

# Fisheries and Seafood Scheme Funding Round: Recreational Sea Fishing

## 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 **recreational sea fishing funding round**. This is a time-limited competitive funding round.

This is a time-limited competitive funding round which will be open to applications from the **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:

- **Improving infrastructure in recreational fishing locations, to support social inclusion and coastal communities**
- **Innovation in gear and technology to support sustainability**  
**Improved data, knowledge transfer and educational awareness of sustainability within the sector**

When applying for funding please ensure you use the PDF application form located on the MMO's website here.

**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.**

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 or organisations are registered in England. To be eligible for the scheme, applicants must be one of the following:

- an organisation or business engaged within recreational sea fishing.
- 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.
- NGOs

Members of the public i.e. individual anglers will not be eligible.

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 General 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 fleet<sup>1</sup> 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 infringement<sup>2</sup>' 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:

- **Investments to improve the infrastructure of recreational fishing locations.:**
  - Improving physical access to fishing sites, including for underrepresented or disabled groups.
  - Improving port facilities for charter boats e.g. piers, points and access
- **Innovation in gear and technology**
  - Equipment which contributes to species selection, particularly of species under threat.
  - Equipment that provides more sustainable technology,
  - Equipment to support scientific studies

<sup>1</sup> **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 including charter boats.

<sup>2</sup> Including any illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

- **Preparation of environmental studies/provision of professional advice**
  - The provision of professional advice on environmental sustainability including expertise to facilitate best practise
  - The identification and mapping for developing RSF only sites to reduce pressure on threatened stocks
  - The preparation and production of scientific studies linked to RSF and stock management including Fisheries Management Plans
  
- **Support for new entrants, promotion and education awareness**
  - Support for the development of marketing and business strategies for RSF
  - Support for new entrants through educational awareness, training or diversification
  - Support to promote RSF e.g. national campaigns to promote increased participation of underrepresented groups and mental and physical health benefits of recreational fishing

## How to apply

Once the funding round opens for applications you should apply using the PDF application form located on the MMO's website [here](#).

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.

## How awards will be decided

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

## 5. Project-Specific Criteria

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

### Inclusion

Your project should extend access to recreational fishing across communities and support social inclusion.

### Longevity

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

### Value for Money

Your project should demonstrate that it aligns with the result indicators listed in this document.

### 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:

Investments to improve the infrastructure of recreational fishing locations	
Indicator	Information you must provide
Increase in access by Recreational Fishers	<p><b>In your application please provide:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of recreational fishers that currently access the area</li> <li>Number of recreational fishers your project will benefit</li> </ul> <p><i>The expected and actual change in numbers of fishers accessing the area will be used to determine the project's success.</i></p>
Number of new charter boats based in the area	<p><b>In your application please provide:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of charter boats that are based in the area</li> <li>The number of charter boats that will benefit from your project</li> <li>Number of charter boats that could access the area after your project</li> </ul> <p><i>The expected and actual change in numbers of charter boats that will be based in, or access, the area will be used to determine the project's success.</i></p>

Innovation in gear and technology	
Indicator	Information you must provide
Number of purchases of equipment supporting environmental benefits	<p><b>In your application please provide:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of purchases of equipment and their environmental benefits.</li> </ul> <p><i>The expected and actual change in equipment purchased will be used to determine the project's success</i></p>
Level of innovation	<p><b>In your application please provide:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A description of the innovation you are proposing</li> </ul> <p><i>The SIF innovation score will be used to measure the projects success.</i></p>

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Indicator	Information you must provide
Increase in environmental studies and or provision of professional advice	<p><b>In your application please provide information that is most relevant to your project:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of consultant days</li> <li>• An estimate of the number of businesses expected to receive advice resulting from the project</li> <li>• Number of studies, guides or marketing strategies produced</li> <li>• An estimate of how many stakeholders are likely to access the information produced because of the project (website hits for example)</li> <li>• Number of potential sites identified for mapping</li> <li>• Size (m2) of potential habitat identified for mapping</li> <li>• Number of new management or conservation initiatives</li> </ul> <p><i>The expected and actual change in projected outputs will be used to determine the project's success</i></p>

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Support for new entrants, promotion and education awareness	
Indicator	Information you must provide
Change in net profit	<p><b>In your application please provide:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current profit (£)</li> <li>• Expected profit (£) after the project</li> <li>• Company accounts for the last 3 years.</li> </ul> <p><i>The expected and actual change in net profit will be used to determine the project's success.</i></p>
Number of commercial businesses moving to charter boat industry	<p><b>In your application please provide:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An estimate of how many businesses will diversify as a result of the project</li> </ul> <p><i>The expected and actual change in number of businesses that have successfully diversified will be used to determine the project's success.</i></p>
Increase in educational awareness and planning	<p><b>In your application please provide:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of training days provided</li> <li>• Number of fishers engaged</li> <li>• Number of strategies produced</li> </ul> <p><i>The expected and actual change in the amount of training days, fishers engaged or strategies produced will be used to determine the project's success.</i></p>
Number of projects/promotions	<p><b>In your application please provide:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An estimate of the number of projects/promotions or people reached by the project/promotion particularly underrepresented groups.</li> </ul> <p><i>The expected and actual number of those reached by the project/promotion will be used to determine the project's success.</i></p>

Indicator	Information you must provide
Improvements in health and safety	<p><b>In your application please provide:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of purchases of health and safety equipment</li> <li>• Number of (non mandatory) training courses attended.</li> </ul> <p><i>The expected and actual change in those reached by the project/promotion 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.

## 6. 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](#).
- Ensure that any relevant MCA codes of practice are adhered to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/small-craft-codes>

### 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 in line with your claim schedule using the claim form located on the MMO website.

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 Recreational Sea Fishing 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.

## 7. 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](mailto: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](#).