



Official Statistics Development Plan: October 2026 to September 2027

Publication Date: 27 October 2026

The [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#) requires statistics producers to publish a statistical development plan covering a period of 12 months.

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) publishes a range of official statistics and management information, including the annual Sea Fisheries Statistics (SFS), monthly provisional Sea Fisheries Statistics and quota uptake reports.

The MMO is committed to the continued improvement of these publications, ensuring statistics meet user needs and the standards set out in the Code of Practice. This notice shares details about the MMO's statistical development plan, covering the period up to September 2027.

Upcoming improvements

Several improvements are in the final stages of development, to be included with, or published before, the release of Sea Fisheries Statistics 2025. This is currently scheduled for publication on 29 October 2026.

Improvements to the website

Improvements continue to be made to the structure of the Statistics at MMO web pages, to improve navigation and clarity.

The Collection pages for each official statistics and management information release will be reviewed and updated to include more information about the contents of each release. This will enable users to make more informed decisions about which data are appropriate for their needs.

Improvements to the commentary and presentation in SFS25

The statistical commentary and presentation of the fleet, effort and landings sections of SFS25 will be updated to align with the refresh implemented in the trade section of the previous release.

The commentary has been expanded to improve the description and consistency of results throughout the sections. This makes it easier for users to interpret the data and understand trends over time.

Longer term development

The MMO is fully committed to the continuous improvement of its official statistics offering. There is an ambitious official statistics development plan in place, which includes updates and improvements to existing releases, as well as making more data available to the public.

The following outlines the elements of the of the development plan that are in scope for the next 12 months. It is likely that additional time will be required to fully develop and implement some of these improvements, particularly where there is the potential for material changes to the reported statistics. The MMO will continue to be transparent about its plans and the impact on users, aligned with the principles of the Code of Practice.

A complete progress update will be provided on an annual basis, alongside a refresh of the forward-looking development plan.

The following outlines the planned activities for the next 12 months:

- Publication of an ad hoc official statistics release of landings and effort data. This publication will be equivalent to data previously reported into Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), when the UK was a member of the EU.

These data will be published as official statistics and are provisionally scheduled for release on 11 December 2026. Following this publication, the MMO will consider how these statistics can be made available on a regular schedule.

- A refresh of supporting documentation, such as the methodology and quality report, which have not been updated in several years. While the methodology used to compile the Sea Fisheries Statistics has improved over time, these changes are not reflected in the materials users rely on to make appropriate use of the Sea Fisheries Statistics.
- Statistical disclosure control methods will be reviewed and documented. While the risk of disclosing personal or sensitive information is small, a clear and relevant statistical policy will ensure a consistent and transparent approach to disclosure control.
- A proposal to consolidate the existing monthly official statistics release has been published (18 August 2026). This proposes to include the information from the monthly Non-Quota Species (NQS) uptake by UK vessels in EU waters in the monthly provisional Sea Fisheries Statistics publication.

The MMO are seeking user feedback on this proposal. Responses are welcomed until 31 October 2026, with any changes to the official statistics publications being implemented for the reference period January 2027 onwards.

- To improve the accuracy of the provisional monthly Sea Fisheries Statistics, the MMO will continue to collaborate with Scottish Government to enable inclusion of manual amendments.

The engagement will initially focus the amendments required for Mackerel and Herring, as species of current interest and importance to the UK fleet. Subsequent engagement will consider the other manual amendments that are included in the production of the annual Sea Fisheries Statistics.

- A time series for LEAPFISH will be published. This will include annual data for a minimum period of 2021 to 2023, as well as for 2025. This is provisionally scheduled for Spring 2027.

Following user engagement and feedback on the first publication, the methodology and documentation will be reviewed and updated. The MMO will also establish a regular publication schedule that will be made available on the release calendar.

- The methodology used to impute missing sales values for landings is not applied consistently across all records. In some cases, imputed values are used when sales records exist. There is no audit trail to identify where an imputed value is being used.

An exercise to fully document and review the existing process will be carried out, and if appropriate, alternate methodologies will be considered. This review will be completed and, if required, a public consultation on any proposed changes will be carried out ahead of the UK Sea Fisheries Statistics 2026 publication.

- The Fisherman's Survey collects data to estimate the number of fishers (full- and part-time) working on English vessels. The results of the survey have not been published for 2023 onwards, as there were concerns that the outputs were misleading, and contradicted results of other reports of employment in the fishing sector.

A review of the Fisherman's Survey methodology will be completed and published in 2027. As well as considering improvements to the survey itself, a comparison to other publications on employment in the fishing sector, such as the '[Economics of the UK fishing fleet](#)' report published by Seafish, will be reviewed with a view to improving coherence between releases.

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