**Rolling Updates: November 2023**

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.

**November**

This year The Seafarers’ Charity has awarded **£2.4m in grants** to 50 different charities and organisations delivering welfare services and safety initiatives to support seafarers and their families.

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. Our Chair was invited to attend the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall, which for the first time recognised Fighting With Pride – an LGBT+ charity which we have funded, and which has successfully campaigned for an apology, compensation and recognition of the harm done to people dishonourably discharged for being gay in the military up until 2000 when the gay ban was finally lifted.

**National Fishing Remembrance Day** on 12 May 2024 will be announced soon. This is a new national day of remembrance to remember and commemorate those who have lost their lives while working in fishing. Inspired by the 50th anniversary of the Hull Triple Trawler Tragedy in 2024, 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.

If you have ever thought about running the **London Marathon** and would like to support seafarers, The Seafarers’ Charity currently has fundraising places available:

<https://www.theseafarerscharity.org/events/london-marathon-2024>

**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. Thanks to the knowledge and information shared by our expert panel of speakers the MPs responded that they felt they had new evidence and information to continue to lobby the Transport secretary on this issue on behalf of their constituents. 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 with the NFFO which includes part funding for Charles role to benefit all fishers, as demonstrated by Charles lobbying efforts on medicals. 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** which are available on The Seafarers’ Charity YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X6GvnwEGthM&list=PLWglqT89t2fRxE2UDDsBK-_SEYnW_RC1T>

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://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWglqT89t2fQAQ_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>

The International Fund for Fishing Safety is a new global fund to support improvements in fishing safety outside of the UK. This new Fund will be managed by The Seafarers’ Charity and has been made possible thanks to a generous donation from Lloyds Register Foundation. The Fund will be open for applications in January 2024 -

<https://www.theseafarerscharity.org/news/new-global-fund-announced-to-improve-fishing-safety>

**September**

The Seafarers’ Charity celebrated **Merchant Navy Day** on 3rd September with its longstanding [Fly The Red Ensign Campaign](https://www.theseafarerscharity.org/news/charitys-annual-fly-the-red-ensign-campaign-celebrates-the-faces-behind-the-merchant-navy-flag) in honour and tribute to merchant seafarers. This year’s Fly The Red Ensign Campaign honoured individual service by sharing the faces and the stories of those who have served in the Merchant Navy. We were also pleased to hear the DfT announce that our nomination of Skipper Ray Strachan for a **Merchant Navy Medal** had been successful. Ray will receive his medal at a ceremony at Trinity House on November 21st. Ray’s receives his medal in recognition of his fishing vessel’s crews’ rescue of 31 refugees from drowning in the Channel in December 2022 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-64018251>

The Seafarers’ Charity, Sailors’ Society, Stella Maris and The Mission to Seafarers joined forces to host a major industry conference on seafarer welfare and wellbeing. during **London International Shipping Week**. The event engaged the maritime industry on issues impacting seafarers’ welfare and focused on two different themes: firstly, how maritime charities and industry can collaborate to improve seafarer welfare. Secondly, how together, the maritime charities and industry can support an increasingly diverse workforce.

The [Annual National Service for Seafarers](https://www.theseafarerscharity.org/news/the-annual-national-service-for-seafarers-is-set-to-return-to-st-pauls-cathedral-on-11-october-2023) took place at St Paul’s Cathedral, London and was very well attended by people from all parts of maritime; suitably representing The Seafarers’ Charity’s connections with the Royal Navy, Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleet.

**August 2023**

Funded by The Seafarers’ Charity, this month’s edition of the Fathom Podcast from the Cornish Fish Producers’ Organisation featured Charles Blyth from the National Federation of Fishermen’s Organisations and Julie Carlton from the MCA discussing medicals. The episode on ‘Revisiting Medicals’ is very worth a listen for fishers who are not aware of the requirement to obtain medical certification by 30th November, or who are worried about obtaining a medical -

<https://cfpo.org.uk/the-fathom-podcast/>