

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 more information on the bass Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) and the opportunity to feed your views into the FMP consultations.

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

You wanted us to visit Fleetwood in the near future to discuss local concerns and feed your views into future Fisheries Management Decisions.

You wanted more information on the Inshore Vessel Monitoring System (I-VMS) rollout restart.

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

We carried out a port visit to Barrow-in-Furness in September to discuss short-term and long-term goals of the FMP and assisted fishers with completing consultation responses.

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

We carried out a drop-in session in Blackpool on 02 November to speak to local fishers and merchants.

We carried out a drop-in session in November along with colleagues from our I-VMS Support and Engagement Team, answering questions and assisting fishers with ordering devices and completing applications for grant funding.

Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs)

On 01 October 2023 the consultation period for the frontrunner Fisheries Management Plans closed.

All the responses online and from engagement sessions will now be reviewed prior to the Fisheries Management Plans being published in December 2023.

Defra is now preparing the next FMPs for English waters: cockles, queen scallop, North Sea and Channel

sprat, Southern North Sea demersal non-quota species and Southern North Sea and Channel skates and rays.

To find out more information on the upcoming FMPs see 'FMPs in development' on the following link and register your interest with the delivery partners for each:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/fisheries-management-plans/fisheries-management-plans

For information on the next Southern North Sea engagement events, [visit our website](#) or visit our Eventbrite page to [register your attendance](#).

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

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 modernize 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

North West port visits

November drop-in

Dan visited Blackpool along with colleagues from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) I-VMS Team and North West Team to discuss local concerns, answer questions, showcase I-VMS devices and assist with completion of grant applications prior to the grant funding deadlines.

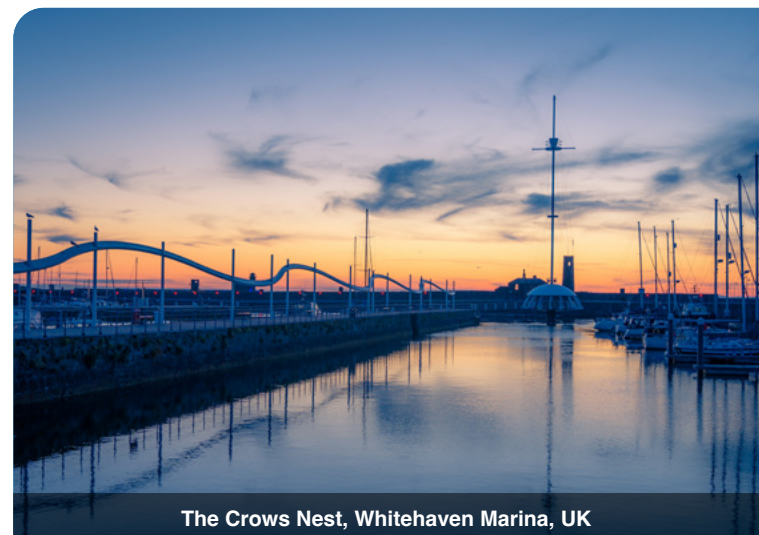
Port visits scheduled for end of 2023

Further North West visits are scheduled to take place on the 06 and 07 December at Barrow and Whitehaven.

More details on these will be coming soon!

Requests for port visits in your local port are welcomed and the Regional Fisheries Group (RFG) team will be happy to arrange at a time and place that suits you.

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



The Crows Nest, Whitehaven Marina, UK