



January 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 (January 2022)

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

Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) opens scheme to help Ireland's inshore sector adjust to post-Brexit trading conditions (26 January 2022. Applications open until 31 March 2022)

BIM has opened applications for the new scheme designed to help Ireland's inshore sector adjust to post-Brexit trading conditions. Under the scheme, depending on the size of their boat, grant aid of between €2,700 and €4,000 is available for fishing vessel owners on completion of a tailored training programme.

£1 million made available to support Wales' fishing industry (17 January 2022. Closing date for applications is 25 March 2022)

Wales' fishing community is being invited to submit applications to a £1m fund to primarily help mitigate the ongoing impact Covid is having on the industry and adapt to the rapidly changing market conditions for seafood products.

UK Seafood Fund (UK SF): Infrastructure Scheme (27 December 2021. Fund opens on 7 March 2022)

This is a first call to access the initial tranche of the total £65 million UKSF Infrastructure fund. The scheme will fund projects that build capacity across the UK fishing sector supply chain through investment in: ports, processing and aquaculture infrastructure.

UK SF Skills and Training Scheme (27 December 2021. Bids April 2022)

The Skills and Training Scheme will provide a one-off fund of up to £10 million to improve training in the seafood industry, including the catching, processing and aquaculture sectors.

£1.9m Maritime and Fisheries Fund for Northern Ireland (Deadline for applications is 11 February 2022)

Financial support is now available for fishing and aquaculture stakeholders in Northern Ireland, replacing the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. Minister Poots has encouraged stakeholders to apply promptly as the funding closes in March next year.

Searching for ideas for collaborative fisheries research (6 January 2022)

The newly formed Fisheries Industry Science Partnership (FISP) Network, led by the Fishmongers' Company's Fisheries Charitable Trust, Fishing into the Future and the Fishing Animateurs, wants the fishing industry to come forward with ideas for scientific studies that address issues with data deficient fisheries, and support the science used in decision-making in the UK. The second round of the FISP grant scheme is scheduled for spring 2022.

[Horizon Europe: help for UK applicants \(21 December 2021\)](#)

Horizon Europe is an EU research and innovation programme with a budget of €95.5 billion. It runs until 2027 and UK-based researchers or innovators can apply to most Horizon Europe funding opportunities on the same terms as EU-based applicants. UK Research and Innovation is providing help and guidance on how to access this funding.

Consultations

[UK Government and Devolved Governments seek views on the Joint Fisheries Statement \(JFS\) \(18 January 2022. Closing date to respond is 12 April 2022\)](#)

UK Government is seeking the views of all interested parties on the JFS and the related Fisheries Management Plans. The JFS sets out the legally binding policies the UK Government and Devolved Governments will follow, at a UK level and individually, as they work together to deliver world-class sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management.

[Marine plan monitoring survey \(December 2021. Survey closes on 7 March 2022\)](#)

The Marine Management Organisation Marine Planning team are collecting data to strengthen the monitoring and reporting of England's marine plans. The north east, north west, east, south, south east and south west annual monitoring surveys have been launched and stakeholders are invited to provide data on the use of the marine plans in the decision-making process.

[Scottish Government Seeks Views on Marine Litter Strategy \(29 December 2021. Closing date for responses is 22 March 2022\)](#)

Scottish Government has launched a consultation on an updated Marine Litter Strategy. This includes measures to improve the waste management and recycling of fishing gear.

Latest news

[Waterdance, WFPO and Seafish work together on Sumwing trials \(20 January 2022\)](#)

Waterdance have been working with the Western Fish Producer's Organisation (WFPO) and Seafish on a recent trial for new, innovative and low-emission beam-trawling gear.

[European bottom fishing industry shows a united front in Brussels \(19 January 2022\)](#)

An alliance of fishing organizations from 14 EU countries, representing over 22 000 fishermen and 8,000 vessels, demonstrated the importance and realities of bottom fishing activities across Europe, to Fisheries Commissioner Sinkevicius. The industry showcased the sustainability and overall importance of these widespread fishing methods in all EU member states and demonstrated that these fisheries are well regulated, controlled, researched and widely certified.

[ScotWind offshore wind leasing delivers major boost to Scotland's net zero aspirations \(17 January 2022\)](#)

Crown Estate Scotland has announced the outcome of its application process for ScotWind Leasing, the first Scottish offshore wind leasing round. 17 projects have been offered option agreements which reserve the rights to specific areas of the seabed. A total of just under £700m will be paid by the successful applicants in option fees and passed to the Scottish Government for public spending. The area of seabed covered by the 17 projects is just over 7,000km² (a maximum of 8,600km² was made available through the Scottish Government's Sectoral Marine Plan).

- **[Statement by Scottish Fishermen's Federation on ScotWind round \(17 January 2022\)](#)**
We are understandably anxious and concerned about the potential impact of these and future offshore renewables projects on the Scottish fishing industry..... This is a vast area, and the majority of the successful projects are for floating offshore wind, which creates even greater spatial and co-existence problems for fishing than fixed turbines do".

[Seasonal Clyde Cod Spawning Closure \(14 February – 30 April\) includes new measures to strengthen stock recovery \(13 January 2022\)](#)

Measures to protect spawning cod in the Firth of Clyde for the past 20 years will continue in 2022 and 2023, through the seasonal closure (between 14 February and 30 April) of the area to fishers.

[Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Trends over 25 years \(December 2021\)](#)

This booklet offers a glimpse into the objectives of the Code and the framework of instruments and guidelines that have, over the last 25 years, been built on the Code and in support of the implementation of its wide-ranging provisions

[Marine Environment News in Brief - January 2022](#)

[UK and EU reach agreement on fishing opportunities for 2022 \(22 December 2021\)](#)

The UK and EU reached agreement on catch limits for 2022, providing around 140,000 tonnes of fishing opportunities for the UK fleet. Policy paper on fisheries: cooperation between the UK and Norway. [Published 13 January 2022.](#)

[Seas At Risk - More than 150,000 Europeans call on EU to ban bottom-trawling to protect ocean and climate \(20 December 2021\)](#)

Environmental NGOs have presented EU Commissioner Sinkevičius with giant pop-up storybook on how bottom-trawling impacts our marine environment. They have called for the EU to phase out destructive fishing practices, starting with an immediate ban of bottom trawling in all Marine Protected Areas.

[Reports, reviews and guidance](#)

[Trade-offs between bycatch and target catches in static versus dynamic fishery closures \(25 January 2022\)](#)

This scientific study analysed 15 different fisheries around the globe and found that under static area management (i.e. no-take marine area closures) observed bycatch could be reduced by 16%. But, under dynamic ocean management based on observed bycatch, and closing the same total area but fragmented in smaller areas that can move year to year, that reduction can increase up to 57% at minimal or no loss of target catch.

[Dumped fishing gear is killing marine life. Yet no governments seem to care \(19 January 2022\)](#)

George Monbiot article in the Guardian questions how fishing vessels lose so many of their nets and longlines.

[FAO report: Legal aspects of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear \(ALDFG\) \(12 January 2022\)](#)

The study examines legal responses to ALDFG in the context of marine fisheries. ALDFG is a fishing issue, a navigation problem (of vessel source pollution) and an environmental problem.

[Trawl impacts on the relative status of biotic communities of seabed sedimentary habitats in 24 regions worldwide \(6 January 2022\)](#)

A world-wide study by Bangor University of 24 large marine areas of the impacts of bottom trawling has found that seabeds are in good health where trawl fisheries are sustainably managed. The data showed foundational statistical relationships between trawling activities, their impacts, and ecosystem status.

[MMO announces updated guidance on Inshore Vessel Monitoring Systems \(I-VMS\) \(5 January 2022\)](#)

This I-VMS guidance is for under-12m fishing vessels registered in England. It aims to help English fishers understand how and when I-VMS will be delivered, how it may affect them, their responsibilities, and the steps they need to consider.

[Teknofisk: Trawling to a new tune \(22 December 2021\)](#)

The EU-funded TEKNOFISK and AUTOCATCH projects are developing an automatic catch information system that will provide detailed data on the catch entering the trawl, thus enabling fishers to make informed decisions on the ongoing catching process.

[‘Fishy Falsehoods’: Shetland goes on the attack to debunk fishing claims \(15 December 2021\)](#)

The Shetland Fishermen's Association (SFA) has launched the first in a series of papers aiming to debunk false claims made about the fishing sector. The first concerns the claim that trawling releases as much CO₂ globally each year as the aviation industry.

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