

GUIDANCE FOR AQUACULTURE PROJECTS

1. Introduction

Funding in this area will support a thriving and sustainable aquaculture sector

Aquaculture is the farming of aquatic organisms in inland and marine waters, involving intervention in the rearing process to enhance production and the individual or corporate ownership of the stock being cultivated. Therefore, aquaculture is the farming of aquatic organisms in inland and marine waters. And there must be both;

- Intervention in the rearing process to enhance production, **and**;
- Individual or corporate ownership of the stock being cultivated.

Funding can be applied for under the following measures:

M3: Enhancing the quality and/or the adding of value of aquaculture products

M9: Increasing the potential or sustainability of aquaculture sites

M10: Developing a sustainable aquaculture sector

M11: Aquaculture providing environmental services

M18: Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms

M20: Promoting skills, knowledge and networking for aquaculture

M30: Innovation in aquaculture

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.

2. Projects you can apply for

M3: Enhancing the quality and/or the adding of value of aquaculture products

Projects can include:

- Diversification of species and production;
- The modernisation of aquaculture enterprises or construction of new ones, provided the development is consistent with aims of the English Aquaculture Strategy (EAS);
- The enhancing or quality and/or the adding of value of aquaculture products.

Projects excluded from funding

Funding will not be provided for:

- Retail costs – including premises and vehicles related to retail businesses;
- The construction of new aquaculture enterprises, where the development is not consistent with the English Aquaculture Strategy (EAS) or does not support existing fishery or aquaculture businesses to adapt to the changing market conditions resulting from EU Exit;
- Support shall not be granted to aquaculture projects in environmentally sensitive protected areas, if it has been determined on the basis of an environmental impact assessment, that the operation would generate significant negative environmental impact that cannot be adequately mitigated.
- Support for complementary diversification of income will only be granted to aquaculture enterprises if the complementary activities relate to the core aquaculture business of the enterprise, including angling tourism, environmental services related to aquaculture or educational activities concerning aquaculture.

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 M3, Enhancing the quality and/or the adding of value of aquaculture products:

M3: Enhancing the quality and/or the adding of value of aquaculture products	
Indicator	Information you must provide
Change in grade of shellfish	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The grade of shellfish before the project. • The expected grade of shellfish following the project. <p><i>The expected and actual change in grade of shellfish will be used to determine the project's success.</i></p>
Change in the volume of production recirculation system	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current total annual volume (tonnes) of production using recirculation systems, before the project. • The expected total annual volume (tonnes) of production using recirculation systems following the project. <p><i>The expected and actual change in production using recirculation systems 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.

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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 M3, Enhancing the quality and/or the adding of value of aquaculture products, the following indicators are applicable:

M3, Enhancing the quality and/or the adding of value of aquaculture products	
Indicator	Information you must provide
<p>The reduction of CO2/tonne of raw product output.</p> <p>Change in annual energy consumption (kWh).</p> <p>Reductions in Emissions for five key air pollutants; PM2.5, SO2, NO2, NH3, NMVOC.</p>	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The average energy consumption of your site per month (kWh) before the project. The expected average energy consumption of your site per month (kWh) after the project. <p><i>The expected and actual change in energy consumption will be used to inform the evaluation of the FaSS.</i></p>
<p>Volume of production (tonne) by spatial footprint of the site (m²).</p>	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The total spatial area (m²) of your site before the project. The expected spatial area (m²) of your site after the project. <p><i>The expected and actual change in the spatial area will be used to inform the evaluation of the FaSS.</i></p>

M9 Increasing the potential or sustainability of aquaculture sites

Projects can include:

- Identifying and mapping of the most suitable areas for developing aquaculture – public law bodies or private bodies approved by the MMO only;
- Contributing to the improvement and development of support facilities and infrastructure required to increase the potential of aquaculture sites – public law bodies or private bodies approved by the MMO only;
- Reductions in the negative environmental impacts, or enhancement of the positive effects, of aquaculture on the environment, including investments in land consolidation, energy supply or water management;
- Investments in substantial reduction in the impact of aquaculture enterprises on water usage and quality, in particular through reducing the amount of water or chemicals, antibiotics and other medicines used, or through improving the output water quality, including through the deployment of multi-trophic aquaculture systems;
- The promotion of closed aquaculture systems where aquaculture products are farmed in closed recirculation systems, thereby minimising water use;
- Investments increasing energy efficiency and promoting the conversion of aquaculture enterprises to renewable sources of energy;
- Improvements to animal health and welfare including equipment to protect farms from wild predators;
- The rehabilitation of disused ponds and lagoons including the removal of silt.

Projects excluded from funding

Funding will not be provided for:

- Anyone who is not a public law or private body or otherwise authorised by the MMO;
- Gear that may be detrimental to stocks and ecosystems.

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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 M9, Increasing the potential or sustainability of aquaculture sites, the following indicators are applicable:

M9 Increasing the potential or sustainability of aquaculture sites	
Indicator	Information you must provide
Change in the volume of production recirculation system	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current total annual volume (tonnes) of production using recirculation systems, before the project. The expected total annual volume (tonnes) of production using recirculation systems following the project. <p><i>The expected and actual change in production using recirculation systems will be used to determine the project's success.</i></p>
Change in the value of production recirculation system	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current total annual value (£) of production using recirculation systems, before the project. The expected total annual value (£) of production using recirculation systems following the project. <p><i>The expected and actual change in value by using recirculation systems will be used to determine the project's success.</i></p>
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. <p><i>The expected and actual change in net profit 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 M9, Increasing the potential or sustainability of aquaculture sites, the following indicators are applicable:

M9, Increasing the potential or sustainability of aquaculture sites	
Indicator	Information you must provide
<p>The reduction of CO₂/tonne of raw product output.</p> <p>Change in annual energy consumption (kWh).</p> <p>Reductions in Emissions for five key air pollutants; PM_{2.5}, SO₂, NO₂, NH₃, NMVOC.</p>	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The average energy consumption of your site per month (kWh) before the project. The expected average energy consumption of your site per month (kWh) after the project. <p><i>The expected and actual change in energy consumption will be used to inform the evaluation of the FaSS.</i></p>
<p>Volume of production (tonne) by spatial footprint of the site (m²).</p>	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The total spatial area (m²) of your site before the project. The expected spatial area (m²) of your site after the project.

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	<i>The expected and actual change in the spatial area will be used to inform the evaluation of the FaSS.</i>
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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.

M10 Developing a sustainable aquaculture sector

Projects can include:

- Support to convert an aquaculture farm to an organic aquaculture farm.

Projects excluded from funding

Funding will not be provided for:

- Retail costs – including premises and vehicles related to retail businesses;
- The construction of new aquaculture enterprises, where the development is not consistent with the English Aquaculture Strategy (EAS) or does not support existing fishery or aquaculture businesses to adapt to the changing market conditions resulting from EU Exit;
- Support shall not be granted to aquaculture projects in environmentally sensitive protected areas, if it has been determined on the basis of an environmental impact assessment, that the operation would generate significant negative environmental impact that cannot be adequately mitigated.

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 M10, Developing a sustainable aquaculture sector, the following indicators are applicable:

M10 Developing a sustainable aquaculture sector	
Indicator	Information you must provide
Number of projects limiting the impact of aquaculture on the environment (Eco management, audit schemes, organic aquaculture environmental services)	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on which of the following best describes your project: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> eco management; audit schemes; organic aquaculture; or environmental services. How your project intends to limit the impact on the environment and the expected changes after the project. How you will measure and report any changes on the environment. <p><i>The expected and actual change in impacts on the environment 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.

M11 Aquaculture providing environmental services

Projects can include:

- Costs directly related to participation in conservation and biodiversity restoration programmes to support the conservation and reproduction of aquatic animals. These programmes must be developed by, or under the supervision of, public authorities;
- Aquaculture projects which include conservation and improvement of the environment and of biodiversity, and management of the landscape and traditional features of aquaculture zones. Funding will be granted to applicants who commit themselves for a minimum period of five years to aqua- environmental requirements that go beyond the mere application of national law. The environmental benefits of the project must be demonstrated by a prior assessment conducted by competent bodies, unless the environmental benefits of that project are already recognised.

Projects excluded from funding

Funding will not be provided for:

- Any projects not captured within the eligible activities.

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 M11, Aquaculture providing environmental services, the following indicators are applicable:

M11 Aquaculture providing environmental services	
Indicator	Information you must provide
Change in the annual value of production (£)	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current annual value of production (£) before the project. • Expected annual value of production (£) after the project. • Company accounts for the last 3 years. <p><i>The expected and actual change in annual value of production will be used to determine the project's success.</i></p>
Change in the annual volume of production (tonnes)	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current annual volume of production (tonnes) before the project. • Expected annual volume of production (tonnes) after the project. • Company accounts for the last 3 years. <p><i>The expected and actual change in annual volume of production 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.

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M18 Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms

Projects can include:

- The setting-up of management, relief (providing recovery support), and advisory services for aquaculture farms, including support for industry disruption (e.g. COVID-19);
- Assistance with development of marketing and business strategies;

Projects excluded from funding

Funding will not be provided for:

- Any projects not captured within the eligible activities;
- Running costs of advisory providers.

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 M18, Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms, the following indicators are applicable:

M18 Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms	
Indicator	Information you must provide
Changes in the annual volume of production (tonnes)	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total annual volume of aquaculture production (tonnes), before the project. • Total expected annual volume of aquaculture production (tonnes), after the project. • Company accounts for the last 3 years. <p><i>The expected and actual change in annual volume of production will be used to determine the project's success.</i></p>

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

M20: Promoting skills, knowledge and networking for aquaculture

Projects can include:

- Professional training, lifelong learning, the dissemination of scientific and technical knowledge and innovative practices;
- The acquisition of new professional skills in aquaculture with regard to the reduction of the environmental impact of aquaculture activities;
- the improvement of working conditions and the promotion of occupational safety.

Projects excluded from funding

Funding will not be provided for:

- Funding for large aquaculture enterprises, unless they are engaged in knowledge sharing with SMEs.

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 M20, Promoting skills, knowledge and networking for aquaculture:

M20: Promoting skills, knowledge and networking for aquaculture	
Indicator	Information you must provide
Change in the number of work-related injuries and accidents	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of work-related injuries and accidents in the past 12 months, before the project. <p><i>The change in work related injuries and accidents will be used to determine the project's success.</i></p>
Employment maintained (FTE)	<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.

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	<p><i>The expected and actual change in number of employees 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.

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M30 Innovation in aquaculture

Projects can include:

- Projects developing or introducing on to the market new aquaculture species with good market potential worldwide;

Innovation in aquaculture projects must be carried out by, or in collaboration with, public or private scientific or technical bodies that have the required competencies, as recognised by the MMO, who must validate the results of such projects.

Projects excluded from funding

Funding will not be provided for:

- Any projects not captured within the eligible activities;
- Projects carried out by entities without the required competencies, as recognised by the MMO, will not be eligible for funding.

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 M30, Innovation in aquaculture, the following indicators are applicable:

M30 Innovation in aquaculture	
Indicator	Information you must provide
Changes in the annual volume of production (tonnes)	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total annual volume of aquaculture production (tonnes), before the project. • Total expected annual volume of aquaculture production (tonnes), after the project. • Company accounts for the last 3 years. <p><i>The expected and actual change in annual volume of production will be used to determine the project's success.</i></p>

M30 Innovation in aquaculture	
Indicator	Information you must provide
Change in the annual value in production (£)	<p>In your application please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current annual value of production (£) before the project. • Expected annual value of production (£) after the project. • Company accounts for the last 3 years. <p><i>The expected and actual change in annual value of production will be used to determine the project's success.</i></p>
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. <p><i>The expected and actual change in net profits 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.

3. Funding available

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

Limits of Funding Available in FaSS Measures		
FaSS Measure	Minimum Grant Value Available (£)	Maximum Grant Value Available (£)
M3 Enhancing the quality and/or the adding of value of aquaculture products	500	250,000
M9 Increasing the potential or sustainability of aquaculture sites	500	30,000
M10 Increasing potential or sustainability of aquaculture sites	500	30,000
M11 Aquaculture providing environmental services	500	50,000
M18 Management, relief and advisory services for aquaculture farms	500	70,000
M20: Promoting skills, knowledge and networking for aquaculture	500	30,000
M30 Innovation in aquaculture	500	70,000

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.