

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**

That you would like more information and clarity on the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) consultation including information on stage 4.

You would like MPA proposed areas to be overlaid onto nautical maps.

You would like assistance in filling out a response to the MPA consultation.

You would like assistance hearing about active marine licensing applications and filling out the consultation responses.

You would like to understand how quota works and the graphs in the RFG meetings.

For us to share any bass biomass data used in the old EU regulations as well as any current we hold.

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 arranged for the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Marine Conservation Team (MCT) to come speak to those that requested.

At the MPA consultation drop-ins, we brought maps with the closest MPAs overlaid for the current round of stage 2 and stage 3 MPAs.

The Regional Fisheries Group (RFG) team visited you at ports and transcribed those conversations into a consultation response on behalf of the ports.

We have begun a trial using the RFG mailing list to alert this group of new marine license applications which may affect their fishing.

We hosted a drop-in with the quota team at the request of the fishers to explain all things quota and how it can be used.

We sent the data to those that requested it.

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

We 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.

Marine licence consultations

We want to help you understand and respond to marine licensing consultations.

This will start with a trial of 3 applications which we believe this group will be interested in or impacted by. The first application is [MLA/2023/00103](#), which is an application for aggregate dredge area 528 located in the outer Thames region.

The deadline for responses is 03 July 2023. Please email your comments to:

marine.consent@marinemanagement.org.uk

Contact the RFG team for more information on this application or for assistance in putting in your response.

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

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

Grants team email:

FaSS.queries@marinemanagement.org.uk

Grant funding opportunities

Fisheries and Seafood Scheme

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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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 \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

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 or on +44 (0) 20 3096 5511