



Bord Iascaigh Mhara
Irish Sea Fisheries Board

FLEET QUALITY, HYGIENE AND RESPONSIBLE FISHING SCHEME



Part funded by the
European Union



National Development Plan 2007 - 2013



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

Introduction

Following Minister Coveney's announcement (May 2014) the 'Fleet Quality, Hygiene and Responsible Fishing Scheme', formerly known as the 'Fleet Modernisation Scheme' has been modified to incorporate supports for small scale coastal fishing. The Fleet Quality, Hygiene and Responsible Fishing 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 Quality, Hygiene and Responsible Fishing 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/handling systems and selective fishing methods.

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).
- In order to be deemed eligible under the Scheme all equipment for which grant aid is sought and must be beyond legislative requirement pertaining to that item.
- 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.
- 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 vessel 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. Grant rates and maximum eligible expenditure amounts are detailed in Table 1. The 60% rate only applies where the vessel does not use towed gear in accordance with Article 26 (1) of COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1198/2006 on the European Fisheries Fund. See ‘Small Scale Coastal Fisheries Declaration’ on page 5.
- Eligible items listed under part A may be grant aided as indicated in Table 1. Eligible Items listed under Part B may be grant aided as indicated in Table 4. The Maximum Allowable Expenditure/Grant limits listed in Table 1 do not apply to Table 4. Grant aiding of all eligible expenditure is subject to funds being available. Information including PPSNs or other tax numbers used in the processing of this grant application will also be used to process BIM’s end of year financial returns and will be disclosed to Revenue as set out in the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (Department of Finance 2009).
- 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.
- The Scheme may provide up to 40% (60% rate only applies where the vessel is involved in ‘Small Scale Coastal Fishing’ as defined under Article 26 (1) of COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1198/2006 on the European Fisheries Fund See ‘Small Scale Coastal Fisheries Declaration’ on page 5) of expenditure (excluding VAT) on approved capital items subject to funds being available.

- 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 to replace any given item grant aided within the previous three years.

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** as appropriate.
- 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 Quality, Hygiene and Responsible Fishing 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"/> |

Small Scale Coastal Fisheries Declaration

This declaration should only be completed by applicants qualifying for the grant rate of 60%.

To qualify the applicants vessel must be involved in 'small scale coastal fishing' as defined under Article 26 (1) of COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1198/2006 on the European Fisheries Fund (see below).

'For the purpose of this Article, 'small-scale coastal fishing' means fishing carried out by fishing vessels of an overall length of less than 12 metres and not using towed gear as listed in Table 3 in Annex I of Commission Regulation (EC) No 26/2004 of 30 December 2003 regarding the fishing vessels register of the Community (1).'

Declaration

I hereby declare that the above vessel is involved in 'small scale coastal fishing' as defined under Article 26 (1) of COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1198/2006 on the European Fisheries Fund.

| |
|------------|
| Signature: |
|------------|

Fleet Quality, Hygiene and Responsible Fishing 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 ‘the Maximum Grant Rate’ on approved eligible expenditure or the ‘Maximum Allowable Grant’, as indicated in Table 1:

| TABLE 1 GRANT MAXIMUMS APPLIED TO ITEMS LISTED UNDER PART A | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| LOA (length overall) | Maximum Allowable Expenditure | Maximum Grant Rate | Maximum Allowable Grant |
| LOA>24m | €50,000 | 40% | €20,000 |
| 18m<24m | €37,500 | 40% | €15,000 |
| 15m<18m | €25,000 | 40% | €10,000 |
| 12m<15m | €15,000 | 40% | €6,000 |
| LOA<12m | €10,000 | 60%* | €6,000 |
| | | 40% | €4,000 |

*(60% rate only applies to vessels which qualify as being involved in Small Scale Coastal Fishing in accordance with Article 26 (1) of COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1198/2006 on the European Fisheries Fund). See ‘Small Scale Coastal Fisheries Declaration’ on page 5.

| 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 Quality, Hygiene and Responsible Fishing Scheme

Application Form (Part A Contd.)

| TABLE 3: RESPONSIBLE FISHING / PRACTICES | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Eligible Items | Quantity Applied for | Total Cost (ex. Vat) |
| Purchase and installation of Fuel / Energy monitoring equipment | | |
| Fuel nozzles, triggers and purifiers | | |
| 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 | | |
| Crayfish pots (wooden barrel crayfish pots only) | | |
| Manual or automated handlining or jigging equipment | | |
| Manual or automated longlining equipment | | |
| Total | | |

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

Fleet Quality, Hygiene and Responsible Fishing 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.

How BIM will use your information

Information including PPSNs or other tax numbers used in the processing of this grant application will also be used to process BIM's end of year financial returns and will be disclosed to Revenue as set out in the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (Department of Finance 2009).

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