

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 would like to hear more about marine license applications in your area.

Would like an Regional Fisheries Group (RFG) meeting.

You provided feedback on the engagement and consultation process on the front runner Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs).

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

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

Started a 'consultation assistance pilot' which is designed to help the regional group members hear earlier about applications and to submit their responses.

Following the results of the survey sent in August, we hosted an RFG meeting on 12 October. This covered agendas such as the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) medicals, upcoming FMPs and I-VMS.

We have shared this with the teams planning and delivering the next tranche of FMPs and continue to work with them to improve the process.

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

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.

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (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

MCA medicals - Grandfather rights

If you have a pre-existing medical condition, you can be considered for Grandfather Rights, providing you apply for your medical certificate before **30 November 2023**.

After this date, you will be classed as a new entrant that needs to meet the MSN 1886 medical standards & the medical assessor will then have less flexibility to take into account your history of working with any medical condition.

GFRs ensures that, where you can do so without significant risk to your own or others' health and safety, you are able to continue to work in your current occupation.

[Seafarer medical certificates: Overview - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Grant funding 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 webpage 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



Landguard Point, Felixstowe, UK

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

The MMO are responsible for delivering these two FMPs.

The [skates and rays FMP](#) covers 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:

- [Wells](#)
06 December, 2pm at the Lobster Hatchery
- [Harwich](#)
05 December, 11am at Ha'penny Pier
- [Lowestoft](#)
06 December, 10am at Everett Room, Library
- [West Mersea](#)
05 December, 4pm at Dabchicks Sailing Club
- [King's Lynn](#)
07 December, 9am at Eastern IFCA offices



Harwich, UK