

News Release

14 December 2012

Seafish welcomes new Chair appointment

Seafish welcomes the announcement by Owen Paterson, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, that Elaine Hayes has been appointed as Chair of the Board. Elaine will chair the Board, which oversees the strategic direction of Seafish, for three years from 1 January 2013.

The appointment has been made with the agreement of the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment in Scotland, the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland and the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food Fisheries and European Programmes in Wales.

Seafish is a levy-funded industry body which was created under the Fisheries Act 1981. It has a statutory duty to promote the sustainability and efficiency of the sea fish industry as a whole. Seafish is jointly sponsored by the four UK Fisheries Administrations.

Paul Williams, Chief Executive of Seafish said:

“We are delighted to welcome Elaine to the Board at Seafish. This is an exciting time for the organisation as we prepare to deliver our new corporate strategy and the key commitments that we have made to the industry.

“Elaine brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role. She will be building on the solid foundations established by John Whitehead to ensure that we continue to deliver lasting results for industry.”

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Notes to Editors

Biography: Elaine Hayes

Elaine is Chair of the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority. She is a member of the South West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and an expert advisor to the Torbay Harbour Authority.

Elaine has a Bachelors degree in Animal Physiology and a Masters in Aquatic Resource Management. She began her career in the water industry, before moving to the not-for-profit sector where she took senior management roles with the Sussex Wildlife Trust and later, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. She has held a range of appointments including being a Governor at Ridgeway School, serving on the Chichester Harbour Conservancy Advisory Committee and being a member of the Environment Agency's Regional Environmental Protection Advisory Committees for the south east and south west.

As Chair of Seafish, Elaine will be paid a fee of £18,000 per annum for a minimum of 4 days per month. The appointment has been made on merit and in accordance with the Code of Practice issued by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The intention of the Code is to provide an efficient and transparent appointments system in which both candidates and the public can have confidence. All appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process.

In accordance with the Code there is a requirement for the political activities of appointees to be made public. Elaine is not engaged in current political activity.

Seafish Background information

Seafish was founded in 1981 by an Act of Parliament and aims to support all sectors of the seafood industry for a sustainable, profitable future. It is the only pan-industry body offering services to all parts of the industry, from the start of the supply chain at catching and aquaculture; through processing, importers, exporters and distributors of seafood right through to restaurants and retailers.

Seafish is funded by a levy on the first sale of seafood landed in the UK. Its services are intended to support and improve the environmental sustainability, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the industry, as well as promoting sustainably-sourced seafood. These services include technical research and development, responsible sourcing initiatives, economic consulting, market research, industry accreditation, safety training for fishermen and legislative advice.

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