

# 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**

You wanted the Northeast Regional Fisheries Group (RFG) to split into two separate groups – Northeast & Yorkshire and Humber.

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

You told us the grant application process was confusing and would like help with completing the application forms.

You told us that seal depredation of catch is an ongoing issue and needs to be addressed.

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

We conducted a survey and based on the majority of votes we will be trialling the split for the next RFG meeting due in January 2024.

Defra have now opened up Round 3 of the UK Seafood Fund to all gear types. This funding is available until December 2024.

We organised drop-in sessions in North Shields and Hartlepool and have offered help to industry at any time.

Caley has been in touch with 2 researchers from Oxford University who are currently conducting surveys on seal depredation of catch around the UK, and meetings have been set up with Defra to discuss the use of grant funded seal deterrents in future.

## Update from the Regional Fisheries Group - Northeast split

The Northeast Regional Fisheries Group (RFG) covers ICES Area 4b and includes 300 miles of coastline from Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland to Grimsby, Lincolnshire.

Many of you felt the group was too large and suggested the possibility of splitting the group into two separate RFG meetings. We sent out a survey to all fishers who are members of the Northeast RFG, and the majority were in favour of splitting the group at Staithes.

This new system will be trialled in January 2024,

whereby the 2-hour RFG meeting will be split into 1-hour dedicated to the Northeast and 1-hour dedicated to Yorkshire and Humber. This system will remain if successful, however fishers who are interested in both regions are of course welcome to join for the full 2-hour meeting.

If you have any questions and would like to get in touch, please contact Caley at:

07442 859771 or on  
[Caley.McIntosh@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:Caley.McIntosh@marinemanagement.org.uk)

## Inshore Vessel Monitoring System (I-VMS)

All fishers with under-12m vessels are urged to **act now** to purchase a type approved I-VMS device and claim up to £1,050 grant funding while it is available, or risk covering purchase and installation costs themselves.

### The deadlines to apply for grant funding are:

- 6-12m vessels: **30 November 2023**
- Under-6m vessels: **18 December 2023**

[Start your grant claim](#) with proof of purchase. New legislation will come into force next year, expected in April 2024.

[Visit our website](#) for more information or contact us at: 01900 508618 or at [ivms@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:ivms@marinemanagement.org.uk)

## Southern North Sea and English Channel Skates and Rays FMP & Southern North Sea non quota species FMP

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) are responsible for delivering these two Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs). The skates and rays FMP covering the following species in ICES Areas 4b, 4c, 7d and 7.e: Thornback ray, Blonde ray, Undulate ray, Small-eyed ray, Spotted ray, Cuckoo ray, Starry ray. The Southern North Sea non quota FMP covers the following stocks: Red, tub and grey gurnard; John dory; Red mullet; Squid; Cuttlefish; Octopus; Lesser-spotted dogfish.

Drop-ins and workshops are being held in Bridlington (07 December, 3pm at the Harbour Master's Office), Hartlepool (08 December, 11am at Hodgson's staff room) and North Shields (08 December, 3pm at MMO fish room and quayside).

## Grant fund opportunities

**UK Seafood Fund - Infrastructure Round 3: Fleet Modernisation (Closing 13 December 24).**

Up to £2 million in grant funding is available to modernise fishing vessels with replacement or modified engines.

This scheme is now open to any UK commercial licensed fishing vessel regardless of gear type or size, the grant caps have been raised, and the age of the current engine to be replaced has been amended (among other things).

This round is open for applications until midday on 13 December 24, or until all funding has been allocated.

A link to the scheme web page is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-uk-seafood-fund-infrastructure-scheme-round-3>

The grants team can talk applicants through the process and assist with completing the relevant supporting information. They can be reached on:

03300 416579 or at [UKFisheriesSupport@marinemanagement.org.uk](mailto:UKFisheriesSupport@marinemanagement.org.uk)

**Caley is also happy to help any applicants.**

## Northeast port visits

### September drop-ins

Caley (Northeast Regional Fisheries Manager) and Rachel from the Fisheries Management Plan team held drop-in sessions to meet with the industry in North Shields and Hartlepool on the 19th and 20th of September.

Concerns were raised regarding the REM consultation, and many fishers who attended were applying for engine replacement grant funding and had questions associated with the UK Seafood Fund Infrastructure Scheme.

### October drop-ins

Caley (NE Lead), Tim Dixon (Head of Fisheries Management), and Richard Hoskin (Head of Sustainable Fisheries) visited Scarborough, Whitby, Holy Island, and Seahouses on the 25 and 26 of October.

Despite the stormy weather conditions, the team spoke with several fishers who had questions associated with the Crab and Lobster FMP and who raised concerns regarding the scrubbing of berried hens.

