

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**

There are continued concerns for the impact of seals on catches and stocks.

What is in the published Fisheries Management Plans (FMP) and how will this affect me.

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

The Regional Fisheries Group (RFG) team have partnered up with two researchers from Oxford University who are looking into seal depredation of catch around the UK, and we will be organising workshops with the industry over the coming months. If you wish to report an issue with seals in your area, please contact Dr Claire Tanner at: Claire.Tanner@biology.ox.ac.uk

We have attended industry meetings to provide updates on the published FMPs. The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) Fisheries Management Team provided an overview at the online RFG meeting on 18 January. And the RFG team is looking to produce a summary sheet which we will disseminate to industry.

South update

Since our last newsletter, Jonathan has hosted port drop-in sessions in the Poole area, supported FMP engagement sessions, and attended industry meetings following requests from industry members for information on the published FMPs.

We most recently held an online South RFG meeting on 18 January.

In this meeting we had an update on quota, the proposed 7e & 7d scallop closures, published FMP, the in-development skate and rays FMP, the UK Seafood Fund, and research being undertaken on seal depredation.

If you would like to see the minutes and or presentations from this meeting they can be found at the following webpage:

www.gov.uk/guidance/regional-fisheries-groups-south-7d

In the coming months we will be looking to visit areas that may not have had the opportunity to engage with the RFG team face to face at their local ports.

These visits will be communicated by the South RFG mailing list and MMO social media.

Grant funding opportunities

UK Seafood Fund (UKSF)

Round 3 of the UKSF Infrastructure scheme (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-uk-seafood-fund-infrastructure-scheme-round-3>) is currently open for applications until midday on **13 December 2024**, or until all funding has been allocated.

MMO grants team can help talk applicants through the process and assist with completing the relevant supporting information.

They can be contacted at:

03300 416579 or at
UKFisheriesSupport@marinemanagement.org.uk

Fisheries and Seafood Scheme (FaSS)

The Fisheries and Seafood Scheme is expected to re-open in February, further information will be available on the [FaSS guidance page](#) in the coming weeks.

Scallop closure

MMO is seeking views on proposals to close English waters in the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) area 7d, and Lyme Bay in ICES area 7e to the king scallop dredge fishery in the summer of 2024.

The proposed closures in 7d and 7e are to protect the stock during spawning and limit the impact of fishing activity on juvenile settlement.

The options proposed for closures for **7d** are:

- 15 May to 30 September 2024 (over 10m)
- 01 July to 30 September 2024 (over 10m)

The options proposed for closures for Lyme Bay **7e** are:

- A closure aligned to 7d (over 12m)
- No closure

You can provide a response to the consultation by emailing effort@marinemanagement.org.uk up to 11:59 on **13 February 2024**. Full information on the consultation can be found at the following [webpage](#).

Free training

From January to March, Seafish and Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) are offering potentially life-saving lessons on preventing or surviving a man-over-board emergency to fishers across England.

The training is free and Seafish will reimburse reasonable travel and subsistence costs. The next events to be held local to the 7d area are on 27 and 28 March 2023.

These will be in the RNLI College in Poole, Dorset. For more information you can contact Katie Hooper on:

07966 764 151 or see the following [webpage](#).

MCA consultation on medical fitness

On 16 January 2024, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) launched a 6-week public consultation on the possibility of exempting those who fished on vessels 10m and under for at least 4 weeks between 30 November 2022 - 30 November 2023, from the ILO188 medical certificate requirement.

The links to the consultation, which **closes on the 27 February 2024**, are here:

[Government to support small-scale fishing industry across the UK in latest medical consultation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Medical Exemption – Existing Fishers on Vessels of 10 Metres and Under - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

FVL webpage improvements

MMO's service design team are looking at MMO's fishing vessel licensing (FVL) webpages and want to speak with the industry about their experiences with the website to find out what works, and what doesn't work for those who are trying to get licensed or make changes to entitlements, vessels, and authorisations.

If you are interested in taking part, please email regionalfisheriesgroups@marinemanagement.org.uk to register your interest.