

Dutch protests set to continue

Action to highlight threats to industry from green NGOs

DUTCH FISHERMEN have staged a series of protests about what they see as the undue powers of green NGOs. Piet Adema, the minister of agriculture, nature and food quality, is, says one leading commentator, failing to stand up for the interests of the industry at a time of unprecedented pressure from well-funded NGOs bent on closing fisheries.

The final straw appears to have been comments by

By **ANDY READ**

the minister in *Visserijnieuws*, the Dutch equivalent of *FN*, that it was 'good news' that 31 Eurocutters opted out of the round of decommissioning in the Netherlands that has seen the beam trawl fleet reduced to just 38 vessels.

Willem den Heijer, a regular commentator on the operations of his own vessels and the Dutch industry in general, said:

"Minister Adema seems to me to be a nice guy, but not someone who is going to stick his neck out for fisheries, in spite of his recent statement last week, in which he calls for a better appreciation of fisheries and asks to keep North Sea fish out of the so-called protein transition.

"I don't know if Minister Adema really dares to fight his civil servants internally, because in the most crucial positions there are civil servants and directors who are quite green and left-leaning."

The decommissioning in the Dutch fleet last year was mirrored by similar schemes in several other EU countries, with some funds provided by the EU Brexit Adjustment Reserve to compensate for loss of access to quotas under the TCA. Significant volumes of tonnage were also removed from the Danish and Irish fleets in particular.

Increasingly, EU fishing



▲ Shrimp fishermen from the Dutch port of Den Oever released flares in February to highlight threats to their fishery from a group of NGOs, campaigning to stop shrimp fishing in the Wadden Sea.

organisations are asking the Commission to take a robust stance with the UK when the TCA is renewed, linking free

market access for UK seafood to access for EU vessels so they can maintain their current levels of effort in UK waters.

Newhaven fishermen's co-op switches to solar power

First stage in ambitious three-phase development plan for harbour

WORKING WITH Newhaven's historic Fish and Flake Ice Society, which recently moved into a new building, a new CIC, Newhaven Fishing CIC, has been formed, with local MP Maria Caulfield, former fisherman David Guy, leader of Lewes District Council Zoe Nicholson, mayor of Newhaven Julie Carr and fisherman's partner and training advisor Wendi Goodsell as directors.

The new facility provides ice, cold storage and freezing facilities, and the unit has been transitioned from conventional power with the installation of solar panels that will significantly reduce running costs as well as carbon footprints.

As part of an ambitious three-phase programme supported by the government's Levelling Up Fund, a 50kW solar PV array has been installed on the roof of the main building to generate clean energy to help power the ice machine, freezer and cold store. Further development will include provision of small-scale processing facilities for local boat owners interested in adding value to their catches.

David Guy, secretary of the Newhaven Fish and Flake Ice

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Society, told *FN*: "The solar array is up and running and already producing power, and we hope to have the new fridges installed and operational within a month.

"The next phase is completion of a new landing stage at Newhaven harbour, which when completed will also see a new restaurant developed at West Promenade.

"The plan has been to reduce running costs for the fishermen as much as possible, whilst also helping maximise return from catches. Brixham market will be collecting fish from the facility,

but the longer-term plans are to see an expansion of local sales."

It helps that Sussex is the sunniest county in the UK! The new system is forecast to save 336t of carbon dioxide over 20 years.

Jason Lindfield, director at OHM Energy, which provided the system, said: "The new solar system at the facility will transform operations, helping the local fishing industry financially as well as environmentally. At current energy prices, the entire system should pay for itself within five years and six months, and save £231,500 over the next 20 years.

"When you look at these kind of numbers, solar makes a very attractive and sustainable investment for any industry involving refrigeration and high energy costs."



▲ The new solar array on the roof of the Newhaven Fish and Flake Ice Society is forecast to save the local industry over £230,000 over the next 20 years at current prices.

Four-lifeboat rescue in Irish Sea

Welsh and Irish lifeboats tasked

RNLI LIFEBOATS FROM St Davids, Fishguard, New Quay and Kilmore Quay launched to a Mayday from an Irish-registered fishing vessel taking on water on 8 March.

The 24m Shauna Leon WD 220 had five crew onboard and was some 21nm northwest of Strumble Head when the Coastguard tasked the three Welsh lifeboats just before midday.

The all-weather lifeboats made best speed to the scene, with Coastguard search and rescue helicopter R936 from Caernarfon also tasked to assist. The helicopter arrived on scene first and lowered a water pump to the vessel. With no casualties reported, New Quay lifeboat was stood down en route.

St Davids Tamar-class lifeboat Norah Wortley arrived at 1.10pm, with sea conditions rough in a force five to seven easterly wind. Fishguard RNLI's Trent-class Blue Peter VII arrived at 1.35pm. With no engine damage and the Coastguard pump sufficiently reducing the water level, it was decided that Shauna Leon would be escorted the 35nm west to Ireland.

Kilmore Quay Tamar-class lifeboat Victor Freeman was tasked by the Irish Coast Guard to complete the escort. At this point, Fishguard lifeboat was



▲ Kilmore Quay lifeboat Victor Freeman taking over the escort of the Shauna Leon. (St Davids RNLI)

stood down and returned to Wales.

St Davids lifeboat escorted the Shauna Leon a further 20nm towards Tuskar rock until Kilmore Quay lifeboat arrived and took over the escort. St Davids lifeboat arrived back at station at 6pm, and Kilmore Quay arrived back to their base shortly after at 6.10pm.

St Davids coxswain Will Chant said: "This rescue was a good, fast response from all crews, which with an incident of this nature was exactly what was required. Fortunately the salvage pump from the helicopter was all that was required in order to quell the problems onboard the trawler, and after that it was a straightforward but long job of escorting the vessel to safety.

"Our crew even received 'welcome to Ireland' messages on their mobile phones, such as the distance from home."