

SUPPORT FOR FISHING RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. Introduction

Funding in this area will support a sustainable sector through limiting the environmental impact of fishing and increasing the value and the quality of catch.

Funding can be applied for under the following measures:

- M1 Limiting the environmental impact of fishing**
- M16 Improving the value and quality of fisheries products**
- M29 Supporting innovation in the seafood sector**

Details of eligible projects and monitoring requirements for each measure can be found in Section 2, Projects you can apply for.

Please note this information is for guidance only and is not exhaustive or binding. If you are unsure whether an item is eligible, please check the General Guidance and if you are still unsure contact the MMO.

Support shall not be granted more than once during the programming period for the same type of equipment on the same English registered fishing vessel.

When applying for funding onboard vessels you must engage with the Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA). Details of local surveyors and offices can be found in the following link <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/maritime-and-coastguard-agency>

MCA must be included in the process as work is undertaken, particularly where there may be an impact on stability.

The Grants team will send details of submitted applications to MCA as soon as they are received for review. MMO Grants Team will also contact MCA at the claims stage to ensure that the applicant has made MCA aware of all the work that has been undertaken and no funds will be paid out unless this confirmation has been received.

All work undertaken by the owner/skipper of the vessel must meet MCA safety/stability requirements, whether funded by FaSS or otherwise. Responsibility for any work undertaken which renders a vessel unstable or unsafe remains entirely with the owner/skipper of the vessel.

2. Projects you can apply for

M1 Limiting the environmental impact of fishing

Projects can include:

- Equipment that improves the size or species selectivity of gear;
- Equipment that eliminates discards by avoiding and reducing unwanted catches of commercial stocks, or that deals with unwanted catches to be landed;
- Equipment that limits and, where possible, eliminates the physical and biological impacts of fishing on the ecosystem or the seabed;
- Equipment that protects gear and catches from mammals and birds provided that it does not undermine the selectivity of the fishing gear and that all appropriate measures are introduced to avoid physical damage to the predators;
- We will only fund vessels switching to a different fishery if we are satisfied that this would not be to the detriment of new stock(s) and ecosystem.

Support shall only be granted where the gear or other equipment has a demonstrably better size-selection or a demonstrably lower impact on the ecosystem and on non-target species than the standard gear or other equipment permitted under law, or under relevant national law. For example, a different net size or a new net with an escape hatch for juvenile fish. You must tell us in your application how your gear or other equipment is demonstrably better than your previous gear or equipment.

Support will only be given for one gear replacement project to the same applicant on the same vessel during the FaSS scheme.

FaSS cannot contribute to an increase in fishing effort. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the beneficiary to ensure that the gear that is being replaced is destroyed accordingly. This will need to be verified by the relevant MMO Coastal Office at the claims inspection stage and claims will not be paid unless the relevant evidence has been provided.

Projects excluded from funding

Funding will not be provided for:

- Gear that is shown to be equally or less selective than the gear already being used;
- Projects that cannot adequately evidence the disposal of the gear that is being replaced.

Result indicators

FaSS result indicators have been designed to measure the benefits delivered by a project. Result indicators are specific to the type of project you are applying for. For projects under M1, Limiting the environmental impact of fishing, the following indicators are applicable:

M1 Limiting the environmental impact of fishing	
Indicator	Information you must provide
Change in species composition (%) Change in size composition of catch (%)	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total catch (tonnes) of species caught before the project. Expected total catch (tonnes) of species caught after the project. <p><i>The expected and actual change in catch will be used to determine the project's success.</i></p>
Change (tonnes) of species caught	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total catch (tonnes) - wanted and unwanted catch the 12 months before the project Expected total catch (tonnes) – wanted and unwanted catch over 12 months, after the project <p><i>The expected and actual change in catch will be used to determine the project's success.</i></p>

Not all FaSS result indicators will be applicable to your project. As part of the assessment of your project the most suitable indicator or indicators will be identified and used to form some of the targets and benefits of your project.

As part of ongoing project monitoring you will be required to provide further information on the progress you have made towards the expected benefits of your project. Once the project is complete you will be required to provide evidence as part of post project monitoring to show the actual benefits achieved by your project.

Evaluation indicators

FaSS evaluation indicators have been designed to measure the wider benefits delivered by the FaSS programme. Evaluation indicators are specific to the type of project you are applying for but will not be used to assess the eligibility of your project. For projects under M1, Limiting the environmental impact of fishing, the following indicators are applicable:

M1 Limiting the environmental impact of fishing	
Indicator	Information you must provide
Change in the proportion of unwanted catch	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current (tonnes) of unwanted catch in the 12 months before the project • Expected (tonnes) of unwanted catch in the 12 months after the project <p><i>The expected and actual change in catch will be used to inform the evaluation of the FaSS.</i></p>
Reduction in bycatch (tonnes)	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current (tonnes) of bycatch in the 12 months before the project • Expected (tonnes) of bycatch in the 12 months after the project <p><i>The expected and actual change in bycatch will be used to inform the evaluation of the FaSS.</i></p>

Not all FaSS evaluation indicators will be applicable to your project. For those which are relevant to your project you must provide the information listed above.

M16 Improving the value and quality of fisheries products

Projects can include:

- Investments that add value to fishery products;
- Innovative investments on board that improve the quality of fishery products conditional on the use of selective gear that minimise unwanted catches;
- Investments that increase the quality, control and traceability of the products landed;
- We can fund improvements to fish holds including lining and refrigeration where there is no increase in their capacity.

Projects excluded from funding

Funding will not be provided for:

- Investments not on-board vessels; these might be eligible under the category of Shore-Based Facilities.
- Projects that are unable to clearly demonstrate the improved quality or value added to fisheries products.
- Projects that seek to increase the capacity of fish holds.

Result indicators

FaSS result indicators have been designed to measure the benefits to be delivered by a project. Result indicators are specific to the type of project you are applying for. For projects under M16, Improving the value and quality of fisheries products, the following indicators are applicable:

M16 Improving the value and quality of fisheries products	
Indicator	Information you must provide
Change in net profits	<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.

	<i>The expected and actual change in net profit will be used to determine the project's success.</i>
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Not all FaSS result indicators will be applicable to your project. As part of the assessment of your project the most suitable indicator or indicators will be identified and used to form some of the targets and benefits of your project.

As part of ongoing project monitoring you will be required to provide further information on the progress you have made towards the expected benefits of your project. Once the project is complete you will be required to provide evidence as part of post project monitoring to show the actual benefits achieved by your project.

M29 Supporting innovation in the seafood sector

Projects can include:

- New or improved management and organisation systems to adapt to new ways of working and new/changing markets.

Projects above must be carried out by, or in collaboration with, a scientific or technical body, recognised by the MMO. The scientific or technical body must validate the results of your project.

Projects excluded from funding

Funding will not be provided for:

- Any projects not carried out by, or in collaboration with a scientific or technical body recognised by the MMO, or where the results of the project will not be validated by the recognised scientific or technical body.

Result indicators

FaSS result indicators have been designed to measure the benefits delivered by a project. Result indicators are specific to the type of project you are applying for. For projects under M29, Supporting innovation in the seafood sector, the following indicators are applicable:

M29 Supporting innovation in the seafood sector	
Indicator	Information you must provide
Change in net profits	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current annual profit (£) before the project • Expected annual 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>
Change (tonnage) from exports to domestic sales	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual tonnes of product exported before the project. • Expected tonnes of product exported after the project.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual tonnes of product sold domestically before the project. • Expected tonnes of product sold domestically after the project. <p><i>The expected and actual change in product sold domestically or exported will be used to determine the project's success.</i></p>
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Not all FaSS result indicators will be applicable to your project. As part of the assessment of your project the most suitable indicator or indicators will be identified and used to form some of the targets and benefits of your project.

As part of ongoing project monitoring you will be required to provide further information on the progress you have made towards the expected benefits of your project. Once the project is complete you will be required to provide evidence as part of post project monitoring to show the actual benefits achieved by your project.

Evaluation indicators

FaSS evaluation indicators have been designed to measure the wider benefits delivered by the FaSS programme. Evaluation indicators are specific to the type of project you are applying for but will not be used to assess the eligibility of your project. For projects under M29, Supporting innovation in the seafood sector, the following indicators are applicable:

M29, Supporting innovation in the seafood sector	
Indicator	Information you must provide
Number of enterprises supported by system change	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current number of enterprises supported by the system. • Expected number of enterprises supported by the system after the project. <p><i>The expected and actual change in number of enterprises will be used to inform the evaluation of the FaSS.</i></p>
Number of new markets accessible	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current number of markets accessed by your business.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expected number of markets accessed by your business after the project. <p><i>The expected and actual change in markets access will be used to inform the evaluation of the FaSS.</i></p>
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Not all FaSS evaluation indicators will be applicable to your project. For those which are relevant to your project you must provide the information listed above.

3. Funding available

The minimum and maximum funding available for measures relating to fishing activities are outlined below:

Limits of Funding Available in FaSS Measures		
FaSS Measure	Minimum Grant Value Available (£)	Maximum Grant Value Available (£)
M1 Limiting the environmental impact of fishing	500	75,000
M16 Improving the value and quality of fisheries products	500	70,000
M29 Supporting innovation in the seafood sector	1,000	200,000

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.