

**Jan/Feb 2017 fishmeal news alert (sent by email 10 March 2017)**

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

<http://www.seafish.org/industry-support/aquaculture/aquaculture-support/fishmeal-and-fishoil>

**Seafish Aquaculture Common Issues Group (ACIG) meeting. 5 April 2017.**

The next ACIG meeting is on Wednesday 5 April 2017 at Friends House, 173-177 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ. The meeting will run from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm. At this meeting we will have a focus on fishmeal and fish oil - pressures and alternatives from 1.30 to 2.45 including: fishmeal and fish oil production, Neil Auchterlonie, IFFO; the impact of El Niño on fish oil supply, Ian Pike, Consultant; and Algae: The Original Source of Marine Omega-3s, Walter Rakitsky, TerraVia. To attend **E: [Karen Green](mailto:karen.green@seafish.org)**.

**Seafish publications**

- **NEW. [Seafish fishmeal and fish oil facts and figures](#). December 2016.** These fishmeal and fish oil facts and figures draw together the latest available data on World, European and UK markets, as well as the supply of fishmeal and fish oil for land animals and fish feed.

**North East Atlantic Fish Stock Status**

**Iceland boosts capelin quota. 15 February 2017.**

Iceland's minister of fisheries has decided to increase this season's capelin quota to 299,000 metric tons, of which approximately 196,000t goes to the Icelandic fleet. In 2016, quotas for the Icelandic fleet were set at 100,000t. There is, in 2017, a zero quota on capelin in the Barents Sea. This is a significantly higher quota than the country's Marine Research Institute had recommended, having issued a 57,000t overall quota recommendation on 25 January however there was uncertainty over this survey carried out during early January. A decision was made to run a second survey from Feb. 3 to 11. This survey indicated a stock strength of 815,000t. The margin for error was assessed at 0.18. Catch rules dictate Iceland leaves 150,000t with a 95% likelihood of spawning. This rule takes into account any possibility of survey errors, as well as predation by cod, haddock and saithe on capelin. On this basis, the Marine Research Institute advised a 299,000t quota.

**Scots minister withholds mackerel quota to deter foreign landings. 13 February 2017.**

The Scottish fisheries minister has told the Scottish pelagic catching and processing sector that Marine Scotland will not allocate 12% of its available 2017 mackerel quota, pending an analysis of how much mackerel is being landed into Scotland and how much abroad. Minister Fergus Ewing has also threatened to change fishing license conditions so its pelagic vessels land more of their catch in Scotland. In a letter to the Scottish pelagic sector Ewing reportedly wrote that it is "prudent and proper for the government to retain a proportion of the quota so that it might have the option of seeking to deliver

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benefits to coastal communities, either through changes in the economic link license condition, or in some other way." He added the Scottish government is committed to introducing a Scottish landings target for all Scottish vessels "to ensure more fish are landed in Scotland".

**[Scotland's Pelagic Fishermen Call for Urgent Review of Faroese Access to EU Waters.](#)** 20 January 2017.

In a joint statement, the two associations representing Scotland's pelagic fishing fleet have called on the European Commission to review Faroese access to EU waters "as a matter of urgency". The Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association and Shetland Fishermen's Association understand that the Faroese Parliament is on the cusp of awarding its vessels significantly higher quotas for key pelagic species without any international agreement. "By grabbing additional quotas for species such as blue whiting and Atlanto-Scandian herring this year, Faroe continues to make a mockery of sustainable international fisheries management," said Ian Gatt, chief executive of the Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association.

**[Stock Status and Quotas – Atlantic and South America Peruvian anchovy fishery launches a FIP.](#)** 8 March 2017.

The Peruvian anchovy fishery has launched a Fisheries Improvement Project (FIP) to get a 'certifiable status' according to the guidelines of the Conservation Alliance for Seafood Solutions (CASS). This purse seine fishery accounts for up to 6 million tones in a regular year, which are mostly used to make fishmeal and fish oil. The FIP was launched after the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Peruvian National Fisheries Society (SNP) and the Center for Development and Sustainable Fisheries (CeDePesca). This FIP will be developed in parallel (and coordinated) with another one for the direct human consumption part of the fishery. The Action Plan for the FIP includes an update of the former pre-assessment against the MSC standard, an evaluation of the trophic impacts of the fishery, the improvement of controls for the small-scale fleet and a better understanding of the direct impacts on other species, through a private on board observers program.

**[Peru's first anchovy fishing season could begin in mid-April.](#)** 22 February 2017.

Peru's first anchovy fishing season could begin in the second half of April, depending on reports from Instituto del Mar del Peru, the country's production minister, Bruno Giuffra, said, El Economista America reported. "There are still no worrying indicators about sea temperature, so the first season could start in the second half of April or early May." Giuffra also said that in the last two weeks of January there has been a significant rise in sea temperature, which impact on ecosystems and fisheries is closely analyzed.

**[Peru to close 2016 second anchovy season, as it reaches 98% of quota.](#)** 26 January 2017.

The second season of anchovy fishing in the central-north of the country should end during the last week of January. Evidence of the beginning of the reproductive phase of the species prompted the recommendation to cease fishing activity from the last week of January - 98% of the quota had been reached.

**[Reports/brochures/web sites/presentations/articles](#)**

**[Study: Most fish destined for fishmeal production are food-grade fish.](#)** 13 February 2017.

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From 1950 to 2010, 27% (~20 million tonnes annually) of globally reconstructed marine fisheries landings were destined for uses other than direct human consumption (DHC). Importantly, 90% of fish destined for uses other than DHC are food-grade or prime food-grade fish, while fish without a ready market for DHC make up a much smaller proportion. These findings have implications for how we are using fish to feed ourselves or, more appropriately, how we are not using fish to feed ourselves. Researchers Tim Cashion, together with Daniel Pauly, Dirk Zeller and Fred LeManach, published their findings in the journal Fish and Fisheries.

Commentary:

**[The Salt. 90 Percent Of Fish We Use For Fishmeal Could Be Used To Feed Humans Instead.](#)** Researchers now say these are the very types of fish that may be more valuable to humans who eat them directly, rather than being diverted toward aquaculture and other uses.

**[IFFO response.](#)** This question has been asked many times and is well researched. In reality, free market forces regulate the ratio between uses. Returns for the fishers are typically greater when selling to DHC and this trend is acknowledged in the paper, quoting 30% of catch in the 1990's going for FMFO reducing to around 18% by 2010, a trend we expect to continue. The reduction in whole fish entering FMFO production has been offset by an increased recovery of processing by-product, to the extent that around 35% of the total raw material used to produce FMFO is now from recycled waste products. Many companies that process FMFO also produce products for DHC where possible, allowing a rapid response to divert raw material to DHC as markets emerge.

**[Bloom study points to how industrial fisheries reduces wild populations.](#)** 14 February 2017.

This report, named the 'The Dark Side of Aquaculture', focuses on how industrial fisheries reduce edible wild fish into fishmeal to farm fish, pigs and poultry. The report stressed that over 90% of fish catches, for example of sardines and anchovies, which are reduced into fishmeal and fish oil to supporting the farming of fish, pigs and poultry, are perfectly edible by humans. The study, produced by NGO Bloom Association, pointed out that "massive overexploitation" of traditional fish stocks contributes to the sequential depletion of the very first links of the food chain, despite their crucial importance for marine ecosystems.

**[Intrafish article series drilling down the use of marine ingredients in the aquaculture industry \(subscription only\).](#)** 14 February 2017.

Intrafish published an interesting series of articles discussing the availability and use of marine ingredients, as well as looking at alternatives to them. Rachel Mutter closed the series with 'Balancing the industry's approach to sustainable feed', examining the issue of certification in the fishmeal and oil industry, where future sources might come from and what role it should play in the future of aquaculture feed. She concluded by noting that "it is also imperative that whatever supplements become the mainstream, the health of the fish and the health-giving properties of the end-product do not suffer.

Aquaculture's whole future is reliant on being a sustainable, healthy, affordable protein, and the role of sustainable, healthy, affordable feed is key to its success."

**[IFFO response:](#)** I am going to ask that we now move on from idea that fishmeal and fish oil have to be automatically replaced. Your series of articles did a great job of explaining the options available to, and needs of, the industry. However, the industry is not best served by the trend for the accepted need for more feed ingredients to somehow morph into a campaign to substitute instead of supplement."

[IFFO Update February 2016](#)

[IFFO Update March 2016](#)

### **Market news**

[Globefish report: Record short first fishmeal and fish oil season in Peru leads to a five year production low, prices declining partially due to hardship of companies.](#)

**6 February 2017.**

[Globefish report: Pelagics supply outlook improving.](#) **6 February 2017.**

(Covers January to October 2016). With recent research indicating that North Atlantic mackerel and herring stocks are improving, the outlook for 2017 appears to be strong. In contrast, for South American anchovy, lower catches are expected for the remainder of 2016 although forecasts are somewhat mixed. Highlights:

- **Mackerel:** The international summer survey for mackerel in the North Atlantic gave some very encouraging results this year. The so-called stock index was the highest since this research was initiated in 2007, and was set at 10.2 million tonnes, which is 2.5 million tonnes higher than last year. The main reason for the high stock levels appears to be the very strong 2014 class, which now is beginning to show itself in the research results. Also in Norway, research vessels have registered a significant amount of large and fat mackerel during their surveys this summer. The average size of the mackerel caught in the area southeast of Jan Mayen Island had increased from 380 g to 530 g. In Iceland, vessels also report good mackerel fishing along with large sizes. The average size of mackerel caught in the Icelandic waters was somewhat lower (388 g) than that around Jan Mayen.
- **Herring:** researchers are optimistic about the North Sea herring stocks. According to representatives of the Institute of Marine Research in Bergen, this year's surveys show that the 2013 class of NVG (Norwegian spring-spawning) herring is in good shape, and researchers are excited about following this class in the years to come. However, so far, researchers are reluctant to suggest quota advice.
- **Anchovy and sardines:** According to the Instituto del Mar del Peru (IMARPE), Peru's anchovy biomass is in good shape, and things therefore look positive for the next fishing season. During the last survey performed by IMARPE, 7.3 million tonnes of fish was registered, with this and other indicators demonstrating a healthy stock. El Niño has significantly disrupted the anchovy season in Peru, and landings are well below normal.
- **Market and demand:** At the Nordea/Norwegian Seafood Council market seminar during Nor-Fishing in August, representatives of the pelagic industry in Norway called for more consumer orientation in the pelagic sector. The industry needs to develop new and consumer-attractive products as most of the Norwegian mackerel and herring production is exported as round frozen, thus adding no or very little value to the raw material. According to some analysts, an increase in fillet production would help the mackerel industry grow.
- **Outlook:** The outlook for North Atlantic mackerel and herring is positive for this season, with the potential for it to be even better next year. In the South American anchovy fishery, the situation is not so bright, as the industry expects a 20% drop in landings. In terms of pricing, mackerel prices are on the way up, especially for larger sizes. Whole frozen herring prices are also rising, while

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prices for frozen herring fillets are flat. The report analyses the market situation over the period January-October 2016

### **Global fishmeal production hits lowest level on record, while Chinese demand increases. 20 January 2017.**

Highlights comments made by Jean-Francois Mittaine.

- Global fishmeal production reached its lowest level on record in 2016 at only 4.09 million metric tons, which is the lowest level on record in the last forty years. Peruvian production dropped to its second-lowest level in recent years, totaling 631,000t, down 27% year-on-year. Chilean production also plummeted last year, dropping by approximately 100,000t to a total of 214,000t.
- Although traditional fishmeal producing countries -- Peru, Chile and Scandinavia -- have been overall producing less, there has been a noticeable increase in production in other countries, particularly Vietnam, Ecuador and others.
- Consumption - On the other hand, it is estimated that world demand in 2016 was 4.29m tons, 1.3% above the level of the previous year. Most of this increase is attributed to China. Consumption in EU markets, particularly Denmark, UK and Poland, also increased y-o-y by 7% to a total of 527,000t. Consumption in Chile, Japan, United States and Norway decreased..
- EU production - In the EU block, half of fishmeal produced comes from trimmings, which are pieces cut off from farmed or wild caught fish during processing. Production in such countries as Spain, Italy, France, and Germany, is entirely from trimmings.
- Outlook for 2017 - 2017 prices and supply will depend on quota levels set during the year in the main producing countries such as Peru, Chile and Scandinavia.

### **General news**

#### **Success of AlgaPrime™ DHA in Aquaculture Market Drives Increased Commercial Distribution. 8 March 2017.**

TerraVia, Bunge Limited and the BioMar Group have announced the expansion of their distribution agreement for AlgaPrime™ DHA - a native, whole algae specialty feed ingredient high in omega-3 DHA - making the product commercially available at scale to salmon farmers and other participants in the aquaculture industry. Building on successful joint aquaculture feed trials in 2016, over the past six months BioMar has significantly increased deliveries of commercial feed containing AlgaPrime™ DHA to leading salmon farmers. Developed to reduce dependency on marine fisheries and enhance the nutritional value of seafood, AlgaPrime™ DHA is expected to be a key feed ingredient in the future of aquaculture.

#### **Quarry at Kyleakin the preferred site for Marine Harvest Scotland feed plant. February 2017.**

A quarry at Kyleakin is the preferred site for a new £80m fish feed plant which will create 55 full time, permanent jobs. The site, known as Altanavaig (or Allt Anabhaig) quarry, is more than large enough to accommodate the plant. The news site will produce feed for use on their Scottish farms, as well as for Ireland, Norway and the Faroes. The company will consult with the local community as part of the planning application process. They plan to hold public meetings in Kyleakin and Kyle in April. Construction of the plant will take between a year and eighteen months and Marine Harvest believe it could be up and running as early as 2018, depending on the planning process.

**[IFFO position paper forage fish dependency ratio \(FFDR\)](#). 20 January 2017.**

IFFO has published a position paper analysing the forage fish dependency ratio (FFDR) to provide clear information on this complex debate. FFDR is an often quoted term in the dialogue on fed aquaculture sustainability, but caution needs to be exercised in how the information is interpreted, and the figures produced for FFDR should not be examined in isolation nor should values for FFDR be used directly as measures of environmental sustainability.

**[Invitation to provide input on the full draft \(excl. Mixed Trawl Fishery Criteria\) of the version 2.0 of IFFO RS Responsible Supply Standard](#)**. 16 January 2017.

In order to maintain the credibility and relevancy of its leading standard, the IFFO RS Governance Board ratified a proposal to review and enhance the IFFO RS programme through the development of 'Version 2.0'. The IFFO RS certification process includes two key components: the fishery assessment, and the factory assessment. The development of Version 2.0 includes a thorough review of both and these (excluding the new Mixed Fishery Criteria) are ready for Public Consultation via our website for a period of 60 days beginning 16th January 2017.

**Recent Seafish publications**

- **[Seafish fishmeal and fish oil facts and figures](#)**. December 2016.
- **[Seafish summary of 2016 ICES advice for pelagic stocks](#)**. October 2016.
- **[Seafish Insight: The global picture – fishmeal production](#)**. July 2016.
- **[Seafish quick summary of 2016 quotas, and supporting legislation, for pelagic stocks generally used to produce fishmeal](#)**. 25 April 2016.

**See also**

- **Seafish aquaculture web page:** <http://www.seafish.org/industry-support/aquaculture>
- **For guides and information see:** <http://www.seafish.org/industry-support/aquaculture/aquaculture-support/guides-and-information>
- **For the Aquaculture Common Issues Group minutes and presentations see:** <http://www.seafish.org/industry-support/aquaculture/aquaculture-groups/aquaculture-common-issues-group>

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