



Peterhead's new £9m Fishmarket opens

PART OF THE NORTH HARBOUR £53 MILLION DEVELOPMENT



Peterhead Port Authority recently unveiled its impressive new multi-million pound fishmarket. Forming part of a £53 million North Harbour development, the fish market's first sale of 5,990 boxes was recorded on June 18th 2018.

Under the watchful eye of new chief executive Simon Brebnor, who recently took over the helm at Peterhead Port Authority, he was full of praise for the board's vision and commitment to the future of the port.

"It's a state of the art facility, definitely breaking new ground and we can now do so much more than we used to be able to.

"The best thing is there's more space so fish can be better displayed meaning the quality can be easily seen and the feedback from our customers is so positive and unbelievable."

Simon also paid tribute to his predecessor John Wallace at the Port, by saying,

"John and his team have done an amazing job over recent years in what continues to be challenging economic times.

"This is a historic time for the port. The commitment and investment made by the board cannot be underestimated and will provide a lasting legacy for the port and the town as a whole."

The new market has space for 10,000 boxes of fish, has a deeper harbour, 24 hour refrigeration, better lighting, larger walkways for pallets and fork lifts, and space for 20 lorries. In addition it has covered landing areas to provide protection from the elements for fishermen and their catches. It is chilled to 2c and includes modern energy saving measures including an 85kw solar panel array and specialist heat exchange and recycle systems.

Due to increased landings, the new market offers more than double the floor area (5,227sqm) of the old market so it will prevent fish having to be held over to the following day. It even has a viewing room so visitors can see the market and an area for lunch.

There was a buzz of activity amongst buyers and sellers as a £130 box of cod marked the first sale as the market celebrated the opening of its doors to a large and



Simon Brebnor, the new chief executive of Peterhead Port Authority.

excited crowd. The Port Authority also announced a donation of £1000 to be split between the RNLI and the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen.

The new £9 million fish market is a key part of the massive redevelopment for the Buchan port, which will also include dredging to provide deep water access and berthing for the fleet, and various quay reconstructions to improve access to the inner harbour.

John Wallace, Peterhead Port Authority consultant, said: "I think it's a very proud day for Peterhead as we now have one of, if not the

Above: The new market has almost double the space of the old one.

finest fish market in Europe. "The lighting is wonderful, the space is more than adequate, more fish on display and this means people can get better prices as the boxes are well seen.

"We planned this in 2012 before we knew we were coming out of Europe and now we can promote our reputation as first and foremost a world class fishing port."

John will continue to help Mr Brebnor and oversee the completion of the North Bay development until August, before returning to a position on the board in September.

New demolition work will now begin on the existing fish market at Merchants Quay and is expected to be cleared by the end of September.

It will be formally handed over to operational ownership of NorSea Group (UK) Limited, who will also take on the running of the extended quayside currently under construction

An official opening of the new market will take place sometime in September. ■



Top: The first box of fish is sold. Above: Aerial view of the new market and deepwater basin just before completion.

2017 PETERHEAD FISH THROUGHPUT

TONNES	VALUE
White - 64,519	White - £123,980,000
Shellfish - 4,230	Shellfish - £11,337,000
Pelagic - 102,821	Pelagic - £60,032,000

■ The white fish total includes 1,325,536 boxes sold through the fish auction.

■ Largest sales in previous market – 8,475 on 5 Jan 2018 and 8,032 boxes on 19 Dec 2017. The previous Merchants Quay fish market opened in 2001 and sold a total of nearly 16 million boxes during this time.

Brexit bonanza for fisheries if the Sea of Opportunity is seized

Referred to a Scottish Government report published in June, the UK Seafood Industries post-Brexit, Scottish Fishermen's Federation chief executive Bertie Armstrong said:

"This report simply underlines the importance of the UK regaining sovereignty over its own waters and becoming an independent Coastal State with the powers to control access and fishing opportunity. For Scotland that could be worth an additional £540m in income and create 5,000 more jobs in the sector,

it says.

"Any other course of action would be harmful to the fishing industry and, given its importance to coastal communities (again as highlighted in the report), that would be totally unacceptable.

"There are challenges ahead in securing these aims, of that there is no doubt. But in light of the potential bonanza, we would urge politicians of all parties to press both the UK and Scottish governments to work together to support the aims and objectives of

the fishing industry."

■ The full report can be seen here: www.gov.scot/Resource

FISHERMEN'S LEADERS PUSH HARD FOR POSITIVE BREXIT OUTCOME

Scottish fishermen's leaders held positive talks with senior politicians and civil servants as they pressed the case for restoration of sovereignty over UK waters post-Brexit.

One of their meetings was with

Olly Robbins, head of the Prime Minister's Brexit unit, as they seek to persuade key decision makers in Number 10, DexEU, DEFRA and the Treasury, that undiluted control is the key, with access and quota negotiated from a position of authority as a Coastal State.

Chief executive of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation Bertie Armstrong said: "Yesterday we saw the European Parliament vote to link access to our resources with trade and to retain 60% of our seafood resource. This simply cannot be



Bertie Armstrong, Chief Executive of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation.

allowed to happen – decisions in our waters as to who fishes for what and when will be ours to take under

international law.

"This does not mean that there won't be access for EU fleets, rather that it will be on our terms and not enforced by a system which currently entitles our vessels to a mere 40 per cent of the natural capital of the UK Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

"It is fair to say that we have had a positive reception during our various meetings this week. We will continue to walk every avenue in pursuit of a Brexit deal for fishing that we can all sign up".

Peterhead
PORT AUTHORITY

What can *we* do for *your* business

£50'm development at Peterhead to provide the best facilities for the fishing industry nearing completion

New market, private landing area, discard handling facility and deepwater berthing now complete.

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