

# Regional Fisheries Groups NEWSLETTER

Find out more about our upcoming port and coastal visits on our webpage [here](#)

## Regional updates and ongoing actions: **YOU SAID**

Fishers asked for more information regarding potential grant funding and why the engine replacement scheme does not include bottom towed gear.

The inshore fleet wanted an opportunity to speak with the minister.

Fishers asked for an opportunity to meet members of the RFG Team to raise concerns and discuss issues relating to all things fishing.

Fishers asked for more information on IVMS rollout and updates.

Told us lots of information and experiences about bass, and opinions on potential management measures for the FMP.

The catch app is not always practical to use.

## Regional updates and ongoing actions: **WE DID**

We have been in discussion with Defra regarding available grant funding and brought the MMO and Defra Grants Teams along to the June 2023 RFG Meeting to answer your questions.

We hosted a national meeting back in March. Thank you to all those who participated. We are still working through the actions.

We have conducted visits to Hoylake, Liverpool, Lytham St Annes and Fleetwood where we met with fishers across these ports. More meetings will take place this year across the remaining ports in the North West, and can also be arranged at the request of RFG members.

We have been in discussion with our IVMS Team, Senior Leadership Team and Defra, and brought Pete Clark and the IVMS Team along to the June 2023 RFG meeting to give updates and answer your questions.

We delivered the feedback we've received from all port visits to the bass FMP team to continue to feed into their work.

Spoke to the team behind the catch recording app and they are now looking for volunteers for a focus group to test the functionality of the app and introduce new features for those that use it.





## Regional Manager Northwest, Seafish

Katrina Wignall has now been appointed as the Regional Manager Northwest by Seafish. We asked Kat for a little more information about her:

“I currently live in Blackpool and have lived on the Fylde Coast all my life. My stepfather worked as a fisherman which gave me a realistic insight into some of the challenges the fishing industry face.

“My husband’s family were also fishermen out of Fleetwood on the Icelandic trawlers and my father worked on Fleetwood Docks as a Customs Officer checking the boats when I was very young.

“I volunteer as a Coastguard Rescue Officer (which mainly involves shore-based searches for missing people) and also with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) in Lytham St Annes on the Fundraising team and school visits team teaching about beach/seaside safety.

“I am passionate about the development plan that has been compiled to re-connect the Northwest Fishing/Seafood Industry with the wider UK network and will endeavour to assist in all areas I am able to.”



Lytham, Lytham Saint Annes, UK

## Grant fund opportunities

### Fisheries and Seafood Scheme (FaSS)

The FaSS is currently open for applications and is aimed at small, local business. The FaSS can provide a maximum contribution to a project of £250,000.

[Fisheries and Seafood Scheme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Infrastructure Round 4: Recreational Sea Fishing (Closed 19 June 2023).

You can apply for a minimum of £10,000 and a maximum of £100,000 for projects supporting the recreational fishing sector that develop infrastructure & promote sustainable growth.

[Apply for the UK Seafood Fund: Infrastructure Scheme round 4 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Infrastructure Round 3: Fleet Modernisation (Closing 31 October 2023).

Funding of up to £40,000 is available to replace engines for the small-scale coastal fleet using static gear.

[Apply for the UK Seafood Fund: Infrastructure Scheme round 3 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

## Do you have views on Fisheries Management Plans?

Do you know what a Fisheries Management Plan is? Have you been able to participate? Is it meeting your expectations? Have your say!

Defra have commissioned an independent research team to assess how the development of FMPs is progressing. Your views and opinions will be a key part of this evidence.

If you are interested in discussing the FMP stakeholder engagement process with the research team or would like to know more please contact **Ellie Cook** at:

[FMPEvaluation@icf.com](mailto:FMPEvaluation@icf.com) or on +44 (0) 20 3096 5511



## Catch recording application focus group

Lex Palmer, from the under 10m catch recording team, is seeking participants for a focus group to give feedback on the catch recording app.

The time commitment will be minimal, with online meetings taking place once every three months or so. Interested volunteers, please contact the RFG team:

[regionalfisheriesgroups@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:regionalfisheriesgroups@marinemanagement.org.uk)

## Inshore Vessel Monitoring System (I-VMS)

The MMO are posting regular updates to the [iVMS webpage](#) and will be posting letters directly to all affected vessels.

If you have any questions, please contact the I-VMS team or the funding team:

I-VMS emails to:

[ivms@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:ivms@marinemanagement.org.uk)

Grants team email:

[FaSS.queries@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:FaSS.queries@marinemanagement.org.uk)



Whitehaven, UK