

Cancelled vessel sailing to lead to sparse Grimsby Fish Market as Icelandic supply stalls

Grimsby Fish Market's auction will be a shadow of its normal Monday activity after a key sailing from Iceland was cancelled.

Eimskip's service did not leave Reykjavik on Wednesday, as the company responded to a lull in trade immediately after the festive period. It would normally call at the strong fishing community at The Westman Islands, south of Iceland, then The Faroes, before docking in Immingham on a Sunday.

Merchants in the town who rely on the 7am sale for fresh supply will be left to source frozen from the huge storage concentration in the cluster.

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More than 75 per cent of the fish bought is Icelandic-caught.

What would normally be a market of between 1,500 and 2,000 boxes was set at 80 on Friday – roughly four tonnes.

Eimskip has assured the town it will be back, with concern from some merchants.

A spokesperson for the firm said: "The cancelled calls are just because of blank sailings at the slow season during Christmas and New Year, and the next regular Sunday call will be on January 16.

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“The Sunday calls to Immingham will remain important in Eimskip's schedule and for the fish import to the UK.”

With the latest Covid spike bringing caution to socialising – fish massively overtrades in an eating out setting – and people in a healthy mindset in early January when it comes to the traditional take-away – the disruption will be somewhat mitigated by low demand.

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