



**March 2021 news alert (sent by email 23 March 2021)**

**This Seafish fishmeal industry news e-alert covers news items, legislation and reports. See also:**

<https://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/aquaculture-farming-seafood/sourcing-fishmeal-and-fishoil/>

**Seafish news and reports**

**[Seafish summary of 2020 ICES advice for pelagic stocks](#). Updated November 2020.**

**[Seafish Insight: fishmeal production and trends. Source: FAO SOFIA 2020](#). August 2020.**

**[ICES advice for pelagic stocks for 2021](#). Source SPFA.**

**Events**

**Aquaculture Common Issues Group (ACIG) bite-size meeting. Feed resilience and novel aquafeed ingredients. 17 March 2021.**

This meeting looked at the resilience of the supplies of conventional aquafeed ingredients and how the feed industry is handling the challenges and changes to farmers' responsible sourcing policies. It also looked at the challenges faced in marine ingredient supply chains, and at the novel alternative aquafeed ingredients being developed. See the presentations from this session:

- [Aquafeed composition and sustainability – a retailer's view](#). Helena Delgado Nordmann, Tesco and Piers Hart, WWF.
- [Speeding up the adoption of novel feed ingredients](#). Marcela Navarro, Feed-X.
- [Building resilience into feed ingredient sourcing](#). James Deverill, Cargill Aqua Nutrition UK.

**Stock status and quotas - North East Atlantic and Baltic Fish Stocks**

**Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)**

The MSC has suspended the certification of Atlanto-Scandian herring and blue whiting as of 30 December 2020, and for mackerel (2019). This affects eight certificates covering fisheries from the European Union, Norway, Iceland, Russia, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and the United Kingdom. This certificate suspension is due to the lack of an international agreement on how to manage catch levels between different nations. The MSC has called for urgent international action and for quota-sharing settlements.

**[Marine Stewardship Council \(MSC\) briefing on small pelagic fisheries](#). 19 March 2021.**

This briefing provides a full analysis of how we can sustainably manage, catch, source and sell small pelagic fish.

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**[MSC webinar. Safeguarding the fish that feed other fish. Webinar recording.](#)** 17 March 2021.

This event launched the MSC briefing above. This features live discussion with experts from Cargill, Veramaris, Tesco and the MSC.

**[EU – Norway deal allows for unlimited access to blue whiting in Irish waters.](#)** 18 March 2021.

The EU and Norway have agreed a deal which will allow Norwegian pelagic boats unlimited fishing access for blue whiting in Irish waters. The deal was signed as part of the EU – Norway bilateral deal which saw Norway exchange a blue whiting quota of 37,500 tonnes from the EU. In turn it has gained access to fish the Norwegian blue whiting quota in Irish waters, without any area restrictions.

**[EU, Norway and the United Kingdom conclude key fisheries arrangements on North Sea.](#)** 16 March 2021.

The UK has reached agreement with Norway and the European Union on catch limits in 2021 for six jointly-managed fish stocks in the North Sea. For pelagic stocks the EU will have access to catch its quota of Norwegian Spring spawning herring in Norwegian waters, while in the case of blue whiting there will be reciprocal access to waters of the other party to catch up to 141,648 tonnes. The other main pillar of this arrangement covers quota exchanges of major economic interest to both sides, including 10,274 tonnes of Arctic cod for the EU and 37,500 tonnes of blue whiting (see above) for Norway, among many others.

**[Stock Status and Quotas – Atlantic and South America](#)**

Peru divides its anchovy fishing areas into two regions – south and north-central – with different capture limits and seasons set for each one. The north-central is Peru's main fishing region, with capture measuring roughly six times that of the south region.

**[Peru raises start flag on southern zone's first anchovy season of 2021.](#)** 5 March 2021.

The country's production ministry (Produce), has set a total allowable catch (TAC) for the first 2021 season at 409,000 metric tons. The fishing season in this area is set to finish by 30 June at the latest.

**[Peru closes second anchovy season at 88% of quota.](#)** 27 January 2021.

Peru's Ministry of Production (PRODUCE) called a close to the second season of anchovy fishing in the North-Central zone, with 2.44 (88%) of the 2.78 million-metric-ton (MT) quota filled. The season launched on 12 November 2020. The 2021 anchovy quota is likely to be around 5m metric tons, in line with 2020.

**[Reports, studies and resources](#)**

**[Microplastics warning sounded for aquafeeds.](#)** 1 March 2021.

Researchers have found plastics-contaminated samples in fishmeal. Samples from 26 different fishmeal products, from 11 countries on four continents and Antarctica were collected. A wide range of plastics content was found.

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**[Report claims salmon farming costing economies, society, and the environment billions. 11 February 2021.](#)**

The [Dead Loss](#) report, commissioned by the Changing Markets Foundation, calculates the cumulative costs to economies, society, and the environment resulting from the negative impacts of salmon farming at almost USD 50 billion (EUR 41.2 billion).

**[Salmon producer questions "core agenda" of \\$50 billion "hidden cost" report. 11 February 2021.](#)**

Representatives of the aquaculture sector have questioned the "core agenda" of the Dead Loss report, that the short-term pursuit of profits by salmon producers is creating significant unaccounted environmental and social costs, including growing mortality rates, damage to local ecosystems, pressure on wild fish stocks and poor fish welfare.

**[New study finds Scottish pelagic fisheries have low carbon footprint. February 2021.](#)**

The PHD study 'The environmental impacts of pelagic fish caught by Scottish vessels' by Frances Sandison found that Scottish caught pelagic fish such as herring and mackerel have a low carbon footprint compared to other types of food production including UK farmed salmon and Norwegian caught cod and haddock.

**[Study into marine by-products traceability. 25 January 2021.](#)**

HSSMI and MarinTrust have begun a three-month feasibility study, funded by the UK Seafood Innovation Fund's Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS). The SeaTrace project aims to define a traceability system for the UK marine by-products industry.

**[IFFO's analysis on marine ingredient market trends. January-December 2020](#)**

Total cumulative fishmeal production in 2020 (including salmon-based meal) increased by 11% with respect to the previous year, although Chile, the USA and India reported significant annual reductions. Total cumulative fish oil production in 2020 was also on the rise (+12%), with all regions bar the USA and India reporting bigger outputs than in 2019. In addition in the [latest IFFO update](#) total fishmeal and fish oil productions in January 2021 surpassed that of January 2020.

**Standards**

**[The Marin Trust standard. March 2021.](#)**

A new video from MarinTrust explains what assurances the standards give regarding sourcing and production of marine ingredients.

**[MarinTrust unveils new verification tool for fishmeal plants claiming to be receiving MSC certified materials. 22 December 2021.](#)**

MarinTrust has developed a new tool which enhances recognition between the MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) and MarinTrust Standards and ensures continuity and traceability within the value chain.

**News**

**[Cargill SeaFurther initiative. March 2021.](#)**

Cargill has launched new initiative with the goal of helping salmon farmers reduce their environmental footprint by 30% by 2030 by measuring and tracking greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions/kg fish from 2017 to 2030, and manage the role salmon feed plays in that reduction.

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**[What is the potential of new raw marine materials?](#) February 2021.**

IFFO has partnered with SINTEF, the Norwegian research institute, on the SFI Harvest programme to develop knowledge and technologies for responsible harvesting and processing of lower trophic marine resources. A recent SINTEF evaluated 23 different sources of raw materials. This showed that seven out of the 23 raw materials could be realistic contributors to salmon feed demand by 2050.

**[11 years of Reduction Fisheries analyses: an overview from the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership \(SFP\).](#) February 2021.**

Over the 11 years the Reduction Fisheries Sustainability overview has been published, they have seen a steady trend of continuous improvements in fisheries and expanded engagement by the supply chain to drive, support and reward these improvements.

**[European Fishmeal \(EFFOP\) calls for no binding targets for fishmeal reduction in aquafeed.](#) 19 January 2021.**

A phasing out of fishmeal and fish oil should not be recommended. EFFOP supports measures to reduce the dependency on critical feed materials (e.g. soya grown on deforested land) by fostering alternative feed materials issued from responsible sourcing such as insects, marine feed stocks (e.g. fish and algae) and by-products from the bio-economy (e.g. fish waste).

**[Danes reinforce responsible practices across marine ingredients sector.](#) 16 December 2020.**

Marine Ingredients Denmark has issued a code of conduct for the industry, alongside a new [video](#) illustrating how Denmark is taking a responsible approach to sourcing fish raw materials from national and foreign fishing vessels.

**See also**

- [Seafish aquaculture web](#)
- [Seafish aquaculture profiles](#)

*This is an information service provided by Seafish for industry and key stakeholders. The views expressed are not necessarily those of Seafish.*