

# the seafarers' charity

## Rolling Updates

The Seafarers' Charity has forged strong links with organisations and individuals who care and are working towards the same goal as us, improving the lives of seafarers. Here is an update on the charity's recent activity for our amazing network of advocates out there in their local communities supporting seafarers.

### April 2022

[Catherine Spencer](#), CEO will be leaving The Seafarers' Charity on 6<sup>th</sup> July to join [Cochrane](#). The recruitment process has begun for her successor.

**SIRF Ukraine Fund** has awarded a grant of £84,700 to Stella Maris. This is to provide temporary accommodation in Gdynia, Poland for seafarers' families fleeing from Ukraine. An additional grant has been made to ISWAN, bring the total available from the ISWAN Crisis Fund to £100K. We have now awarded 5 grants from the SIRF Ukraine fund, bringing the total to £244,700.

**Ports:** In a collaboration with the International Association of Ports and Harbours the SIRF fund is being used as a model to raise and awards funds for [port workers](#) impacted by the Ukraine crisis. All money raised will be awarded to MORTRANS, the welfare fund of [Marine Transport Workers Trade Union of Ukraine](#) who also support and represent port workers, in addition to seafarers.

The [Fishing First Safety Management](#) pilot project has concluded in the Southwest of England. This pilot project has developed a national auditing infrastructure which is now supporting vessel owners to effectively manage and evidence the safety of their fishing vessel. 50 fishing vessels signed up to take part in the project and received an audit. During the project the Nautical Institute developed a new Lead Auditor training course which has resulted in 19 newly qualified Auditors in fishing safety to support vessel owners with their onboard safety management practices. We are currently developing plans to fund and roll out the Fishing First Safety Management service to the whole of the UK during the latter part of 2022.

### March 2022

**Women working at sea:** The Seafarers' Charity is funding the [Seafarers International Research Centre](#) at Cardiff University to carry out research into the port welfare needs of women working on cargo ships. The research is expected to be concluded towards the end of 2022. Female seafarers who would like to know more, or have their views included within the research can find out more: <https://www.theseafarerscharity.org/new-research-survey-for-women-working-on-cargo-ships>

April Update: Our funding of this research has been nominated for a [Diversity & Inclusion award](#) at Safety4Sea's virtual Crew Welfare Week in June.

**Ukraine Crisis:** The Seafarers' International Relief Fund ([SIRF](#)) has reopened both for donations from the shipping industry and to award grants to charities and NGOs supporting

seafarers of any nationality who are impacted by the situation in Ukraine. Three grants, totalling £110K have been awarded, including £50K to ISWAN who are managing a hardship relief fund. Other grant awards have been made to Mortrans, the welfare fund of Marine Transport Workers Trade Union in Ukraine for hardship grants and Aberdeen Seafarers Centre who are supporting Ukrainian seafarers with accommodation in Aberdeen during the periods they are not onboard ship but unable to return to their home in Ukraine.

The [ISWAN Ukraine Crisis Fund](#) is open to organisations supporting seafarers. Organisations can apply to the fund on behalf of individual seafarers impacted by the Ukraine crisis for a grant of up to \$500 or up to \$1K if a seafarer is deceased as a result of the crisis.

**P&O Redundancies:** In response to the mass redundancies of c.800 employees at P&O Ferries the UK Maritime Anchor Fund has been reopened and can be accessed via the Seafarers Advice and Information Line ([SAIL](#)). Support provided includes hardship grants, financial advice, online mental health support as well as free relationship counselling from [Relate](#) which is funded by The Seafarers Charity. This is in recognition of the strain that can be put on relationships at a time of sudden and unexpected change.

## February 2022

**UK Women in Fisheries** is a new network for all women who work in the UK's fishing industry. Funded by The Seafarers' Charity and launched on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 100 women signed up on the first day. The UK Women in Fisheries network will provide visibility, representation, and recognition for women across the sector. It will highlight, support, and promote the varied roles that women play in the UK commercial sea fishing sector - fish catching; fish supply chain; fishing businesses; fishing families; fishing organisations; government, regulation, and enforcement; in knowledge production or research, wherever they may be. <https://www.women-fisheries.com/>

**CHIRP Maritime** and The Seafarers' Charity have put together a short new film to highlight our grant funding support for this confidential accident and incident reporting programme. While Masters and Skippers are required to report accidents to the Marine Accident Incident Branch, anyone working at sea can [report](#) both actual accidents and near misses to CHIRP. Thereby providing a voice to those mariners who feel that they cannot otherwise speak out or feel that their concerns have not been heard. The information and insights gained from reports are published in [Maritime Feedback](#) to help raise awareness of safety issues and contribute to improved safety outcomes for everyone who works at sea. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8B-gJqa82qs>

An **Equalities, Diversity & Inclusion** Working Group has been established to support the development of maritime welfare charities ED&I practices and engage senior leadership to commit to improving ED&I within their organisation. The Working Group consists of representatives from Merchant Navy Welfare Board, The Seafarers' Charity and Trinity House.

**Stella Maris** received our first grant of the year when they were awarded an emergency grant of £68,600 to provide urgent food to seafarers, fishers and their families in the cities of Cebu and Liloan and their environs, and on the Island of Bohol – the regions most affected by Super Typhoon Rai, Philippines. Our second grant award of the year was £5K awarded to The Fishermen's Mission to support fishers on the North East coast of England who are experiencing hardship as a consequence of the impact on their livelihoods of the unexplained deaths of shellfish and reduction in catch since October 2021. The Fishermen's Mission, Shipwrecked Mariners Society, Seafarers Hospital Society and Sailors' Children

Society have reinstated their rapid response protocols developed in response to Covid-19 to ensure applications for hardship support are handled swiftly.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/feb/10/my-heart-is-broken-death-of-marine-life-is-devastating-englands-fishing-industry>

## January 2022

**Fishing First Safety Management** project has begun in the Southwest. The Seafarers' Charity received funding from Marine Management Organisation and Trinity House to deliver the project in partnership with the Safety Folder. The project aims to develop a national auditing infrastructure to support risk assessments of fishing vessels.

**FEBRUARY UPDATE:** 50 fishing vessels have signed up to take part in the project. The Nautical Institute have developed a Lead Auditor training course which will run in February and March after which there will be 20 newly qualified Auditors in fishing safety to support vessel owners with their onboard safety management practices.

<https://www.theseafarerscharity.org/what-we-do/our-influence/safety-management-onboard-fishing-vessels>

**MCA Reporting Form:** At a meeting in July 2021 with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, The Seafarers' Charity proposed the adoption of a common reporting form for concerned organisations/individuals to capture and share data with the MCA in respect of breaches of ILO 188 Working in Fishing Convention. The MCA are not normally made aware of welfare issues unless they breach ILO 188 legislation (most welfare cases don't, in cases of mistreatment etc.) but it was agreed that it would be useful for the MCA to be made aware of the smaller cases too so there is a complete picture to spot trends/re-offenders and relevant information can be shared between other governmental departments (in cases of minimum wage, trafficking and forced labour situations) and local police departments where necessary. At the start of 2022 the MCA has brought this new form into use, and welcome reports of ILO188 welfare concerns.

**FEBRUARY UPDATE:** MCA have confirmed that reports will be treated confidentially and names of those reporting concerns will not be shared.

The reporting form can be accessed here - <https://forms.office.com/r/4XL9mRApfy>

**Disaster Relief:** On 23 December, The Seafarers' Charity awarded a £12,800 emergency grant to the International Seafarers' Welfare & Assistance Network to provide financial support to seafarers and their families in the Philippines suffering from the devastation caused by the Super Typhoon Rai (Odette). This emergency grant was assessed and awarded within 24 hours of the application being received.

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6879772393330487296/>

**Trustee News:** Natalie Shaw, a Trustee of The Seafarers' Charity of Director Employment Affairs at the International Chamber of Shipping was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours.

<https://www.theseafarerscharity.org/news/congratulations-to-our-trustee-natalie-shaw>