



April 2022

Common Language Group e-alert

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

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

Strategic review of Seafish in 2021 (April 2022)

As a result of the review, we will work with government to reform the Seafish levy, and through the consultation, the seafood industry also told us there are six areas they want more of our support with. This includes greater support to help the seafood industry respond to a range of societal and environmental challenges; helping the industry adapt to and mitigate against climate change, and facilitating collaboration between industry, government and scientists to improve fisheries management.

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 relaunch (16 March 2022)

The Fisheries and Seafood Scheme will relaunch in April. The new iteration of the scheme will deliver investment to safeguard the long-term sustainability, resilience and prosperity of the seafood sector across England.

UK SF Infrastructure Scheme (Fund opened 29 March 2022. Closing date for applications is 24 May 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.

Fisheries management

SFP, Hilborn Lab release updated FIP database (16 March 2022)

The Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) and the University of Washington's Hilborn Lab have released a new version of the Fishery Improvement Projects Database (FIP-DB), which includes 275 publicly recorded FIPs. The FIP-DB is a comprehensive database of FIPs reaching back to 2003, when FIPs were first established.

Finfish Industry Advisory Group (FIAG) to provide forum for fisheries management issues (9 March 2022)

The fishing industry is invited to engage with new group to support ongoing sustainable management of regionally important fisheries for non-quota species. The FIAG will focus on contributing to national-level strategic management of the UK finfish non-quota species including lemon sole, turbot, bass, brill, pilchards, red mullet, gurnards, john dory and others.

[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.

[Move to ban bottom trawling in MPAs \(14 March 2022\)](#)

MPs have introduced a private members' bill to regulate and limit the practice of bottom trawling in MPAs. A ban or restrictions would only apply to English waters.

[APPG event. Fisheries and Protected Areas \(1 March 2022\)](#)

All Party Parliamentary Group on Fisheries (APPG) has published the event recording and written summary.

Advice, initiatives and briefings

[Understanding sustainability and responsible seafood sourcing \(April 2022\)](#)

We have collated information and guidance on sustainability, responsible sourcing and related challenges and initiatives across seafood supply chains.

[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.

[Latest update to Marine Conservation Society \(MCS\) Good Fish Guide \(6 April 2022\)](#)

The MCS has published its updated Good Fish Guide. This consumer-focused online guide gives ratings to various seafood species based on environmental impacts of how they are caught or farmed. There are a number of key changes: Monkfish from the North Sea and west of Scotland is now a Fish to Avoid; Herring and sardines join the Best Choice list; There is still concern about most skates and rays, which are poorly managed in most places; and some Scottish brown crab and lobster join the Fish to Avoid list, with concerns about overfishing and poor management.

Industry response

- [Seafish](#). "Seafish has concerns that some fisheries have been rated too harshly.....We know that good work is already underway in the UK, with industry stakeholders and regulators collaborating on the sustainable management of economically important shellfish and finfish fisheries....The Guide does not appear to take account of this activity and the positive impact it can have on stock sustainability.
- [Scottish Fishermen's Federation](#). "On monkfish, our industry fishes in line with ICES advice which already has a precautionary filter as it is classed as a data limited stock. The MCS rating is based on a tiny snap-shot from a much longer time series of data, showing that the monkfish stock is only fractionally below the long-term average and that action is being taken to improve the science and data that is needed for better understanding."
- [Scottish Seafood Association](#). "The MCS urges consumers not to buy crab and lobster because of alleged concerns about whales becoming entangled in gear, yet there is very little evidence of this being a significant problem, and where risks have been identified, the industry is working collaboratively to minimise any impact. Their conclusion about monkfish, which it also urges consumers to avoid, is utterly laughable at a time when this species has never been so abundant on the fishing grounds."

[Scottish pelagic industry briefing document to ensure informed opinion of the sector \(5 April 2022\)](#)

The Scottish Pelagic Sustainability Group (SPSG) has produced a 'Pelagic Industry Briefing Document' aimed at politicians and other interested parties to ensure there is informed understanding of the sector.

[Global Tuna Alliance \(GTA\) first annual report \(30 March 2022\)](#)

The GTA is well under way to fulfilling its 2025 Pledge Toward Sustainable Tuna (25PST) after its first annual review summarising progress so far, revealed that GTA partners had collectively already achieved more than a third of their performance targets.

[FisheryProgress.org shifts focus from gathering information to driving impact on the water \(18 March 2022\)](#)

Building on its efforts to support the seafood industry by providing a comprehensive fishery improvement project (FIP) reporting website, FisheryProgress.org is now aiming to increase the impact of FIPs by aligning buyers with high-performing FIPs.

[Global tuna report published \(15 March 2022\)](#)

The International Seafood Sustainability Foundation's (ISSF) 'Status of the Stocks' twice-yearly report provides the results for the most-recent scientific assessments of 23 separate stocks of major commercial tuna species. The stocks include six albacore, four bigeye, four bluefin, five skipjack, and four yellowfin tuna species. This has found 80.5% of the global tuna catch comes from stocks at healthy levels; 9.2% require stronger management.

[Illegal, unreported and unregulated \(IUU\) fishing](#)

[IUU fishing impacts: A systematic review of evidence and proposed future agenda \(May 2022\)](#)

This provides a systematic review of IUU fishing and its impacts at global, and case study regional (Europe and the Northeast Atlantic) and national (UK) levels in order to determine the extent to which IUU fishing is understood and to identify priority information gaps which undermine current management efforts.

[Global impact of IUU and human rights abuse in China's vast Distant Water Fleet revealed \(5 April 2022\)](#)

This new report by the Environmental Justice Foundations shows that China's state subsidies have allowed the grossly overcapacity fleet to exploit the waters of developing nations that rely on marine resources for livelihoods and food security.

[Revealing global risks of labor abuse and IUU fishing \(5 April 2022\)](#)

A new study conducted by Academics from Stanford University, Lancaster University and Stockholm University's Stockholm Resilience Centre with partners, has provided insights into the extent of labour abuse and illegal fishing risks among fishing fleets around the world. Of more than 750 ports assessed around the world, nearly half are associated with some risk of one or both practices.

[EU scheme to tackle IUU fishing brings positive results and empowers nations \(21 March 2022\)](#)

A new report by the EU IUU Fishing Coalition has found the EU's 'carding scheme' (which warns and potentially sanctions non-EU countries that fail to cooperate in the fight against IUU fishing) has decreased the prevalence of IUU fishing and prompted improved legislation, compliance and enforcement measures in several carded countries. However, without strengthened transparency across global fisheries and greater participation, the ocean remains at continued risk of IUU fishing.

[Fish crimes in the global oceans](#) (23 March 2022)

This study provides a global assessment of the linkages between observed fisheries-related offenses across the world's oceans between 2000 and 2020, looking at illegal fishing, human rights abuses, and smuggling.

Events

[APPG event. The future of fuel for fishing](#). Wednesday 27 April 2022. 10am to 11.30am.

This All Party Parliamentary Fisheries Group (APPG) webinar will provide 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.

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