



February 2022

Common Language Group e-alert

(news alerts issued to CLG circulation list by email in February 2022)

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

News and views

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.

UK 'women in fisheries' network launches (4 February 2022)

UK Women in Fisheries is a network for all women who work in UK fishing, be you vessel owners, fleet managers, fishermen, fishmongers, processors, fishing conservationists, charity workers, trainers or workers somewhere else in the fishing industry.

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.

IPNLF introduces Sourcing Transparency Platform for tuna supply chains (21 January 2022)

The International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF) has launched a Sourcing Transparency Platform (STP), an online portal designed to increase transparency in the tuna supply chain. The STP is exclusive to IPNLF member-companies and aims to improve transparency of pole-and-line, handline, and troll (collectively known as one-by-one) tuna supply chains through public disclosure.

European bottom fishing industry shows a united front in Brussels (19 January 2022)

An alliance of fishing organizations from 14 EU countries, representing over 22 000 fishermen and 8,000 vessels, demonstrated the importance and realities of bottom fishing activities across Europe, to Fisheries Commissioner Sinkevicius. The industry showcased the sustainability and overall importance of these widespread fishing methods in all EU member states and demonstrated that these fisheries are well regulated, controlled, researched and widely certified.

Consultations

Marine Conservation Society (MCS) winter ratings review (7 February 2022. Consultation closes on 4 March 2022)

MCS ratings consultations are open twice per year, in February and August. They welcome feedback from anyone with technical insight and information that could contribute to the comprehensiveness and quality of their ratings. This winter's review includes ratings for farmed prawns, tuna and billfish, mackerel, crabs, lobsters and a number of elasmobranchs.

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.

Certification

[Marine Stewardship Council \(MSC\) draft Fisheries Standard published for public review \(1 February 2022. Consultation closes on 4 April 2022\)](#)

Updates to the MSC standard include strengthening the requirements on endangered, threatened and protected species (ETP), shark finning and ghost gear, and streamlining requirements to make assessments less complex and more efficient.

[The MSC standard under review – where did it start and where is it going? \(30 January 2022\)](#)

This is a perspective by Sustainable Fisheries UW on the history of MSC, and where the standards review may be heading. It is based on interviews with nearly a dozen current and former MSC employees.

[Make Stewardship Count Coalition raises concerns about new MSC standard \(24 January 2022\)](#)

The Make Stewardship Count Coalition has raised concerns that the latest draft of the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) standards will not improve the requirements for achieving its sustainable seafood certification.

Reports and resources

[Report. Inflationary economy provides incentives to adopt traceability systems \(3 February 2022\)](#)

A new report by Planet Tracker, Implementing Traceability: Seeing Through Excuses, shows high inflation and low-cost credit are providing an appealing window for seafood firms to integrate a traceability system into their operations.

[ISSF Report: 17 Tuna Stocks Not Meeting Criteria for Marine Stewardship Council \(MSC\) sustainability standard \(3 February 2022\)](#)

The report by the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) found that six out of 23 major commercial tuna stocks worldwide are successfully avoiding overfishing and maintaining target stock biomass levels when measured against the MSC Fisheries Standard.

[Sustainable tuna getting harder for shoppers to catch in UK supermarkets, say fishing campaigners \(2 February 2022\)](#)

Last year, just 7.5% of all tuna sold in the UK was labelled as sustainable by the MSC, down from 12.5% in 2017, according to figures from Seafish. Only 3% of tuna products in Tesco are certified as sustainable by the MSC, compared to 27% in Sainsbury's and 73% in Waitrose.

[Climate change is likely 'suffocating' the world's fisheries \(2 February 2022\)](#)

A new study supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China indicates that, by 2080, 70% of the world's ocean could be "suffocating" from a lack of oxygen due to climate change, potentially impacting marine ecosystems worldwide. The ocean's middle depths, home to many commercially fished species, started losing oxygen at 'unnatural rates' in 2021.

[New guide explains the effects of the UK-EU TCA on Welsh fisheries](#) (25 January 2022)

A new guide offers information on the effects of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) on Wales' fishing industry, following the UK's withdrawal from the EU. The guide covers annual negotiations, the adjustment period until mid-2026, and provisional agreements.

[Briefing. The Brexit deal and UK fisheries - has reality matched the rhetoric?](#) (13 January 2022)

One year on from the UK-EU TCA, has the reality of UK fisheries quota shares matched the rhetoric from political leaders who committed to radically changed fisheries arrangements? This new Maritime Studies briefing paper explores the issue.

Funding

[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 Seafood Fund \(UK SF\): 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.

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