreed to a Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), applicable on a provisional basis from 1 January 2021. The EU has published the text of the agreement and a detailed list of questions and answers.

United Kingdom Single Issuing Authority (UKSIA). 31 December 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/united-kingdom-single-issuing-authority-uksia>

With the UK an independent coastal state, vessels from the EU and other coastal states wishing to access UK waters will require a fishing vessel licence issued by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) UK Single Issuing Authority (SIA) on behalf of the UK sea fish licensing authorities of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Fisheries Act 2020 explained. December 2020.

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Fisheries digest of the Fisheries Act 2020 summarises the main areas of the Act, and explains the significance of the eight objectives, the Joint Fisheries Statement, fishing licensing and opportunities, and relevant devolved and reserved responsibilities. The Fisheries Act provides the framework for UK fishing policy, but much of the specific legislation regarding fisheries management is yet to come.

Funding and consultations

Seafood Innovation Fund (SIF) – second round projects. January 2021.

There are now 31 abstracts for the successful second round projects on the SIF website.

[DAERA launches consultation on fisheries management MPAs.](#) 30 November 2020. Closing date 22 February 2021.

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland (DAERA) have launched a consultation on the development of fisheries management measures for marine protected areas and the establishment of scallop enhancement sites in the Northern Ireland inshore region.

[The Commission is seeking feedback from operators on their experiences as suppliers in the agri-food and seafood supply chains.](#) Deadline for responses is 31 January 2021.

This seeks to ensure a level playing field ahead of the implementation at national level of the Directive on unfair trading practices (UTPs) in business-to-business relationships in the agricultural and food supply chain. Under the EU Directive, a supplier can be based anywhere in the world.

[Zero Waste Scotland - Circular Economy Investment Fund.](#)

The Circular Economy Investment Fund is a funding opportunity for businesses and organisations in Scotland working in all business and social economy sectors. They are investing £18 million and are looking for innovative projects that have the ability to deliver carbon savings, leverage investment and create jobs. The assessment of applications take place weekly for Outline Project Proposals (OPP).

[Fisheries management](#)

[Scientific paper. Identifying management actions that promote sustainable fisheries.](#) 11 January 2021.

The paper published in Nature Sustainability shows how a variety of management tools have affected the fishing pressure and abundance of marine fish and shellfish populations around the world. Collectively, each tool contributes to meeting management targets. A broad suite of management measures at local, national and international levels appears to be key to sustaining fish populations and food production. [View a layperson summary of the article.](#)

[IPNLF calls on IOTC to take decisive action on yellowfin stock rebuilding.](#) 22 December 2020.

The International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF) is calling on members of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) to take urgent action on Indian Ocean yellowfin tuna when it reconvenes in March 2021. It has been classified as overfished since 2015 and has been the subject of a rebuilding plan since 2016.

[AGRIFISH Council adopts 2021 fishing opportunities for the North-East Atlantic and for deep-sea stocks.](#) 17 December 2020.

The Council agreed on fishing opportunities for 2021 for the fish stocks managed by the EU, based on the Commission proposal.

[Scotland's Future Fisheries Management Strategy to promote sustainability.](#) 17 December 2020.

This new 12-point action plan has been developed in partnership with key stakeholders to ensure the long-term sustainability and profitability of the inshore, onshore and marine fisheries sector in Scotland, whilst also putting in place the right protections for fish stocks and the rich marine environment.

[Seafood sustainability foundation reports most world tuna stocks in good shape.](#) 14 December 2020.

About 87% of the worldwide commercial catch of tuna is coming from stocks seen at healthy levels of abundance, although some regional stocks including Pacific bluefin are overfished, the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation says its new status report.

News and reports

[New Dietary Guidelines urge Americans to eat more seafood.](#) 4 January 2021.

The new 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA), produced by the US Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Health and Human Services (HHS) recommends Americans of all ages, particularly young children and pregnant women, should eat seafood at least twice a week. For the first time, the DGA address the nutritional needs of babies and toddlers under two years old, recommending that seafood can, and should, be introduced to children when they are around six months old.

[Eurogroup for Animals report on fish welfare in wild capture fisheries.](#) 11 January 2021.

This sheds light on the various hazards faced by wild fish throughout the process of capture, through to handling and death, and proposes measures and strategies to reduce unnecessary suffering.

[There's a policy brief too](#)

[The 2020 Annual Economic Report \(AER\) on the EU Fishing Fleet.](#) 8 January 2021.

This provides a comprehensive overview of the structure and economic performance of EU Member State fishing fleets and show whilst COVID-19 severely affected the EU fishing fleets their average profits are predicted to have remained positive in 2020.

[APPG on Fisheries policy briefs.](#) December 2020.

The APPG publish a policy brief after their main events covering the event's outcomes and synthesising additional research on the issue. The briefs are designed as a useful reference for Parliamentarians and industry professionals working to improve the UK fisheries sector. There are currently eight.

This is an amalgamation of the news alerts issued in December 2020.