



Marine
Management
Organisation

Covid-19 Pandemic:

Support available for our fishing and marine industries

Updated 05/11/20



...ambitious for our seas and coasts

Marine Management Organisation ...ambitious for our seas and coasts

As England's marine manager, we protect and develop our seas, coasts and communities for the benefit of generations to come.

Our vision is for a prosperous future for our seas, coasts and communities.

MMO is here to help and provide support for our marine development and fishing industries and protect our precious marine environment. We approach a new era when the UK will have sole responsibility for our seas and the global battle against the Covid-19 pandemic continues. To support our industries, we have collated this guide to the advice and support available to businesses at this time.

We continue to provide all our services in a covid-19 safe manner, including inspections at sea or on shore at licenced sites. You can contact us by phone or email in our coastal offices around the country at <https://www.gov.uk/contact-local-marine-management-organisation>.

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Safe working practices

The Government [has published guidance](#) on the national restrictions applying from 5 November 2020 to prevent the spread of Covid-19 including safe working practices for employers, employees and self-employed people on working safely during the pandemic.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) [has published guidance](#) to minimise the risk to ships crew and steps to be taken by vessel owners and at ports.

Public Health England, the Department for Transport and MCA provide [guidance for shipping and sea ports](#) on steps to be taken by vessel owners and at ports to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

The National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO) has created [a check-list risk assessment](#) for fishing vessel owners and skippers. It contains advice on adapting operations to ensure safe fishing during Covid-19.

Further UK Government guides also contain information relevant to fishing vessel operators to help ensure crew are as safe as possible. They are [Construction](#) and other outdoor work; [Vehicles](#). There is also information for [businesses involved in food processing](#), packaging, storage and transport on this [link](#).

Self-employment Income Support

The scheme will allow you to claim a taxable grant of 80% of your average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single instalment covering 3 months, and capped at £7,500 altogether. This grant has been extended from 1 November 2020.

For eligibility criteria and guidance, please [click here](#)

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

All UK employers with a PAYE scheme can access support to continue paying part of their employees' salary for those who would otherwise have been laid off. Pays 80% of salary up to £2,500 a month for workers who have been designated as 'furloughed'.

For more guidance, [please click here](#) or call 0300 456 3556

Universal Credit

Universal Credit has removed the Minimum Income Floor which makes it easier for self-employed people to access this benefit. Self-employed earners may be eligible for either new style Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) or Universal Credit or both. People can apply for either or both benefits online at GOV.UK

For more guidance on universal credit, please [click here](#) or you can call 0800 328 5644

Statutory Sick Pay Rebate

Small and medium-sized businesses will be able to reclaim Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) paid for staff sickness absence due to coronavirus.

For more guidance, please [click here](#) or call 0300 456 3556

Income Tax

The deadlines for paying your tax bills are usually January and July. Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), you can delay making your second payment until January 2021.

For guidance on time to pay, please [click here](#) or call 0300 456 3565

Small business Rate Relief

Business Rates Relief for small businesses, applicable if the business operates from a property.

For guidance on time to pay, please [click here](#)

Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme

This scheme will help businesses who have immediate cash-flow issues. The scheme will be delivered through commercial lenders, backed by the Government-owned British Business Bank.

For guidance, please [click here](#) or you can call 0300 456 3565

Support for UK businesses trading internationally

If your supply chain has been affected by coronavirus DIT may be able to help you to find alternative suppliers.

For more guidance on international supply chains, please [click here](#).

Support to continue trading with EU at end of transition

The digital Fish Export Service which will provide catch certificates enabling export of fish to EU is open now to allow advance registration and will be available for familiarisation with the system from 16 November. In addition, we have established a dedicated helpline and team of advisors with extended hours to support businesses through to January 2021.

We have produced [easy-to-follow guidance for exporting processes](#) and signposted to a single reference point for all currently available guidance to continue trading with the EU from 1 January 2021. [You can find these on this link](#).

How to sell your catch direct

If you wish to sell privately, private buyers can purchase up to 30 kg of fish caught from a licensed fishing vessel for private consumption. Restaurants and commercial buyers are required to be registered.

For more guidance on marketing initiative please see the government website by [clicking here](#).

Grants available

For a limited time up to 29 November 2020, the MMO is taking applications for grants to help ports or harbours and fishing vessel owners impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Awards of up to £50,000 each are available for health and safety improvements on board fishing vessels and up to £100,000 for existing infrastructure projects at ports.

[More information is available here](#). The fund criteria is [available here](#).

Marine licensing services

We continue to provide a full service, accepting and making decisions on [applications for marine licences](#) and monitoring compliance with consents. If you have a marine licence that is due to expire before 31 March 2021 and have been impacted by Covid 19 restrictions, we will discuss the possibility of extending your licence to enable the completion of works.

We will continue to work with licence holders, completing 'desktop' inspections, or undertaking site visits where it is safe to do so.

Any businesses facing difficulties with licence payments should contact us direct to discuss the options.

Welfare support available to fishers

ORGANISATION	WHAT
Fishermen's Mission	Offering emergency financial support for the maintenance of the basics of life, and providing pastoral care <hr/> For further information, please click here .
Seafarers' Advice and Information Line (SAIL)	Part of Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) offering specialised advice for fishers, including independent, financial advice on benefit entitlement, HMRC issues, debt, charity grants and housing. <hr/> For further information, please click here or you can email advice@sailine.org.uk
Seafarers' Hospital Society	Offering health, welfare and advice to merchant seafarers and fishers' families. <hr/> For further information, please click here or you can email admin@seahospital.org.uk
Big White Wall	A confidential 24/7 online mental health and wellbeing advice and support service provided by the Seafarers Hospital Society <hr/> For further information, please click here or you can ring 0208 856 3696
Seafarer Support	Guides serving and former UK seafarers and their families towards relevant help in times of need. <hr/> For further information, please click here or you can ring 0800 121 4765

MMO Contacts

General: info@marinemanagement.org.uk

MMO Helpline: 0300 123 1032

Fisheries Management & Control:

fishingvessellicensing@marinemanagement.org.uk

Catch Recording Helpline: 0300 0203 788

Marine Planning: planning@marinemanagement.org.uk / 0208 0265 325

Marine Licensing: marine.consents@marinemanagement.org.uk 0191 376 2791

Fish Export Service – Helpline for registrations: 03300 416579

MMO Local Offices: Please visit our [website](#).