

Fisheries and Seafood Scheme Funding Round: Live Bivalve Molluscs

1. Introduction

The Fisheries and Seafood Scheme (FaSS) is designed to support England's seafood sector by providing financial assistance for projects that deliver sustainable growth in the catching, processing and aquaculture sectors, and that conserve, enhance and support the recovery of the marine environment.

This guidance explains the types of projects that can be funded and how to apply under the **Live Bivalve Mollusc (LBM) funding round**.

This is a time-limited competitive funding round which is open to applications from **25 August 2021**. The deadline for application submission is **6 October 2021** and a panel of experts will be convened week commencing **25 October 2021**.

The target outcomes of this funding round include:

- **Strengthening the financial resilience of LBM businesses and long-term viability.**
- **Supporting LBM businesses seeking to adapt to new trading conditions.**
- **Enabling LBM businesses to have access to infrastructure including depuration facilities to permit domestic sales and exports.**

Projects receiving financial support through this funding round must contribute towards one or more of the outcomes set out above.

When applying for funding of an LBM project please ensure you apply under measure M3: Enhancing the quality and/or the adding of value of aquaculture products and under the eligible activity EA8: The enhancing of quality and/or the adding of value of aquaculture products.

Government financial guidelines state that this award of funds is only valid in the Financial Year in which it was approved. Therefore, all claims must be submitted and paid by March 2022.

Please note that the criteria and guidance set out in this document are specific to this funding round alone.

2. Eligibility

This funding round, like the rest of the FaSS, is available to applicants whose businesses and/or vessels are registered in England. To be eligible for the scheme, applicants must be:

- an individual or business engaged within commercial activities involving Live Bivalve Molluscs.

For full details on eligibility please see the 'eligibility' section of guidance on the MMO's website [here](#).

3. Funding

This funding round will be run as a competitive process.

All projects supported through the FaSS require match-funding. To be eligible for financial support, the applicant **must** have funding available to make up the remaining cost of the project:

- businesses with 9 or fewer employees (FTE) can receive up to 80% FaSS funding
- small or small-medium enterprises can receive up to 50% FaSS funding
- all other private applicants can receive up to 30% FaSS funding.

In line with the general guidance for the FaSS, you **cannot** apply for and receive funding if you have:

- been convicted of fraud under any other fisheries scheme;
- been convicted of an offence that the MMO considers to be a 'serious infringement¹' or fraud, in the 12 months before applying.

It is your responsibility to source and provide suitable funding, through business loans or cash resources. You must state the source of funding when applying. Before committing any private resources, we recommend you seek independent financial advice.

The funding round will have an individual **grant cap of £150k per project**.

What you can apply for

Projects can include:

- investments in the construction of purification plants or other processing facilities to enable adaptation to new trading conditions, including packaging facilities
- investments that support the processing of seafood products treated in purification plants.

¹ Including any illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

How to apply

Once the funding round opens for applications you should apply online using the [Fisheries and Seafood Scheme E-System](#).

You will need your business details such as your accounts, business registration number and VAT registration number to hand in order to complete the application.

More information on the supporting documentation needed is available within the [General Guidance](#) document.

When applying for funding of an LBM project please ensure you apply under measure M3: Enhancing the quality and/or the adding of value of aquaculture products and under the eligible activity EA8: The enhancing of quality and/or the adding of value of aquaculture products.

How awards will be decided

The funding round will be open from **25 August 2021**, closing for submissions on **06 October 2021** and a panel of experts will be convened week commencing **25 October 2021** to assess and score projects against the criteria set out in the section 'project-specific criteria'. The more closely aligned your project is to this criteria the more likely your project will be to receive funding.

The assessment panel will also take into consideration the benefits that can be achieved directly by the project. This will use information submitted through result indicators and will contribute to ongoing monitoring and evaluation if a project is successful.

Please note that this is a competitive process: meeting any or all of the criteria does not guarantee your project will receive funding.

4. Project-Specific Criteria

The following criteria will be used by the panel to assess applications:

Adaptability

The extent to which your project enables your business to adapt to new trading conditions will be assessed.

If your project represents a change in business practices, processes or technology, and would support diversification and access to new markets, it will be more likely to receive funding.

Longevity

Your project should provide enduring and potentially scalable solutions that contribute to long-term viability of your business.

Value for Money

Your project should demonstrate that it aligns with the result indicators listed on this document (e.g. change in net profit, volume of sales to new markets).

Monitoring and Evaluation

Demonstrating the impact of your project through the benefits realised will be essential. Derived benefits will be assessed through result indicators which will also contribute to the ongoing monitoring and evaluation if a project is successful.

The indicators set out below are applicable to this funding round and the most appropriate for your project should be chosen and identified in your application:

Live Bivalve Molluscs	
Indicator	Information you must provide
Employment maintained (FTE) in the fisheries sector or complementary activities	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of employees working in your business before the project. • Expected number of employees working in your business after the project. <p><i>The expected and actual change in employment will be used to determine the project's success.</i></p>
Volume of sales to new markets	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current number of markets accessed by your business. • Expected volume of sales to businesses that you have not previously sold to. <p><i>The expected and actual change in sales will be used to determine the project's success.</i></p>
Access to new markets	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current number of markets and businesses accessed by your business. • Expected number of businesses that you have not previously sold to. <p><i>The expected and actual change in businesses accessed will be used to determine the project's success.</i></p>

Live Bivalve Molluscs	
Indicator	Information you must provide
Change in value of sales (£)	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual value of first sales (£) before your project. • Expected annual value of first sales (£) after your project. • Company accounts for the last 3 years. <p><i>The expected and actual change in annual value will be used to determine the project's success.</i></p>
Change in net profit	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current profit (£) • Expected profit (£) after the project • Company accounts for the last 3 years. <p><i>The expected and actual change in net profit will be used to determine the project's success.</i></p>

Following the receipt of financial support, we will continue to monitor the progress and outcome of the project to ensure that the funding is being used correctly and in-line with the original proposal. You will be required to provide information to contribute to project monitoring and evaluation.

5. Project requirements

Projects **must**:

- be compliant with all relevant legal requirements, including fishing and environmental health regulations. You may need to confirm the environmental health regulations applying in your area with your local authority;
- consider all relevant health and safety requirements relevant to your project and describe how you will ensure you are compliant;
- be compliant with the eligibility criteria found in the FaSS [general guidance document](#).

If successful

If your project is approved, we will send you an offer letter stating:

- the conditions you must follow when completing your project – if you do not meet these we can withdraw or change the offer, and
- the amount of money you have been awarded – in some cases you may not be awarded the total amount you applied for.

If you decide to accept the offer letter and its conditions you must do so within 14 days. You should also make a copy of the offer letter and keep it for your records. When you have completed all or part of your project you will be able to submit funding claims via the E-system in line with your claim schedule.

To allow projects to progress at pace, applicants will receive 25% of the grant award in advance (any advance payments will be offset against future claim reimbursements). Other than this we will only pay funding in arrears.

To support your claims, you will need to submit invoices and proof of payment in order for us to verify the costs incurred.

Please consult the FaSS [Post Application Guidance](#) for advice in this area.

If unsuccessful

The FaSS LBM funding round is a competitive process. A panel will convene to assess and score applications in order to decide which projects best meet the priorities of the scheme. Panel decisions will be communicated to applicants following the panel meeting. If your application is unsuccessful you will be notified of this decision in writing.

6. Further assistance

If you require any further assistance throughout the application process, please contact the MMO Grants Team:

Grants Team
Marine Management Organisation
Lancaster House
Hampshire Court

Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7YH

Telephone: 0208 0265539

Email: FaSS.queries@marinemanagement.org.uk

MMO is committed to providing good customer service. If you are not satisfied with our service please let us know and we will do our best to resolve the matter as quickly as possible.

For complaints about the quality of customer service, please contact us using our published [customer complaints procedure](#).