



Marine
Management
Organisation

Covid Pandemic:

Covid Financial Support Guide

for fishing and seafood businesses

Updated 17/03/21



...ambitious for our seas and coasts

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

As England's marine manager, 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. 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-safe manner, including inspections at sea or on shore at licensed 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>.

Contents

Covid finance support.....	3
Safe working practices	3
Self-employment Income Support	3
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.....	4
Universal Credit.....	4
Statutory Sick Pay Rebate	4
Income Tax	4
Small business Rate Relief	4
Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme	4
Support for UK businesses trading internationally.....	5
Support to continue trading with EU.....	5
How to sell your catch direct	5
Marine licensing services	5
A new timetable for import controls	6
Welfare support available to fishers	8

Covid finance support

Seafood Response Fund (SRF)

The Seafood Response Fund (SRF) will help catching and shellfish aquaculture businesses that have been affected by a reduction in demand from the markets in the UK and abroad. The MMO will contact eligible businesses in phases, inviting them to submit details online, with the aim of making the majority of payments in March. You can find details [here](#).

Maritime & Fisheries Fund (MFF)

There is some funding available under the [Maritime and Fisheries Fund](#) for projects that make the fisheries and aquaculture sectors more sustainable and help conservation of the marine environment. For more information, contact the MMO's Grants Team on 0208 026 5539 or email mff.queries@marinemanagement.org.uk.

Safe working practices

The Government [has published guidance](#) on the national restrictions applying from 5 January 2021 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 ship's 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.

The National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO) has created [a check- list risk assessment](#) for fishing vessel owners and skippers.

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

To make a claim for the third grant your business must have had a new or continuing impact from coronavirus between 1 November 2020 and 29 January 2021, which you reasonably believe will have a significant reduction in your profits.

The third taxable grant is worth 80% of your average monthly trading profits, paid out in a single installment covering 3 months' worth of profits, and capped at £7,500 in total.

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

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

Find out if you're eligible and how much you can claim to cover wages for employees on temporary leave ('furlough') due to coronavirus. The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been extended until 30 April 2021. Claims for furlough days in December 2020 must be made by 14 January 2021. You can no longer submit claims for claim periods ending on or before 31 October 2020.

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](#)

Income Tax

The deadlines for paying your tax bills are usually January and July. Due to the Coronavirus, 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. Please note that as of 17 December, the Government has announced that the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) will be extended until 31 March 2021.

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

The [Fish Export Service](#) provides catch certificates, storage and processing documents enabling export of fish. The new digital service is supported by a dedicated exports helpline, 0330 159 1989, which is available 24/7 with a team of expert advisers on hand to provide technical guidance and answer questions on the export process.

We have also produced a [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.

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 initiatives please see the government website by [clicking 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 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.

A new timetable for import controls

The Government has unveiled a new timetable for implementing import border control processes to enable UK businesses to focus on their recovery from COVID-19.

The changes, announced on 11 March, recognise the disruption the pandemic continues to cause to trade and adjusts the original phased introduction of measures for goods being imported into GB from the EU.

The revisions include revised dates from which you'll need to pre-notify imports of live and processed products from the EU, including fish and seafood, and for when they'll need to enter GB through a Border Control Post. You can read the full statements [here](#) and [here](#)

Welfare support available to fishers

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

MMO Contacts

General: info@marinemanagement.org.uk // Helpline: 0300 123 1032

Fisheries Management & Control: fishingvessellicensing@marinemanagement.org.uk

Catch Recording Helpline: 0300 0203 788

Fish Export Service: 0330 159 1989

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

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

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