

Making the most from the Fisheries and Seafood Scheme – Investing in Communities.

The Fisheries and Seafood Scheme is available until 2025 to help support sustainability, resilience and prosperity in the seafood sector across England. There are opportunities for small ports, harbours coves and beaches to improve and develop local solutions.



Fisheries and Seafood Scheme

Summary from The Fishing Animateur Project

Note the Fishing Animateurs have no formal relationship with Defra or the Marine Management Organisation. We act without charge as agents for under 12 m fishers and small ports and harbours.

Financial assistance for projects that support sustainable growth in the catching, processing, and aquaculture sectors. Open to applicants whose businesses or vessels are registered in England only.



Fisheries and Seafood Scheme

Projects

57 from April 2022

Ilfracombe Harbour

Looe Harbour

Whitehaven



Who can apply?

- An individual or business involved in sea fishing, aquaculture or processing
- A public body or local authority, including trust ports, local authorities, public bodies, using funds for fishing activities
- A University or research institute
- **A new entrant into fishing, or unemployed individual who may benefit from knowledge or skills in fishing/aquaculture activities**

What is eligible?

Must fit into one of the FaSS measures:

- Fishing related activities
- Improving energy efficiency on vessels
- Aquaculture related activities
- Partnerships, advisory services, prof training, and encouraging new entrants
- Shore based facilities
- Marketing related activities
- Processing related activities
- Preventing and collecting marine litter



You cannot get funding for...

Anything to increase catch effort (in terms of catching fish, finding fish, increase in fish holds)

Building or purchasing fishing vessels

Any equipment that you have already received grant funding for on the scheme

Transferring business ownership

Any statutory or **mandatory** items

Preventative or scheduled maintenance

Purchase or rent of vehicles not **DIRECTLY** contributing to the project

Repayment of loans/interest on debt

The cost(s) of any items bought with a loan until the loan is repaid

The cost of any item purchased prior to agreement with the MMO

Some more in guidance....



How much funding?

Small scale coastal fishers can receive up to 80% funding.

Public bodies, PO's, fisherman's associations and co-ops can receive up to 75% funding.

Micro, small or medium enterprises can receive up to 50% funding.

- Micro business: a turnover of £632,000 or less / less than 10 employees / less than £316,000 on balance sheet
- Small business: A turnover of £10.2m or less / balance sheet of £5.1m or less / 50 employees or less
- Medium enterprise: turnover less than £25m / balance sheet of £12.5m / 250 employees or less

All other private applicants can receive up to 30% funding. (Large businesses)



How to apply

Applications made on online portal

We will need:

- Copies of photo ID or two utility bills
- Past 3 years annual accounts (or a cash flow forecast)
- VAT numbers
- Suitable quotes
- A business case for projects over £30,000
- Targets and benefits of projects (through a FA **project enquiry form**)

Apply through online portal here:

<https://fass.marinemangement.org.uk/Public/Home.aspx>



Guidance for fishing activities

Increasing the value and quality of catch (limiting the environmental impact of fishing) Projects you can apply for:

M16 Improving the value and quality of fisheries products, can include:

- Investments that add value to fishery products
- Innovative investments on board that improve quality of catch, conditional on the use of selective gear to reduce unwanted catch
- Investments that increase quality, control and traceability of products landed
- Improvements to fish holds (lining and refrigeration) where there is no increase in their capacity

Projects excluded:

- Investments not on-board vessels (may be eligible under Shore Based)
- Projects unable to demonstrate improved value/quality added
- Projects that seek to increase capacity of fish holds

EVIDENCE: Current and expected profits, company accounts for last 3 years

MIN GRANT: £500 MAX GRANT: £70,000



Guidance for Aquaculture projects

This is LONG – please refer to the guidance notes for thorough info!

Funding can be applied for the following areas:

- M3: Enhancing the quality and/or adding value to aquaculture products
- M9: Increasing the potential or sustainability of aquaculture sites
- M10: Developing a sustainable aquaculture sector
- M11: Aquaculture providing environmental services
- M18: Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms
- M20: Promoting skills, knowledge and networking for aquaculture
- M30: Innovation in aquaculture

ALL have a MIN GRANT of £500, MAX GRANTS range from £30k to £250k



Partnerships, advisory services, new entrants and training

M17: Providing advisory services, includes:

- Feasibility studies and advisory services that assess the viability of projects.
- Professional advice on environmental sustainability
- Professional advice on business and marketing strategies
- (Must be provided by scientific, academic, professional or technical bodies as recognised by the MMO).

EVIDENCE: change in net profits, FTE employment maintained in fisheries sector, change in number of work related injuries

M19 Promoting skills, knowledge and networking, includes:

- Delivery of and attendance at non-mandatory training / lifelong learning
- Joint projects and dissemination of knowledge
- Acquisition of new professional skills
- Knowledge and awareness of health, safety and hygiene
- Training fishers to engage with Joint Fisheries Statement
- Networking and exchange of experiences in best practise to promote equal opportunities for women and under-represented groups.
- Improving capacity for fishers, social partners and other stakeholders to collectively engage.

EVIDENCE: number of events, activities, training programmes, training dates, employment maintained, change in work-related injuries

Partnerships, advisory services, new entrants and training

M22 Supporting new entrants into the industry, can include:

- Supporting new entrants into the industry where there are opportunities
- Creation of job opportunities for new entrants.
- Life long learning for new entrants
- Provision of apprenticeship schemes for new entrants
- Support for new entrants to develop sustainable business practices

EVIDENCE: change in net profits, employment maintained in fishing sector, change in work-related injuries

MONITORING: number of new jobs created by demographic (gender, age)

M25 supporting co-operative activities, can include:

- Capacity building, training, networking for preparing a local group or co-operative
- Running costs of a local co-op – office, IT, core staff, travel expenses
- Support for setting up data sharing between businesses
- Information campaigns: events, meetings, website, leaflets, social media or press
- Exchanges with stakeholders, community groups to generate ideas and build trust / confidence
- Strengthening community structures
- Post-start-up project support

EVIDENCE: employment maintained or increased, number of businesses created

MONITORING: new co-ops or local groups created, number of partners involved, number of co-operation activities.



Improvements to shore based facilities

M16 Improving the value and quality of fisheries products, can include:

- Investments that add value to fishery products
- Investments that increase the quality, control and traceability of the products landed

Projects excluded:

- Investments on board vessels – may be eligible under fishing activities
- Projects that are unable to clearly demonstrate the improved quality or value added to fisheries products

M28 Improving infrastructure across the supply chain, can include:

- Increasing the quality, control and traceability of the products landed.
- Investments that increase energy efficiency
- Investments that contribute to environmental protection
- Improvements to safety and working conditions
- Improving the infrastructure of fishing ports, auctions halls, landing sites and shelters
- Investments in the construction of shelters that improve the safety of fishermen
- Investments in the construction of purification plants or other processing facilities

Projects excluded:

- Projects solely relating to maintenance or repair activities will not be eligible for funding



Improvements to shore based facilities

M29 Supporting innovation in the seafood sector, can include:

- New or improved management and organization systems to adapt to new ways of working and new/changing markets.
- Projects above must be carried out by, or in collaboration with, a scientific or technical body, recognised by MMO.

Funding available:

Limits of Funding Available in FaSS Measures		
FaSS Measure	Minimum Grant Value Available (£)	Maximum Grant Value Available (£)
M28 Improving infrastructure across the supply chain	500	150,000
M29 Supporting innovation in the seafood sector	1,000	200,000
M16 Improving the value and quality of fisheries products	500	70,000

Improvements to shore based facilities

Funding Rates for Eligible Applicants in FaSS				
Applicant Type	Funding Rates as Percentages of Eligible Costs			
	FaSS %	Other national funding %	Total public money %	Private %
Public	75	25	100	0
Private (SME)	50	0	50	50
Private (Non-SME)	30	0	30	70
Private (SSCF)	80	0	80	20
Private (Fishermen's associations)	75	0	75	25
Private (POs)	75	0	75	25

Grant Rates Key; SSCF Small scale coastal fishing – vessels under 12m and not using towed gear; PO Producer Organisation; SME Micro, small and medium enterprises; Other national funding – funding from other public funds – see General Guidance note for further advice.

Health & Safety

M23 Improving Health and Safety, can include:

- Investments in safety equipment on board commercial fishing vessels
- Investments to improve the health of crew on board commercial fishing vessels
- Investments that improve hygiene on board commercial fishing vessels, including crew comfort and improvements to communal areas
- Investments that improve crew working conditions to reduce the likelihood of occupational accidents or injuries

Projects excluded:

- The purchase and importation costs of fishing vessels;
- Winches, haulers or any machines directly related to the fishing operations
- Any project that increases the vessel's ability to catch fish (including sonar, chart plotters, AIS)
- Projects that increase the power output in kW of the main propulsion engine of the fishing vessel
- Projects that increase the size or capacity of fish rooms
- Any piece of mandatory equipment as detailed in the MCA Code of Practice

MIN GRANT: £500 MAX GRANT: £100,000



Marketing

M33: Marketing measures, can include:

- The finding of new markets and improving the conditions for the placing on the market of fishery and aquaculture products, Promoting the quality and the value added through the certification of sustainable fishery and aquaculture products.
- Demonstrating the quality and the value added through the promotion of sustainable fishery products.
- The application for registering a given product to the relevant compliance and certification requirements.
- The certification and the promotion of sustainable fishery and aquaculture products, including products from small–scale coastal fishing, and of environmentally-friendly processing methods.
- Domestic marketing of fishery products by small–scale coastal fishers.
- Enhanced marketing of domestically caught species and products to boost UK demand.
- Increasing local sales to consumers to provide a new source of income.
- Promoting the formation of new harbour side stalls.
- Costs related to promoting sustainable English seafood at trade shows.
- Conducting regional and national and promotional campaigns to raise public awareness of sustainable fishery and aquaculture products. These projects cannot be aimed at commercial brands.
- Contributing to the traceability of fishery or aquaculture products.
- Finding new markets and improving the conditions for the placing on the market of fishery products.
- Support for changes to certification and labelling.

MIN GRANT: £1,000 MAX GRANT: £300,000

Processing projects

M34 Processing of fisheries products, can include:

- Contributions to energy saving or reductions in the impact on the environment, including waste treatment
- Projects relating to the processing of by-products resulting from main processing activities
- Projects relating to the processing of organic aquaculture products
- Projects leading to new or improved products, processes, or management and organisation systems.

Projects excluded:

- Running costs and daily operational costs of processing companies and facilities including utilities and salaries of staff;
- Preventative or scheduled maintenance costs.

MIN GRANT: £1,000 MAX GRANT: £600,000



Preventing and collecting marine litter

M12 Preventing and collecting marine litter, can include:

- Preventing/ collecting marine litter during fishing activities.
- Equipment for prevention, collection or storage of litter.
- Waste collection schemes.
- Investments that reduce the environmental impact of fisheries-related waste (fishing gear designed to be recycled or less harmful if lost).
- Education and awareness raising of marine litter and best practice to prevent it.

Projects excluded:

- Recovery of lost fishing gear from the sea, except where this is part of testing gear design.
- Removal of marine litter from the marine environment, where this is the principal purpose of the activity or where there is potential for harm to the environment caused by the removal activity.

MIN GRANT: £500 MAX GRANT: £60,000