

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 an increase in the skates and ray quota for area VIIf.

You said help was needed with Inshore Vessel Monitoring System (I-VMS) grant applications, before the deadlines for both 6-12m vessels and under 6m vessels.

You wanted the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) to attend the next meeting to give clarity on the regulations that are affecting the inshore fleet.

You wanted breakdowns of the Lyme Bay consultation results.

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

The skates and rays quota in areas VI & VII (excluding VIId) was increased in October from 10th to 15th.

Arranged 2 drop in sessions in Hayle with myself and members of our Grants Team to assist with I-VMS grant applications on 27-28/11.

Engaging with the MCA to arrange attendance at the next meeting.

Those that requested this have been provided with an opportunity to request specific data which the Fisheries Management Team (FMT) can pull from the consultation results, while allowing all respondents to remain anonymous.

Your new Fisheries Group Manager - Anna Ni Donnchadha



I took on the role of South West Regional Fisheries Group Manager this August but I have been working at the MMO since 2017.

I first joined the administration team which gave me a brilliant foundation for moving on to become a Marine Officer and subsequently a Senior Marine Officer.

I have worked at sea on the Marine Management Organisation's (MMO) offshore patrol vessels for many years, leading a team of boarding officers for 2 weeks at a time.

My previous roles have given me such a wealth of experience and knowledge of the challenges the fishing industry face, so to be in a position to help raise awareness and drive change for the better is fantastic.

I live near my hometown of Penzance and the sea has always been in my blood, as my father, from the Hebrides, was a seaman all his life, the captain of a commercial dredger and my brother works in Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean.

My fiancé is a bosun and ex fisherman, also from the Hebrides.

Please get in touch for anything fisheries related that I can help with or if you are interested in coming along to our next meeting:

anna.donnchadha@marinemanagement.org.uk

Information and key dates for the diary

Next RFG meeting

The next meeting will be held on the **21 December** between 4pm - 6pm and we hope to have as much information on Quotas for the year ahead as possible by this time.

It will be held on Teams only.

I-VMS drop in sessions

As we are approaching the deadlines to claim grant funding for I-VMS devices:

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

I have arranged a drop in session over 2 days where myself and members of the Grants teams will be able to provide 1 to 1 assistance with grants applications, general I-VMS guidance & ordering/purchasing devices.

The sessions will be held at the Hayle MMO Office on the following dates:

- Monday 27 November, 10am – 3pm
- Tuesday 28 November, 9am – 11am

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 commercial fishing vessels with replacement or modified engines.

Round 3 is open for applications until midday on 13 December 2024, or until all funding has been allocated – whichever happens first.

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

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 \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/seafarer-medical-certificates-overview)



Seal in St Ives, UK

Southern North Sea and English Channel Skates and Rays Fisheries Management Plan

The MMO are delivery partner for this Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs), 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, they are taking a new approach to identifying and troubleshooting issues within the fishery at a local scale, before engaging with stakeholders to understand whether their 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 FMP team.

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

FMP@marinemanagement.org.uk

The FMP team are hosting 4 regional workshops where stakeholders will be invited to input, as well as several port visits to ensure that those who cannot attend workshops will still have an opportunity to speak to the FMP team. Furthermore, they will be developing a short online survey to gather thoughts from those that may not be able to attend in person.

SeaFit Quayside Services

SeaFit provides a range of free mental and physical health and wellbeing services for fishermen and their families.

Upcoming dates:

- [Mevagissey](#) - Thursday 07 December 2023
- [Plymouth](#) - Thursday 14 December 2023



Port Isaac, UK