



Introduction

Welcome to the latest edition of the Responsible Fishing Scheme (RFS) newsletter. In this edition you will find information on all the developments that have taken place over the past six to nine months. As you will see the emphasis has been focused on obtaining maximum benefits for scheme members. This has included lower audit costs, a discount on insurance premiums for members and discounts for skippers who have shown commitment by obtaining their under 16.5m skippers ticket. Along with these benefits there are other developments designed to move the scheme forward by assisting in the development of local/regional good practice guides and producing some promotional leaflets for home and export markets.

Change in Scheme Auditors

Perhaps the most significant change in the past six months has been the change in scheme auditors from Moody Marine to Global Trust Certification. This change has resulted in significantly cheaper membership rates being made available to applicant vessels.

The good news is that for the first time there are now differential rates available to distinguish between the under and over 10m sectors. This enables new entrant vessels to join for as little as £87 for new under 10m vessels and £102 for new over 10m vessels.

For a more detailed breakdown of the costs please view the table on the RFS website at http://rfs.seafish.org/get_involved

Discount Insurance for RFS members

In addition to the new lower rates Seafish, in association with David Oliver Associates (DOA), can now offer significant insurance discounts to member vessels which will potentially make the cost of joining the RFS absolutely free.

Subject to claims history RFS members will qualify for a 7.5% annual discount on existing (like for like) hull and machinery insurance premiums with a further 2.5% discount when both hull and machinery and personal and indemnity insurances are lodged with DOA. For further information please see the enclosed leaflet.

Discount for Skippers obtaining the Seafish under 16.5m skippers certificate

On a similar note Seafish has got together with the Shipowners Mutual Protection Society, who are able to offer further financial support to **new applicant vessels** where the skipper holds the Seafish under 16.5m skippers ticket. This support of £75 per skipper per new vessel is in addition to any other support or discounts available. Again this offers vessels an excellent opportunity to join the RFS at minimal cost.

If you have completed all the relevant courses towards the under 16.5m skippers certificate but have not yet applied for it, contact Sharon Burke on 01472 252302 or s_burke@seafish.co.uk who will send you an application form.

Development of local/regional good practice guides

Aside from improving the financial benefits Seafish is also currently working with several organisations and assisting them in developing good practice guides that are applicable to their respective fisheries. This enables fishers to demonstrate their adherence to best practice and offers a benchmark for customers looking to source responsibly. If you would like further information or think that your region would benefit from the development of such a guide, please feel free to contact Mick Bacon (who is doing the work on these guides) using the contact information below.

RFS promotion leaflets for home and export markets

Similarly, following discussions with industry, and the feedback received, Seafish has developed a series of RFS promotional leaflets for use in continental Europe and further afield. These have been printed in French, Spanish and Italian, as well as the English version. Mindful of the many species exported from the UK it is hoped that this series of leaflets will raise awareness of the RFS with global customers and the high standards required of the vessels in the scheme. Should you wish to receive copies of the leaflets, please contact Jim Hyam using the contact information below.



World Fisheries Congress is coming to Edinburgh

This four-day Congress in 2012, which is hosted by the Fisheries Society of the British Isles, is taking place from 7-11 May 2012, and will address the important topic of “*Sustainable Fisheries in a Changing World*”. It will examine the science that underpins sustainable fishing; adaptive management and tools to cope with changing environments; the social and economic cost of failure; and meeting increasing food and nutrition needs through cultivation.

The Congress is expected to attract approximately 2,000 delegates to Edinburgh. Keynote speakers are:

- [Professor Sir John Beddington CMG FRS](#), Chief Scientific Advisor to the UK Government and Professor of Applied Population Biology at Imperial College London
- [Professor Ray Hilborn](#), University of Washington, Seattle, US
- [Mike Mitchell](#), Youngs Seafood Company, UK
- [Dr Malcolm Beveridge](#), Director of Aquaculture and Genetics at the WorldFish Center, Zambia

For further information, visit the WFC website www.6thwfc2012.com or follow Twitter @6thwfc2012 #worldfish

Case studies/Good news Stories

Seafish is looking to promote RFS members and their vessels by publicising the RFS more widely. To help us to do this we are looking for groups or individuals to come forward and to let us know if they have any interesting ideas they would like us to view and progress.

Specifically we would like to publicise why you decided to get into RFS in the first place what obtaining the award has allowed you to do that you could not do prior to having the award, benefits you have gained, new markets you have been able to access etc. Presentation of RFS certificates to skippers and crews is another area that will be explored – if anyone has been involved in presentations and you have any pictures please get in touch and we will publicise.

Shellfish Tagging

As members of the scheme you are probably already aware that tallies are issued to newly accredited vessels, however for quite a lot of members tallies are not appropriate and individual shellfish tags would work much better. Seafish is currently investigating offering shellfish tags to those vessels that find tallies are not for them and has found a suitable supplier. Samples of different types along with quotes for producing and printing them, are currently being looked into. If you think this is something the scheme should be offering and you would find them useful then please let us know by contacting the numbers below.

And finally the “window of opportunity” which allows you to take advantage of the European Fisheries Fund support towards RFS membership (50%) is about to close and will cease altogether in March 2012. So if you have any additional vessels or know of fellow owners/skippers who are thinking of becoming members, ***now is the time to register and get audited*** as this financial opportunity may not be available again.

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supporting the seafood industry for a sustainable, profitable future