

Fisheries and Seafood Scheme Funding Round: Science and Technology Advancement

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 recover the marine environment.

This guidance explains the types of projects that can be funded and how to apply under the **Science and technology advancement funding round**.

This is a time-limited competitive funding round. It will be 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**.

When applying for funding please ensure you apply under measure:

M29 Supporting innovation in the seafood sector

M31 Supporting partnerships between fishers and scientists

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.

Delivering world class science and innovation is one of the seven strategic priorities of the FaSS. The target outcomes of this funding round include:

- Increasing innovative or technological advances in the seafood sector, that are considered commercially viable;
- Developing new or substantially improved products and equipment;
- Developing new or substantially improved processes, techniques and behaviours
- Increasing partnerships between the science communities and the catching, processing and aquaculture sectors.

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

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 funding - applicants must be one of the following:

- an individual or business engaged within commercial fishing, aquaculture or seafood processing;
- a public body/local authority in a local community that has a focus on fishing/aquaculture activities (including trust ports and local authority ports, and public bodies, using funds for environmental improvements/management of fisheries);
- a university or research institute/organisation;
- an NGO.

Applicants will be required to declare if they fall into the category of micro-entities, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) or larger enterprises.

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:

- small scale coastal fleet¹ organisations can receive up to 80% FaSS funding;
- public bodies, producer organisations, fishermen's associations and cooperatives can receive up to 75% FaSS funding;
- micro, 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 infringement²' 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.

What you can apply for

Projects can include:

- projects developing technical, scientific, or organisational knowledge which supports greater environmental, economic, and/or social sustainability
- development and adoption (e.g. via trials) of new or substantially improved behaviours, products, equipment, processes, and techniques
- development of successful initiatives into wide-scale solutions and partnerships with industry, meeting a demand.

Funding will not be provided for:

- Direct restocking of species

¹ **Small-Scale Coastal Fishing (SSCF)** means fishing carried out by fishing vessels of an overall length of 11.99 meters or less and not using towed gear/trawling.

² 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 to complete the application.

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

How awards will be decided

The funding round will be open from **25 August 2021**, closing for submissions on **6 October 2021**. 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 the grant 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.

All panels will be comprised of expert members from a range of disciplines. Members will be required to declare any vested associations/interests with proposals submitted. If conflicts of interest arise, members will not be allowed to sit on the panel.

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

4. Funding available

The minimum and maximum funding available for these measures are outlined below:

Limits of Funding Available in FaSS Measures		
FaSS Measure	Minimum Grant Value Available (£)	Maximum Grant Value Available (£)
M29 Supporting innovation in the seafood sector	1,000	200,000
M31 Supporting partnerships between fishers and scientists	500	80,000

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5. Funding required by you

It is your responsibility to source and provide match funding, such as 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 amount of money you can apply for will depend on your business or organisation type. There are maximum allocations allowed for each applicant are outlined below:

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.

6. Project-specific criteria

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

Innovation

The level of innovation of your project will be assessed. Projects that use technology which has been shown to be effective in their intended environment and technology which is either commercially available or are a first-of-their-kind commercial system will be more likely to receive funding in this round.

Projects which lead to fundamental changes in the degree of technology, the creation of new systems and contribute to the emergence of a new branch of technology will be more likely to receive funding in this round.

Developing knowledge

Your project could develop technical, scientific or organisational knowledge within the fishing, processing or aquaculture industry. This knowledge could support improved environmental, economic and/or social sustainability or behaviour changes that contribute to the protection of the environment/industry for future generations.

Partnerships between scientists/researchers and the catching, processing and aquaculture sectors

Your project could utilise the development of new innovations/technologies by scientists/research bodies into wide-scale solutions for your organisation and the industry as a whole. This could include taking a proven, effective piece of technology/initiative produced by scientists/researchers and using it at a commercial scale.

Meets a demand from the industry

Your project should address demand from industry and enable the advancement of innovation and technology, leading to wide-spread benefits for the industry.

Longevity

Your project should provide enduring and potentially scalable solutions that contribute to long-term advances.

Achievability

You will need demonstrate how you expect to deliver the project successfully in the immediate to short-term and will deliver benefits at pace. A clear management plan describing the project will help.

If your project has been through a piloting scheme or scoping stage shown its viability or feasibility it will be more likely to be selected for funding.

Approach

All project stages should be outlined. Where appropriate, methodological and analytical approaches should be justified and described in detail. Rigorous approaches are more likely to be selected for funding. Where applicable, ethical procedures should be documented. All projects should account for quality control, delivery risks and demonstrate value for money.

Potential impact

The panel will assess projects directly on their potential for impact. Novel approaches will be considered where appropriate, but proposals that utilise mainstream existing approaches through upscaling or adapting them for new situations will also be assessed favourably. Projects with strategies for upscaling impact are more likely to be selected for funding.

Value for money

To receive financial support through the funding round, the project must illustrate how it will be good value for money. Applications should provide a clear and detailed outline of how government funds will be spent. The application should also show evidence of how your project will help you achieve one of the target outcomes of the funding round.

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

Science and Technology Advancement	
Indicator	Information you must provide
Number of people engaged in projects developing technical, scientific, or organisational knowledge	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of active participants that will be working on the project
Number of reports published which detail advances in products, processes, techniques, or behaviours	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How many reports you expect will be produced as a result of this project. Whether the report produced as a result of your project involves advances in a product, process, technique, or behaviour The number of collaborators you expect to be involved in your project. Which sector each collaborator involved in the project represents (i.e. Fisheries or Science).
Area (m ²)/region impacted by project	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The expected area in m² that the project will have a positive impact on
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>

Science and Technology Advancement	
Indicator	Information you must provide
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.

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7. 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.

We will only pay funding in arrears. To support your claim 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 science and innovation 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.

8. 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](#).