

GR/IR

20th February 2026

Dear Stakeholders,

PETERHEAD FISH MARKET ELECTRONIC AUCTION UPDATE FOR SALES OFFICES / VESSELS & PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS

As part of the ongoing rollout of the new E-Auction platform at Peterhead Fish Market, I am pleased to confirm the forthcoming training schedule, programme of test auctions, licensing requirements, official go-live date, and the grading standards that will apply for fish sold through the auction.

Training Programme – Weeks Commencing 2nd and 9th March 2026

Training for all stakeholders will take place during the weeks commencing Monday 2nd March and Monday, 9th March. Sessions will be delivered through a blend of in-person training at the market and online sessions, providing flexibility for all participants.

This training will equip users with a full understanding of the E-Auction system, and the operational changes associated with the new platform.

Licensing Requirements for E-Auction

To participate in training and the E-Auction when live, all users are required to hold a valid user licence:

1. The user licence cost is £150.00 + VAT per year.
2. We strongly recommend that anyone intending to purchase via the new E-Auction acquires their licence ahead of training, ensuring full participation in both training and test auctions.
3. Licences can be requested by emailing - electronicauction@peterheadport.co.uk
4. Buyer licences will only be issued to applicants who are registered members of the Peterhead Fishsalesmen's Association and who comply with its Conditions of Sale. Copies of the Conditions are available from the Association upon request.
5. Restricted licences will also be available to other stakeholders, for example, vessel skippers for auction viewing purposes.

Test E-Auctions – Weeks Commencing 16th and 23rd March 2026

Following completion of training, a series of test E-Auctions will be conducted during the afternoons of the weeks commencing Monday 16th and Monday 23rd March.



These sessions will use catalogued data from each morning's auction, providing realistic conditions under which users can familiarise themselves with the live system, grading standards, and size grading criteria.

E-Auction Go Live Date – 31st March 2026

The new E-Auction platform will go live on Tuesday, 31st March.

The training, standards briefing, size grading table, and testing programme have been designed to ensure all stakeholders are confident and fully prepared ahead of this transition.

Next Steps

- **Buyers:** Reply to electronicauction@peterheadport.co.uk to be included in buyer training and test auctions.
- **Other stakeholders:** Reply to electronicauction@peterheadport.co.uk if you would like awareness training on the E-Auction system.

Training will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Whole White Fish & Flatfish Standards

All stakeholders should be aware of the official quality grading standards that will apply at Peterhead Fish Market for whole fish species sold through the auction:

Purpose:

The grading system is based on sensory assessment aligned with recognised Torry freshness scoring principles. It ensures:

- Consistent grading standards
- Transparency for buyers and sellers
- Market confidence
- Audit traceability

Grading Scale (Torry Equivalent):

Grade	Torry Score	Approx Days from Capture
E	10 - 9.5	1-2 Days
A+	9	2 -3 Days
A	8	3-7 Days
A-	7	7-9 Days
B	6	9-12 Days
Reject	5 & below	14 + Days



Species Assessment Criteria:

WHOLE COD / HADDOCK / LING / WHITING

GRADE	EYES COLOUR	EYES SHAPE	GILLS APPEARANCE	GILLS ODOUR	KIDNEY & BLOOD	FLESH TEXTURE	FLESH COLOUR	SKIN COLOUR	SKIN SLIME
E	Black pupil	Full, convex	Glossy, red, bright pink, clear slime	Very little, sharp metallic	Bright red, flows readily	Very firm, in rigour	Bluish translucent white	Bright, clear markings	Clear slime
A+	Black pupil	Still convex	Still red, pink, slime clear, slightly milky	Seaweed, shellfish	Bright red, does not flow	Firm and springy	White with some translucency	Bright, clear markings	Clear, slightly milky slime
A	Black, slightly cloudy pupil	Slight flattening	Still red, pink, slime thick milky	Shellfish, freshly cut grass	Slight loss of brightness,	Still springy, elastic	White no translucency	Slight loss of brightness and markings	Milky slime
A-	Slight greying of pupil	Flat, slightly sunken	Dark red, slime darker milky	Musty, mousy	Loss of brightness, slight browning	Softer, springs back slowly	White with yellowing of cut surfaces	Loss of brightness of markings	Thick milky slime
B	Definite greying of pupil	Slightly sunken	Discoloured with some browning, slime discoloured	Bready, yeasty, malty	Definite browning	Soft, retains finger marks	Slightly off white, discoloured cut surfaces	General fading of markings	Thick milky slightly discoloured
REJECT	Milky white pupil	Sunken	Definite browning, slime brown	Sour milk/ slightly off odours	Brown and discoloured	Soft	Yellowing, brown cut surfaces	Loss of markings, overall grey	Thick discoloured yellow

Quality Assessment Criteria

WHOLE HAKE

GRADE	EYES COLOUR	EYES SHAPE	GILLS COLOUR	GILLS ODOUR	GILLS SLIME	FLESH TEXTURE	FLESH COLOUR	SKIN COLOUR	SKIN SLIME
E	Black pupil	Full/convex	Glossy, red	Very little, seaweedy	Clear slime	Firm	White with bluish translucency	Bright, clear colours	Bright, clear colours
A+	Black/ slightly grey pupil	Slightly convex/flat	Still red, slight bleaching	Seaweed	Clear/ slightly milky slime	Slightly soft,	White with slight translucency	Bright, clear colours	Bright clear colours lightly milky, smooth
A	Slightly grey pupil	Flat	Dark red, some discolouration	Slightly seaweedy, slightly musty,	Thick milky slime	Soft, very slight grittiness	Slightly opaque	Slight loss of brightness and markings	Cloudy slime very slight grittiness of skin
A-	Slightly cloudy pupil	Flat/ slightly sunken	Pink, some discolouration and bleaching	Malty/ musty/grassy/oily	Darker milky slime	Softer, slight grittiness of skin	Slightly opaque	Loss of brightness of markings	Cloudy slime, slight grittiness of skin
B	Slightly cloudy pupil	Slightly sunken	Pink, bleached discolouration	Oily/grassy/ slightly sour, leathery	Discoloured slime	Soft, with grittiness of skin	Opaque	General fading of markings	Discoloured slime on head, grittiness of skin
REJECT	Cloudy pupil	Sunken / Collapsed	Pale pink, marked bleaching	Sour milk/ slightly off odours	Thick discoloured slime	Soft with grittiness of skin	Opaque / discoloured	Loss of markings / overall grey	Yellow slime on head and body



Quality Assessment Criteria WHOLE PLAICE

GRADE	EYES/COLOUR	EYES/SHAPE	GILLS/COLOUR	GILLS/BELLY CAVITY ODOUR	GILLS/SLIME	FLESH/TEXTURE	FLESH/COLOUR	SKIN/COLOUR	SKIN/SLIME
E	Black pupil	Full/convex	Glossy, bright red/deep pink	Fresh oil, metallic, roses, freshly cut grass	Clear	Very firm/in rigour	Bluish translucent white	Bright, clear markings	Clear
A+	Black/very slightly cloudy pupil	Still convex	Still red/pink	Metallic, oily, earthy, peppery	Clear, slightly milky	Firm	White with some translucency	Bright, clear markings	Clear/slightly milky
A	Black/slightly cloudy pupil	Slightly sunken	Pale pink, slightly bleached	Oily, seaweedy, aromatic	Thick, cloudy	Still springy/elastic	White no translucency	Slight loss of brightness and markings	Milky
A-	Cloudy/slight greying of pupil	Flat	Darker red	Oily, musty/mousy	Thick, opaque	Softer,	White with yellowing of cut surfaces	Loss of brightness and markings, some pinking on underside	Thick milky
B	Definite greying of pupil	Sunken, cloudy	Discoloured with some browning	Oily, bready, Malty, cut flower stems	Thick, grey/brown	Soft, slight grittiness of skin	Slight yellowing /discoloured cut surfaces	General fading of markings, definite pinking on underside	Thick milky slightly discoloured
REJECT	Milky pupil	Completely sunken or bloated	Definite browning	Sour beer, rancid, painty, cod liver oil	Dirty grey/brown	Soft, definite grittiness of skin	Yellowing/brown cut surfaces	Loss of markings/	Thick discoloured/ yellow

Quality Assessment Criteria WHOLE SAITHE

GRADE	EYES/COLOUR	EYES/SHAPE	GILLS APPEARANCE	GILLS ODOUR	KIDNEY & BLOOD	FLESH/TEXTURE	FLESH/COLOUR	SKIN/COLOUR	SKIN/SLIME
E	Black pupil	Full, convex	Glossy, blood red, clear slime	Very little, sharp metallic	Bright red and flows readily	Very firm, in rigour	Bluish translucent slightly grey	Bright, clear markings	Clear
A+	Black pupil	Still convex	Still blood red, slime clear or slightly milky	Seaweed, shellfish	Bright red but does not flow	Firm and springy	Slightly grey with some translucency	Bright, clear markings	Clear, slightly milky
A	Black, slightly cloudy pupil	Slight flattening	Meat red, slime thick and milky	Shellfish, freshly cut grass	Slight loss of brightness, slightly discoloured	Still springy, elastic	Slightly grey with no translucency	Slight loss of brightness and markings	Milky
A-	Slight greying of pupil	Flat	Darker red, slime darker milky	Musty, mousy	Loss of brightness with slight browning	Softer, springs back slowly	Slightly grey with yellowing of cut surfaces	Loss of brightness of markings	Thick milky
B	Definite greying of pupil	Slightly sunken	Discoloured with some browning, slime discoloured	Bready, yeasty,	Loss of brightness with some browning	Soft, retains finger marks	Slightly grey, discoloured cut surfaces	General fading of markings	Thick milky slightly discoloured
REJECT	Milky white pupil	Definite sinking	Definite browning	Sour milk, slightly off odours	Definite browning	Soft	Yellowing, brown cut surfaces	Loss of markings,	Thick discoloured yellow



Grading Principles:

1. Grading is conducted visually and organoleptically by trained market staff.
2. The lowest quality indicator determines the overall grade.
3. Any fish assessed as “Reject” shall not be offered for sale.
4. Consistency of grading is monitored through internal review.

Market Integrity Statement:

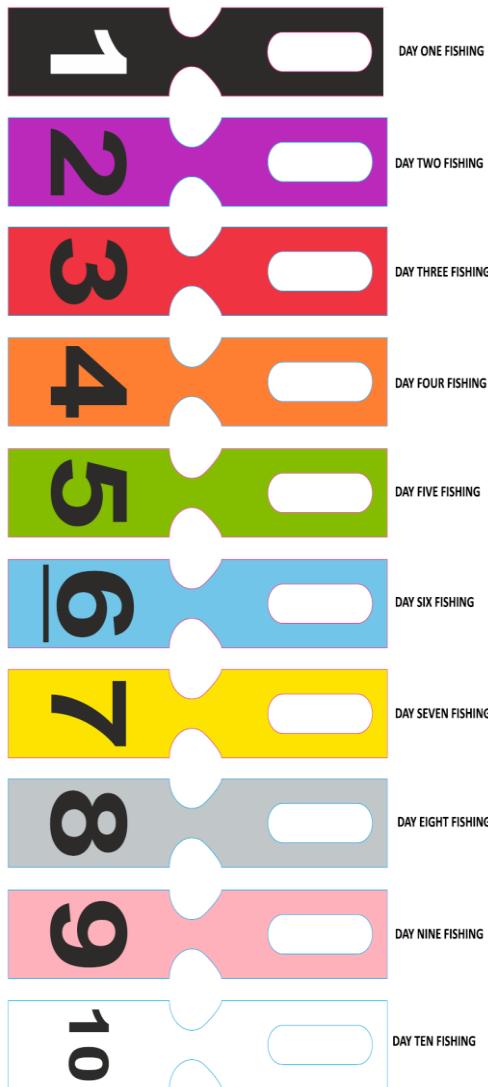
Peterhead Fish Market is committed to maintaining transparent, consistent, and recognised quality standards to protect buyers, sellers, end consumers, and the reputation of Scottish seafood.

Size Grading Table – Peterhead Fish Market



Coloured Landing Tag Trial – Peterhead Fish Market

 Peterhead Port Authority Colour Landing Chart



Following a recent trial with selected vessels, a coloured landing tag system has been successfully tested and approved for use in support of the electronic auction platform at Peterhead Fish Market.

Trial Overview

Vessels were issued with coloured and numbered tags representing each day of fishing during a trip.

Each box was tagged with a colour corresponding to the specific day the fish were caught.

Upon landing, boxes were laid out in order, starting with the freshest fish and working back sequentially to Day 1 of the trip.



Outcome

The colour-coded system significantly improved the efficiency and accuracy of grading within the electronic auction system. By clearly identifying catch day at a glance, graders were able to:

- Streamline lot organisation
- Improve consistency within the grading structure
- Reduce handling confusion
- Enhance overall workflow during landing and auction preparation

As a result of the successful trial, this system will be adopted as the standard procedure for electronic auction landings.

Requirement

All vessels landing into Peterhead Fish Market are requested to implement this coloured tag method when landing fish for electronic auction.

Tag Supply

The coloured tags used during the trial were sourced from:

Ashgrove Group Ltd
Damhead Way
Dales Industrial Estate
PETERHEAD
Tel: 01779 470606

Other stationery providers can also supply these tags, we are only informing you where we got them from for the trial.

Vessels should arrange supply directly to ensure compliance with the new landing procedure.

If you have any queries about the information contained in this document, please contact electronicauction@peterheadport.co.uk

Yours sincerely

Graeme Reid
Chief Executive
Peterhead Port Authority