

Aquaculture news alert (April and May 2017) sent by email 14 June 2017

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

Seafish publications and news

Aquaculture Common Issues Group meeting. 5 April 2017.

Thank you to all those who attended the Aquaculture Common Issues Group meeting at Friends House on Wednesday 5 April. All the presentations are on the website and the draft minutes are attached for comment. Could you please send any comments to [Karen Green](#) by Wednesday 28 June 2017.

DIARY DATE - The next ACIG meeting will be on Tuesday 26 September 2017 at Friends House. If you have any agenda suggestions please E: [Karen Green](#).

Aquaculture-related Seafish Strategic Investment Programme Projects new webpage

Currently this new page has the outputs from the S Wales SIP project "Closing the Circle: Aquaculture Development in Enclosed Waters" which consists of 3 inter-related elements: The Aquaculture Opportunities for Enclosed Marine Water Bodies – Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay Case Study report; The Development of a Generic Shellfish Hatchery Design with Associated Spawning Ponds report; and an Aquaculture Site Scoping Matrix. The page will soon host the results of a second aquaculture-related SIP project which explores the potential for a sustainable aquaculture and fisheries centre in Brixham, Devon.

Research Backs Plans For Aquaculture In Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon. 19 April 2017.

A new report has confirmed the potential for aquaculture in the proposed Swansea Bay Tidal Lagoon (TLSB), which could be used to farm a range of marine species. The report is part of a trio of inter-related publications from "Closing the Circle: Aquaculture Development in Enclosed Waters", a project supported through Seafish's Strategic Investment Programme (SIP). SIP has allowed Seafish to fund additional, strategically important work consistent with its Corporate Plan objectives. It found the sheltered lagoon has strong potential for aquaculture, including farming mussels, oysters, scallops, clams, cockles and seaweed; all of which have local and international market potential, although trials would be needed to see how the shellfish and seaweed would grow inside the proposed development.

Consultations/reviews/funding opportunities/policy guidelines

Consultation on Amendments to Permitted Development Rights for Fin Fish and Shellfish Developments in Scotland. 5 May 2017. Closes 28 July 2017.

This consultation asks for responses regarding a number of proposed changes to current permitted development rights for fish and shellfish farms.

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[Joint Ministerial Statement. Supporting aquaculture growth and protecting Scotland's environment. 30 March 2017.](#)

The aim is for an aquaculture industry that is sustainable, diverse, competitive, economically viable and which contributes to food security whilst minimising environmental impact. The Scottish Government will promote the following aims: low-impact production systems, building on progress made to date by industry, which manage fish health challenges and enable continued growth while protecting marine ecology.

Third strand of the EMFF in Wales (algae and seaweed aquaculture) is available until 16 June.

The Aquaculture Call for Project Ideas Form and guidance is [here](#)

Certification

[IFFO, GAA to study fishmeal supply in Southeast Asia. 5 June 2017.](#)

The Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA) and IFFO, the Marine Ingredients Organization, are teaming up on a study aimed to improve how Southeast Asia fisheries are supplying raw material for fishmeal production. The study, primarily focusing on Thailand and Vietnam, is meant to support change in fisheries management in the region and drive the adoption of certification in the supply chain which will ultimately support the development of best practice in aquaculture. Feed suppliers, NGOs, governments, standard holders and other stakeholders will be invited to participate in the study, which will start in July. It is expected to run for 18 months. This will be the first phase of work to build a base of information for further projects, according to the two groups.

[Aquaculture Stewardship Council Salmon Recommended by the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch® Program. 5 June 2016.](#)

The Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) has announced that with the release of a new benchmark report, the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch program now recognises the ASC Salmon Standard as at least equivalent to their Good Alternative recommendation.

[The ASC Opens Public Consultation for Three Standards. 1 June 2017.](#)

The ASC has launched the first of two 30-day public comment periods for three new standards: the ASC Flatfish Standard; the ASC Sea Bass, Sea Bream and Meagre Standard; and the ASC Tropical Marine Finfish Standard. Feedback is requested by 30 June 2017.

[Completion of Standards Review, GSSI Benchmark Process Among Recent Developments at ASC. 18 April 2017.](#)

The ASC has announced two new developments: the first updates from the operational review of the ASC Salmon, Tilapia and Pangasius standards that began in 2015 have been finalised and agreed by the ASC Technical Advisory Group. The most recent updates include feedback from three rounds of public comment, improvements to the requirements for salmon feed and new restrictions on the use of antibiotics. In late March, the ASC entered the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) Benchmark Process.

[GLOBALG.A.P. applies for GSSI accreditation. 30 March 2017.](#)

GLOBALG.A.P. has applied to be benchmarked by the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI).

Reports/brochures/web sites/presentations

EU farmed fish output rises. 12 June 2017.

Farmed fish production in the European Union bloc is bounding back at an impressive rate, figures from the European Market of Fisheries and Aquaculture (EUMOFA) show. The latest available data is for 2014 which discloses that output that year increased by 8%, marking a reversal of the trends in the previous five years. The value of that production also increased by 2% over 2013 (75 million euros) to a total of 3.96 billion euros. The value growth of salmon led the overall 5% or 79 million euro increase of salmonids between 2013 and 2014, but down on the previous two years. The value of other marine fish also grew by 5% during 2013-2014, thanks to a 25 million euro increase registered for gilthead seabream. Bivalves and freshwater fish reported minor declines between 2013 and 2014.

IUCN report: Sustainability of Fish Feed in Aquaculture - Reflections and Recommendations. 13 June 2017.

The report looked at the sustainability of the major fish feed ingredients. The IUCN report shows that a general trend has been emerging, particularly in European aquaculture, to replace fish meal and fish oil in fish diets with other ingredients. This aims to protect ecosystems and to ensure the sustainability of fish feed, and tends to turn carnivorous fish such as salmon more 'vegetarian'. The report recommends looking into a wider range of raw materials rich in protein and fat that can satisfy the nutritional requirements of farmed fish such as soybean, rapeseed, and sunflower, as well as algae, insects and animal by-products.

Globefish Report: Tilapia major markets slow, global demand driven by new markets. 12 June 2017.

Globefish Report: A return to production growth in 2017 but global salmon shortage here to stay. 19 May 2017.

Globefish Report: Production for bivalves lower in 2016. 19 May 2017.

Globefish Report: Global farmed shrimp production in 2016 remains stagnant or lessens. 12 April 2017.

Scottish shellfish farm production survey 2016. 31 May 2017.

The publication details statistics on the employment, production and value of shellfish from Scottish Shellfish Farms. It is structured to follow industry trends within the mussel, Pacific oyster, native oyster, queen scallop and scallop species sectors. Some statistics are given for the 10-year period 2007-2016. The main findings are: Production tonnage of mussels increased by 6% from 7,270 tonnes in 2015 to 7,732 tonnes in 2016. This is the highest level of mussel production ever recorded in Scotland. Production of Pacific oyster shells increased by 31% from the 2015 total. Additionally, 4.6 million shells were produced for on-growing in other waters. Employment levels decreased by 8% from 2015, with 315 full, part-time and casual staff employed in 2016.

GAA Report Identifies Steps for Better Management of Algal Blooms. 30 May 2017

The Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA) has published a report detailing the series of massive harmful algal blooms (HABs) that impacted southern Chile in early 2016 and identifying steps that can be taken to enhance the management. HABs resulted in extreme losses of farmed and wild finfish as well as widespread paralytic shellfish

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poisoning (PSP). The 19-page report concluded that while clearly there is much capacity and experience among those studying and monitoring HABs in Chile, fragmentation in monitoring and outreach is apparent.

[European Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Organisations: The future of Aquaculture in Europe.](#) 16 May 2017.

This European aquaculture vision document looks at where do we want to be in 2030, 2050 and beyond? What are the main drivers we have to reckon with moving towards 2030, 2050 and beyond? What are the game changers we would need in order to attain our goals for 2030, 2050 and beyond?

[Sustainability rising for farmed salmon, says GSI report.](#) 16 May 2017.

Farming salmon is more sustainable than growing land animals in several key ways, according to the Global Salmon Initiative's (GSI) latest [sustainability report](#). And some of the biggest future improvements in sustainability will likely result from more efficient feed, say salmon industry experts.

General news

[Surging salmon sales drive record UK food and drink exports.](#) 31 May 2017.

Surging sales of salmon are firmly behind record UK food and drink exports, according to the Food and Drink Federation. In newly released first quarter data published by HM Customs and Excise, salmon exports grew in value to £186.7m and rose by 13% in volume, boosting overall British food and drink exports by 8.3% to £4.9bn. This is the largest first quarter ever recorded for food and drink exports. This leap in sales means that salmon has also regained its title as the UK's biggest food export, overtaking chocolate in the first three months of the year.

[SSPO briefing on Ethoxyquin use.](#) 12 May 2017.

[SSPO briefing on Anisakis.](#) 12 May 2017.

Research by the Food Standards Agency shows there is no risk of parasites from farmed salmon. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) reviewed the available evidence on the presence of parasites in wild and farmed fish and concluded that farmed salmon destined to be eaten raw in dishes like sushi does not need to be frozen before consumption.

[Algae-based aquafeed firms breaking down barriers for fish-free feeds.](#) 6 April 2017.

At this year's Seafood Expo North America, leaders from both the aquaculture and aquafeed industries spoke compellingly about the innovations being made – and now marketed – in fish-free feeds. At the Seafood Expo North America panel “The Feed Revolution: Driving Eco-Efficiency and Innovation in Salmon Aquaculture,” the chief executives of several aquafeed and aquaculture companies spoke about the broad consensus in the industry of the need for innovation to spur change in current industry practices. Demand for farmed fish is expected to double in the next 10 to 15 years, and the world's forage fish populations may not be able to sustain that level of increased harvesting. Aquafeed companies are therefore looking at alternative solutions – especially fish-free feeds, such as those made with algae, where there have been extraordinary breakthroughs recently.

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Scots set for first caviar farm. 1 April 2017.

Scottish caviar could be available to purchase in the not-too-distant future, following an application to build a farm capable of producing 1.5 tonnes of the prized fish eggs a year. The application involves building a state-of-the-art RAS system at Ardinglass, near Cairndow, on Loch Fyne and has been made by the Edinburgh-registered Fynest Caviar Company. The site will have the capacity to house around 50 tonnes of sturgeon at any given time. In addition to the output of 'Osietra quality' caviar (which typically sells for over £1000 a kilo) it is forecast that a further 10 tonnes of sturgeon products would be produced by the facility each year.

Events

27-30 June 2017 [World Aquaculture 2017](#), Cape Town, South Africa

15-18 August 2017 [Aqua Nor](#), Trondheim, Norway

10-13 Sept 2017 [World Seafood Congress 2017](#), Reykjavik, Iceland

3-6 October 2017 [Global Outlook on Aquaculture Leadership \(GOAL\) 2017](#),
Dublin, Ireland

17-20 October 2017 [Aquaculture Europe 2017](#), Dubrovnik, Croatia

23-25 October 2017 [IFFO Annual Conference](#), Washington DC, USA

26-27 October 2017 [Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers Annual Conference](#), Venue TBC, Scotland

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: k_green@seafish.co.uk

Seafood Ethics Common Language Group (Seafood Ethics CLG)

Seafish has set up a seafood ethics group to keep track of ethical issues affecting the seafood supply chain and to encourage dialogue and collaborative action across the UK supply chain. The main outputs will be communicated but if you would like to be added to this mailing list for news updates E: k_green@seafish.co.uk

See:

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

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