



Responsible Fishing Scheme



Responsible Fishing Scheme

Be recognised for being responsible

Today's consumers are more knowledgeable about the food they eat than ever before. They are seeking reassurance that the fish they purchase and consume has been caught from a managed resource in a responsible manner. This changing marketplace requires the seafood supply chain to be able to demonstrate that these consumer needs are being met.



In order to provide industry with a tool which allows fishing vessels to prove their responsibility to the onward supply chain, Seafish have developed the Responsible Fishing Scheme.

Working together with the British Standards Institution (BSI), a specification of good practice for fishing vessels was defined. This Publicly Available Specification (PAS) is the foundation for the Responsible Fishing Scheme.

The Responsible Fishing Scheme aims to promote good operational and environmental practices and will, over time, raise standards in the catching sector.

The scheme is a means by which fishing vessels can show their ability to follow good practice. It allows vessels to demonstrate that their catch has been sourced by a vessel which complies with current good practice.

The Award will cover all aspects of vessel operations including:

- Fishing practices including capture, storage, handling and traceability of the catch.
- Crew competence.
- Environmental considerations including marine litter and discharge procedures.
- Vessel criteria.

The Responsible Fishing Scheme has been prepared and approved by a panel of industry experts and the process has been managed by BSI.

The scheme has been designed to cover a diverse range of vessels and fisheries.

What are the benefits of the scheme?

Until now, there has been no recognised standard of good practice which fishing vessels can use to demonstrate to onward stakeholders in the supply chain how their fish has been caught.

The Responsible Fishing Scheme will provide vessel owners with:

- An ability to demonstrate that the vessel operates to industry good practice guidelines.
- An assurance to the supply chain that fish from the vessel has been caught responsibly.
- A tool to allow them to differentiate themselves in the global marketplace.

“The Responsible Fishing Scheme is a significant step towards ensuring both responsible fishing and high quality seafood.

The market and consumers can be assured that UK fish exceeds the required standards and remains good value.”

Doug Beveridge, Assistant Chief Executive,
National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations.



What do I have to do?

In order to attain certification, vessels require to be audited by an independent certification body.

Seafish will provide grant aid of up to 50% of the audit cost until December 2007.

How to Apply

Contact Seafish to arrange a pre-audit visit by a qualified member of Seafish staff.

Seafish will conduct this preliminary audit free of charge. The findings of this audit will be discussed fully with you.

Any non-compliant areas will be identified and remedial actions recommended. Once all remedial actions have been taken, the vessel owner will arrange for an audit to be carried out by an independent certification body.

On successful completion of the audit, your vessel owner will be certified as adhering to good practice and responsible fishing.

Following the successful audit visit, an application should be made to Seafish for reimbursement of 50% of the audit cost.

Who are BSI Business Information?

BSI Business Information, a division of the national standards body of the UK, focuses on developing leading-edge best practice solutions throughout the development process.

What is a Publicly Available Specification?

A Publicly Available Specification is a documentation of best practice. It does not constitute a British Standard.



For more information about the Responsible Fishing Scheme or to arrange an initial consultation with a qualified member of Seafish staff or representative, please contact Mick Bacon on:

Telephone: 07976 222936, Email: m_bacon@seafish.co.uk or detach and fill in the reply-paid card.



Please contact me about the Responsible Fishing Scheme

Name	Position
Company	
Address	
	Postcode
Vessel Name and Number	Home Port
Fishing Method	
Telephone	Email



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EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
Financial Instrument
for Fisheries Guidance



BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE
Licence No. EH870

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