



THE
FISHERMEN'S
MISSION

STAYING AFLOAT

Photo courtesy of Kevin Ritchie, Shetland



IMPACT REPORT 2024

Welcome to our Impact Report for 2024

It really does feel that each year builds upon the preceding one and certainly there is no let-up in the demand for our services. Even though the number of new clients who came onto our books over the past year decreased by 227 compared with the previous year, we have conducted more direct welfare-specific client interactions (20,601) over the past 12 months than we did the year before (20,277). The need is there and we are still here to meet it.

It is pleasing to report that the steady growth in our income has continued after that incredibly sharp drop when the country was facing the Covid-19 pandemic and went into lockdown for large periods of 2020. It is fair to say that our income (in pure numbers) is pretty much back to where it was pre-pandemic. However, our costs have increased year on year and almost unprecedented inflationary pressures over the past few years has meant the money we received has had to work that much harder to get close to delivering the outputs it achieved five years ago.

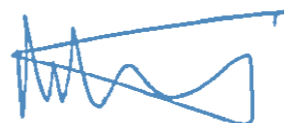
SeaFit, which started as a short-term project, has become an integral activity delivered in partnership with the Seafarers Hospital Society. It continues to provide a mobile and responsive solution to the healthcare demands of the marginalised in our fishing communities. There have been more SeaFit events then ever and its reach now extends to the Channel Islands and, for the first time, to Wales. The demand for SeaFit events is growing as the benefits of this dynamic activity has become ever more widely recognised, not just by the fishing community but by the wider industry and many regional authorities and other healthcare providers. The message is clear, that targeted events can significantly benefit people by connecting them to the healthcare services they have struggled to access on their own.

Similarly, we were delighted to launch our pilot Community Cancer Awareness initiative in North Shields in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support. The premise is simple - through a dedicated and focussed team of three, we are raising awareness of cancer in the fishing community; breaking down some of the barriers experienced by the under-represented and marginalised to improve knowledge and understanding; to access critical information and promote early engagement with screening and diagnostic processes and then supporting those living with and affected by cancer. The initiative has made a real difference as one fishermen told us, "If I had not attended the skin cancer awareness session, I would have not got my mole checked. I went to my GP and then to hospital to find it was cancerous. I have now had it removed and am so relieved." That is the most positive impact you could wish to make.

But it is our dedicated port staff whose presence around the fishing communities of the United Kingdom is so important, for this puts us into the heart of the communities and provides a real and recognisable face. As ever, they have been brilliant, ensuring that anyone who needs us knows how to engage with us. In turn we have provided significant direct assistance at the quayside as well as connecting clients to a wide range of colleagues and other service providers to whom we are always so grateful for their support.



Mark Greet
Chair of the Council of Management



Marc Evans
Chief Executive

Making a lifetime of difference for fishermen and their families





National Fishing Remembrance Day - A Day to Remember

Warmly welcomed in Parliament in April 2024, the Fishermen's Mission, working with our partners Stella Maris and The Seafarers Charity, was proud to be a part of this event by holding services all around our shores. From experience, we know how every loss affects families, friends, and whole communities. We know how this loss lingers from generation to generation. To finally have a national day that allows us to come together and remember so many fishermen who have lost their lives while bringing home the catch is momentous for everyone connected with fishing.



For more information on National Fishing Remembrance Day 2025 events please visit our website: www.fishermensmission.org.uk/FishingRemembranceDay

Statement of financial activities

(Incorporating the income and expenditure account) For the year ended 31 October 2024

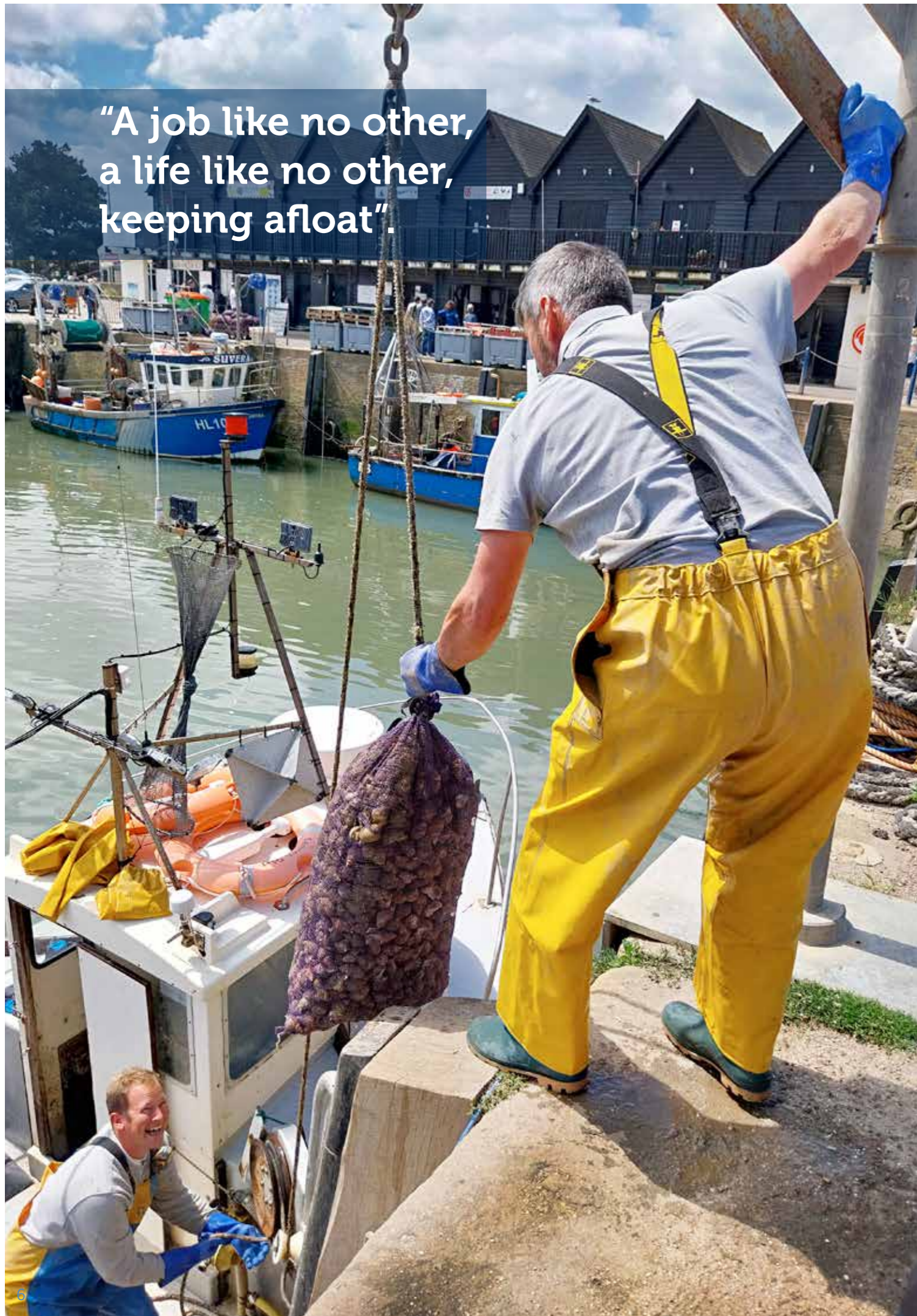
	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES -		
Incoming resources from generated funds:		
Voluntary Income: Donations & Gifts	1,585,281	1,505,162
Legacies	895,278	1,009,096
Investment Income	315,000	300,000
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Charity Shop	134,088	129,250
Macmillan Project	158,499	0
Net realised gain/(loss) on sale of fixed assets	146,127	2,838
Rental Income	48,155	48,763
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	3,282,428	2,995,109
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Less: Costs of generating funds		
Fundraising and publicity	1,153,941	999,715
Charitable activities		
Charitable expenditure	2,401,576	2,749,563
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	3,555,517	3,749,278
NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFER		
Unrealised gain/(loss) on investment assets	1,409,645	30,172
Actuarial gain/(loss) on defined pension scheme	0	50,000
NET MOVEMENT IN FUND	1,136,556	(673,997)

The summarised financial information shows the income raised and expenditure of the Fishermen's Mission for the year. The information is taken from the full financial statements which were approved by the Trustees on 5th February 2025.

In order to gain a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity, the full audited financial statements, Trustees' Annual Report and auditors' report should be consulted. Copies can be obtained from the charity.

Mark Greet, Chair
Chairman, Board of Trustees

“A job like no other,
a life like no other,
keeping afloat”.



2,140	Engagements with healthy lifestyle advisors
245	Health checks
165	Health checks at quayside events
76	Dental checks
234	Mental health counselling sessions
474	Physio sessions
57	Events in 18 ports

Awards won - Health Service Journal's silver award in the Most Impactful Partnership in Preventative Healthcare category 2024

All of which amounts to SeaFit having raised the profile of fishermen's health needs and the Fishermen's Mission being seen as the 'go-to' organisation to support fishermen's health and wellbeing.



A New Partnership with Macmillan Cancer Services

Fishermen face unique risks in their work and lifestyle that can increase their likelihood of developing cancer. The C Aware team, alongside Cancer Champions, provide cancer information at the quayside for the fishing community. C Aware is a partnership with health services and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations to share key cancer messages through face-to-face conversations, social media, promotional materials, presentations, focus groups, and social events.



The C Aware Team (L-R) Danielle Murray, Deb Johnstone, Elle Charlton

C Aware Cancer Champions share key messages about cancer with their family, colleagues, wider fishing industry partners and within their own neighbourhood via cancer conversations, information material and through signposting to cancer-care services. They receive a comprehensive induction to their role along with regular team and peer support and are updated with continuous cancer information via health and VCSE partners.

471	Engagements – cancer conversations completed
49	C Aware quayside activities completed
11	C Aware fishing focus groups; Quayside cancer awareness sessions
24	Cancer Champions recruited
121	Clients signposted to cancer health and VCSE services



No Judgement, No Labels, Just Care

Port Seton fisherman Robert was in despair. He felt life was not worth living. He made an anguished call to Donna Schwarz, Fishermen's Mission Area Officer for the South East Coast of Scotland:

"If I could change anything in my life it would be to never have got involved with drugs. Men like me do struggle at times and it's ok to cry for help. That's what I tell all fishermen, particularly young fishermen."

"Robert phoned me in tears, asking for help. 'I'm going to take tablets, I've had enough and can't do this anymore.' He wanted to take his own life and we immediately instigated a police welfare check. Robert was then uncontactable for a while, and we were extremely concerned. Thankfully Robert was found safe and sound."

As Donna explains, the path to addiction is not straightforward. "For Robert, mental health issues, a leg injury that prevented him from fishing, family problems with access to his children, and the sale of a treasured fishing boat were just some of the contributing factors."

Thankfully Robert is now in recovery from the heroin addiction that once dominated his life. Donna tells us how he is doing:

"Robert now has his own house and is rebuilding relationships. With grants from the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society, we helped him make his house

a home and have also ensured he is fully engaged with a social worker. We are in the process of setting up a new mental health network, but I constantly remind Robert that he can call me for a chat when things are not easy for him. We see Robert for who he is, just Robert. We don't judge or label, we just respect and care."

Let's leave the last words to Robert himself:

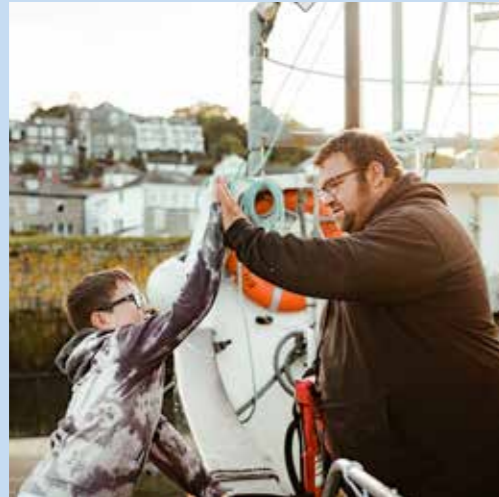
"I wouldn't have been here without the help the Fishermen's Mission gave me. If I could change anything in my life it would be to never have got involved with drugs. Men like me do struggle at times and it's ok to cry for help. That's what I tell all fishermen, particularly young fishermen. I've been blessed through the Fishermen's Mission; they have helped me turn my life around."

The life-saving care we give to Robert and fishermen like him is only possible through your gifts and support. Thank you.



Port Seton harbour

Today's Kindness, Tomorrow's Hope



Much of the professional and compassionate support given by our Area and Port Officers during the last year is only possible thanks to people generously leaving a gift in their will to the Fishermen's Mission. These gifts make a life-changing difference for the people we help, at a time when they have nowhere else to turn and all hope seems lost.

After providing for loved ones, a gift in your will means you can continue to make a difference to the lives of fishermen and their families, long into the future.



This might be something you are considering but are unsure where to start. To help, we are pleased to offer you the opportunity to have your will written for free in partnership with the National Free Wills Network.



For more information and to find out how to write your will for free, please contact our Legacy Manager, Andy Perry, on 01489 566922 or email andyperry@fishermensmission.org.uk



How you can help

Make a donation

■ We receive no government funding or lottery support so every single donation makes a real difference to us. You can make a donation by calling **FREEPHONE 0800 6341020**. You can also donate online at: **www.fishermensmission.org.uk** or post a cheque to our address shown on the back cover. **For every £1 we generate we spend 88p on our services.**

Become a volunteer

■ We are always grateful for the help given to us by our dedicated volunteers. If you can spare a few hours each month please call us for a chat on: **FREEPHONE 0800 6341020** or email: **enquiries@fishermensmission.org.uk**

Remember us in your will

■ Everyone wants to ensure that friends and family are well provided for if you are writing or updating your will. However, just a small gift to the Fishermen's Mission can make all the difference to our work and ensure that your help continues. If you would like our "Guide to Gifts in Wills" booklet call: **01489 566922** or **FREEPHONE 0800 6341020** or email: **andyperry@fishermensmission.org.uk**

Fundraising - Keeping our vital work afloat



Dear friend and supporter,

Each and every gift generously donated to support the Fishermen's Mission is precious. Your kindness is essential in keeping our fishermen and their families afloat through the storms of life. Your gift really matters and makes a huge difference for those who are often struggling to afford the basic essentials of life, as well as those suffering with physical and mental health, and loneliness. From their hearts to yours, we send you our sincere thanks for being part of our family.

Alison Godfrey
Director of Business Development



Our First National Support Day

October 14th, 2024 saw the first Fishermen's Mission National Support Day. This was a day for us to recognise all those who we support and to thank those who have supported us through donations or by volunteering to help us.

This year's National Support Day will be on October 14th, 2025. Please join us in making this a special day to celebrate our fishermen, the harvest of the sea, and the Fishermen's Mission.

The Power of Corporate Partnerships

At the Fishermen's Mission, our work is strengthened by the incredible support of corporate partners who help us make a real difference in the lives of fishing communities across the UK. We are proud to collaborate with businesses from a wide range of sectors including restaurants, food producers, and companies within the fishing industry who share our commitment to supporting those in need.

These partnerships go beyond financial support; they provide essential resources, raise awareness, and create a lasting impact on the lives of fishing families. Whether you're in the seafood supply chain, hospitality, or another industry looking to give back, we'd love to explore how we can work together together in supporting the UK's fishing families.



Dean Lawrence (right) with Milly Pestell from Xtratuf Work Footwear - winners of the Fishermen's Mission Corporate Partnership Award 2023

Join us in supporting the UK's fishing families. To learn more about partnership opportunities, contact Dean Lawrence, Corporate Partnerships Manager, at DeanLawrence@fishermensmission.org.uk or call 07809 200514.

*Some went out on the sea in ships;
they were merchants on the mighty waters.
They saw the works of the Lord,
his wonderful deeds in the deep.*

Psalm 107 v 23 & 24



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Whiteley, Hampshire. PO15 7FJ

@thefishmish @thefishmish @thefishmish

CONTACT US

To find out more about the work of the Fishermen's Mission or to speak to one of our team you can contact us by:



Telephone: **0800 6341020** or **01489 566910**

Email: enquiries@fishermensmission.org.uk

Website: www.fishermensmission.org.uk



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