

May 2021

#### **Common Language Group e-alert**

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

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

#### **Fisheries management and stock status**

**[EU and UK reach agreement in principle on fishing opportunities for the remainder of 2021.](#)** 2 June 2021.

The EU and the United Kingdom have concluded negotiations on an agreement in principle on the management of key shared stocks in both the EU and the UK waters until the end of 2021. It establishes the total allowable catches (TAC) for 75 shared fish stocks for 2021, as well as for some deep-sea stocks for 2021 and 2022. It also provides clarity on access limits for non-quota species.

**[Seas at Risk - Benefits quickly outweigh costs of banning bottom trawling from Marine Protected Areas.](#)** 12 May 2021.

A socioeconomic analysis commissioned by Seas At Risk and carried out by New Economics Foundation has revealed that a ban on bottom-contacting gear (bottom trawling and bottom dredging) in Marine Protected Areas would yield net benefits as soon as four years after the ban comes into force. The study highlights that after 13 years of such a ban, there would be €3.41 returned for every €1 spent, with a cumulative net gain equivalent to €8.4 billion over a 20-year period.

**[Study finds protecting key ocean areas could boost total catch, fight climate change.](#)** April 2021.

A new study published in Nature has found that protecting key areas of the ocean would increase overall catch, help reduce carbon emissions, and protect biodiversity. According to the study, strongly protecting at least 30% of the ocean, primarily in the 200-mile exclusive economic zones of coastal nations, would result in substantial environmental and commercial benefits. **[In response](#)**, Ray Hilborn, University of Washington Professor of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences has commented MPAs aren't the answer to ocean biodiversity, sustainability efforts stating that the study made different assumptions on different types of fishing effort.

#### **Northeast Atlantic mackerel**

**[Faroe Islands and Iceland announce quotas for 2021 mackerel fisheries.](#)** 2 June 2021.

The seven coastal states have now announced what they intend to fish in 2021. Norway intends to catch 298,000 tonnes, Russia just over 120,000 tonnes, Britain 222,000 tonnes, the European Union 100,000 tonnes, Greenlanders 60,000 tonnes, Iceland at almost 141,000 tonnes, and the Faroe Islands at just over 167,000 tonnes. This amounts to more than 941,500 tonnes (almost 90,000 tonnes in excess of advice).

**[Norway establishes a national quota for Northeast Atlantic Mackerel for 2021.](#)** 27 May 2021.

The Norwegian Ministry for trade, industry and fisheries has established a mackerel quota of 298,299 tonnes for 2021. They state it was not possible to continue the coastal state agreement for mackerel, following the United Kingdom leaving the EU and becoming an independent coastal State.

**[Retailer, processor group slams Norway's mackerel quota increase.](#)** 28 May 2021.

Norway's decision to set a unilateral quota for Northeast Atlantic mackerel that increases the country's national catch by 106,456 metric tons (MT) to 298,299 MT has been condemned by the

North Atlantic Pelagic Advocacy Group (NAPA). NAPA is urging all coastal states to commit to and establish binding fisheries management strategies and to agree sustainable quota shares for all the shared stocks in the Northeast Atlantic that follow scientific advice.

### **Events**

#### **Webinar recording. UK Fishing and Offshore Wind. 20 May 2021.**

The All Party Parliamentary Group meeting explored how the fisheries and offshore wind sectors can collaborate and ensure optimal marine planning outcomes for all involved. If you missed the event, or would like a recap, the recording is now live on our website, alongside summaries of our speakers' answers to questions from Parliamentarians and attendees.

#### **Webinar recording. Casting across the pond: Perspectives from the UK seafood industry on recovery through innovation. Held on 13 May 2021.**

The session was sponsored by Food is GREAT in partnership with the UK's Department for International Trade.

#### **Webinar recording. How Effective Port State Measures implementation can reduce illegal fishing in the seafood supply chain. Held on 20 April 2021.**

The event explained the benefits of effectively implemented port state measures to seafood buyers by highlighting the work done by the Royal Thai Government, OceanMind and the Seafood Taskforce.

#### **Event summary. The future of UK Fisheries Management. Held on 1 April 2021.**

Following their relaunch event, the industry-led charity Fishing into the Future (FITF) has published an event summary that encourages a commitment to the language of co-management in future fishing policy.

### **Resources and certification**

#### **Seafood 2040 receives funding to continue its work. 7 June 2021.**

25 original strategy recommendations have been revised to further support the English seafood industry. Seafood 2040 will continue its work with funding from the Marine Management Organisation, via the Fisheries and Seafood Scheme (FaSS).

#### **How Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification drives environmental best practice. 3 June 2021.**

New data shows 100 improvements were made by MSC certified fisheries in 2020. Over half of these include improvements relating to endangered, threatened and protected species. Cornish sardines and clams and cockles from Poole Harbour were among a group of sustainable fisheries celebrated for making vital improvements to protect ecosystems and vulnerable marine on World Ocean Day.

#### **One-Of-A-Kind Best Seafood Practices Certification Programme. 2 June 2021.**

The Global Seafood Alliance (GSA) has officially introduced Best Seafood Practices (BSP). This third-party certification programme provides credible third-party assurances linking responsible wild-capture fisheries to the Responsible Fishing Vessel Standard (RFVS) and the Seafood Processing Plant Standard (SPS) for certified facilities, through the Chain of Custody (CoC) Standard. [The recording of the GSA stakeholder update session on 26 May is available to view](#)

#### **New Global Fishing Watch Marine Manager portal. 27 May 2021.**

The Marine Manager technology portal will be freely available and can help regulatory authorities and researchers to monitor vessels involved in commercial fishing and other activities in marine

protected areas. Vessel information can be overlaid with other datasets such as salinity and sea surface temperature.

**[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 Fisheries Centre of Excellence \(ICoE\) launched](#). 19 May 2021.**

The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science ICoE wants to advance, apply and share expertise in fisheries science; strengthen successful fisheries management; and provide a focus for ongoing technical support and guidance.

**[Smartphone app helps reduce bycatch](#). 12 May 2021.**

The new smartphone app, developed for Clean Catch UK, enables the fishing industry to report bycatch. It is currently in use in south-west England to conserve sensitive marine species with a view for further expansion.

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