News release
25 June 2015

Scottish enlightenment inspires ‘challenging new frontiers’ theme for 2016 global fisheries conference in Aberdeen

Topics for The 18th biennial International Institute of Fisheries Economics and Trade (IIFET) now available on new conference website

The themes for the International Institute of Fisheries, Economics and Trade (IIFET) 2016 conference have been published on the new conference website which launched today. This international conference brings together leading fisheries economists, social scientists, policy-makers and seafood industry innovators to discuss the most up-to-date research and analysis and how it applies to the seafood industry and the governance of fisheries. The conference runs from 11th – 15th July 2016 at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre.

The 2016 conference theme is “Challenging new frontiers in the global seafood sector – a Northern Enlightenment”, which references the 18th century Scottish enlightenment and covers a variety of similarly profound questions on the modern seafood industry and the management of vital marine resources. Topics as diverse and as thought-provoking as ‘Fish vs competing animal proteins’ and ‘Implications for fish stock responses to climate change – new global value chains?’ will be explored by world-leading speakers, researchers and organisations.

New to the 2016 conference is the ‘Industry and Policy’ day – a unique opportunity for networking and direct discussion between seafood industry business managers, representatives and policy makers from across the globe. Delegates on this day will be able to examine key issues and take part in a day of policy-relevant discussion panels, workshops and presentations, with the chance to extend discussions into the evening at the conference gala dinner.
Chief Economist at Seafish, Hazel Curtis, who is co-chairing the organising committee along with Professor Jimmy Young from the University of Stirling, said “We are excited to be making plans for an amazing IIFET conference next year and we hope to be tempting fisheries economists, market researchers and seafood industry experts from around the world to join us in Aberdeen. Our conference website is the first port of call for those planning to participate.

“I'm especially looking forward to the Industry and Policy Day which will give a great opportunity for fisheries, aquaculture and trade policy makers to exchange their ideas and challenges with academics, researchers and business managers from different sectors of the seafood industry.”

John Goodlad, Chairman of the Scottish Pelagic Sustainability Group, commented “It is great to see IIFET come to Scotland for its conference. Scotland is one of Europe’s leading fishing nations and home to many exciting developments in fisheries. I am sure IIFET will enjoy their time here.”

From July, the website will allow delegates to register attendance at the conference and those interested in presenting will be able to submit abstracts for early bird review. Proposals for special sessions can also be submitted via the website, which provides a unique opportunity to explore particular themes of interest to prospective delegates.

For more information about the conference, visit the conference website at www.iifet-2016.org or keep updated by liking the IIFET Facebook page.

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About Seafish

Seafish was founded in 1981 by an Act of Parliament and aims to support all sectors of the seafood industry for a sustainable, profitable future. It is the only pan-industry body offering services to all parts of the industry, from the start of the supply chain at catching and aquaculture; through processing, importers, exporters and distributors of seafood right through to restaurants and retailers.

Seafish is funded by a levy on the first sale of seafood landed in the UK. Its services are intended to support and improve the environmental sustainability, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the industry, as well as promoting sustainably-sourced seafood. These services include technical research and development, responsible sourcing initiatives, economic consulting, market research, industry accreditation, safety training for fishermen and legislative advice.

Visit www.seafish.org or follow us @seafishUK
Global fisheries economics conference to come to Scotland in 2016

Aberdeen has been announced as the host city for the IIFET conference

Aberdeen has beaten stiff competition to host the next International Institute of Fisheries Economics & Trade (IIFET) conference in 2016. Every two years, leading fisheries economists and other social scientists, managers and industry representatives gather in their hundreds at this conference, which was most recently hosted in Brisbane, Australia this month.

The conference will be organised by Seafish over four days from 11th – 15th July 2016, and aims to build on previous attendance figures of around 300-350. Seafish led the bid to host the conference after consulting with industry representatives based in the north east of Scotland. The local conference organising committee will be co-chaired by Professor Jimmy Young of the University of Stirling and Hazel Curtis, Chief Economist at Seafish.

Hazel Curtis said of the announcement:

"We are thrilled and delighted to have been successful in our bid to host the next IIFET conference. This announcement is the culmination of a lot of collaborative work to date, which will continue now that we are on the path to delivering this important event. On behalf of Seafish, I would like to thank our industry for getting behind the bid, attending steering group meetings and hosting visiting delegates; I am in no doubt that this commitment and drive to succeed was a key factor in the judge’s decision. We look forward to 2016!"

Professor Jimmy Young attended IIFET 2014 in Brisbane, representing the Aberdeen bid team. He added:

"I was proud to represent our team when the announcement was made in Brisbane and really pleased to see how well the news of Aberdeen’s success was received. With key issues such as the future of
fisheries throughout the world, improvements in aquaculture production and developments in marketing and the management of international fisheries all set for the spotlight, we have now taken up the challenge to deliver a conference that builds on the success of Brisbane and I am confident that we'll succeed in doing so."

Ann Shriver, IIFET's Executive Director, added, “Seaﬁsh participation in the organization of this conference will bring a unique industry perspective to our traditional mix of academic and government economic viewpoints. We are delighted with this opportunity to bring a diversity of international perspectives on the economics of ﬁshery management, seafood trade, aquaculture, and development, to Scotland, and in turn to take home new ideas, analysis, and solutions as a result of this conference."

The IIFET conference will bring together keynote speakers, presenters and organisations from around the world. Several local organisations have already conﬁrmed their support, including Aberdeenshire Council and the Visit Scotland Business Tourism Unit, who have already pledged their sponsorship for the event.

The conference organisers are looking for potential sponsors, media partners, speakers and organisations who wish to get involved in IIFET 2016. For more information, please contact: Hazel Curtis, Chief Economist at Seaﬁsh on: h.curtis@seafish.co.uk or visit the event page on the Seaﬁsh website.

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Notes to editors

- For more background of the IIFET conference, click here
- To watch the Aberdeen announcement video, click here
- To watch the Seaﬁsh welcome to Aberdeen video, click here

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Visit www.seafish.org or follow @seafishUK
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