

# Ground-breaking fishing research projects given funding boost

Projects to help minimise the impact of lost fishing nets on the environment and innovative research into new trawl designs to reduce the number of other species accidentally caught by fishermen (bycatch) are among those to receive funding from the £100 million [UK Seafood Fund](#), the UK Government announced today (Wednesday 3 August).

The Fisheries Industry Science Partnerships (FISP) scheme – which is part of the £100m UK Seafood Fund – brings together industry and researchers to deliver pioneering projects which promote the sustainable management of the UK's fisheries and help equip the fishing industry for the future.

So far over £4 million has been made available by the UK Government to fund projects under the scheme. From today, a new funding round for the FISP is opening, with increased awards of up to £1 million for two-year projects and new eligible funding areas, allowing for a wider variety of more ambitious projects to receive support. The UK Seafood Fund will also be extended from 2024 until 31 March 2025 to help longer-term projects to succeed by giving them more time to use the investment.

In Shetland, one of the largest fishing communities in the UK which landed around £100 million of fish in 2019, Fisheries Minister Victoria Prentis today visited projects supported through the scheme and heard directly from local fishermen.

## **Fisheries Minister Victoria Prentis said:**

Our world-class fishing and seafood sectors are packed full of expertise and innovation, and the UK Seafood Fund is making sure these excellent schemes have the financial backing needed to succeed.

We are already seeing tangible results – from LED lights in fishing nets to attract target species and deter bycatch through to novel whelk pot designs.

I want our fishing industry to thrive, to be more sustainable and to invest in the people who will make it a success for decades ahead – so I encourage everyone to bring forward their pioneering ideas.

## **UK Government Minister for Scotland Malcolm Offord said:**

It's fantastic to see four Scottish projects benefiting from nearly £270,000 of UK Government investment. It will not only cement our

fishing industry's reputation as one of the best in the world, but also elevate its potential even further.

From research into maximising cockle stocks by the University of Glasgow to monitoring Ling on Shetland with the University of the Highlands and Islands, there is so much hard work going on in Scotland to benefit the industry everywhere.

And this is only the start. With the extension of the UK Seafood fund into 2025, I want to encourage more Scottish innovators to present their plans for funding.

Following the initial launch of the FISP scheme in 2021, when approximately [£1.4 million was allocated](#), a number of ground-breaking projects are already underway and making significant progress.

For example, SafetyNet Technologies is exploring a new type of fishing net using LED lights as an effective tool to deter unwanted fish and prevent bycatch. FISP funding has been used to host workshops with scientists based in Aberdeen and to conduct sampling trips ahead of starting commercial trials on lobster and squid vessels this month.

Successful bidders from FISP Round 2, announced today, include:

- CEFAS will work with a group of skippers in the Farn Deeps nephrops (langoustine) trawl fishery off the north-east coast of England to test selective trawls, chosen from designs that have demonstrated potential to reduce unwanted catches in limited scientific trials.
- The Holderness Fishing Industry Group are partnering with the University of Hull to help identify practices to reduce the impact of lost shell fishing gear (LSG) and assess hidden costs to the industry and individuals.
- Bangor University and partners will research the impact of towed fishing gear – such as scallop dredging and beam trawling – on blue carbon in seabed sediments.

**Dr John A. Terschak, Project Leader of the Yorkshire Ghostfishing Initiative, said:**

The Holderness Fishing Industry Group is pleased to have received Defra support towards our industry-led efforts to address the factors that contribute to static gear loss; reveal the impacts of lost gear to the environment, the industry, and the wider economy; and identify practices and measures that could potentially reduce the chances of losing gear in the future.

Our Yorkshire Coast fishers are committed to ensuring the marine environment remains healthy and productive in order to continue to provide for their families as they have for generations past.

**Larissa Kunstel-Tabet, Project Manager at Safety Net Technologies said:**

The successful outcomes of our workshops and agreed sampling protocols have paved the way for an exciting project and the trials ahead. Working closely with the skippers and scientists, there is a building excitement to get out on the boats, begin the trials and collect the data.

The [UK Seafood Fund](#) supports infrastructure improvements, research and innovation around the UK coastline and is made up of four funding pillars: science and innovation, infrastructure, skills and training, and exports support.

Round 1 of the [Skills and Training Scheme](#) will also launch today, with up to £5 million to be made available to invest in training to develop and improve courses to upskill the industry in essential skills. Round 2 of the Infrastructure Scheme, which seeks to build capability across the UK fishing sector supply chain, will open in September. All projects will benefit from the extension of the UK Seafood Fund until March 2025.

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## [Foreign Secretary welcomes extension of truce in Yemen](#)

Press release

The Foreign Secretary has welcomed the two-month extension of the truce in Yemen, which has been agreed today 2 August 2022.



Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said:

The UK welcomes the extension of the truce in Yemen.

This is a significant achievement and further step towards the lasting peace in Yemen.

This truce must now lead to a permanent ceasefire

Since the truce came into force on 2 April the number of civilian casualties is at a seven-year low and regional security has been strengthened.

The truce has delivered tangible benefits to Yemeni civilians, such as decreased fuel costs due to the flow of fuel into Hodeidah Port and an agreement to restart flights out of Sana'a, as well as the stopping of cross-border attacks by the Houthis into Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The UK hosted a Quint meeting on 18 July, bringing together representatives from the Sultanate of Oman, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and United States. The group affirmed our full support for UN efforts to extend the truce and reiterated our commitment to stand by the people of Yemen.

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## [UK government's Chevening scholarship for Argentina is now open](#)

Chevening Scholarships are awarded to individuals from all backgrounds who can demonstrate that they have the commitment and skills required to create positive change, and can show how a UK master's degree will help them do that. The scholarship offers full financial support for scholars to study for any eligible master's degree at any UK university whilst also gaining access to a wide range of exclusive academic, professional, and cultural experiences.

Since the programme was created in 1983, over 50,000 professionals have had the opportunity to develop in the UK through Chevening. There are more than 1,500 scholarships on offer globally for the 2023/2024 academic year, demonstrating the UK's ongoing commitment towards developing the leaders of tomorrow.

Head of Scholarships at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Naomi Rayner, said:

As the world continues to tackle major global issues such as climate change, international cooperation is more essential than ever. Chevening seeks to build an international community of people

who are committed to working together to drive positive change. We do this by bringing together incredible people from around the world and supporting them, through education, to achieve their goals.

In the UK we are proud of our world class universities and we know that our learning environments are enriched by the wide diversity of cultures, experiences and viewpoints represented on our campuses. Chevening scholars make a significant contribution to these communities, as well as becoming an important part of our network of over 50,000 alumni.

Chevening represents the very best of the UK, welcoming people from across the world to study, grow, and thrive. Being a part of the Chevening network instils a strong sense of pride and responsibility. I am consistently inspired by the passion and commitment of those in the Chevening community and I look forward to hearing from this year's applicants.

The British Ambassador to Argentina, Kirsty Hayes, said about the scholarships:

There is no such thing as a 'typical' scholar. Your age, race, gender, religion and cultural background do not matter to us. They can be from the city of Buenos Aires or from any province in Argentina. We want to see that you have energy, curiosity, compassion a clear vision for your future and the ability to achieve your goals.

Our alumni network, both in Argentina and abroad, is full of dynamic influencers, and we hope that new professionals will be able to expand that network once they return to the country after completing their studies.

The call for new applicants follows the selection of 20 scholars from Argentina, who won an award to study at a UK university this year. Successful applicants have been sharing their stories through the #ChosenForChevening hashtag on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

## **More information**

Visit [chevening.org/scholarships](https://chevening.org/scholarships) for detailed information on the eligibility criteria and scholarship specifications.

## **Further information**

Chevening Scholarships are the UK Government's global scholarship programme, funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), partner organisations, and partner universities. The scholarships support study at UK

universities – mostly one year taught master’s degrees – for individuals with demonstrable potential to become future leaders, decision-makers, and opinion formers.

Chevening began in 1983 and has developed into a prestigious international awards scheme. Chevening Scholars come from over 160 countries and territories worldwide, and over the past five years we have awarded almost 10,000 scholarships. There are over 50,000 Chevening Alumni around the world who comprise an influential and highly regarded global network.

The name ‘Chevening’ comes from Chevening House in Sevenoaks, Kent – currently the joint official residence of the UK’s Foreign Secretary.

More information is available at [chevening.org](http://chevening.org)

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## [Levelling Up Secretary tightens council accounting rules](#)

Press release

The Secretary of State has written to council leaders amending council accounting rules.



The Secretary of State for Levelling Up Greg Clark has written to all council leaders amending rules which saw some councils attempting to circumvent rules allowing for the flexible use of capital receipts.

The change makes clear these flexibilities can be used to fund transformation projects only where councils do not retain either direct or indirect control of disposed assets.

The move will prevent councils from using novel practices which put taxpayer money at risk and drain resource. It will also help put a stop to accounting firms and consultancies wasting taxpayer money advising councils on creative

accounting.

**Levelling Up Secretary Greg Clark said:**

Every council has a duty to use the tax they receive from hardworking people in a responsible way.

It's not right that some councils have been using unorthodox accounting practices which put taxpayer cash at risk. That's why we've tightened the rules which some authorities have been attempting to bypass.

The Secretary of State retains the ability, on an exceptional basis, to provide councils with permission to capitalise revenue costs where there is a compelling case to do so.

See the [full letter](#).

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## **[Applications for the Chevening Scholarships open 2 August 2022](#)**

Applications for Chevening Scholarships to study in the UK are open between 2 August and 1 November 2022, with applications to be submitted via [chevening.org/apply](https://chevening.org/apply).

Chevening Scholarships are awarded to individuals from all backgrounds who can demonstrate that they have the commitment and skills required to create positive change, and can show how a UK master's degree will help them do that. The scholarship offers full financial support for scholars to study for any eligible master's degree at any UK university whilst also gaining access to a wide range of exclusive academic, professional, and cultural experiences.

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The British Ambassador to Chile, Louise de Sousa, said:

We are looking for applicants who are passionate about driving change, whether on a local or global scale, so if you want to be the best at what you do and if you have the imagination to inspire others, then a Chevening scholarship could be the perfect opportunity for you.

There is no such thing as a 'typical' scholar. We want diverse applicants from all backgrounds, including from all ages, race, gender, religion and cultural background. In Chile we are welcoming applicants from all regions. We want to see that they have energy, curiosity, compassion a clear vision for their future and the ability to achieve their goals. So, if this sounds like you, then you are very likely to fit in with our community of over 50,000 alumni worldwide.

Our alumni network is full of dynamic influencers who have shared the same experience that you will. They can offer encouragement, mentorship, advice, and contacts. When you return home after your studies you should feel well-equipped to start making a real difference professionally or socially.

Successful applicants have been sharing their stories through the #ChosenForChevening hashtag on Twitter and Instagram. If you want to learn more, you may visit our social media channels on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).



## **More information**

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## **About Chevening**

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