



December 2021

Common Language Group e-alert

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

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

Funding

Call for ideas for funded research projects (1 November 2021)

Three fishing charities have joined forces to support the development of industry-driven scientific research, with funding available to take successful ideas forward. Fishing into the Future, Fishing Animateurs and The Fishmongers' Company' want to help connect industry members with scientists so they can access from the Fisheries Industry Science Partnership (FISP) scheme.

The Seafood Innovation Fund (SIF) call three is open (Closing date for applications is 7 January 2022)

The UK government's Seafood Innovation Fund (SIF) is now part of the UK Seafood Fund under the Science and Innovation pillar. Call 3 is now open and the programme is looking to fund feasibility studies that can test new ideas or approaches to benefit the UK seafood sector.

UK Seafood Innovation Fund (SIF) are looking for assessors.

Cefas are continuing to add to the team of assessors reviewing innovative project ideas from across the UK seafood sector. Assessors remain anonymous and are paid for each application completed. If you are interested in this role, please email SIF-Assessors@cef.co.uk to apply.

Funding schemes for the UK seafood industry (November 2021)

This new page on the Seafish website has information on some grants and funds that are available to UK seafood and marine businesses.

News and reports

Multiple Pacific tuna fisheries face certification loss by 2023, MSC warns (9 December 2021)

A total of 22 tuna fisheries face a suspension of their MSC certification in the western and central Pacific region following failures to adopt a new harvest strategy.

Retraction of flawed MPA study implicates larger problems in MPA science (8 December 2021)

There has been criticism of a recent publication on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) which has led to the retraction of a flawed paper in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). There is also criticism of a closely related paper which appeared in Nature using the same analysis as the PNAS paper. This claimed bottom trawling releases large quantities of sequestered carbon (Sala et al 2021). This article explains why the science in the Nature paper is flawed in the same way as the retracted paper.

Friend of the Sea (FOS) to require satellite monitoring of certified fishing fleets (7 December 2021)

The Friend of the Sea (FOS) sustainability-focused certification program is implementing a new Sea Satellite Monitoring Program (SMP) will allow constant monitoring for all 2,000 FOS certified fishing vessels to ensure compliance with fishing seasons, authorized fishing areas, transshipment at sea, social accountability, and other certification obligations.

[Expanded Seafood Watch ratings say to “avoid” most farmed salmon \(8 December 2021\)](#)

The Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch Farmed Salmon Recommendations for 2021 are for consumers to ‘avoid’ most ocean-based salmon farming operations, for reasons related to chemical use, disease, and salmon escapes. The scope of these ratings are most commonly at a ‘production area’ or ‘production region’.

[Freedom of information requests reveal government agencies do not inspect fish welfare at slaughter \(26 November 2021\)](#)

Freedom of information (FOI) requests by animal protection charity The Humane League UK show that there is no established process for regular welfare inspections at fish processing sites, despite legislation requiring animals including fish to “be spared any avoidable pain, distress or suffering during their killing and related operations.”

[IUU fishing](#)

[Global horizon scan on IUU fishing practices impacted by climate change \(December 2021. Closing date to respond to their short online survey is 10 January 2022\)](#)

The Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), and PEW Charitable Trusts, have launched a global horizon scan to identify and prioritise emerging issues in relation to future IUU fishing practices, and how they might be impacted by climate change. The findings will help guide global policy and practical responses to emerging threats.

[Major seafood players alleged to be connected to IUU fishing in Planet Tracker report \(8 December 2021\)](#)

Planet Tracker, the non-profit financial think tank, has publicly named several large seafood companies it alleges are involved with illegal, unreported, or unregulated (IUU) fishing. They state IUU fishing is often associated with other crimes, such as money laundering and human trafficking, which can have serious legal and financial repercussions.”

[Combined IUU Fishing Vessel List \(November 2021\)](#)

This site provides up to date information on all fishing vessels that appear on the IUU vessels lists published by Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and related organisations. The aim of the site is to improve the effectiveness of the original IUU lists as a tool to combat illegal fishing and broader fisheries crime. They provide a list of the questions they include as part of the assessment to allow investors to assess their exposure to IUU fishing.

[Fisheries management](#)

[EU Council agrees fishing opportunities for 2022 \(14 December 2021\)](#)

Ministers have reached an agreement on fishing rights in the Atlantic, the North Sea, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea for 2022. The deal sets out the catch limits for over 200 commercial fish stocks. As consultations with the UK on shared fish stocks are ongoing, provisional catch limits will be applied to the species concerned for the first three months of 2022, pending final agreement. These have been set at 25% of last year's limits for most species, taking into account the specificities of seasonal fisheries.

[EU/Norway and EU/Norway/UK conclude key consultations for 2022 \(10 December 2021\)](#)

The trilateral arrangement between the EU, Norway and the United Kingdom on six jointly managed fisheries stocks in the North Sea for 2022 (namely cod, haddock, saithe, whiting, plaice and herring) has established the total allowable catches (TAC), and quota sharing, for over 683,000 tonnes of fish. The EU and Norway have also concluded bilateral consultations for shared stocks in the North Sea, Skagerrak, and quota exchanges.

UK agrees 2022 fishing catch limits with EU and Norway (10 December 2021)

All Parties agree to set catch levels in line with, or lower than, those advised by ICES in bid to champion sustainability and help protect fish stocks.

- **Shetland Fishermen's Association (SFA)**. Has been heavily critical of the ICES advice used to determine next year's quotas, and have demanded "a complete shake-up" of the scientific process that underpins international negotiations on fishing quotas.
- **Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association statement on UK-EU-Norway herring 2022 (13 December 2021)**. Ian Gatt, chief executive of the SPFA, welcomed the agreement reached saying "although ICES advice allowed for a 45% increase in the TAC, limiting the increase to 20% is more precautionary given uncertainty in the scientific advice. The Association was never in favour of taking the full TAC increase and advocated capping this at 20%.
- **Statement from SFF on UK deal for 2022 fishing with EU and Norway (10 December 2021)**
The UK can now move forward with the bilateral discussions with our neighbouring coastal states about fishing opportunities and access arrangements for the year ahead. While the industry is yet again faced with fluctuations in TACs based on scientific advice that in many cases doesn't reflect what fishermen see on the grounds, UK and Scottish government negotiators have worked hard to secure the best possible outcomes for our fleet, showing the benefit of the UK being at the negotiating table in its own right, which it could never be as part of the EU.

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