



September 2022

Fisheries Management and Innovation Group news alert

<https://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/seafood-issues-groups/the-fisheries-management-and-innovation-group/>

Funding

Funding schemes for the UK seafood industry

This page on the Seafish website has information on key national grant and funding opportunities that are available to UK seafood and marine businesses.

UK Seafood Innovation Fund (SIF) widens its net with a new call for innovative ideas (21 September 2022. Closing date is 7 December 2022)

Sitting under the government's £100m UK Seafood Fund (UKSF), the latest round of the UK Seafood Innovation Fund (SIF), which is call 4, has been launched, providing £3 million of additional funding to support cutting-edge solutions that disrupt the status quo and help address challenges across the UK seafood sector.

UK SF: Round 1 of Skills and Training Scheme now open (Closing date is 12 October 2022)

There is up to £10 million in the UK SF Skills and Training Scheme to fund training projects for workers in the seafood and aquaculture industry, to develop and improve courses to upskill the industry in essential skills.

UK SF: Round 2 of Infrastructure Scheme due to open in October. At least £65 million in grant funding is available through the UK SF Infrastructure Scheme to build improved capability at ports, harbours, processing, and aquaculture facilities.

Bottom trawling

Op-ed: What science says about the sustainability of trawling (26 September 2022)

Ray Hilborn, Professor at the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences at the University of Washington, looks at what the science says about the sustainability of bottom-trawling. He maintains the way to sustain food production and minimize the environmental impacts is not to ban trawling, but to manage it by providing incentives to the fishing fleets to minimize bycatch, reduce fuel use, minimize benthic impacts, and protect sensitive habitats.

Commission ends bottom fishing in protected deep-sea ecosystems (15 September 2022)

In line with the ambition to protect nature and restore biodiversity, the EU Commission has acted to close 87 sensitive zones to all bottom gears in the EU waters of the Northeast Atlantic. Based on the Deep-sea Access Regulation, and on scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the new regulation protects 57 vulnerable deep-sea ecosystems while generating the least disruption possible to the fishing activities. **7 October.** There has been further discussion on this at EU level. Read the two news reports [here](#) and [here](#).

European bottom-trawls should be replaced with less-destructive fishing (7 September 2022)

Bottom-trawling, regarded as one of the most-destructive fishing methods, could be largely replaced in European Union fisheries by far less-aggressive, readily-available fishing gears, according to a new report published by ocean protection organizations Seas at Risk and Oceana. The report found that

bottom trawling is the main fishing method used across Europe, accounting for 32% of total EU landings, but the practice is responsible for 93% of all reported discards, between 2015 and 2019.

[Small-scale Scottish fishing at a loss to highly-funded NGOs says Clyde Fishermen's Association](#) (28 August 2022)

They are hammering on the Scottish government's door to remove bottom-towing fishing methods from inside 3-nautical miles on the west coast and 12-nautical miles on the east coast, and fishermen's associations are nearly powerless to stop it as the march of the unelected lobby groups goes on.

[Fisheries management news and reports](#)

[Seafish Marine Environment News in Brief](#) (September 2022)

[Net Gains Alliances makes case for fishermen to adopt electronic monitoring](#) (3 October 2022)

The Net Gains Alliance (NGA) has released recommendations for an electronic monitoring programme designed to advance data modernisation in the US seafood industry.

[Refreshed Marine Litter Strategy for Scotland is launched](#) (29 September 2022)

The Marine Litter Strategy has a clear purpose: to develop current and future measures to prevent litter from entering the marine and coastal environment, and to support its removal, in order to bring ecological, economic and social benefits.

[MMO publishes annual UK Sea Fisheries Statistics 2021](#) (29 September 2022)

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has published its annual UK Sea Fisheries Statistics 2021. The publication is a summary of the UK fishing fleet, its activity at sea. This includes landings (how much fish they catch and land), and effort (how long they spend at sea), as well as covering trade.

[Marine Scotland published Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistics 2021](#) (28 September 2022)

Marine Scotland has published their Scottish Sea Fisheries Statistics 2021 which provides data on weight and value of sea fish and shellfish landed by fishing vessels, structure of the Scottish fishing fleet and employment on Scottish vessels.

[BIM publishes inaugural Annual Fisheries Report](#) (23 September 2022)

The National Seafood Survey from Ireland's Seafood Development Agency (BIM) provides insights into the status of Ireland's catching sector on an annual basis. It examines the economic performance of the national fleet and its multiple segments. It also details the social demographics of people employed in the sector and the current challenges impacting the industry.

[What happens when you add 'Highly' to Marine Protected Areas \(HMPAs\)?](#) (23 September 2022)

A Defra consultation on candidate sites for HMPAs has recently drawn to a close. Seafish Marine Environment Regulation Advisor, Eunice Pinn, explains what Highly Protected Marine Areas are, how sites are selected and how they could impact fishers.

[New date set for post-Brexit fisheries debate in Parliament](#) (22 September 2022)

All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) member, Alistair Carmichael, will lead a three-hour Parliamentary debate on post-Brexit fisheries on Thursday 13 October, following on from the release of the APPG report gathering views from across the UK fishing industry on the impacts of Brexit.

[Fishing for Data Project- why should fishermen collect environmental data?](#) (12 September 2022)

SafetyNet Technologies and Heriot Watt University (HWU) are collaborating on the 'Fishing for Data'

project, funded by Cisco Systems. The project aims to create underwater weather reports, to help fishermen better understand the underwater environment and how it affects their catch.

[Launch of three dynamic new projects to safeguard marine life alongside offshore wind \(30 August 2022\)](#)

The Ecological Consequences of Offshore Wind research programme (ECOWind) has confirmed funding for three pioneering projects. Together, these projects will investigate the cumulative impacts of offshore wind on the marine environment. The findings will be used to inform marine policy and management.

[Three Shetland ScotWind projects announced following clearing process \(22 August 2022\)](#)

Three projects will be offered seabed agreements for offshore wind projects following Crown Estate Scotland's ScotWind clearing process. Together, the three projects are expected to generate 2.8GW of electricity.

[Bycatch Mitigation Initiative published \(10 August 2022\)](#)

UK Government and the Devolved Administrations have published the UK Bycatch Mitigation Initiative (BMI). This is linked to ambitions in the Fisheries Act 2020 and UK international commitments to minimise and, where possible, eliminate the bycatch of sensitive marine species.

[Fisheries Management Plans \(FMPs\)](#)

[Seafish call stakeholders to help develop king scallop FMP \(27 September 2022\)](#)

Seafish are currently developing a King Scallop FMP, and are looking for stakeholder engagement through a number of events. This work is being led by the Scallop Industry Consultation Group Working Group, an industry-led co-management group.

[New Defra Policy Paper outlines process for development of FMPs \(1 September 2022\)](#)

Defra has published a policy paper which sets out how FMPs, a key mechanism for delivering the objectives of the Fisheries Act 2020, will be prepared and published for waters around England. The paper details six 'frontrunner' FMPs which will act as pilots, and are being prioritised for delivery in 2023.

[Delivering FMPs \(September 2022\)](#)

FMPs will provide the framework to build and maintain sustainable UK fish and shellfish stocks. Seafish is the delivery lead for frontrunner FMPs for crab, lobster and whelks, and is also supporting on the king scallop FMP.

[Fisheries management plan announced for the Clyde \(1 September 2022\)](#)

A new creel fisheries management programme has come into being on 1 September 2022 to help tackle a range of growing issues which have been facing Clyde fishers for a number of years. This has been devised and proposed by representatives from the Clyde Fishermen's Association, and enabled through the West Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (WCRIFG).

This is an amalgamation of the news alerts issued in September 2022.