

NDP 2007-2013 EUROPEAN FISHERIES FUND

AXIS 1

FLEET RESTRUCTURING AND DEVELOPMENT MEASURE

FLEET MODERNISATION SCHEME



Part funded by the
European Union



National Development Plan 2007 - 2013



Department of
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
An Roinn
Talmhaíochta, Iascaigh agus Bia



Bord Iascaigh Mhara
Irish Sea Fisheries Board

Introduction

The Fleet Modernisation Scheme is provided under the Fleet Development Measure of the National Development Plan 2007-13 and is co-funded through the European Fisheries Fund (EFF). The Scheme is introduced pursuant to Article 25 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1198 of 2006 and the detailed rules of the European Fisheries Fund and its Implementing Regulation and other relevant regulations apply in every case.

The Scheme provides financial support to the owners of registered operational commercial fishing vessels.

Background

In recent years BIM has through a number of supporting initiatives been working to add value to Irish seafood. Such schemes have focussed on improving environmental, seafood quality, handling and traceability management systems.

Global market research indicates that increasingly consumers of seafood are showing a preference for responsibly sourced and environmentally sustainable seafood. This is reflected in a premium price and product differentiation bestowed on seafood products that can meet such demands. Seafood buyers and customers take seafood quality and traceability for granted. In order to gain a premium, Seafood operators must go beyond legislative requirements in these areas.

To facilitate implementation of these systems BIM has introduced the Fleet Modernisation Scheme. This Scheme will assist vessel owners to invest in specific items of capital equipment directly related to the implementation of onboard seafood environmental, quality, and handling systems.

Terms and Conditions

General

- The Managing Authority for the scheme is the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM). The Implementing Agency for the scheme is An Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM).
- Funding for this scheme is subject to monies being available to BIM on a yearly basis through the estimates process and the Board reserves the right not to approve or pay grants beyond the budget that has been allocated to a project in a given year.
- In consequence Multi-annual applications and / or any application which seeks to create, or might be construed as creating an expectation beyond a single year will be deemed not to have met the mandatory criteria.
- Please note expenditure incurred (including any work undertaken, deposit paid or invoices etc dated) prior to the date of receipt of application shown in the Letter of acknowledgement, issued by BIM, following receipt of a completed application form shall be deemed ineligible for the purposes of the Scheme.
- The scheme is open to the owners of commercial fishing vessels which must be registered on the Irish Fishing Boat Register at the time of grant payment.
- The implementing authority reserves the right to alter or amend the conditions of this scheme and or to suspend the scheme or to substitute the scheme for a different scheme. In every case payment of grant aid is contingent on the availability of finance to BIM.
- Under no circumstances will operations be financed where such aid leads either directly or indirectly, to increased fishing effort or increases the ability of the vessel to catch fish. Support will not, under any circumstances cover the costs related to exploratory fishing.

- No minimum level of expenditure applies to this scheme however a maximum level applies in respect of the grant for various size vessels.
- In respect of items listed under **Part A of the application form** (i.e. items listed in tables 2, & 3) the maximum grant aid available under the scheme in a three year period up to the date of approval is the lesser of 40% of the total eligible costs (cumulative of this and any previous application within a three year cycle), or the amounts indicated in Table 1. Items listed under **Part B of the application form** are not subject to the same maximum eligible cost limits applied in Part A. Eligible items under Part B may be grant aided at a rate of up to 40% of the total eligible costs as set out in Table 4. Grant aiding of all eligible expenditure is subject to funds being available.
- Items under section A and those under section B are funded separately. BIM will monitor the level of applications in each fund and in the event of over-subscription of either fund BIM will take some or/ all of the following steps:
 - a) Rank the applications received on a first come first served basis.
 - b) Defer the approval of applications until such time as funding is available.
 - c) Make the approved grant payment in two parts or two calendar years subject to the availability of funding.
- Whereas more than one application may be made in respect of a vessel under the terms of this scheme, under no circumstances will grant aid be provided more than once for any given item in a three year period up to the date of approval.
- The Scheme may provide up to 40% of expenditure (excluding VAT) on approved capital items subject to funds being available.

For its part BIM will:

- Indicate clearly the final date by which claims must be received by the Board in respect of every approved grant. Failure to submit claims by the date set may render claims void for the purpose of grant aid.
- Provide a framework wherein applications may be made to the Board in a timely manner mindful of the above constraints on funding.

Applicant and Vessel

- The applicant must be the registered owner of the vessel at the time of grant payment.
- The applicant must comply with the Department of Finance tax clearance procedures at the time of grant payment.

In the case of cumulative grant aid of €10,000 or more within any 12 month period, the grantee will be required to produce a valid Tax clearance certificate.

In the case of cumulative grant aid less than €10,000 within any 12 month period, the grantee will be required to complete a tax compliance declaration.

- The applicant must comply with the provisions of the Data Collection Regulation at the time of grant payment.

In the case of cumulative grant aid of €10,000 or more within any 12 month period, the grantee will be required to produce a completed economic assessment form (available from BIM) certified by their accountant.

In the case of cumulative grant aid less than €10,000 within any 12 month period, the grantee will be required to complete an economic assessment declaration.

- The vessel must be sound, seaworthy, and must otherwise comply with statutory life-saving , fire-fighting ,radio and collision regulations. Copy of declarations of compliance with the code of practice for vessels less than 15 metres (LOA) or Safety Certificate/ Certificate of Compliance for larger vessels will be required before the grant will be paid.
- The vessel which is the subject of grant aid must be at **least five years old**.
- The grant aided equipment must be new and properly **installed onboard the vessel**.
- Costs for grant aid purposes will only be considered in respect of eligible items listed in the application form. These items are subject to change at the behest of BIM.
- Work carried out directly or indirectly by the applicant or by a company in which the applicant has an interest shall not be eligible for funding.
- Other costs not eligible for grant aid:
Costs associated with the hiring of equipment
Costs associated with second-hand equipment
Service and maintenance contracts.
- Applicants should note that in the event of approval they will be required to submit proof of payment such as copy of cheques (retrieved from the bank) bank statements, credit card statements or inter-bank documentation etc. Cash payments are not acceptable for the purposes of grant aid under the Scheme.
- Applicants should note that any outstanding charges in respect of the applicant due to BIM (Ice, Training Fees etc) must be discharged in full in order for the grant payment to be released.

- This Scheme is a specific call under the Sea Fisheries Operational Programme. It is made in respect of specified items that involve capital investment and applicants must limit their application to the items / areas specified in the application form.
- Grant aid offered under this specific call may not exceed the fixed maximum amounts shown in this application form.
- The Scheme is non-competitive. Applications meeting the qualifying criteria will be approved subject to funding being available.

How to apply:

Complete the attached application form and return to:

Bord Iascaigh Mhara,
Investment Services Section,
Crofton Road,
Dun Laoghaire,
Co. Dublin

Forms may be downloaded from the BIM Website
http://www.bim.ie/our_services/funding

Fleet Modernisation Scheme

Application Form

APPLICANT DETAILS	
Name:	
Address:	
County:	Tel No.:
Fax no.:	Mobile No.:
Email Address:	

VESSEL DETAILS					
Vessel Name:	Port No.:				
Vessel Size (LOA):	EU Vessel Registration No.:				
Year of Construction:					
Home Port:					
No. of crew:					
Fleet segment:	Polyvalent <input type="checkbox"/>	Potting <input type="checkbox"/>	RSW Pelagic <input type="checkbox"/>	Beam Trawl <input type="checkbox"/>	Specific <input type="checkbox"/>

Fleet Modernisation Scheme

Application Form (Part A)

In respect of items listed under **Part A of the application form** the maximum grant aid available, under the scheme, in a three year period up to the date of approval is the lesser of 40% of the total eligible costs or the amounts indicated in Table 1 below:

TABLE 1: GRANT MAXIMUMS APPLIED TO ITEMS LISTED UNDER PART A			
LOA (length overall)	Maximum Expenditure Allowable	Maximum Grant Rate	Maximum Grant
LOA ≥ 24m	€37,500	40%	€15,000
18m < 24m	€27,500	40%	€11,000
15m < 18m	€18,750	40%	€7,500
LOA < 15m	€7,500	40%	€3,000

TABLE 2: QUALITY AND HYGIENE		
Eligible Items	Quantity	Total Cost (ex. Vat)
Graders		
Electronic HACCP Systems		
Live Storage Containers		
Ice Machine		
Insulated covers		
Insulated fish bins		
Refrigerated storage		
Toilet and washing facilities		
Personal protective equipment (PPE) for food handlers		
Storage space for PPE		
Disinfection units for PPE and food handling equipment		
Temperature monitoring system including calibrated temperature gauges and probes		
Provision of hand held calibrated temperature probes		
Gutting sluice		
Stainless steel gutting table		
Stainless pound boards		
Fish handling utensils (stainless steel knives priest ,ice shovels, deck brush etc.		
Fish washing facilities		
Ice holding facilities		
Power hoses		
Rubber mats		
Total		€

Fleet Modernisation Scheme

Application Form (Part A Contd.)

TABLE 3: RESPONSIBLE PRACTICES		
Eligible Items	Quantity Applied for	Total Cost (ex. Vat)
Purchase and installation of Fuel / Energy monitoring equipment		
Fuel nozzles and triggers		
Installation of water monitoring equipment		
Water nozzles and triggers		
Oil sampling kits		
Oil spill kits		
Chemical spill kits		
Drip pans and splash guards		
Provision of square mesh panels		
Provision of separator panels		
Provision of sorting grids		
Total		

Part A Total Cost (ex.Vat)	€
-----------------------------------	---

Fleet Modernisation Scheme

Application Form (Part B)

Items listed under **Part B and included in the Table 4** below of the application form are not included in the maximum calculations set out in **Table 1** and are eligible for up to 40% grant in aid on eligible costs subject to funds being available.

Table 4

(PART B)	QUANTITY APPLIED FOR	TOTAL COST (EX. VAT)
Gutting Machines		
Fish Oil Extraction Machines		
Total		€

Checklist of documents to be submitted with the application as appropriate

- Suppliers quotations
- Copy of fishing licence
- Copy of Fishing Register Certificate
- Copy of declarations of compliance with the code of practice for vessels less than 15m (LOA) or Safety Certificate or Certificate of Compliance for larger vessels.

Declaration

I declare that:

- I am the owner of the aforementioned vessel
- None of the grant aided equipment can / will be used to directly increase the vessel's fishing effort
- The information provided in the application, including any documentation, certificates, declarations etc., are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:	Date:
------------	-------