



PETERHEAD

PORT AUTHORITY
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TOP ACCOLADE FOR HARBOUR MASTER
 Ewan Rattray photographed with his fellow medal winners and Princess Anne.
Full story on page 2

New record for fish landings at Peterhead

- Featuring**
- 1 New record for fish landings at Peterhead
 - 2 Port Harbour Master presented with Merchant Navy Medal
 - 3 Funding for CTV pontoons
 - 4 Charging buoy tested in port
 - 5 Visit by senior Bank of England staff
 - 6 Sponsorship maps the way

Peterhead Port Authority has set a new record for fish landings, with £226 million worth of catches traded across the quaysides by the end of November.

That beat the total for 2022 of £220 million, itself a record in the modern era, with a month still to go until the end of the year.

Total landings to 30th November 2023 stood at 189,805 tonnes with a gross value of £225,947,904, compared to 162,780 tonnes worth £211,603,580 for the same period in 2022.

Of those, whitefish accounted for 52,765 tonnes worth £96,785,286 (46,925 tonnes worth £94,668,717 in 2022).

Pelagic stocks reached 131,534 tonnes worth £113,082,365 (108,137 tonnes worth £94,957,381 in 2022).

The shellfish figures were lower, 5,506 tonnes worth £16,079,913 (7,718 tonnes worth £21,977,482 in 2022).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Peter Duncan, PPA Head of Fishing – Commercial, said: “It has been very successful year for landings, with a notable increase in pelagic landings due to the landings obligation more than compensating for a decline in shellfish landings.

“Whitefish landings are slightly ahead for the year also, and improved quotas for 2024 for most of the key commercial stocks bode well the future.

“The Port offers first-class facilities and infrastructure for the landing and selling of fish, with the maintenance of quality at the heart of everything we do, and is constantly seeking ways to improve its contribution to the seafood supply chain.”



Port Harbour Master presented with Merchant Navy Medal



Peterhead Port Authority’s Harbour Master & Director of Port Operations was awarded the Merchant Navy Medal by Her Royal Highness Princess Anne at Trinity House in London.

Ewan Rattray received the meritorious service honour for his work on safety following an accident while serving as a pilot in Aberdeen Harbour.

Mr Rattray said: “The 2023 medal was significant, as the first to depict His Majesty King Charles III on a medal of state. It was presented to 11 exceptional individuals, recognised for their outstanding contributions to fields such as careers, education, mental health and maritime safety.

“The Secretary of State for Transport, Mark Harper, delivered an excellent speech that underscored the talents of the medal recipients.”

The Merchant Navy Medal is the highest honour obtainable in the Merchant Navy and Mr Rattray said it was a “great honour” and “humbling” to have received it.

His leg was crushed in the accident during which he was attempting to climb onto a ship using its boarding ladder.

Funding for CTV pontoons

The Port was delighted to receive grant funding of over £220,000 from ETZ, the not-for-profit company behind the energy transition in the North-east of Scotland.

The money, awarded from the ETZ Challenge Fund, will go towards the construction of two-berth pontoons within the inner harbour designed for crew transfer vessels (CTV) used in the offshore renewables sector. This will help the Port attract new investment, and accelerate business growth in the low carbon sector and create jobs.

Peterhead Port is no stranger to offshore renewables, providing as it does a dedicated berth for CTV vessels operating on the Hywind project 18 miles off Peterhead, the world's first commercial offshore wind farm using floating turbines.

The Port was also involved in the construction of the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC), the offshore wind test and demonstration facility developed by Vattenfall off the Aberdeenshire coast.

The Port accommodated floating cranes with a maximum lifting capacity of 5,000 tonnes and barges that transported turbine foundations to the wind farm.

With up to 20GW of offshore renewables due to be developed in the next decade under ScotWind and INTOG, opportunities abound, and Peterhead is geographically ideally positioned to support major projects.

O&M has been identified as a key component of this support, and beyond the Hywind CTV the Port had 63 other CTV calls during 2022 and 2023 to date.

PPA Chief Financial Officer Stephen Paterson said: "These are exciting times at Peterhead, with the transition to lower carbon forms of energy production likely to determine the nature and mix of energy-related activities at the Port.

"The opportunities are huge, and the Board and staff of PPA are focused on ensuring the Port is in the best position possible to support growth, from facilities to services."



The pontoons for the inner harbour will be constructed to the left of the jetty.

Charging buoy tested in port

Peterhead Port Authority was delighted to host a series of successful tests of a pioneering new buoy that will ultimately allow hybrid and fully electric vessels to recharge at sea.

Energy was transferred from the Oasis Power Buoy, developed by Oasis Marine, to a crew transfer vessel (CTW), GXS Viking, which services the Hywind floating wind farm 18 miles off Peterhead, in the south harbour. The vessel was moored to the buoy. The tests were carried out before and after Storm Babet.

George Smith, Managing Director of Oasis Marine said: “Innovative developments are being made with the design and production of electrified vessels, but range will always be constrained by battery capabilities. The ability to re-charge offshore is crucial for decarbonising maritime. We have proved that the Oasis Power Buoy expands the capability to charge vessels offshore, enabling a substantial reduction of CO₂ emissions and fuel costs. This ensures hybrid and electric vessel use can be maximised and is a very encouraging development for the global maritime industry.

“Completing testing during the unprecedented Storm Babet brought challenges, but all credit to the team working on this project that we have emerged from these trials with major gains. The core principles of the Oasis Power Buoy have been proven and we now have a programme of optimisation over the winter months and final tests next spring, before deploying in an offshore wind farm for a pilot project thereafter.”

Ewan Rattray, PPA Harbour Master & Director of Port Operations, said: “We were really pleased to host these successful tests and look forward to supporting this further innovative work by Oasis Marine that will clearly help in the quest to decarbonise shipping.”

Visit by senior Bank of England staff

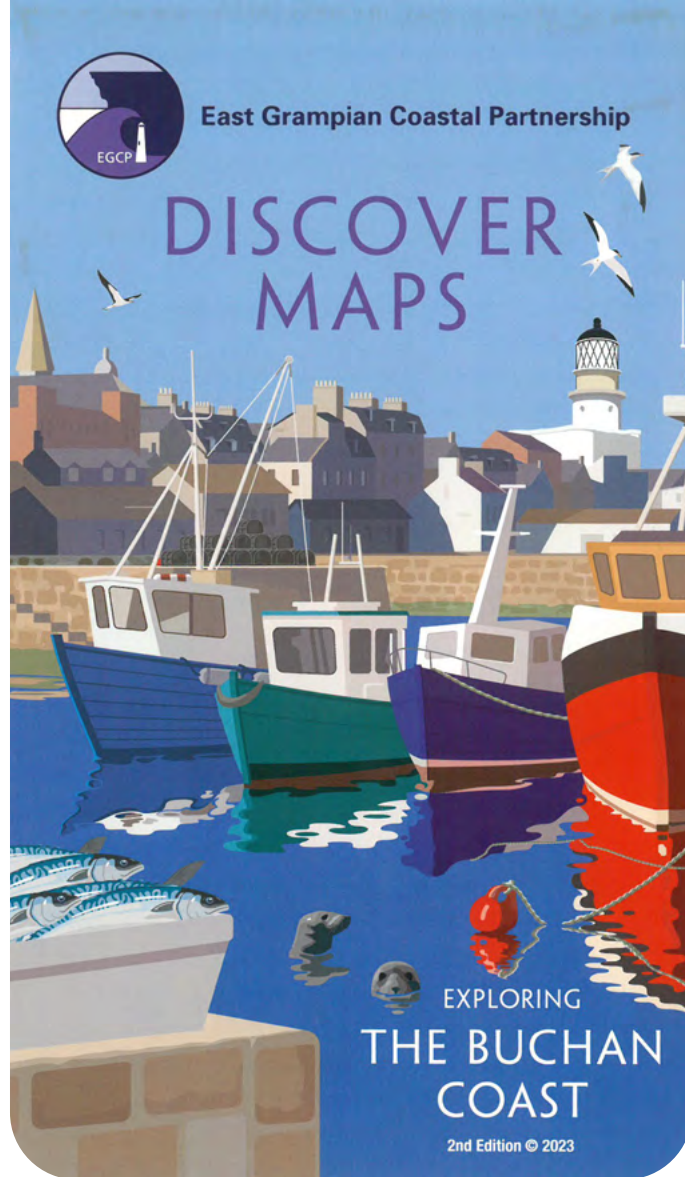
We were honoured to host a visit by Andrew Bailey, governor of the Bank of England, along with senior economist, Martin Seneca and agent for Scotland, William Dowson.



They were joined by the Board and senior management team of Storegga to share information on the Acorn carbon capture and storage project. This project is essential for the UK to meet its net zero commitment and provides a solution to help decarbonise industry in the rest of the UK and abroad through shipping CO₂ to Peterhead for permanent storage under the North Sea.

Pictured outside the Port Authority offices are (from left) Martin Seneca, senior economist, Bank of England; Stephen Paterson, acting chief executive, Peterhead Port Authority; Andrew Bailey, governor, Bank of England; William Dowson, agent for Scotland, Bank of England; and John Wallace, board member, Peterhead Port Authority.





Sponsorship maps the way

Peterhead Port Authority provided sponsorship of £3,000 which along with others allowed East Grampian Coastal Partnership (EGCP) to produce a series of four unique maps covering the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire coast.



Our impressive local landscapes and seascapes play a significant role in reciting the history of Scotland, capturing tales of cultural heritage and natural significance as they document the changing relationship and attachment between society and nature.

These maps contain a wealth of interesting information and stories about the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire coast, including: the people, history, environment, and the activities that make the North East of Scotland and its coastline so special.

It is hoped to encourage greater sustainable enjoyment and appreciation of the coast. The folding maps are available to purchase on the EGCP website.