



Aquaculture – June 2021 news alert (sent by email 5 July 2021)

This Seafish aquaculture industry news e-alert covers news items, legislation and reports.

Aquaculture Common Issues Group meetings

The minutes and presentations from all the meetings are on the [website](#).

Resources, policy and funding

New networking hub to promote collaboration, knowledge-sharing. 1 July 2021.

The Sustainable Aquaculture Innovation Centre (SAIC), is launching a digital forum to encourage collaboration among its consortium members and to promote cross-industry networking and knowledge-sharing across the aquaculture sector. [Wednesday 7 July. 10.30 to 11.30am](#). Register for the SAIC Consortium Hub launch and demonstration.

Changes to shellfish harvesting area classification. 14 June 2021.

The initial amendments from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) are focused on extending the criteria for excluding E. coli testing results that are uncharacteristically higher than those usually seen in an area (anomalous results). The changes will allow the FSA to take a proportionate response to occasional results which are marginally above the threshold for class A harvesting areas, where the results from the remaining monitoring data shows that the area is within the class A criteria. The FSA is working on updating their protocols and assessing the implications of these changes on current site classifications. They expect the changes to be fully implemented by September 2021 for England and Wales, and January 2022 for Northern Ireland.

New projects to accelerate innovation in sustainable aquaculture. 8 June 2021.

The European Institute for Innovation & Technology (EIT) Food has announced the results of its sustainable aquaculture competition. The seven winning projects include a sustainable approach to tackling sea lice, a plan to raise tuna in land-based farms and an IT platform aimed at encouraging the sharing of aquaculture skills. In addition, 18 new partners will be joining EIT Food to expand and strengthen its community in aquaculture.

Kingston Maurward College, Dorchester, Dorset. Level 3 – New Marine Aquaculture course. May 2021.

This new programme has been developed in partnership with Dorset and East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) and local employers to those looking to enter the industry and those already involved. Registration is now open, and the course starts on 6 September 2021.

Reports

The future of feed: a WWF roadmap to accelerate insect protein in UK feeds. 1 July 2021.

This new research suggests around 240,000 tonnes of insect meal per year could potentially be sourced from UK insect farms. In supplying this quantity of insect meal, 3.4

million tonnes of supply chain surplus and food by-products would be upcycled into a high protein feed ingredient.

[2020 Scottish Shellfish Farm Production Survey. 30 June 2021.](#)

The survey by Marine Scotland Science shows that mussel production tonnage decreased by 15% in 2020 over 2019 (from 6,699 to 5,661 tonnes). The Pacific oyster harvest fell by 33% to 2.9 million shells. The production of farmed scallops decreased from 26,000 to 19,000 shells, while native oyster production fell from 103,000 to 75,000 shells (both fell by 27%).

[New report flags habitat value of bivalve shellfish and seaweed aquaculture for fish and invertebrates. 25 June 2021.](#)

A growing body of scientific evidence indicates that the commercial cultivation of bivalve shellfish and seaweed can deliver valuable ecosystem goods and services, including provision of new habitats for fish and mobile invertebrate species.

[Seafish report on the Official Control Regulations for shellfish. 9 June 2021.](#)

The report offers, for the first time, a comprehensive review of how the EU Official Control Regulations (OCR) relating to live bivalve molluscs production are applied across different countries. The report suggests that the UK has previously taken a different approach to some other countries in interpreting the rules. Also view our new [web page on aquaculture water quality and classification for shellfish](#) and the [workshop report](#) from November 2020 on Scientific Understanding and Proposed Regulation for Norovirus in Shellfish

[New study. The Pacific Oyster: Why we should love them. 9 June 2021.](#)

This study has been undertaken on behalf of the Shellfish Association of Great Britain (SAGB) and is funded by The Fishmongers' Company's Fisheries Charitable Trust. It is intended to assist in the formulation of a policy towards the cultivation of the Pacific oyster in England and Wales.

[Scientific paper. The hype, fantasies and realities of aquaculture development globally and in its new geographies. June 2021.](#)

This paper by Thierry Chopin, University of New Brunswick and Barry Costa-Pierce, University of New England (USA), raises some caution flags about the hype and rhetoric surrounding aquaculture.

[Seafish Quay Issues magazine. June 2021.](#)

The latest edition of Quay Issues explores the everyday challenges facing our UK coastal communities. It includes an article on Eastbourne Harbour.

[Assessing the carbon footprint of aquaculture. 27 May 2021.](#)

This article looks at the carbon footprints of different aquaculture species, which suggests that aquaculture holds its own against other forms of animal protein production.

[Future Feeds: Suggested Guidelines for Sustainable Development. Albert G.J. Tacon et al. March 2021.](#)

The present paper focusses on the major perceived sustainability issues related to feed inputs for finfish and crustacean aquaculture species, including sustainability issues related to feed formulation and ingredient selection, feed manufacture and feed quality, on-farm feed use and impacts, and fish quality and food safety.

News

[Search to find the cause of shell breakage in mussels underway.](#) 24 June 2021.

A consortium will examine a range of factors that could lead to weakness in mussels' shells.

[A joint project to help enhance integration between certification schemes.](#) 22 June 2021.

The Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC), the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP) and the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch (SFW) have funding for a project which aims to improve collaboration even where different schemes operate at different scales. This project will be centered around four outputs: identifying areas of overlap between standards; coordinating monitoring and evaluation systems; expanding joint aquaculture improvement projects; and improving product origin verification.

[Red Lobster latest seafood vendor to get hit with sustainability-focused lawsuit.](#) 15 June 2021.

A growing number of class-action lawsuits are being filed against seafood retailers and foodservice outlets, claiming their offerings do not meet their own sustainability claims. Red Lobster is now facing a class action complaint alleging that its farmed shrimp and Maine lobster, are not sustainably sourced.

[New feed standard will tackle one of biggest threats to aquaculture's reputation.](#) 15 June 2021.

The new Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) standard requires feed mills to meet strict environmental and social requirements; source ingredients from socially responsible suppliers; and use environmentally responsible raw materials. The Standard will now enter a 14-month preparatory period. The Standard will become effective in Autumn 2022, when feed mills become eligible for certification.

[Scots Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture \(IMTA\) project reports first seaweed harvest from Scalpay farm.](#) 2 June 2021.

This is part of a study involving the University of Stirling, Mowi, local shellfish partners, and sustainable seaweed farming company KelpCrofting to determine whether locating a seaweed and shellfish farm near a salmon farm will allow these species to benefit from the organic nutrients produced.

[Lawsuit alleges Aldi's farmed salmon doesn't meet sustainability claims.](#) 25 May 2021.

Aldi's fresh Atlantic salmon is not sustainably sourced as advertised but instead farmed industrially through unsustainable, environmentally destructive and inhumane practices, a class action alleges. The false advertising and marketing complaint has been filed in US Superior Court in the District of Columbia.

[New BioMar targets 'will likely redefine aquaculture feed ingredients'.](#) 14 June 2021.

Feed firm BioMar Group has launched a new set of "2030 ambitions". The feed firm wants to be net-zero for emissions, and 50% of raw materials to be 'circular and restorative' for both planet and people by 2030

Events

[RiseUP survey. An invitation to influence UK aquaculture policy.](#) 16 June 2021.

Deadline for responses is 15 July 2021.

The survey asks businesses about the impact of COVID-19, specific aspects of their resilience response, but also the ability to anticipate changes and their effects, including preparing and coping with simultaneous disruptions (such as BREXIT and COVID-19 waves). RiseUP brings together the expertise of the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS), the University of Manchester and Seafish.

Seafish further information

- **Monthly fishmeal news alert.** There is also a monthly Seafish fishmeal industry news e-alert covering news items, legislation and reports. To be added to the mailing list email E: **[Karen Green](#)**.
- **[Seafish aquaculture web page](#)**
- **[Fishmeal news](#)**

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