

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 opportunities to speak with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) regularly.

Southeast fishers requested more opportunities for engagement with the RFG team.

You requested support on completing Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) consultation responses.

You provided feedback on the engagement and consultation process on the front runner FMPs.

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

MCA representatives have joined the Regional Fisheries Group (RFG) team on port visits to answer questions directly.

We carried out RFG port visits to Newhaven and Eastbourne, Poole, Swanage and Lymington over September and October of this year.

We've worked with fishers to help accessing FMP information and the completion of consultation responses.

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.

Your new Fisheries Group Manager - Jonny Brooks



Hi all. By now you may have seen a few emails or messages with my name on it. I'm Jonny, the South Regional Fisheries Group Manager.

You may already recognise me from the coast as I had been working as a Marine Officer for the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in the South and South East of England since 2020. Over the coming 12 months, I will be visiting all the ports in South area (Poole to Dungeness) to speak with the industry directly. If there are particular concerns or topics let me know so I can bring the right people along with me.

With lots of consultations and stakeholder events having and due to take place this autumn, we are looking to have the next South RFG meeting in January. In the meantime, Jacob and Katie from the Quota team will be producing a quota update video for you. Should you have any questions, issues or concerns before then, please get in touch directly at jonathan.brooks@marinemanagement.org.uk or 07876 398166.

South visits update

In September the Regional Fisheries Groups held drop-in meetings in Newhaven and Eastbourne, where we were joined by representatives from the MCA.

The MCA were able to provide some clarification about grandfather rights and referral processes. If you have any questions or concerns regarding MCA medical certificates, you can contact the Medical team at the MCA at:

0203 81 72835 or at medical@mcga.gov.uk

In October we had drop-in meetings in Swanage, Poole, Mudeford and Lymington. For some of these sessions, we were joined by the Skates and Rays FMP team ahead of their channel engagement sessions.

Next, we will be at Selsey and Littlehampton on 06 December 2023.

Please keep an eye out for further information on the times and dates for these sessions.

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 Food, Environment and 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/fisheriesmanagement-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](#).

Seal depredation survey

Dr. Claire Tanner from the University of Oxford (MCEM group) has been travelling around the UK coasts interviewing fishers for her research on the effects of seals on fishers'.

Their aim is to assess how interactions with seals affect UK fisheries (economically and via catch loss) and how these have changed over time, through an assessment of catch depredation and an interview.

The depredation assessment involves the fishing vessel/s photographing the partially-eaten fish and quantifying the amount of usable catch. The in-person interviews are now completed – but they are still interviewing fishers' over the phone if anyone is interested in participating.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact them:

07761 502260 or at biol0057@ox.ac.uk

Call for Participants!

We're looking for fishers in the UK to tell us about their interactions with seals!

Aim: to investigate the economic impact of seals on UK fisheries.

Interested?
 biol0057@ox.ac.uk
 07761502260

University of Oxford research project approval code: [R85524/RE001]

The poster features an illustration of a fishing boat on the right, a fishing net full of fish in the center, and several seals on the left and right. The background is a light blue sky with a white sun.

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 web page is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-uk-seafoodfund-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

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

Southern North Sea and English Channel skates and rays Fisheries Management Plan

The MMO are responsible for delivering this 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

Learning from previous FMPs, we are taking a new approach to identifying and troubleshooting issues within the fishery at a local scale, before engaging with stakeholders to understand whether our proposed solutions will support their needs.

A working group consisting of national representatives from commercial and recreational fishing sector, as well as NGOs, is being established to advise the team in the MMO.

If you would like to be involved in the working group going forward, please contact the FMP team:

FMP@marinemanagement.org.uk



Poole Harbour, UK