

## 55th Annual Conference



#SAGB55



## Trawling through the headlines

**35 YEARS WITH FISHING NEWS** 

## FISHING NEWS

29 May 2025 \$3.50

THE VOICE OF THE INDUSTRY SINCE 1913

fishingnews.co.uk

#### SEE PAGES 2, 3, 4 & 6

### **'HORROR SHOW'**

- Industry reacts as EU-UK deal gives EU vessels access to UK waters for 12 more years
- · Trade deal set to improve EU market access, benefiting
- New £36om fund for fishing and coastal communities also announced

fushing industry, there was criticism of the deal with the EU that war nnounced last week, for agreeing to it. Industry eaders expressed feelings of disappointment, frustration and setrapal at a wasted opportunity which sold the catching sector

Elepeth Macdonald, chief enroutive of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, said: This deal is a horsor show for Scottish fohermen, far worse han Boris Johnson's botched Brexit agreement. [It] highligh the total indifference of the British political establishment to the interests of our foling sector, with Sir Keir becomin the third prime minister after Edward Fleath and Johnson to betray the industry.

"Any attempt by either he UK or EU to portray the



Ursula von der Leyen and European Council president Antônio Costa-

new deal as a continuation of existing arrangements would be a lie, because in fact the Trade and Co-operation Agreement

payed the way for annual access

#### Fish24 campaign makes waves



May with the inaugural #Fish24 campaign. This 24-hour online celebration showcased the incredible diversity and dedication of our fishing communities, from the boats at sea to the freshee fish on your plate. With over 1,000 unique posts on social media on the west coast of Scotland - the initiative highlighted the parationate individuals working tirelessily to bring the

pride, reaching over half a milli people and inspiring widespread appreciation for the industry. Turn to pages 96-17 for the full story





Management issues tackled at Newlyn meeting See pages 8-9

### **ISLE OF MAN 1987**

FISHING NEWS: How do you think the Common Fisheries Policy has worked out for the Scottish fleet.

ROBERT ALLAN: The Scottish industry could claim to be reasonably satisfied with the way the CFP is going. We always felt that our quota shares of fish were not unreasonable - setting aside herring.

So long as these percentages can be held firm, the prospects for the Scottish fleet as a whole are reason- to prove our case. ably good if and when the

advice is that - if this happens with a TAC which is jointly managed - then fishing has to stop.

If the UK industry is going to conscientiously manage quotas, as it is doing at the moment, it needs the assurance that we are going to be allowed to fish a quota to the end of the year.

A strange thing that we believe happened towards the end of last year is that one member state was able to borrow North Sea cod from another on the basis that it will pay it back this year.

We will present our results from that to the government, Whath

volving themselves ter fishing to the de

e not brought th hin a licensing so le have been told ernment is not p oduce a lobster eme for a num sons, but we w

#### fishing news



#### Booming market at Looe

Looe has passed all expectations, handling just over £im. worth of prime fish since October. Harbour commissioners are now seeking plans for a £1.3m. extension to better the market's facilities, writes PHIL LOCK-

Skipper Mike Soady, licences at Looe: Bluesail who serves as chairman of Fish Co Ltd. and Cornwall

## RECORD plaice hauls by Lowestoft

beamers early this week resulted in a glut on the market which cut prices by more than 50 per cent.

The Colne beamers St. John, St. Thomas and St. James each landed in excess of 850 kits but these tonnages, exceptional for the time of year, were not reflected in their grossings.

St. Thomas, one of the landed 918 kits on Monday to make £48.643: anded on Wednesday to make £47,523 from her 930

breaking trips, said a Colne spokesman, but the surplus of prove plaice on both English and Dutch markets at present had fish."

slashed prices. £3.50 and £4 a stone this tle prime.
week, when it can reach £14. There h

Den Helder and Urk made

but glut halves prices

on Tuesday to make over £41,082 and St. John, also after 18 days at sea.

These catches, on the the fish.

Although Fearce and Walker is not buying any of the fish.

proved their capacity to of year however, and the concatch large quantities of dition of fish arriving from good size.

Plaice was making between nearly all plaice with very lit-

week, when it can reach \$14.
There has been a use.
The spokesamn said a recorder depending trip by \$8. Thomas last August made \$58,369 from only 700 kits.

There has been a use.
There has been a use He said the boats land £20,000 worth of prime last regularly in Dutch ports when prices slump in Lowestoft but a glut in places like day this week had only

Monday to make 448,643.

St. James landed 850 kits coast and came back with on Tuesday to make over about 1,000 kits, but that was poor at this time of year because of the poor quality of Atthough Fe

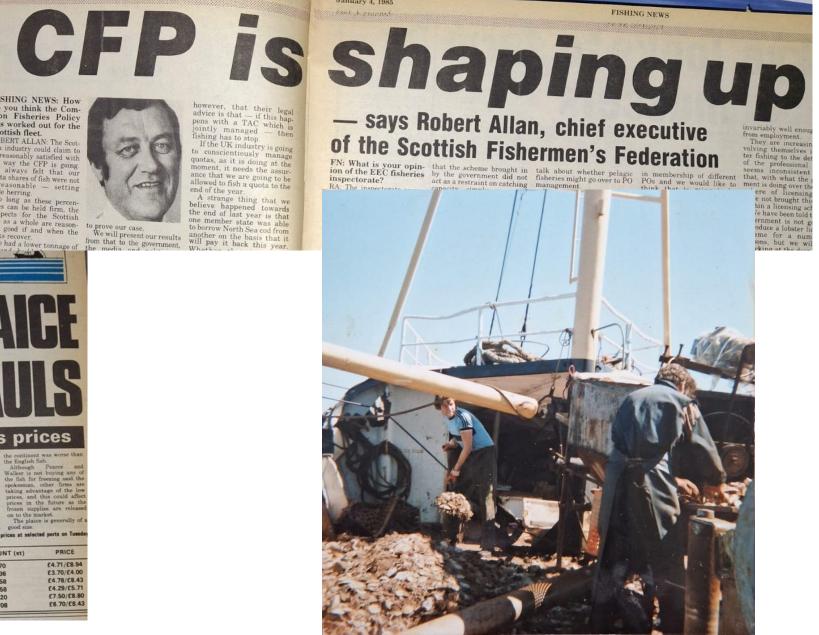
These catches, on the chorder and the control of the flash for freezing said the shorting that not been for the depressed prices, grossings would have been considerably higher.

Even so we are delighted because our new boats have below the normal for the time as the prices and this could affect the control of the contro

This week's landings were 

Plaice landings and average prices at selected ports on Tuesda

PORT	AMOUNT (st)	PRICE
Peterhead	170	£4.71/£8.94
Lowestoft	5.936	£3.70/£4.00
Thyboron	2.358	£4.78/£8.43
North Shields	658	£4.29/£5.71
Hull	1,920	£7.50/£8.80
Hirtshals	708	£6.70/£8.43





### OBAN 1989

Campaign to save basking sharks

A CAMPAIGN to save the basking the British coast, and then disappear again each shark has been launched by the Marine Conservation Society.

Basking sharks can grow to over 35ft., but feed only on plankton, and the society believes that the giant sharks could be in danger of extinction in British and European

Despite their huge size, and their status as the largest fish in the North Atlantic (and second largest in the world — only the whale shark is bigger), almost nothing is known about basking

They appear from some mysterious winter home, perhaps the deep ocean, in late spring, spend summer "basking" in the plankton-rich waters around

While they are with us, no-one knows whether the sharks split into small groups which live along one particular stretch of coast, or whether they form a gypsy-like population that roams the entire coast of Europe. No one knows how many there are, or how fast they reproduce themselves. But one thing that all fishermen agree on is that there are a lot fewer basking sharks around these days,

In spite of all this marine mystery, the EEC sets a rather random quota of 400 tonnes of basking shark livers per year. These giant fish are actually caught for their liver oil, mainly by Norwegian whalers outside the whaling season, and this is used in the manufacture of cosmetics and aircraft oil. Fins go for shark-fin soup.

Basking sharks, along with most other sharks,

of gill nets. In one illegal net, over 90 sharks of various species were caught in one recent haul in

British waters, claims the society.

The Marine Conservation Society is planning to do its own research to find out where basking sharks come from, and where they go to. They will be tagging some of the huge fish as they appear in British waters this spring and, by working with fishermen, yachtsmen, bird-watchers, divers and the public at large, they will be able to track the progress of these gentle giants throughout the waters of the British Isles.

So if fishermen come across a big black fin with a brightly-coloured buoy in tow, the Marine Conservation Society would like to know when and where, and what the number on the buoy was You'll be doing your bit to save Britain's bigge

# MANTSBRITE TAKES ON MLR AGENCY

Mantsbrite Marine plays; appointed sole UK distribu- second; tors of the French-manufac- 100 year memory for wayrange of products on Janu- memory battery; ation of Valsat GPS minutes; receivers which use **400** wavpoints and 10 advanced technology with routes; eight parallel channel Rolling display position/ GPS (DGPS) service.

The professional version Future updates of software mercial fishing vessels. Fea- GPS;

Anglian firm Easy to use with clear dis-

Electronics was Position updated every

tured MLR Electronique points etc without the use of a

ary 1 this year. The MLR E Typical last/first fix 30 secrange includes a new gener- onds and cold staft fix three

receivers, and MLR also course and speed/X track offers a free Differential error/ waypoint information updated every 25 seconds:

of the Valsat 02L GPS are carried out by using a receiver has been designed computer to 'talk' to the specifically for use on com- internal memory within the

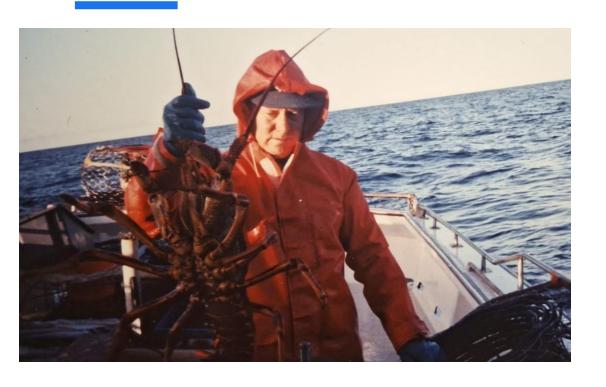
convert the lat/long display to plus VAT for the O2L; 02L Show in Port Solent, Portsmouth. Decca or Loran co-ordinates. Professional is £549 plus



tures include the ability to Competitive pricing: £425 The Valsat O2L receiver was on show at the recent World



### **AUSTRALIA 1991**





#### **OBAN 1993**



Navigation future will be the Global Positioning System using fixes from satellite transmissions (GPS). When the Navstar system is expanded it should give continuous coverage by 1990, but even today it can give a worldwide service for six to nine hours a day.

FISHING NEWS

PROSPECT

information is opening up.

The Navstar satellite system,

which has been operating

source

navigation

continuous

accurate

This is enough for many fishing vessel owners to start investing in the system, and consequently prices of the equipment are falling as more manufacturers enter the mar-

An American company which has been making GPS sets since 1982 is Trimble Navigation of Sunnyvale, California, and its cheapest set has now fallen to £7495.

About 70 per cent of the 300 sets the company has sold to vessels to date have been to fishing vessels (it also sells to the offshore industry where

ortion of the total equipment costs al

"GPS will become the dard for navigation, rate at which it take from other systems extremely difficult dict," he told Fishin

Nevertheless the co is expanding at a rate of 6 70 per cent a year as increases sales of both and Loran sets. In this artic Trimble sets out the use the GPS system by fis vessels, how the system

Satellite 1 (x,y,z) S1 (R) S1





#### **ABERDEEN 1996**



ween environmental. ntists, fishermen and lists, isofernium and set to develop a sensi- week. Report by Simon Creasey. ilson, a fisherman int from Southend

WORK TOGETH rominent industry fig-ures debated alongside 'Communication' and 'co-operation' environmentalists to were the two key-words that cropped to establish common up most frequently at the Marine genicin.

airman David Symes of Forum's Fisheries and the Environment: Working on a Common Agenda conference in London last

'GREENS' AND

INDUSTRY HAVE TO





MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL LIAISON OFFICER SCALE 6 - SO1 £14,943 - £17,667

As part of its response to the Habitats Directive and Environment Act, the Joint Committee wishes to appoint an enthusiastic and open-minded officer for an initial two year period.

The post, based in Lancaster, will initially consider the new role of Sea Fisheries Committees under the Habitats Directive and in relation to the Morecambe Bay proposed Special Area of Conservation. This will involve liaison with other authorities, Resident English Nature, who will be providing part funding.

seemed that the post will later develop a wider remit on matters in general across the sea fisheries District.

The seasortant pilot project with Britain's largest Sea t is expected that the post will provide where are proportioned in SFCs in general.

will have excellent communication skills, together with experience in fisheries or marine conservation issues and

Peter Dymond, North Western and North Wales Sea



MSC DOES pose threat to industry their overall strategy of dictat-

ing the terms of trade through the supply chain. The processors have a gun at their head

aid the main fed-

picked up in the report but not stressed. The more we learn about this scheme, the deeper has become our concern, and the appointment of John Gummer, the former fisheries minister as the MSC chairman

### **GRIMSBY 1997**



le said the flag ships are rup the quotas as a con-

ion to meeting the 'eco-

link' requirements laid by the Government should mean that the fishery

**Twenty fewer** quota hoppers



Andy Read investigates the effects on fishermen of wind power which has here to be for arious experts cannot agree the full extent, or already proved a popular form of alternative energy in Denmark.

Fishermen will be amongst

the first parties to be affected by this. Readers of Fishing Aberdeen Pressure Washer Centre News will have noticed more

lobal warming is now fact, not a theory; not agree the full extent, or reasons for it, they now accept the fact that both temperatures and sea levels will continue to rise in the foresee-

WIND-POWER

ELECTRONIC AUCTION IN GRIMSBY THIS SUMMER

KURT CHRISTENSEN (Fish Salesmen) LTD. •••••••••

FISH SALESMEN AND ACENTE

The Grimsby longliner Solitaire and netters Trefusis and Saroya lined up alongside Grimsby's modern F fish market. GFDE hopes the introduction of transparent electronic selling will attract more w

rimsby is to set up an elec-sions may be dictated for us if we tronic auction system. link up with other ports" said Mr ested in what we

rfing is being prepared in better one.

wheelhouse of our own The key

myaded and improved version.

Electronics companies are even dominated here, but are more often surms. Perhaps that is not done a big marketing cam-paign on one gizmo, than the

night watches where my tem which leaves room for nt invasion is an armada change, addition and up-grad

The basic schema for most Noirmoutier and info systems is pretty stanuckily, I have plenty of ducer and a display. The nation helping me to transducer is literally a device

Typically, the echo sounder



bit more labour? things when your £30 for a new E

£300 for a new disp The system also actually displays or very simply ic if a G goes down, you o depth sounder deck repeater the function.



Nome for slumber fishg in the Humber!

1950s made it the large torpes beach was suitable

rimsby is justiful water coming into Andy Read takes a trip down the famous for the basin." water fleet that the ide the day we left Humber in the 7m beach-launched al Hannah Charlotte to get a

and the catch was clearly not going to be a cause for celebra-

## Inshore fury at cod slaughter

INSHORE fishermen working off the east coast of England have reacted with fury to the quota cuts and blame big nomadic vessels scooping up immature fish for the problems with the stocks.

Clive Radcliffe, chairman of the Humber East Coast Inshore Fishermen's Associabeen unable to take any signif-away." tion told FN: "We are sick to death of hearing the represen- which was traditionally the were 30 small vessels working tatives of the larger vessels most productive time of the from the beaches south of the

Sea cod cut would have "little or no effect whatsoever on the activities of our members, despite the fact that inshore reduced still further the fishermen, who vastly outnumber fishermen in larger When the concentrations of nomadic vessels, hold just 5% immature cod had been taken of the total UK quota.

He said his members had icant catches this season,

fetching rock bottom prices due to their small size, and incomes of our members. these vessels returned to their bases several hundred miles

He said a decade ago there

### **GRIMSB** Y 1999



#### **Humber cod: End of the line**

The Cleethorpes beach-launchers are passing into history. John Worrall reports



A Cyo CY 53, small but perfectly formed – and easy to launch.

t's a question of time and tide and, lately, not enough

And so, on a gloriously sunny mid-lanuary day, Fishing News

leaving them longer, because there'd be no buit left. I tried went out on what could have been an overnight soak with whelks

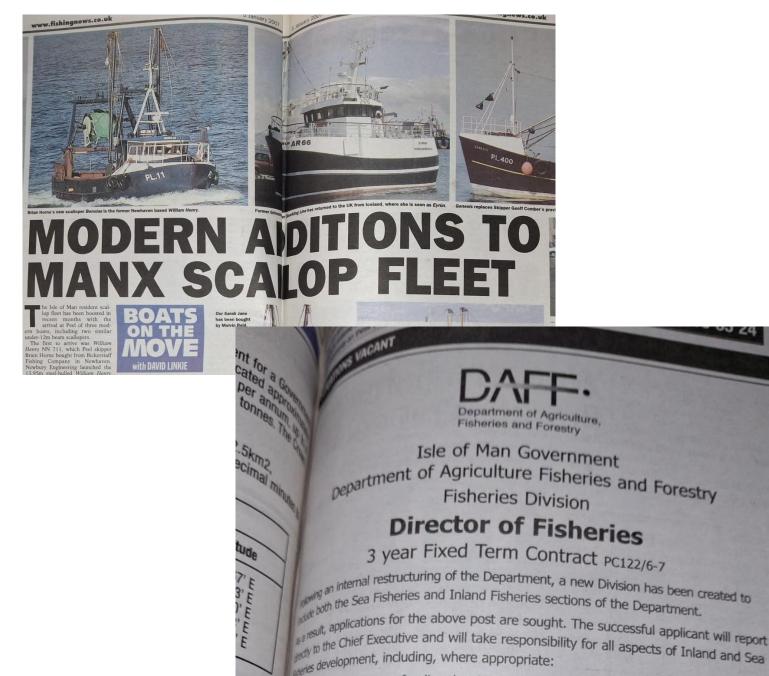


The lines each take about 15 minutes to set,



### **ISLE OF MAN 2003**





abising on all aspects of policy development;

wising on the commercial performance of the sea fishing industry and inland

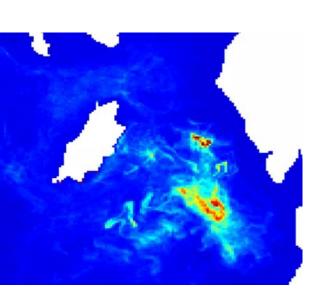
### **St Brieuc**

## ISLE OF MAN 2006









#### **ISLE OF MAN 2010**

8 October 2010

**Isle of Man** queenies - a fishery managed by fishermen

www.fishingnews.co.uk

effect in the Isle of Man Territorial Sea on 7 August (FN 13 August, 'New bye-law to safeguard Manx queenies'). The fishery moved, in a single step, from a completely unregulated fishery, to one with a raft of conservation measures, including closed seasons, gear restrictions and a ban on new entrants with engine power over 221kW, with the support of most fishermen actively involved in the fishery. Most significantly, Shee

Andy Read, Director of Fisheries at the Isle of Man's Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, explains how the management of the Manx queen scallop fishery is changing - eventually giving control. with all the drawbacks and benefits. to the industry itself



Current survey data suggests that queenle abundance has remained

that queenies are much more of the season to ensure that the abundant on the ground in 2010 than they have been in the three previous seasons, it may be entirely reasonable for the long term success of the Isle members of the management of Man queenie fishery, is to

fishermen who manage the fishery meet this quota through agreeing weekly effort controls designed in the short term to match market demand to If fishermen are confident landings and over the course total catch limit recommended by scientists is not exceeded.

MANAGEMENT - MANX QUEENIES

The key to this, and to the

callops are in season. Good cooks fry them up with bacon and chilli or, as Nigella Lawson suggests, chorizo, an inspired combination. If, like me, you love to eat fresh scallops but worry about the destruction caused to the sea bed by harvesting them, you will be heartened by the David and Goliath story of how the plucky little Isle of Man won its scallop war with Scotland last week.

07.11.10

The scalping of Scotland in

the scallop war

At its hottest point, on Tuesday morning, I was told that Alex Salmond, Scotland's first minister, was planning a telephone call to the chief minister of the Isle of Man government to threaten him with judicial review. Meanwhile, Richard Lochhead, the Scottish fisheries minister, no ray of sunshine himself, was airing his grievances to a succession of ministers in London, whom he accused of discriminating against Scottish fishermen and threatened darkly with reciprocal action.

What caused this extraordinary explosion of resentment? It was the decision by the Isle of Man parliament to throw out 20 of the 40 large Scottish scallop-dredging vessels from its waters. With the arrival of these nomads last year a generation of breeding scallops was again wiped out, and the subsequent glut on the market caused a slump in prices that did nobody any good.

For the past three years the nomads have been steaming from as far away as the Scottish east coast to fish alongside local Manx and west of Scotland fishermen who have always fished there. They behaved in a cavalier fashion and caused resentment. Some of these large vessels, I am told, steamed back to Scotland to land

THE SCOTTISH FISHERIES MINISTER THREATENED LONDON DARKLY'

their catch because they were taking scallops acceptable in Scotland but below the legal landing size on the Isle of Man.

The race to fish in Manx waters makes sense when you understand that the Isle of Man leads the



relatively stable over the last three years.

However, fishermen who are on the grounds every day will always be one step ahead of scientists who rely on two stock surveys a year.

CHARLES CLOVER what to do

THE SUNDAY TIMES

magazine, to a boring age in the eally good, oody thing s surprise in what ition. lagazine ic asides nel 4. In nching 's then

ary post as a n's hospital.

service he

asted a av was given along-Tason

first Capg last in rent. In n Super erform-

In 2006 ice and

"who irts at

#### **ELSWEHERE.....**



All-sector coalition launched in the Commons to give a single voice in talks on siting of Marine Protected Areas







### 2013 Somalia, Liberia, South Suda





United Nations Food Agencies in Somalia Promote Eating Fish to F Hunger



In the meantime



#### 2021 FISHING NEWS

## FISHING NEWS

THE VOICE OF THE INDUSTRY SINCE 1913



#### **Gracious lands maiden** F-REP kicks off

HE LATEST NEW BUILD to join the Scottish fleet, Gracious PD 103, a twinrigger built along the coast by Macduff Shipyards, made her maiden landing into Peterhead at the start of last

Owned by a partnership of skipper David West and John A Smith and Sons, which supplies the fishing industry from depots in both Fraserburgh and



### in Plymouth







#### NGO WATCH

#### **ALASKAN CRAB FISHING IN** THE UK - AND CRAWFISH AT RISK OF EXTINCTION

Some of the claims from NGOs about fishing would be laughable - if the potential impact on jobs and livelihoods wasn't so serious. In this new occasional column, we highlight some of the top contenders for 'stupidity of the week'



last year, and are pushing for this to come into national legislation. Numbers of juvenile crawfish are booming, but they remain at risk of a repeat of the overfishing two decades ago. That, though, is a long way from prohibiting the

most at risk of extinction in th UK. If an individual intentionally kills, injures or captures one of the animals on the list, they are guilty of an offence.

Strange that UK fishermen can't persuade Defra to bring in for crawfish, while the NGO is suggesting it should become a crime if a fisherman lands one taken as bycatch!

Buglife, of course, has solutions One of them is closed areas, so that crabs can breed in peace, and lobsters can 'spill over' to be caught nearby. Is Buglife not aware of how far crab migrate? Or of the fact that male and female crab have different movement patterns? Or the data from Lundy Island that showed that inside the MPA, lobsters were indeed larger, on average, than those outside, but that it had

resulted in zero 'spillover' effect? The last thing we need is people jumping on the bandwagor and trying to 'protect' things about which they are clueless, just because it's a great way of getting

extra coverage and donations. The involvement of so many NGOs in marine and fisheries issues, and the continual arrival of new ones to the fray, all looking for new angles and 'issues' that can win them the coverage they seek, looks set to continue in a fight to the bottom'. Where once it was NGOs accusing fishermen of 'fishing down the food chain', now it's more a case of the more irresponsible NGOs 'descending down the truth chain'.

Created in Switzerland in 2017, and

backed by NGOs such as People for

the Ethical Treatment of Animals

lay saw events across Europe,

group Go Vegan World.

(PETA), this year's 'End of Fishing'

including a poster campaign on the

When many of the NGOs

campaigning for 'sustainable

close fisheries one by one, at

least these people are upfront!

fisheries' are actually hoping to

London Underground from the UK

#### Courage of their convictions

By contrast, you have at least to respect the different groups involved in the annual celebration that seeks to shut down all fishing and fish farming activity, worldwide, for being consistent

WoDEF - World Day

Hatchery with the sole survivor of the 'Alaskan king crab' landing that the NGO Buglife is seeking to protect. It was in fact identified as a stone crab, a species that has been occasional bycatch in pot fisheries around the UK for generations.

#### Playing in the traffic

A special mention goes this month to the West Country NGO that tweeted recently about how happy it was to see porpoises 'playing' with dolphins. Sweet

Erm... nope! That was a young porpoise being body mmed into the air by dolphi that will continue this activit until the poor animal is dead Not for food It's either for fun or some sort of territoria activity, think scientists, who have documented this behaviou ('porpicide') since first seeing it in the Moray Firth in the 1990s. See for example: bit.ly/3zc4V8a

Of course, when the young porpoise washes up on a nearb beach, after 'playing with dolphins', I daresay we'll see it used as 'proof' that fishermen are killing porpoises in their gear - in the same way that dead porpoises were being killed by fishing boats', until scientists pointed out that their 'propello vounds' were in fact the result

#### THE FUTURE





We used to catch hundreds of cod a day. Last year it was just ONE: One fishing family reveal truth about EU monster trawlers that've decimated our waters as Starmer surrenders to foreign fleets

**By SUE REID** PUBLISHED: 02:15, 24 May 2025 UPDATED: 02:15, 24 May 2025





















#### Negotiations for the new EU deal are starting



5 years ago, it didn't end well

This time will be better

The UK Fisheries Campaign has launched



Join us today **UKFish.org** 

- We have political backing
- We have media backing
- Now we need your backing

Non-partisan, not-for-profit, for fishermen





## 55th Annual Conference



#SAGB55