

# the seafarers' charity

## Rolling Updates: February 2024

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.

### Upcoming Dates for the Diary

**20 March 2024: Changing Tack on Yacht Crew Welfare** This 90 minute webinar aims to showcase and engage viewers with the work of the Changing Tack Working Group. Established in 2023 this is a collaborative working group led by The Seafarers' Charity with the UK Sailing Academy (UKSA), Nautilus International and the International Seafarers Welfare & Assistance Network (ISWAN). The working group are collaborating on identifying and developing resources to raise awareness of reporting and supporting the welfare challenges faced by crew working onboard superyachts. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/changing-tack-on-yacht-crew-welfare-tickets-815629418547?aff=oddttdcreator>

**21 April 2024: London Marathon** This year we have a record-breaking team of 30 runners who are running the London Marathon to support seafarers. Despite this being our largest team of runners ever, we still have a handful of places available if you know anyone who would like to run the London Marathon to support seafarers: <https://www.theseafarerscharity.org/events/london-marathon-2024>

**12 May 2024: National Fishing Remembrance Day** This will be the first ever national day of remembrance to remember and commemorate those who lost their lives while working in fishing. Inspired by this year's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hull Triple Trawler Tragedy, this national event has been developed by The Seafarers' Charity in partnership with Fishermen's Mission and Stella Maris who will lead local remembrance services, throughout the UK, including Hull. The Royal Maritime Museum in Greenwich are also supporting the event through creating a searchable database so that people may find their local fishing memorial. More information: <https://www.theseafarerscharity.org/get-involved/national-fishing-remembrance-day>

### February

**Monitoring and Evaluation:** The Impact Team met with our delivery partners to share our approach to monitoring and evaluation. With over £2m invested in maritime welfare services each and every year, it is important that we are robust in ensuring our funding is spent effectively and targeted where there is the greatest need. A recording of the meeting is available on our YouTube channel - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssNFrXOZ\\_5Q&t=18s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssNFrXOZ_5Q&t=18s)



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## Monitoring and Evaluation of Grant Awards

**Nautical Institute Partnership:** The Seafarers' Charity and The Nautical Institute have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support a new partnership which provides the framework to work together in areas of shared interest including Leadership and Management, fishing industry promotion and recognition, women at sea initiatives and work needed to prepare our mariners for the next generation of green fuels.

### January

Our new cloud-based grant application system was launched. Grant applicants will find it much faster and flexible than our older system. There is detailed guidance available, but if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Louise Parkin our Head of Grants on [louise.parkin@theseafarerscharity.org](mailto:louise.parkin@theseafarerscharity.org) or phone: 0207 932 5967.

The International Fishing Industry Safety and Health (IFISH6) Conference 2024, held at the UN FAO Headquarters in Rome was the setting for the announcement that the **International Fund for Fishing Safety**, our new international grant giving programme providing financial support for on-the-ground fishing safety initiatives, is now open for funding. This new Fund has been made possible thanks to a substantial donation from Lloyds Register Foundation. The Seafarers' Charity is managing the funding, and the FISH Platform (an international group of fishing safety experts) will provide technical expertise to support assessment of grant applications.

At the IFISH6 conference delegates also heard a presentation from Tina Barnes, Impact Director on the [Fishing Safety Net for Fishing Families](#) that we developed in partnership with **Commsave Credit Union**. Commsave Credit Union has already

loaned more than £800k to 64 fishing families. Much of which was used to enable fishers to obtain financial support to access government grants from the Fisheries and Seafood Scheme (FaSS) to make modifications to their fishing vessels.

Thanks to our introduction, the members of Commsave Credit Union recently voted overwhelmingly to extend their services to UK trade union members of Nautilus International. More will be made known about membership for Nautilus members once the final regulatory hurdle has been passed.

<https://www.theseafarerscharity.org/news/more-than-60-fishing-businesses-receive-loans-and-financial-support-from-commsave-credit-union>

## December

**Grants:** In 2023 The Seafarers' Charity awarded 68 grants valued at £2,401,567 to 51 different charities and not for profit organisations who deliver welfare services and safety initiatives to support seafarers and their families.

96% of the total value of all grants were awarded to charities registered in the UK. There were just 4 grant awards with a total value of £84,195 which were awarded to organisations located outside of the UK. These international grants were awarded to Lighthouse Seafarers Mission in the Falkland Islands, the International Christian Maritime Association, Mortrans Welfare Fund for hardship grants to support Ukrainian seafarers impacted by the war in Ukraine, and to support Stella Maris work in Africa.

Over £1.3m (56%) was awarded to charities with a remit to support only UK seafarers. The remainder was awarded to charities with a remit to support all seafarers, including those who are resident in the UK.

## November

**Safer Waves:** The Seafarers' Charity has supported and funded Safer Waves since it first registered as a charity in 2020. Safer Waves is a maritime charity which supports seafarers who have experienced sexual assault, sexual harassment or gender discrimination. In November, we were delighted to announce that we had brought together a new three-year partnership funding commitment with UK P&I Club and TK Foundation. This will provide stability for the charity as it moves to the next stage of its development and employs their first member of staff to help them meet the growing demand for their support services. Toni Frost, new Operations Manager took up her new role at Safer Waves in January.

<https://www.theseafarerscharity.org/news/partnership-funding-supports-development-of-safer-waves>

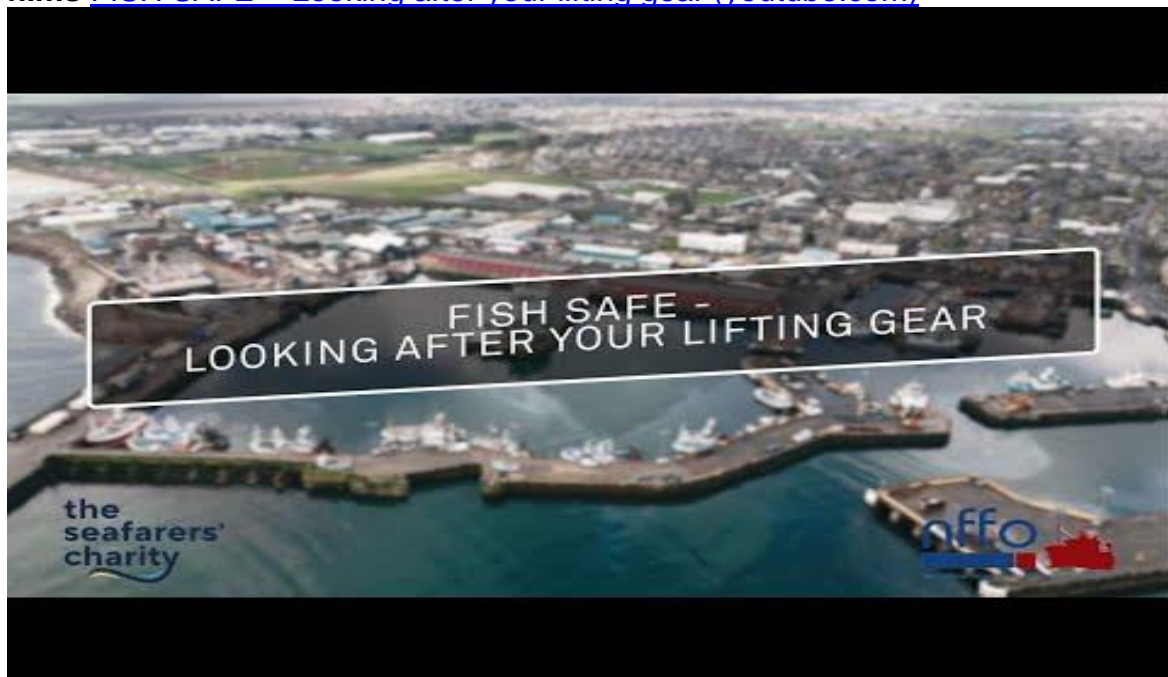
On **Remembrance Sunday**, Chief Executive Deborah Layde laid a wreath at a remembrance service at the Merchant Navy War Memorial to remember all in the Royal and Merchant navies and the UK Fishing Fleet who have no grave but the sea.

**Maritime Safety:** We were pleased to award a £500 cash prize to the crew of Hovertravel for their winning entry in our Maritime Safety Week Muster Safety Drill competition. Their entry saw them demonstrate a well-rehearsed passenger evacuation drill and showed how they efficiently evacuated passengers with limited mobility to safety. The generous crew decided to donate their prize winnings to a charity who are aiming to make Ryde Beach on the Isle Of Wight more accessible for all, including wheelchair users. <https://www.theseafarerscharity.org/news/prize-for-maritime-safety-week-competition-winners>

## October

On 24 October The Seafarers' Charity sponsored a **Fisheries All Party Parliamentary Group** meeting on Fishing Safety at Sea. Chaired by Sheryl Murray, MP, the very first question, and MPs interest focused on the issues surrounding medical certifications for those fishing in the inshore fleet. The APPG can be viewed on Fisheries APPG website – <https://www.fisheriesappg.org/blog/2023/10/25/fishing-safety-at-sea-all-our-panelists-answers>

During the APPG, Charles Blyth, the Safety Lead at the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO) spoke about The Seafarers' Charity's partnership with the NFFO which includes part funding for Charles role to benefit all fishers. The partnership also includes new research on fishing vessel stability which is being carried out by the Wolfson Institute as well as a series of four **FISH Safe safety films** [FISH SAFE – Looking after your lifting gear \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)



Also on our YouTube Channel is a series of four films that we worked on in partnership with **Waitrose** and Stella Maris. These new 'pre-departure' films are aimed at foreign crew to help them to understand what it is like to work in the UK fishing fleets, their legal rights and expectations and to understand how to seek support if experiencing abuse or exploitation. Many other retailers are also sharing these films to help empower and inform fishers. Waitrose have paid for these films to

be translated into the 9 most common languages used by foreign fishers working in the UK. [https://youtu.be/E5sWYhLsGog?list=PLWqlqT89t2fQAQ\\_B3vjFgAh-B6yAltZcE](https://youtu.be/E5sWYhLsGog?list=PLWqlqT89t2fQAQ_B3vjFgAh-B6yAltZcE)



**Sea Views** is the name of a new podcast on maritime safety funded by The Seafarers' Charity. It includes episodes on the safety of maritime pilots, toxic leadership at sea and green fuels. Since it was launched a few months ago it has already been downloaded over 1000 times by people in 65 different countries: <https://open.spotify.com/show/5KgCSahCXoB8wnpUAjsghN>