

# 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**

The catch app is not always practical to use.

Why does the fleet modernization (or engine replacement) grant funding only apply to the coastal fleet using static gear and why does it not include trawl vessels?

You wanted an opportunity to speak with the minister.

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

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

Defra attended the North East Regional Fisheries Group online meeting in May to answer your questions and explained that this round is a trial and further rounds may open up to trawl vessels.

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

## Update from the RFG

Caley McIntosh joined the Regional Fisheries Group team in November 2022 and is now leading the North East Regional Fisheries Group meetings and engagement. Caley is based in Newcastle and has worked for the MMO since 2017 as a Marine Officer in both Kings Lynn and North Shields.

Caley has also worked within the Marine Conservation Team and thus has a wealth of knowledge regarding all things fisheries and conservation related.

If you have any questions or queries and would like to get in touch, please contact Caley at: [Caley.McIntosh@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:Caley.McIntosh@marinemanagement.org.uk) or + 44 (0) 7442 859771.

## Catch recording application focus group

Lex Palmer, Service Manager from the under 10 metre catch recording team, is seeking participants for a focus group to feedback on functionality of the catch recording app.

This group will provide insights on catch recording practices. Time commitment will be minimal, with virtual calls 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 out 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)

## Grant fund opportunities

### Fisheries and Seafood Scheme

The Fisheries and Seafood Scheme is currently open for applications and is aimed at small, local businesses. This scheme can provide a maximum contribution of £250,000 to any project.

[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?

Have you been made properly aware of what a Fisheries Management Plan is? Have you been able to participate? Are the plans meeting your expectations? Have your say!

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

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

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

## Area split?!

### Should we split the North East RFG region?

The North East region currently covers Berwick to Cleethorpes/Grimsby Port. If you would like to see this region split into two separate RFG meetings to cover more area-specific agendas, please let Caley and the team know your views via the google poll sent to your email.

If you would like to get in contact with any member of the RFG team, please email us at:

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



Tynemouth Castle, North Shields, UK