

the seafarers' charity



Rolling Updates: Q2/2022

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.

June 2022

Our **new CEO** was announced as Deborah Layde following the departure of Catherine Spencer. As you already know, Deborah has worked at The Seafarers' Charity for almost ten years and already has a great track record of making lives better for seafarers. Deborah's connections and passion for the maritime sector are strong and familial, her father was a Royal Naval Captain; her mother's cousins included both fishers and RNLI volunteers with much of her early life spent in the major fishing port Newlyn, Cornwall.

The Seafarers' Charity publicised a range of support available to the hundreds of workers affected by P&O redundancies, including the UK Maritime Anchor Fund which in addition to hardship grants, can also offer mental health support from Together All and relationship counselling from [Relate](#). This is a recognition of how financial problems can have a wide ranging impact. Here's the [press release](#).

May 2022

Safety Net: The Seafarers' Charity and Merchant Navy Welfare Board have been working in partnership to develop new resources to support UK merchant seafarers through the cost of living crisis. The new [Safety Net for Seafarers](#) website is full of free money management tools and resources specifically to help UK merchant seafarers to manage their money during the current cost of living crisis and in the future. The Safety Net is a vital one-stop-shop providing bespoke information and support for all UK seafarers and their families on personal savings, money management, credit choices, debt advice, and relationship and mental health support. The Safety Net for Seafarers is an extension of The Seafarers Charity development of a [Safety Net for Fishing Families](#). Both initiatives are aimed at supporting money management practices and helping beneficiaries to build longer-term financial resilience once the immediate financial hardship has been addressed.

Financial Champions Webinar: On June 22 from 10.30am to 12pm The Seafarers' Charity and MNWB will join forces with The Money Charity to deliver a [free webinar on money management](#). The webinar will include information about the value of establishing long-term savings and budgeting plans, and guidance on how to signpost toward free tools that aid financial planning and money management. The webinar is aimed at key individuals with a personal or professional connection to the merchant navy such as caseworkers, support workers, volunteers and others who support UK merchant seafarers. They will receive information and training to enable them to become financial 'buddies' or 'champions', capable of sharing accurate, up-to-date information regarding saving options, budgeting, credit choices, taxation and sources of free support to help with financial problems.

Fairness in Fishing: The Seafarers' Charity have [responded](#) to a new research report from the University of Nottingham which presents evidence of physical violence and mistreatment of migrant workers in the UK fishing industry with a call to Government and industry to stamp out poor practice and ensure there is [Fairness in Fishing](#). The charity will be taking forward more work to support the welfare of migrant workers under our Social Justice outcome. The charity is keen to engage with others interested in supporting migrant workers and tackling labour abuses and exploitative practices in UK fishing.

April 2022

[Catherine Spencer](#), CEO will be leaving The Seafarers' Charity on 6th 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.