



## Market research

Lerwick Port Authority is engaged in discussions with fishing industry stakeholders - catching, buying and processing interests and hauliers - to help determine the services and facilities required at the harbour's planned replacement white fish market, with consultation expected to continue on the design and tender processes throughout 2013.

Sandra Laurenson, Port Authority Chief Executive, commented: "The discussions are making a positive contribution to shaping the current design stage and ensuring the new market meets users' requirements. "The market and new quay will bring significant

benefits in the landing of fish and in supporting and servicing vessels and also include improvements in the handling of fish once landed; in the uplifting and onward transportation; and in staff welfare facilities, and the market will be more energy efficient."

## Fish quay on time

Construction of the new quay, which will provide the location for the replacement white fish market at Lerwick Harbour, is on schedule for completion by local contractor, Tulloch Developments, by the end of July this year. The 151-metre long berth at Mair's Yard is augmented with an adjacent 1.45 hectares of reclaimed land.

The minimum six metres' water depth alongside - pre-dredged in 2008 - is one of the prime reasons for relocating the market. The quay will generate considerable benefits ahead of the new market by increasing berthing available at Holmsgarth.

The development by Lerwick Port Authority follows a Scottish Government allocation of £965,283 from the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) towards the cost of the £3 million-plus quay project.

## According to plan



The Port Authority's continuing enhancement of the infrastructure for the seafood industry features heavily in its 2013 Business Plan, underlining the port's commitment to the sector and reinforcing Lerwick's well-established position as a leading centre for fishing activity. The investment will help the Authority achieve its objectives, including retaining Lerwick's position as a landing port-of-choice for vessels operating in Shetland waters and attracting increased landings.

## Direct approach

The fishing industry is the main focus of company investment by the Port Authority, uniquely demonstrating its support for the sector through shareholdings. As part-owners and directors, it can directly help sustain and attract core businesses at the port.

The Authority's stakes include: Europe's largest pelagic processing company, **Shetland Catch Limited** (25.9%); fish meal and oil manufacturing company, **SFP (Shetland Fish Products) Limited**



(36.1%); and **Shetland Seafood Auctions Limited** (15%) which provides an electronic auction facility for the sale of all species of seafood.

## Fishing in figures

More than 2,000 fishing vessels, including a modern local fleet and foreign vessels use the port annually, with landings of over 61,000 tonnes of pelagic fish, white fish and shellfish valued at over £50 million. In addition, refrigerated cargo vessels collect processed fish from the port.

For Shetland as whole, the sector - catching, processing and aquaculture - is worth around



£309 million annually, almost 30% of the islands' output and providing almost 1,200 fulltime equivalent jobs.

Lerwick Harbour saw growth in landings of pelagic fish in the first quarter of this year. It is an international sector, with products exported directly to overseas markets.

Pelagic firms are among those gaining from a number of cross-sector developments at the port.

- **At Arlanda**, initial land reclamation by the Port Authority is providing sites for pelagic tenants to develop, including storage of nets and gear. Reclamation will be ongoing for future development by multi-user tenants.
- Redevelopment of the **Point of Scotland area** is included in the Authority's future plans to allow improved access for adjacent major fish processors, creation of additional quays for all vessels including pelagic trawlers and salmon well boat berthing. This project is a necessary precursor to the future development of Gremista Quay, which requires replacement, and Holmsgarth north Jetty. This will improve operational areas for Shetland Catch and provide an opportunity for an adjacent salmon processor to relocate its salmon holding cages, with resultant benefits for the whitefish sector.
- At **Holmsgarth**, the Authority's long-range plan to extend the existing north jetty will provide more lay down area for the fishing fleet, deeper berthing and a more sheltered dock at the new fish market site.
- **Shetland Catch** has augmented its landing points for pelagic fish into the factory, with a second intake point for smaller line fishing vessels.

## Pelagic sector to benefit from improvements



## Centreground

Located at the heart of Europe's richest fishing grounds, Lerwick Harbour is one of Britain's main centres for the landing, selling, processing and shipment of seafood and for servicing vessels, with facilities including deep-water berthing; temperature-controlled market; electronic auction; onshore weighing & grading; modern processing sector; major pelagic factory; fish meal & fish oil processing, and overnight delivery of quality products to mainland Scotland.

Services also include: high capacity quayside ice plant; fuel; engineering & electronic repairs; slipway; net manufacture & repairs; wire rigging and refrigeration gases.



# LERWICK PORT AUTHORITY

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