

NE SCOTLAND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP: 11 NOVEMBER 2022

BULLETIN: TRENDS IN SEAFOOD EXPORTS FROM ABERDEENSHIRE FROM EXPORT HEALTH CERTIFICATION DATA

1 Reason for report

- 1.1 To inform NESFDP members

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that members note this bulletin

3 Discussion

- 3.1 At the prior meeting of NESFDP on 18 February 2022, an update on seafood exports, certification and regulation was presented by John Grant, Team Manager – Food Safety & Port Health at Aberdeenshire Council (item 7). Cllr Allard raised the question whether Export Health Certification (EHC) data might be able to shed a light on the extent to which post-Brexit complexities had influenced the balance of whole fish:processed products exported to the EU from Aberdeenshire. The indications from industry are that the volume of whole fish exported from Aberdeenshire has increased whereas volumes of processed seafood products have declined, but data is limited.
- 3.2 Mr Grant was subsequently contacted and he responded, attaching a spreadsheet showing the number and type of EHCs issued since Brexit. Mr Grant pointed out that the spreadsheet reveals the number of consignments – but not their composition. And while the information requested by Cllr Allard is recorded by the council's Environment Health team, he advised the scale of the task in extracting it from their records greatly exceeds the current resource capabilities of the service, particularly since it assumed responsibility for resettlement scheme accommodation checks (for Ukrainian refugees, many of whom have come to Aberdeenshire) and more recently, the licensing of short term lets - this when the service was already fully stretched. Mr Grant's report is attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 3.3 The data set out in Appendix 1 shows the month by month pattern of the three main types of EHCs issued by Aberdeenshire Council – so for example the first batch of data covers the month of January for the years 2017-2022 inclusive. The number of EU EHCs increased from 0 in 2020 to 1833 in 2021. Members will recall the high degree of accuracy required for EHC documents presented for inspection at EU Border Inspection Points for each and every consignment, right from the outset in January 2021. Reciprocal arrangements for imports of EU seafood into the UK are still not in place. Mr Grant advised that pelagic species continues to account for the highest volume of seafood exports – and that the decline in the number of EU EHCs issued in 2022 is due to a single, large seafood exporter in Aberdeenshire opting to switch to the DFDS logistics

hub in Larkhall (EHCs are generated there instead) instead of trucking their produce straight to the EU from their factory. Otherwise, Mr Grant reported that in terms of EU exports, the situation is stable with no significant problems being encountered.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

4.1 This report is relevant to all of the following Council priorities:

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Education Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	Infrastructure Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economy & Enterprise Estate Modernisation

4.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial			X
Staffing			X
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland			X
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing			X
Climate Change and Sustainability			X
Health and Wellbeing			X
Town Centre First			X

5 Scheme of Governance

5.1 NE Scotland Fisheries Development Partnership is able to consider this item in terms of its remit to provide a NE Scotland focus to enable issues and concerns across the fisheries and related sectors to be addressed. This includes strengthening economic development links between fisheries science, catching and processing sectors and the wider seafood industry, contributing to regional and local priorities for the fisheries sector, improving links between marine environment and biodiversity and contributing to policy development and consultations.

Alan Wood, Director of Environment & Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Derek McDonald, Industry Support Executive (Rural & Maritime)

1 November 2022

Appendix 1

Certificate Quantity						
	Jan-22	Jan-21	Jan-20	Jan-19	Jan-18	Jan-17
EU Certificates	131	148	0	0	0	0
Standard Certificates	50	26	97	62	36	19
China/Aus Certificates	9	8	20	97	22	6
Total	190	182	117	159	58	25

Certificate Quantity						
	Feb-22	Feb-21	Feb-20	Feb-19	Feb-18	Feb-17
EU Certificates	119	204	0	0	0	0
Standard Certificates	56	42	72	67	30	42
China/Aus Certificates	25	20	9	55	12	2
Total	200	266	81	122	42	44

Certificate Quantity						
	Mar-22	Mar-21	Mar-20	Mar-19	Mar-18	Mar-17
EU Certificates	154	213	0	0	0	0
Standard Certificates	38	52	65	39	25	42
China/Aus Certificates	20	21	8	68	11	1
Total	212	286	73	107	36	43

Certificate Quantity						
	Apr-22	Apr-21	Apr-20	Apr-19	Apr-18	Apr-17
EU Certificates	108	161	0	0	0	0
Standard Certificates	38	48	47	60	30	48
China/Aus Certificates	3	17	27	52	15	6
Total	149	226	74	112	45	54

Certificate Quantity						
	May-22	May-21	May-20	May-19	May-18	May-17
EU Certificates	63	139	0	0	0	0
Standard Certificates	55	48	44	63	42	50

China/Aus Certificates	25	13	18	50	21	0
Total	143	200	62	113	63	50

Certificate Quantity						
	Jun-22	Jun-21	Jun-20	Jun-19	Jun-18	Jun-17
EU Certificates	68	149	0	0	0	0
Standard Certificates	38	42	52	59	33	31
China/Aus Certificates	17	10	17	55	28	4
Total	123	201	69	114	61	35

Certificate Quantity						
	Jul-22	Jul-21	Jul-20	Jul-19	Jul-18	Jul-17
EU Certificates	51	110	0	0	0	0
Standard Certificates	29	27	45	51	24	18
China/Aus Certificates/3rd	5	15	9	68	43	2
Total	85	152	54	119	67	20

Certificate Quantity						
	Aug-22	Aug-21	Aug-20	Aug-19	Aug-18	Aug-17
EU Certificates	55	134	0	0	0	0
Standard Certificates	33	34	31	67	32	27
China/Aus Certificates/3rd	9	4	3	99	95	5
Total	97	172	34	166	127	32

Certificate Quantity						
	Sep-22	Sep-21	Sep-20	Sep-19	Sep-18	Sep-17
EU Certificates	83	124	0	0	0	0
Standard Certificates	40	26	27	32	15	28
China/Aus Certificates/3rd	13	8	9	74	52	6
Total	136	158	36	106	67	34

Certificate Quantity						
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	Oct-22	Oct-21	Oct-20	Oct-19	Oct-18	Oct-17
EU Certificates	46	143	0	0	0	0
Standard Certificates	26	29	54	51	27	28
China/Aus Certificates/3rd	10	4	11	74	60	13
Total	82	176	65	125	87	41

	Certificate Quantity					
	Nov-22	Nov-21	Nov-20	Nov-19	Nov-18	Nov-17
EU Certificates		223	0	0	0	0
Standard Certificates		44	121	92	39	37
China/Aus Certificates/3rd		8	16	36	89	22
Total	0	275	137	128	128	59

	Certificate Quantity					
	Dec-22	Dec-21	Dec-20	Dec-19	Dec-18	Dec-17
EU Certificates		85	0	0	0	0
Standard Certificates		48	102	91	27	25
China/Aus Certificates/3rd		34	8	41	91	22
Total	0	167	110	132	118	47

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