



The Fishmonger's Company's work on Fish and Fisheries

The Fishmongers' Company has always been part of the UK seafood industry. The Company has also long been associated with UK fisheries management. Proud of its history and traditional responsibilities (including at Billingsgate Market), it has always evolved and developed to address new challenges. Today its main focus is on:

- promoting a healthy and prosperous seafood industry, including through education and training;
- encouraging the sustainable management of marine and freshwater fish and fisheries;
- improving public understanding of the health benefits of eating seafood.

The Fishmongers' Company is an independent, apolitical body which places a high value on a rational and practical approach to fish and fisheries management issues in the marine and freshwater environments, supported by sound scientific evidence.

The Company's activities include

- support for a wide network of organisations that are active in the fish and fisheries sector;
- initiating and facilitating debate on fisheries issue through high level meetings and conferences;
- the promotion of education initiatives that support and promote fish and fisheries in the UK;
- the promotion of good science and support for academia in fish and fisheries areas;
- the provision of grants to projects in support the above.

The Company operates in four main areas of the fish and fisheries world:

Sustainable development and promotion of the seafood trade and the importance of seafood as part of human diet

The Company's contribution includes:

- The promotion and advocacy of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture policies and the health benefits of eating seafood
- Maintaining Fish Inspectors at Billingsgate Fish Market who operate under the Company's charter to ensure the highest standards of seafood quality at one of Europe's biggest fish markets
- Support for the highly successful Billingsgate Seafood Training School, which the Company helped found and which promotes all aspects of the preparation and presentation of fish in both commercial and domestic cooking. The school is now visited by over 6000 people a year of which over half are school children as part of a project to get young people to develop a healthier diet

Freshwater fisheries management

The Company's contribution includes:

- A Freshwater Fisheries Director working mostly in Scotland, but with responsibility for assisting with co-ordination of work between fisheries organisations throughout the UK
- Support for Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland (RAFTS) and its member network of 25 rivers trusts, and the co-ordination of these organisations with the network of 40 rivers trusts in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and their parent body – the Rivers Trust.
- Support, through grants, allocation of staff time and use of office space and Company facilities, to a wide range of respected freshwater fisheries bodies including: Atlantic Salmon Trust, Salmon and Trout Association, Fish Legal, Angling Trust, Association of Salmon Fishery Boards, Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, Wild Trout Trust
- The development of links between relevant academic establishments and fisheries / catchment managers
- Grants through the Company's Scottish Projects Fund (SPF) and other funds to support a wide range of scientific, educational and socio-economic projects and to pump-prime innovative initiatives in fisheries and catchment management
- Providing the new Sustainable Eel Group with expertise, start-up funding and a venue for meetings, to enable it to protect endangered eel stocks and build a sustainable eel industry

Marine and coastal fisheries management and aquaculture

The Company's contribution includes:

- Wide-ranging input, notably by the Chief Fisheries Inspector to industry and Government policy consultations and coordination and to various seafood advisory groups
- Professional input to consultations on domestic legislation and the reform of the European Common Fisheries Policy
- Close support to a number of UK bodies, including the Shellfish Association of Great Britain and the UK Marine Biological Association
- Charitable and other grants and support for a wide range of fishery-related organisations and projects, including educational awards for MScs and PhDs in fishery-related subjects
- Providing ad hoc hot-desking facilities for organisations such as The 'New Under Ten Fishermen's' Association' (NUTFA) and the Angling Trust
- Support for a Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture projects manager to support the above.

Education and Training

The Company's contribution includes:

- Promoting traditional skills within the seafood industry
- Assisting with the development of the new vocational qualifications for all sectors of the seafood industry
- Development of training materials to be delivered to trainee environmental health officers, port health inspectors etc.
- Delivering various training courses on subjects such as quality control, food hygiene and HACCP
- Auditing and advising seafood companies on all aspects of quality assurance

The Company's Hall, in central London, has traditionally been a hub for fisheries meetings and debate and has become a familiar location for a wide range of conferences, seminars, workshops, press events and entertaining to help promote, develop and raise the profile of fish and fisheries issues to the general public. In 2010, 85 fish and fisheries events were held at the Hall, attended by almost 2300 participants from all over the world.

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