**Rolling Updates: August 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.

**Upcoming Dates for the Diary**

It is a busy time of the year for The Seafarers’ Charity with a number of events coming up over the next few months which are managed or sponsored by The Seafarers’ Charity on behalf of the maritime welfare sector, these include:

**3 September:** Every year The Seafarers’ Charity celebrates Merchant Navy Day 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 aims to honour individual service by sharing the faces and the stories of those who have served in the Merchant Navy. A free [social media pack](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/125M0dx-OK89p6UD04Vf6P4ZCn7V1Eryx) is available.

**12 September:** The Seafarers’ Charity, Sailors’ Society, Stella Maris and The Mission to Seafarers are joining forces to host a major industry conference on seafarer welfare and wellbeing. The [Maritime Charities Conference](https://londoninternationalshippingweek.com/the-s-in-esg-maritime-welfare-charities-conference-and-drinks-reception-fishmongers-hall/) takes place at Fishmongers’ Hall, London during London International Shipping Week and will engage the maritime industry on issues impacting seafarers. It focuses 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.

**11 October:** [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) will take place at St Paul’s Cathedral, London. The service is open to anyone who wishes to attend and pay their respects to people who earn their living from the sea. Places at the Service can be booked on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-annual-national-service-for-seafarers-tickets-638637390627>

**24 October:** The next Fisheries All Party Parliamentary Group is sponsored by The Seafarers’ Charity and will focus on initiatives to improve safety on fishing vessels. Register to view online:

<https://www.fisheriesappg.org/meetings/2023/5/24/fishing-safety-at-sea>

**August 2023**

The month of August started with a visit to Cowes on the Isle of Wight to witness UKSA (UK Sailing Academy) in action during Cowes Week. With young students onboard from their Sea Change programme for inner city children, it was inspirational to witness their work. The Seafarers’ Charity funds two welfare officer posts at UKSA who support young people during training and when working as crew onboard professional yachts. The Seafarers’ Charity is currently working with UKSA to understand and address many of the welfare issues within the industry.

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/>

**July 2023**

**Grants:** In July trustees awarded a further £321k to 14 organisations supporting the safety and welfare of seafarers. This brings the total amount of grants awarded by The Seafarers’ Charity to £1.4m this year. Grants were awarded to support seafarers’ welfare as far afield as Kenya and the Falkland Islands. And much closer to home, fishers in Norfolk and North East England also received grants to support new projects aimed at building sustainable futures. This is particularly relevant in North East England where many shell fishermen have seen their existing crab and lobster businesses devasted by pollution. Veterans in Scotland and Scarborough are also beneficiaries of recent grant awards.

**Maritime Safety Week** took place from 3rd to 7th July.

To promote improved maritime safety during the week, The Seafarers’ Charity held our popular annual Muster Safety Drill competition, which, this year, was won by [Hovertravel in the Solent](https://www.theseafarerscharity.org/news/the-seafarers-charity-announces-maritime-safety-week-competition-winners-for-2023).

During Maritime Safety Week a number of announcements were made about the various initiatives that The Seafarers’ Charity are funding to ensure seafarers and fishers have Safer Working Lives at Sea. These include:

[Sea Views podcast](https://www.buzzsprout.com/2148311) – a new podcast on maritime safety funded by The Seafarers’ Charity. First three episodes include the safety of maritime pilots, impact of green fuels on seafarers’ safety and an introduction to [CHIRP Maritime](https://chirp.co.uk/maritime/) (a confidential accident reporting programme which is also funded by The Seafarers’ Charity).

Sponsorship of the next [Fisheries All Party Parliamentary Group](https://www.theseafarerscharity.org/news/the-seafarers-charity-to-put-fishing-safety-high-on-parliamentarians-agenda) on 24 October which will be Chaired by Sheryll Murray MP and focus on initiatives to improve safety on fishing vessels.

Launch of a new partnership with the National Federation of Fishermen’s Organisations aimed at improving the safety of commercial fishing in the UK fleet. The partnership includes co-funding the role of the Risk, Safety & Training Lead at NFFO. Charles Blyth, who has been leading the argument about the MCA approach to medicals on behalf of the sector also stars in a number of new FISH Safe films available on The Seafarers’ Charity’s website. The films and more about The Seafarers’ Charity’s work on improving fishing safety are available here - <https://www.theseafarerscharity.org/what-we-do/our-influence/fishing-safety>

**June 2023**

**Our Annual Meeting** took place on 28 June and for the first time was held at Watermen’s Hall. We were delighted to welcome our President, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh to our meeting. The Duke generously gave his time to meet attendees and also president the President’s Award to our funded delivery partners: ISWAN, Fishing Into The Future and CHIRP Maritime in recognition of the innovation and collaboration they have demonstrated. During the Chief Executive’s speech, Deborah Layde, announced the Charity’s renewed focus on improving safety at sea for seafarers and announced a number of new safety initiatives. Photos from the Annual Meeting can be viewed on our Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=SeafarersKGFS&set=a.666148835541008>

In response to the concerns that have been raised about the treatment of overseas crew on UK fishing vessels, The Seafarers’ Charity, ITF and Stella Maris have co-operated with Waitrose on four short new pre-departure films.  The films are aimed at helping potential crew to understand what they should expect when working in the UK fishing fleet, what their rights are, and where to get help if they are concerned about their welfare. In this Fishing News article, Waitrose explain why they got involved in this project - <https://fishingnews.co.uk/features/new-film-guides-for-foreign-fishing-crew/> The four pre-departure films will be shared by ITF affiliates and Stella Maris as well as shared with overseas maritime colleges. The English language version of the four films, can be viewed on The Seafarers’ Charity’s YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jp-ZrXuxsYc>

**May 2023**

**A roundtable discussion about crew welfare onboard superyachts** was held in partnership with UK Sailing Academy (one of our funded charities). There was consensus that more needs to be done to support crew welfare and we have established a working group to progress work on this issue. Superyacht crew are often young and at the start of their career and therefore more vulnerable to being impacted by long hours, fatigue, bullying and subsequent mental health challenges. There is a high level of crew turnover within the sector.

**80th Anniversary of Battle of the Atlantic**: Paul Butterworth, our Chair, was invited by the Merchant Navy Association to provide a foreword, on behalf of the Merchant Navy sector, for inclusion in the official programme of the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic commemorations. Deborah Layde attended this weekend long celebratory event which was held in Liverpool and took place between **26-28 May** 2023.

**Fishing Remembrance Day:** The first National Fishing Remembrance Day has been postponed to 2024. There are plans to encourage community events and services of remembrance at local memorials, which will be led by Fishermen’s Mission and Stella Maris. To support public engagement on the day, The Seafarers’ Charity is working with the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich to develop a new national database and map of fishing memorials around the UK.